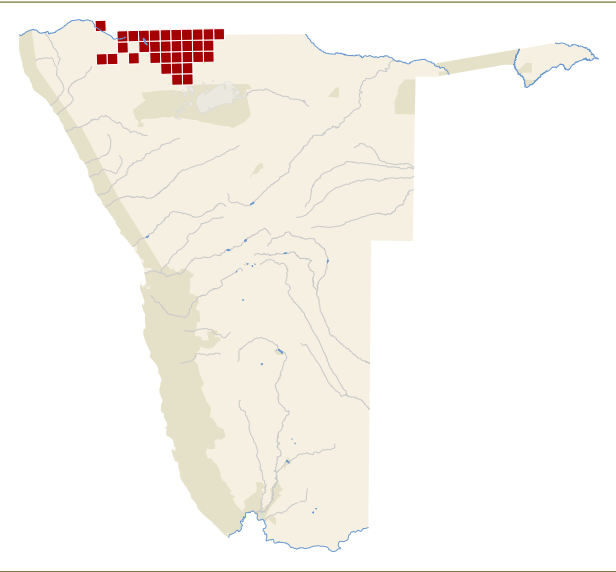


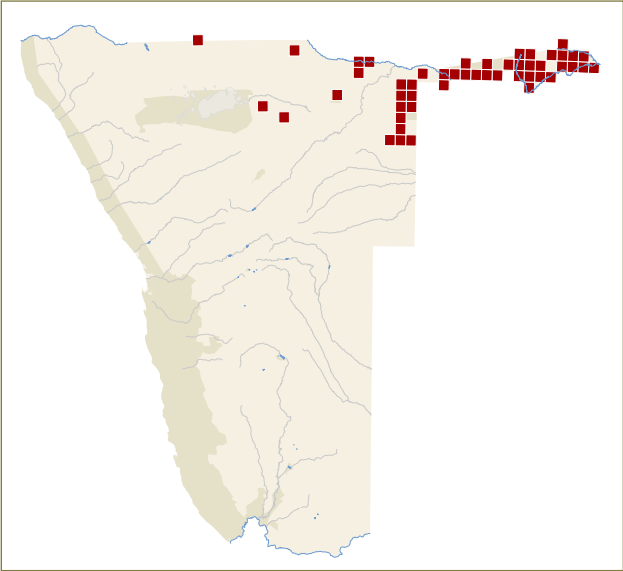
Grey Kestrel | *Falco ardosiaceus*



This species is widespread across large parts of the wetter savannah woodland of west and central Africa, with a distributional tail that reaches through Angola and just touches northern Namibia (del Hoyo *et al.* 1994). It is sparse everywhere and estimated to number about 100,000 pairs in Africa (Cade 1982). In southern Africa, it occurs and breeds only in northern Namibia’s Cuvelai palm savannah, and occasionally in cleared areas and natural omuramba wetlands (Brown *et al.* 1997). The reporting rate is 13% (Jenkins & Brown 1997) in a small area of occupancy of 3,800 km² that stretches west to about Okandombo on the Kunene River near Swartbooisdrift (Swanepoel unpubl. data). The total area inhabited may be 15,000 km², and the total population was estimated to be about 39 pairs (Brown *et al.* 1997). There is only one breeding record from Namibia, in a hole high in a palm tree (Brown *et al.* 1997). Elsewhere, there are records of breeding in Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* nests (Brown 1970). Populations are apparently stable in Namibia, as it is not affected by clearing for agriculture, with the possible exception of the Ruacana area where a decline in sightings has been reported (Braine 2006).

