

## NAMIBIA BIRD CLUB

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sitting somewhere, bored and waiting for something sensational to happen in which it could take part.

The focus of their alarm sat there before me on a branch, only two metres away - regarding me with stern, yellow, round eyes under white eyebrows. What a beautiful bird: round head, brown feathers spotted with white, dark stripes on a silverwhite belly, but most striking - those big, lemonyellow earnest eyes. It wagged its tail sideways and hopped to another branch and my friends up there greeted this with another fortissimo. We stared at one another. Then the owl let me have a good look at its hindneck, where two black spots are supposedly meant to intimidate the enemy. The owl watched the noisy birds, reproachful, it seemed to me, then stared again at me, wagging its tail.

Somehow, during this time, its body language must have conveyed to the other birds, that there would be no more hunt now and that their enemy was now occupied with an "enemy" of its own. Only the barbet had stayed, watching the owl and calling in alarm. The Pearlspotted Owl left then, flying low through the foliage into another *Acacia*.

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### SHORT NOTE

Christopher Hines, Editor

Migrants seemed to arrive very early this year. Dieter Ludwig reported seeing flocks of European BeeEaters as early as mid-September this year. I saw an odd plumaged (dark body with a very pale head) Wahlberg's Eagle near Otjiwarongo on September 5. A really surprising find was an adult male Redbacked Shrike which Kevin Bartlett, Carole Roberts and I found near Omaruru on August 26. This is very early for a species which normally only arrives in late October and November.

The movements of both Palaearctic and Intra-African migrants is of great interest. Please report your first and last arrival dates as well as any major changes in numbers of birds in your area. Most people don't realise the huge movements that doves undertake - but if you think about it - Namaqua Doves are sometimes present in big numbers and then gone. Keep a record and send it into *Lanioturdus*.

## FOLGE DER BRUTSTATISTIK VON *AQUILA VERREAUXII* (1991-1995)

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2. Folge : Beobachtungen am Horst eines Felsenadlers (1981-1990),  
*Lanioturdus* 1991, Vol 26, No 1

Der erste Aufsatz : Kaffernadlerbeobachtungen von 1970 - 1980  
(*Mitteilungen der Ornithologischen Arbeitsgruppe*; April/Mai 1981, 17.  
Jahrgang, Nr 1.

Drei Überschriften mit drei Namen für eine Adlerart! Ob es noch andere lokale deutsche Namen gibt, bleibt dahingestellt. Der lateinische läßt jedenfalls keinen Zweifel zu.

Wie kam es zur Änderung des deutschen Namens in unserem Land? (Im neuesten *Roberts Birds of Southern Africa* erscheinen beide Namen in Klammern) Herr H Kolberg, verantwortlich für das Register "*Deutsche Namen der Vögel im Südlichen Afrika*" hatte vor vielen Jahren um Gedanken zu einer Namensänderung - man solle das Wort "Kaffer" vermeiden - gebeten. Ich reagierte damals mit der Frage, ob es sinnvoll sei; es müßten dann alle Vogelnamenregister der Welt geändert werden. Da wir eine ausdrucksvolle Sprache haben, brauchen wir nicht aus anderen Sprachen zu übersetzen, und ich schlug deshalb den jetzigen Namen "Felsenadler" vor.

### Brutübersicht

1991: Kein Brutjahr

1992: Kein Brutjahr

1993: Brutjahr

25 April: Angefangen zu restaurieren.

4 Mai: Fertig restauriert.

9 Mai: Nichts Neues.

21 Mai: Ein Ei wird bebrütet - es sieht relativ klein aus.

27 Mai: Ein Ei.

4 Juli: Horst ist leer (war das Ei unbefruchtet? Es werden

fast immer zwei Eier gelegt).

1994: Brutjahr

14 Mai: Horst noch leer.

18 Juni: Zwei Eier.

27 auf 28 Juni: Schneefall (der letzte Schnee fiel vor 52 Jahren, laut der *Allgemeinen Zeitung*).

17 Juli: Zwei Eier.

31 Juli: Zwei Küken, wovon eines bereits sehr schwach (Kain und Abel-Verhalten).

2 August: Ein Küken.

24 August: Das Küken gesund und kräftig (noch weiß).

28 August: Das Küken zum letzten Mal gesehen worden (laut Chris Brown).

4 September: Horst ist leer.

Anfang 1994 brach ein Teil der Felsplatte ab, auf welcher der Horst ursprünglich gebaut wurde. Das Gebilde blieb jedoch stabil und wird weiterhin von den Vögeln benutzt.

