

NAMIBIA BIRD CLUB

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VOLUME 28, DECEMBER 1995

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

LANIOTURDUS publishes articles and notes of broad birding interest to the membership of the Namibia Bird Club. Contributors should look at recent issues of the magazine for guidance on suitability and presentation of material. Manuscripts in English, German or Afrikaans are requested and should be typed in double spacing on A4 paper. Sketches, maps and figures should be submitted on good quality white paper in black ink. High contrast black and white or colour photographs may be submitted to illustrate articles. Artwork illustrating any aspect of birds and/or birding are also requested. The editor is allowed a wide latitude in his choice of materials, thus any views and opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the Namibia Bird Club. All material in *LANIOTURDUS* is copyright and permission to reproduce material should be negotiated with the Editor.

Authors are strongly requested to submit articles on a computer disk (MS-DOS, low or high density, 5.25" or 3.5"). The preferred wordprocessing programme is WordPerfect, but Microsoft Word, Wordstar and Multimate and a few other commonly available wordprocessing programmes can also be accommodated. **Please mark clearly which programme has been used.** If you do not have one of the above programmes (and as a precaution even if you do) please submit an ASCII conversion of your manuscript. Handwritten articles are sure to be delayed as the current Editor and co-Editors are unable to spend a great deal of time typing articles. Handwritten short-notes and observations are acceptable but please make sure they are legible - typewritten is always better and invariably requires the author to give some thought to what is written (less editing is therefore required).

All disks and photographs will be returned to authors - manuscripts will not be returned. A single copy of the Volume issue in which your article appeared will be sent to the senior author.

All contributions (including books for review) to *LANIOTURDUS* should be sent to:

The Editor *LANIOTURDUS*, Namibia Bird Club, P.O. Box 67, Windhoek,
Namibia.

or to: P.O. Box 22527, Windhoek, Namibia.

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LANIOTURDUS - WHAT'S HAPPENING

CHRIS HINES, Editor

As members of the Namibia Bird Club you will be well aware of the fact that *Lanioturdus* has been going through a rough patch and didn't come out for a while. We hope that this is a thing of the past and that it will be coming out more regularly in the future. As the new Editor, I would like to outline my approach to the magazine and hopefully illicit some response from you all.

Firstly, I wish to stress that *Lanioturdus* is not a scientific magazine and has no aspirations to be one. This magazine is first and foremost the avenue through which members of the NBC should exchange information and where anyone interested in Namibian birds can publish ideas, general field notes, detailed site information, recent reports and any relevant reviews. This is no detailed review process for articles - we read them, tidy them up and publish them. Where I think it is relevant I will make comments about the information in the article, but there is no complicated process of external reviewers and a requirement to make corrections.

Secondly, as a person with only a working knowledge of German I am not able to adequately edit the German articles and for this reason we have a small group of committee members who do the German editing. There have been complaints in the past about the grammar etc. of the German articles and I would strongly request those people who have knowledge of the language at that level to come forward and to co-edit the journal with me. It would make everyone's lives a lot simpler.

In the future, I hope to be able to bring out two issues a year - but this is entirely dependant on what material comes in. At the moment there is nothing coming in - which is not surprising - the magazine hasn't come out in nearly two years - but I will not be waiting for large issues as I think that 40 or so pages is adequate and so we should be able to get it out regularly. The issues will hopefully come out in May and October of every year - covering material from the wet season and dry season annually.

What sort of material are we looking for? In short - anything. The list below should act as a guide:

- Annotated checklists from around the country. Having notes on habitats, access routes and other general information is also useful in these types of articles. An example is the article on Gam in this issue.
- Site guides or descriptions of where to find birds in different parts of the country. If you have been birding in one spot for years, write it up and share some of your knowledge.
- General accounts of holiday trips in Namibia and elsewhere in the region. What did you see, where did you go, what was interesting! Dr. Friede's article on Namutoni is an excellent example.
- General short field notes. If you see something unusual or interesting - let us

know - if you thought it was interesting other people will as well. This can include unusual behaviour, unusual or rare birds and other general observations.

- Breeding and behavioural studies such as those of Dr. Friede and L. Hoffmann in this issue. Incidental observations such as these are really important in our understanding of many bird species - you will be amazed at how little the "experts" actually know about the breeding biology of most southern African species.
- Reviews and summaries of interesting scientific and popular articles from other journals - these need not necessarily be relevant to Namibia.
- Discussion articles on tricky points of identification - have you got a nifty way of separating tricky groups of birds such as waders, larks, cisticolas and pipits - let us know about it.
- General reviews of groups or families of Namibian birds - Susan Mallett-Veale is currently preparing an article on owls in Namibia, giving general distribution, habits, diets and where best to see them.
- Writeups of excursions, weekends and other club activities. See Hartwig Dedekind's article in this issue.
- Children's writing and drawings. Get your children involved and encourage them to submit material. The committee has decided to use some of the club funds to provide a prize for the best children's article (see announcement elsewhere in this issue).

As you can see - anything goes. We do struggle for material but it is up to you to provide it - you cannot constantly expect someone else to do it. One of our biggest gaps is the writeups of our excursions, weekends and other club activities - please folks will somebody just do it!!!

FIRST RECORD OF RIVER WARBLER FOR NAMIBIA

CHRIS HINES, P.O. Box 22527, Windhoek

In December 1994 a River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis* was caught in mistnets in dense riverine woodland in the Mahango Game Reserve. This represents the first record of this palaeartic migrant species in Namibia. They are likely to be commoner than this single record suggests and Marc Herremans in Botswana has found them to be common in *Baikiaea plurijuga* (Teak) woodlands in the Kasane area. This is a common woodland type in Okavango and Caprivi Regions.