Dickinson’s Kestrel | *Falco dickinsoni*

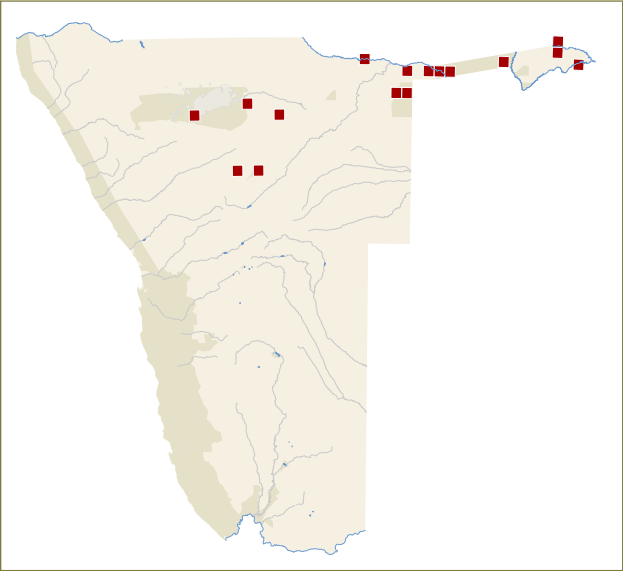
Easily confused with the Grey Kestrel *F. ardosiaceus*, which also inhabits palm savannah, this small falcon has a distribution that is limited to the lowland tropical areas of Tanzania and Zambia, south through Zimbabwe, Mozambique and northern South Africa, and west to Angola, north-eastern Namibia and northern Botswana (Cade 1982, Mendelsohn 1997c). With a reporting rate of 9%, it is most common throughout the Caprivi Strip, where it is resident, and relatively



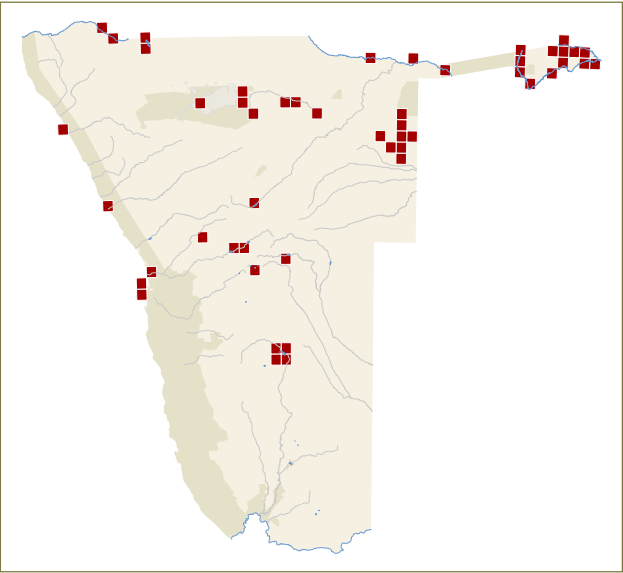
common in the Okavango Delta (Mendelsohn 1997c). Its area of occupancy in Namibia is considerably larger than that of the Grey Kestrel at 27,200 km² (Mendelsohn 1997c, Jenkins & Brown 1997). Only two nests have been recorded in Namibia, with eggs laid in September and October (Brown *et al.* 2015). Given a home range size of 3.6 pairs per 100 km² in a woodland area of about 15,000 km² in the Zambezi region (Mendelsohn & Roberts 1997), about 540 pairs could theoretically occur in Namibia. The actual number is unknown, but is almost certainly smaller than this. Some decline in numbers is suspected in Namibia because of human expansion into previously unoccupied areas (Braine 2006), and monitoring of the population is required.

African Hobby (African Hobby Falcon) | *Falco cuvierii*

This woodland-savannah falcon is uncommon everywhere, except for west African forests and the Lake Victoria region (del Hoyo *et al.* 1994). It occurs southwards through to Zimbabwe and to the northern border of South Africa (Mendelsohn 1997b). Its African population is estimated at “several thousand pairs” (Cade 1982). In Namibia, it is only found in the Caprivi Strip and the Khaudum National Park, with a few sporadic records in north-central Namibia at a reporting rate of 2.5% (Mendelsohn 1997b). It is rare in Namibia, possibly migrating there in wetter periods, with a population that probably does not exceed 100 birds; its area of occupancy is 10,100 km² (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Its breeding status in Namibia is unknown, but it may be overlooked because it often hunts in the late afternoon or evening (Mendelsohn 1997b). Favoured habitat is the broad-leaved woodland of the Kalahari sand belt, where it hunts birds and insects. There are no known threats in Namibia.