1995: Brutjahr

6 März: Horst ist mit Zweigen restauriert.

25 Mai: Ein Ei (nachmittags).

27 Mai: Zwei Eier (vormittags). Frühester Schlüpftag am 3.

Juli 1995, berechnet mit 42 Tagen Brutzeit. (Erstes Ei frühestens am 23. Mai 1995 gelegt). Spätester Schlüpftag am 11. Juli 1995, berechnet mit 46 Tagen Brutzeit. (Zweites Ei am 27. Mai zum ersten Mal gesehen).

2 Juli: Zwei Eier (beide Altvögel immer ganz nah am Nistplatz). Einer frißt Fleisch während des Fluges - Dreimal in der Nähe des Horstes gelandet - Einmal beide Altvögel auf dem Horst - Es kann nicht mehr lange dauern bis es soweit ist mit dem Schlüpfen!

9 Juli: Ein Küken und ein Ei (Vormittags).

10 Juli: 2 Küken (das Schwächere wohl bereits tot). Im Horst den Rest eines Klippschliefer.

12 Juli: Nur ein Küken (Keine Überreste vom zweiten Küken; auch keine Beutereste).

17 September: Jungvogel steht im Horst.

24 September: Jungvogel wohlauf im Horst.



A pair of Black Eagles over the nest site

15 Oktober: Vormittags gleitet der Jungvogel am Felsen entlang, ruht kurz auf dem Horst und fliegt ein kurzes Stück weiter; gerät leider außer Sicht (Beide Altvögel nicht zu sehen).

23 Oktober: Beobachte von der Asphaltstraße aus, daß der Jungvogel im Horst steht: ein Altvogel ist auch im Horst.

Also : ein flügge gewordener Felsenadler! Dieses ist der erste Bruterfolg in diesem Jahrzehnt. Ich möchte hier nur kurz die flügge gewordenen Adler dieses Horstes der letzten 25 Jahre angeben:

1971 bis 1980: Drei Vögel (1973, 1975 und 1979).

1981 bis 1990: Ein Vogel (1987).

1991 bis 1995: Ein Vogel (1995).

Im letzten Jahr (1994) besteht der starke Verdacht, daß das etwa 4 Wochen alte Küken von einem unbefugten Menschen entfernt wurde. In Europa werden gefährdete Adlerhorste bewacht, und es wäre sicherlich gut, nach dieser Erfahrung auch hier in der Brutzeit zumindest diesen leicht zu erreichenden Horst unweit von Windhoek zu bewachen. Wie steht es mit Freiwilligen?

#### Summary of breeding records of *Aquila verreauxii* near Windhoek

1971 to 1980: Three fledglings (1973, 1975 and 1979).

1981 to 1990: One fledgling (1987).

1991: No breeding.

1992: No breeding.

1993: Attempted breeding, unsuccessful (infertile egg ?).

1994: Breeding, chick disappears before fledging.

1995: Breeding, chick fledges in August, ie the first successful breeding attempt of this decade!

It is suspected that the chick hatched in 1994 was illegally removed by unknown persons. This experience indicates that it probably may in future be necessary to guard the nesting site until such time as the chick fledges. Any volunteers ?

## COURTSHIP AND MATING OF CHESTNUTBANDED SANDPLOVERS

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Chestnutbanded Sandplovers *Charadrius marginatus* seem to prefer uneven ground bordering salt lakes for their reproductive activities. Winter is their main breeding time, but I have found active nests in all months of the year.

The male bird is distinctive: the chestband and frontal rufous band are accentuated by a narrow black line. He struts, corwn, back and tail one horizontal line, throat puffed out, near a female, who seems to be totally disinterested. She has a breastband too, but no frontal rufous mark and no black at all.

He picks up small stones and throws them sideways, to the left and to the right. Then he has found a suitable spot, a flat hollow, rests his chest on the ground while deepening it with swift, scraping movements of both legs. Now he sits still, does some more stone-throwing. She comes in a hurry, stops at the edge of the "nest". They change places. He stands at the rim of the scrape, head bent towards her as if enquiring "Are we together?" She gets up, runs some distance. He follows her and starts all over again: stone-throwing, nest building, sitting and waiting - this goes on for a while. Finally she leaves a scrape, after having "improved" it by some scraping of her own, but only moves some four to five paces away from it, stands and waits. Now he walks toward her from behind, goose-stepping, as if estimating her height. He jumps onto her back and after much balancing and back peddling movements, the copulate. This act has an amusing final climax, because both topple over backwards, bellies upwards, legs waving, until they have regained their footing. They fly away or just stand and smoothe their bridal nightgowns. In the German article on Chestnutbanded Sandplover's lovelife in *Lanioturdus* 28:44-45 I had speculated that a gull, flying nearby, had caused this behaviour. This is not the case. They always fall on their backs at the end of copulation.