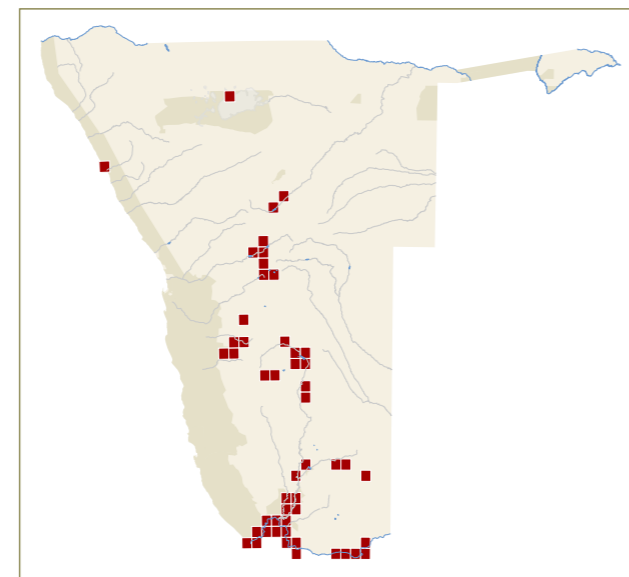


In Namibia, it is most common in the Linyanti Swamps (at a density of about 10 birds per 10 km: M Herremans in Maclean 1997c), the Okavango River (five birds per 10 km), Kwando River (30 birds per 10 km), and the Zambezi River (6.5 birds per 10 km: Jarvis *et al.* 2001). The largest populations (30 birds) have been recorded from the Okavango floodplains in the Mahango area of Bwabwata National Park (M Paxton in Jarvis *et al.* 2001). The population estimate from these areas and from birds at the Tsumkwe Pans and large dams is 1,236 birds. Given that it is probably under-recorded, the Namibian population is estimated at about 2,000 birds (1.7% of the global population). It has recently been assessed as *Vulnerable* in South Africa (Taylor *et al.* in press).

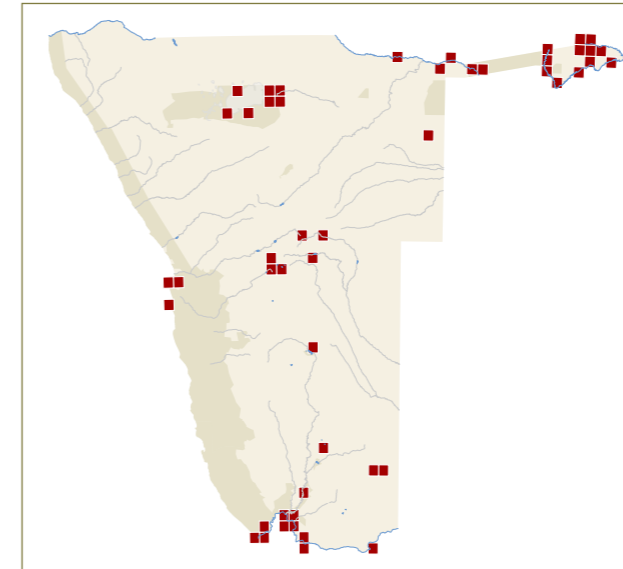
African Black Duck | *Anas sparsa*



This species is fond of fast-flowing rivers and is very common in South Africa where 10,000 to 25,000 birds are estimated (Wetlands International 2002). In Namibia, it is virtually confined to the Orange River, where an average of four birds are counted each time at the Orange River Mouth (H Kolberg unpubl. data); a maximum count of 234 birds was recorded at the Orange River mouth in February 2005 during a count that yielded an exceptional number of birds and species. Densities of 2.7 birds per 10 km of river occur further upstream (RE Simmons in Jarvis *et al.* 2001) and suggest a population of about 160 birds for the river. Equal numbers on the Fish River give an estimate for Namibia of about 500 birds occupying an area of 22,400 km² (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is regularly encountered in small numbers (up to two individuals, H Kolberg unpubl. data) on inland dams and sewage works, explaining its presence in the central and southern regions of Namibia, and is sporadically

encountered at the Omadhiya lakes, numbering fewer than 20 individuals (H Kolberg unpubl. data). Surprisingly, it is not found on the tropical north-east rivers.