Black Heron (Black Egret) | *Egretta ardesiaca*

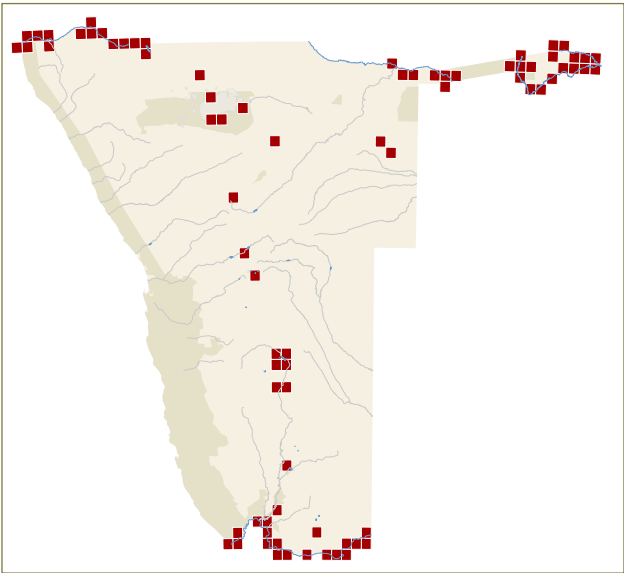


This species is found in suitable habitat throughout sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar; in southern Africa it is most abundant in the Okavango Delta (Anderson 1997a). There is no population estimate for southern Africa, but about 25,000 birds occur in Africa (Dodman 2002). It is peripheral in Namibia, occurring most commonly, albeit in small numbers, when flooding occurs in Etosha Pan, the Tsumkwe Pans, on the Okavango, Chobe and Zambezi floodplains and the Kunene River banks (Anderson 1997a). A maximum of 76 birds were recorded in the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park (M Paxton, P Lane in Jarvis *et al.* 2001) during wetland counts; none of the other 14 sites where Black Herons were encountered achieved double figures. The Namibian population is estimated at about 200 birds (less than 1% of the African population) and



breeding has been documented in the Nyae Nyae region. It is not threatened in South Africa or globally, but there is some evidence of declines (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992).

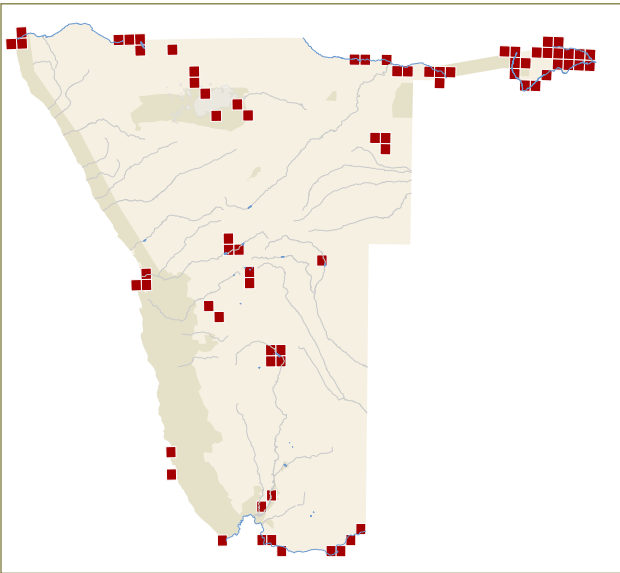
Goliath Heron | *Ardea goliath*



The world’s largest heron occurs throughout sub-Saharan Africa, India and the Middle East (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992). The African population is estimated at 25,000 birds (Dodman 2002). It is widespread but fragmented in southern Africa, with an estimated population of 3,000 birds (12% of the African population: Martin 1997a). Namibia’s population is estimated at fewer than 1,000 birds, with about 450 birds on the Zambezi and Chobe rivers, 120 birds on the Kwando and Linyanti rivers, up to 162 birds on the Orange River (2.7 birds per 10 km of river: RE Simmons unpubl. data) and 88 birds on the Kunene River (2.5 birds per 10 km). In addition there is an estimated maximum of 19 birds in the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park, nine birds at Hardap Dam, 10 birds at the Omadhiya lakes (H Kolberg unpubl. data), and one or two birds sporadically at larger inland dams. The Namibian population thus stands at about 30%

of southern Africa’s estimated population and less than 4% of the African population. It is not threatened either globally or in South Africa, and is probably a naturally rare species.

