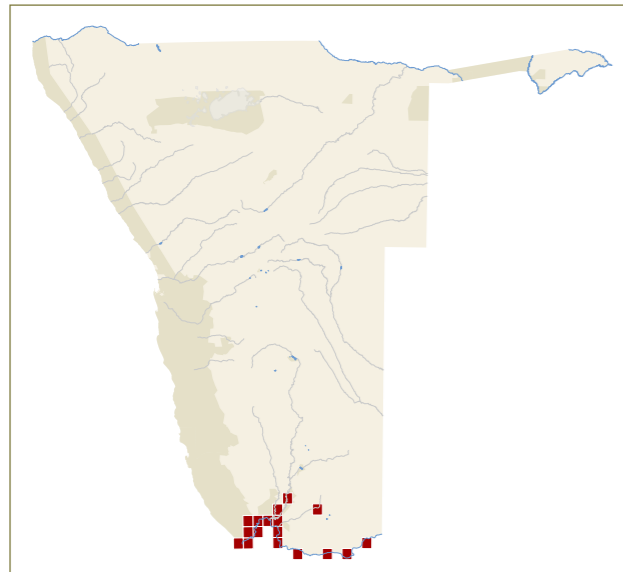


**Cape Spurfwowl (Cape Francolin)**  
| *Pternistis capensis*  
(*Francolinus capensis*)



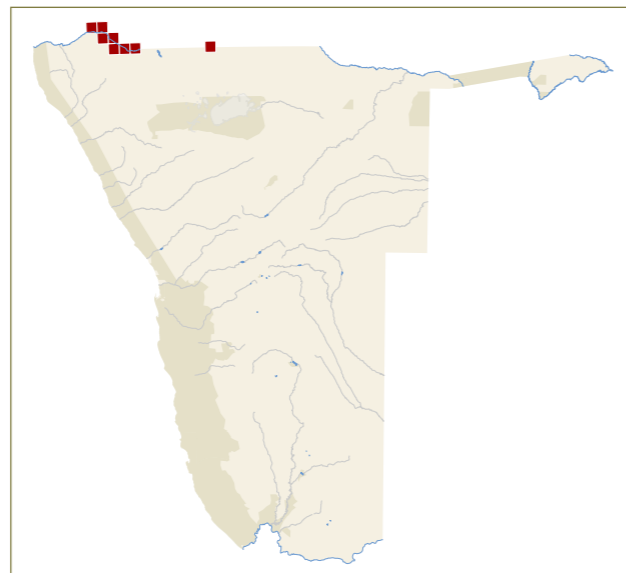
This is the largest spurfwowl in southern Africa. It is near-endemic to South Africa's Western Cape Province; small numbers occur in the Eastern- and Northern Cape provinces and a small linear population along Namibia's southern border is confined almost exclusively to the banks of the Orange River, where it is locally common among the alien trees (Little *et al.* 2000). Its area of occupancy in Namibia is 6,100 km<sup>2</sup> (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). This population is no longer connected to that in the Western Cape (Little *et al.* 2000). Elsewhere it occurs in scrubby heath areas, especially strandveld and along streams and rivers (Little 1997a). There is no indication of a population decline and birds were recorded along the Orange River in the 1700s (Little *et al.* 2000), indicating they are not merely present because of the alien trees that now dominate the river banks.

**Red-necked Spurfwowl (Red-necked Francolin)**  
| *Pternistis afer* (*Francolinus afer*)

This large, colourful and highly variable spurfwowl has a fragmented distribution in southern Africa, with subspecies occurring in the southern Cape coast of South Africa, reaching northwards through the high rainfall areas of northern South Africa and into the woodlands of the eastern highlands of Zimbabwe and coastal Mozambique (Little *et al.* 2000, Little 2005). There is an 'isolated' population on the Kunene River in the Ruacana/Epupa Important Bird Area (Simmons *et al.* 2001b), which is in fact the southward extension of the smallest subspecies *P. a. afer* that extends into the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola (Little 1997b). The area of occupancy of the species in southern Africa is about 172,500 km<sup>2</sup> (Little 1997b); that in Namibia