Purple Heron | *Ardea purpurea*



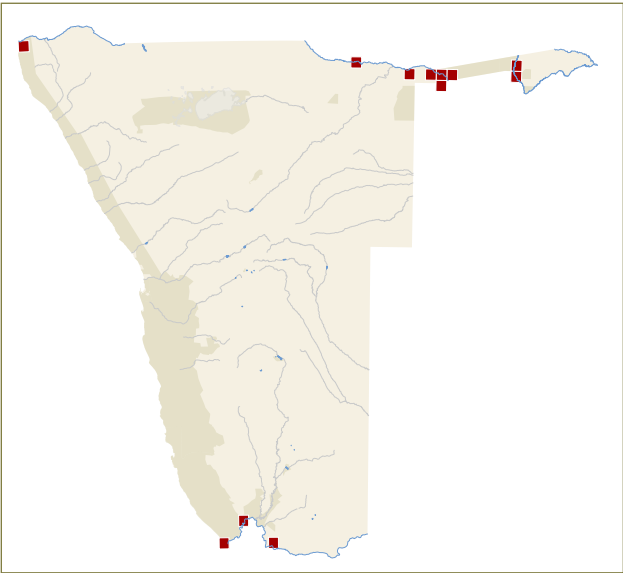
This species is found throughout southern Eurasia and sub-Saharan Africa’s wetlands and rivers, but is scarce and probably under-recorded in southern Africa (Martin 1997b). Its core area, as with many large wetland species, is the Okavango Swamps (Tyler 2001). Its global population is more than 75,000 birds (Dodman 2002). No estimate is available for southern African populations, but it is probably more common than the Goliath Heron *A. goliath*, which has an estimated population of 3,000 birds in southern Africa. In Namibia, fewer than 1,000 Purple Herons are estimated (1.3% of global numbers) as follows: 340 birds on the Zambezi and Chobe rivers (10 birds per 10 km of river), 110 birds on the Kwando and Linyanti rivers (3.2 birds per 10 km), 115 birds on the Okavango River (five birds per 10 km), 50 birds on the Orange River, 50 birds on the Kunene River and fewer than 50 birds on large dams or wetlands (data from Jarvis *et al.* 2001).

White-backed Night-Heron | *Gorsachius leuconotus*

This is an elusive tropical forest wetland species, which is common outside southern Africa in sub-Saharan Africa (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992). Its global population is estimated at 100,000 birds (Dodman 2002). It is rare and sparsely distributed on rivers in southern Africa, particularly in the Okavango River (Martin 1997c), but is easily overlooked. No population estimates are available because of the bird’s nocturnal and secretive nature and there are only two nest records, with birds laying in March and April (Brown



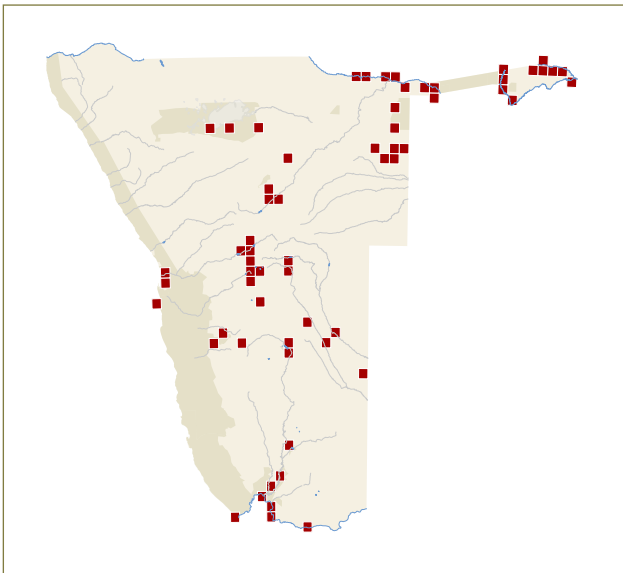
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*et al.* 2015). In Namibia, it is found mainly in the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park (M Paxton in Jarvis *et al.* 2001) and the banks of the Zambezi and Chobe rivers (CJ Brown pers. obs.). It has also been recorded from the Kunene River (Braine 1988, S Braine pers. obs.), and from the Orange River (Shaugnessy & Shaugnessy 1980, RE Simmons in Jarvis *et al.* 2001), well outside its range. There are probably fewer than 500 birds in Namibia (less than 1% of the African population). It is classified as *Vulnerable* in South Africa (Parker & Barnes 2000) but not globally. Research to better understand its population status and its vulnerability to current pressures is needed in Namibia.