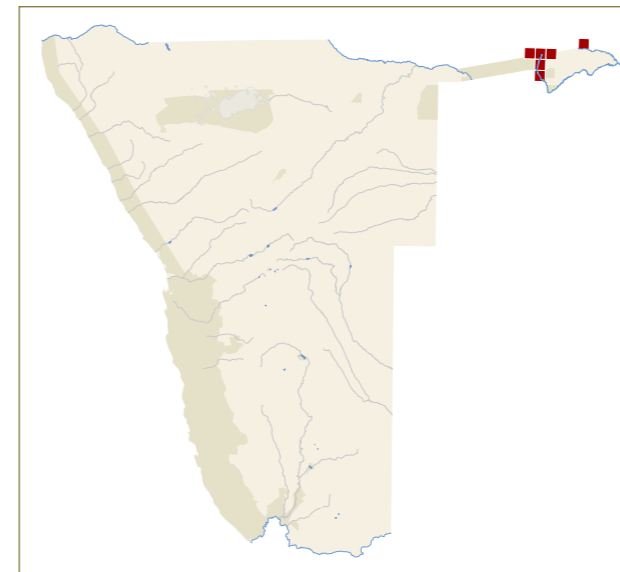


© Wessel Swanepoel



is only 2,700 km<sup>2</sup> (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). This white-faced subspecies is found in the *Acacia* and broad-leaved woodland along the Kunene River banks where it can be locally common (RE Simmons pers. obs.). There is just one breeding record for Namibia, with eggs laid in May (Brown *et al.* 2015). In less arid areas they breed earlier, mainly November to January (Tarboton 2011). Population size is unknown, but probably stable, given that there is little anthropogenic influence in the habitats occupied by the Himba people who live in this region. While it is not threatened globally or in southern Africa, numbers in Namibia will almost certainly decrease if the planned Epupa hydro-electric dam floods 65 km of river through this species' prime habitat (see Cinderella Waxbill *Estrilda thomensis* for details).

**Crested Guineafwowl |**  
*Guttera edouardi*  
(*Guttera pucherani*)



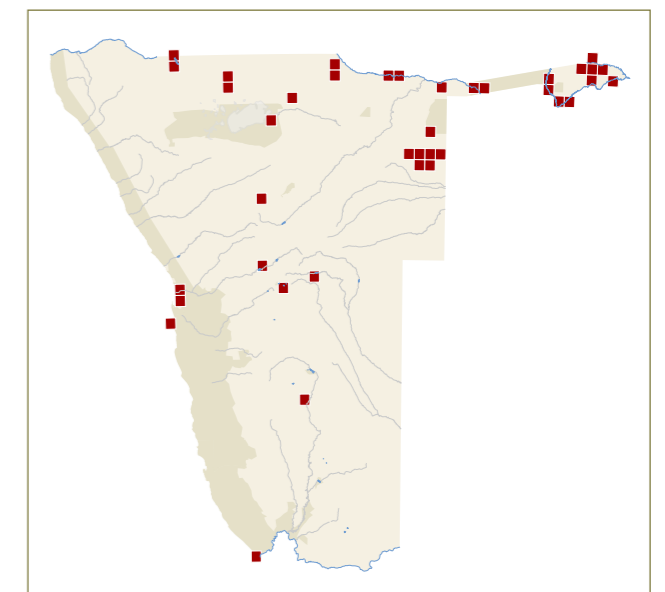
This gamebird occurs patchily from West Africa through the moister forests, especially forest edges, to a few areas in north-eastern South Africa, north-west Zimbabwe; in Namibia it is known from a few records in the eastern Zambezi region (Little 1997d), most recently (2014) caught on a camera trap in the State Forestry on the Zambian border (L Hanssen pers. com.). It occupies a tiny area of 1,600 km<sup>2</sup> in Namibia, of which 31% occurs in protected areas of Mudumu National Park (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Its secretive behaviour may mean that more birds occur in Namibia than the number of records suggest. Population size cannot be calculated because there are no density estimates. Its conservation needs are unknown, but are thought to be minimal (Little *et al.* 2000). The lack of knowledge of this species warrants further research effort in Namibia.

**Fulvous Whistling Duck (Fulvous Duck) |**  
*Dendrocygna bico*

Widespread across large parts of the world in tropical wetlands, this species is estimated to number over 300,000 birds in sub-Saharan Africa (Rose & Scott 1997). In southern Africa it is sparsely distributed through highveld pans in Zimbabwe and South Africa (Maclean 1997a). It can be very abundant, with thousands of birds moving into the Chobe and Okavango swamps and rivers in wet seasons (Tyler 2001). It is usually rare in Namibia, with birds only found in wet years in the Tsumkwe Pans (maximum of 90 birds at Nyae Nyae Pan), the Mahango area of Bwabwata National Park (maximum of 120 birds), the Chobe River (maximum of 377 birds at Salambala Conservancy) and the Cuvelai drainage system (data in Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Over 2,000 birds were recorded at Lake Liambezi in 1983 (CJ Brown pers.



© Alick Rennie



obs.). Birds regularly occur at Sandwich Harbour (Kolberg 2012b) and have been recorded at the Orange River mouth. The Namibian population probably typically numbers fewer than 1,000 birds (less than 1% of the African population), but may increase when conditions are favourable. Population trends are unknown. Five breeding records have laying dates in February (one) and March (four) (Brown *et al.* 2015).

**White-backed Duck |**  
*Thalassornis leuconotus*

This species occurs sporadically in central, coastal and north-eastern Namibian wetlands, including brackish lagoons, dams and tropical swamps. There are no records of large concentrations anywhere in Namibia, with the largest flock reported as 40 birds from the ephemeral Lake Oponono north of Etosha Pan (W Versfeld in Jarvis *et al.* 2001); scattered birds are found on large inland dams throughout Namibia. World population size is estimated at 10,000 to 20,000 individuals and is stable (Wetlands International 2002). It occupies an area of 21,400 km<sup>2</sup> in Namibia, of which 16% lies within protected