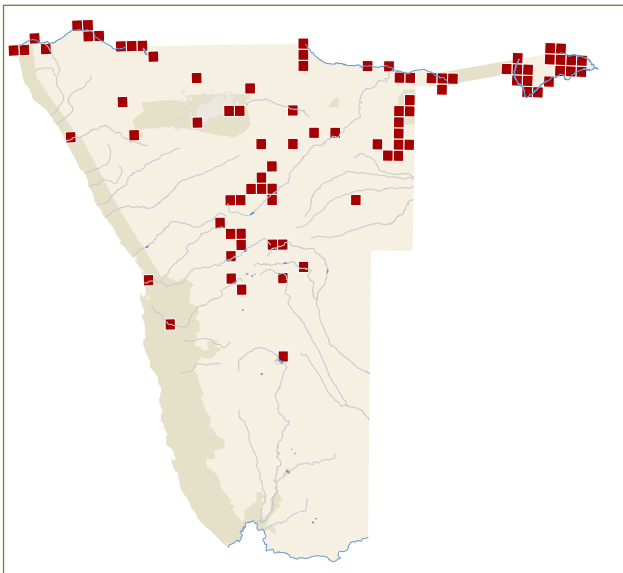
Little Bittern | *Ixobrychus minutus*

Two subspecies occur in southern Africa. The commoner *I. m. minutus* occurs across Eurasia (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992) and migrates into eastern areas of southern Africa (Tree 1997a), but is absent from Namibia. The African subspecies, *I. m. payesii*, is resident throughout wetlands of sub-Saharan Africa. In Namibia, it is sparsely distributed in the rivers and



wetlands of the north-east (e.g. the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park on the Okavango River, and the Kwando and Zambezi rivers), but also occurs in sewage works and dams in central Namibia (e.g. Walvis Bay, Daan Viljoen Game Park and Windhoek sewage works), and in the Fish and Orange rivers (Tree 1997a). Numbers of the African subspecies are estimated at 25,000 to 100,000 birds (Dodman 2002), and Namibia’s population is estimated at fewer than 1,000 birds (1% to 4% of the world population).

Dwarf Bittern | *Ixobrychus sturmii*

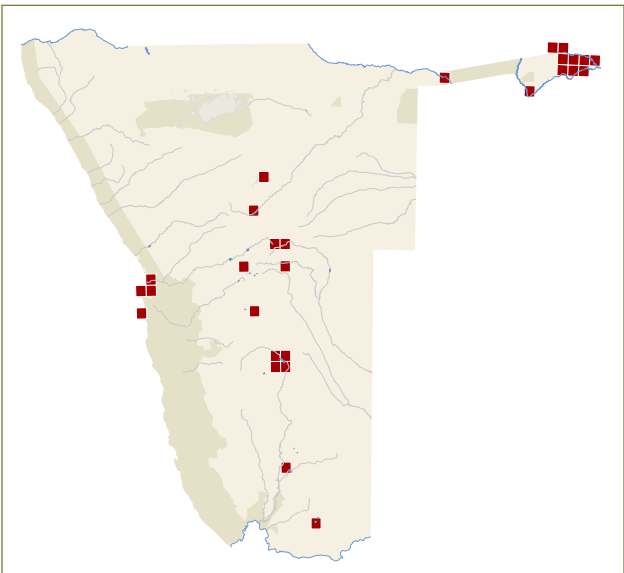


This small, highly nomadic tropical species is found throughout sub-Saharan wetlands. It favours seasonally flooded pans such as the Tsumkwe Pans, where up to 28 birds occur, and the Okavango River floodplains where up to 30 birds can occur in the Mahango area of Bwabwata



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Pink-backed Pelican | *Pelecanus rufescens*



This species is restricted to northern tropical regions of Namibia, with probably fewer than 50 individuals recorded regularly in Namibia, though several hundred birds have been recorded episodically under favourable conditions in the Kwando and Linyanti Swamps, the Chobe River