Yellow-billed Duck | *Anas undulata*



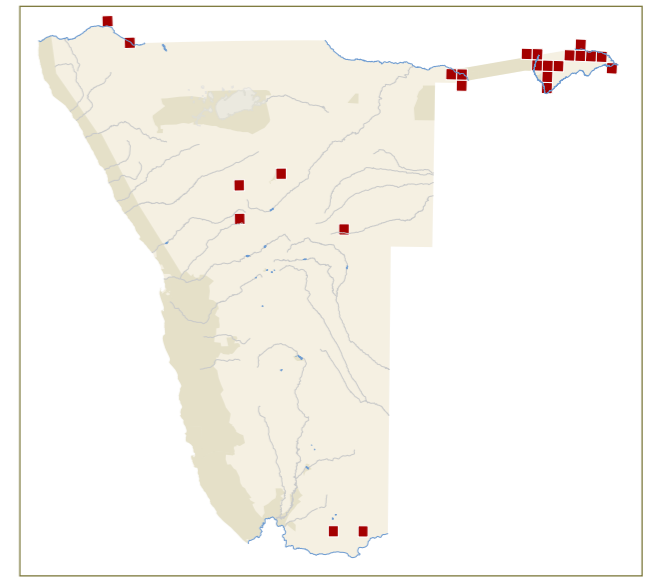
This nomadic and migratory species occurs in the eastern half of Africa and is very common in South Africa but rare in Namibia (Maclean 1997b). It is found in small numbers along slow-flowing rivers, including the Orange, Okavango, Kwando, Zambezi and Chobe rivers, and at lagoons, estuaries, permanent or seasonal lakes, pans and pools. It has adapted well to man-made waterways, such as farm or mining dams (Maclean 1997b, Vernon & Dean 2005a). The largest known concentration in Namibia has been recorded at the Orange River mouth, where up to 182 birds have been counted in summer (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). The population size of the southern African subspecies *A. u. undulata* is estimated at 100,000 birds (Nagy *et al.* 2012), putting Namibia's population of fewer than 1,000 birds – less than 1% of the southern African population.

Greater Honeyguide | *Indicator indicator*

This widespread African species occurs in more mesic parts of Africa with a nearby stronghold in the Okavango Swamps in Botswana. It spills over into Namibia along the Okavango, Kwando and Zambezi river systems, where there is suitable riparian vegetation. It occupies an area of 13,100 km² in Namibia, including a few scattered sightings of vagrants on the Kunene River, in central Namibia and two from the south near the Orange River (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is a brood parasite of barbets, woodpecker,



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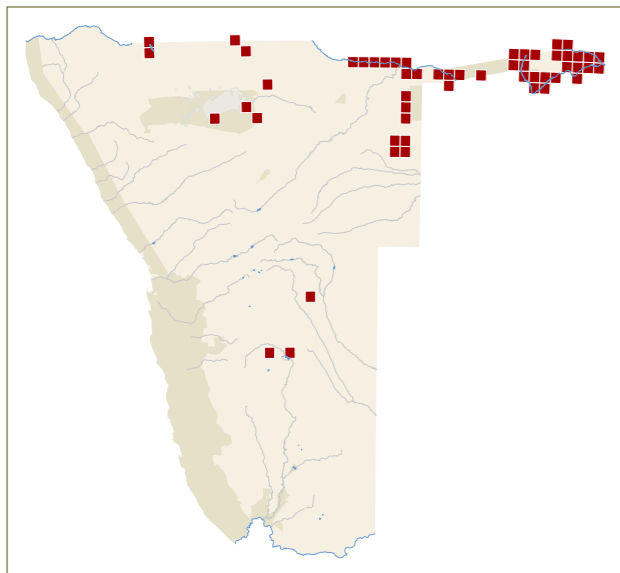


kingfishers and other hole-nesting species. It has not yet been recorded breeding in Namibia. In other parts of southern Africa, it lays mainly in October and November (Tarboton 2011). It guides humans and other animals to bee nests, but it is not known if this still occurs in Namibia (Vernon & Dean 2005b). Although it is not threatened it is offered protection within the Bwabwata, Mudumu and Nkasa-Rupala (Mamili) national parks.

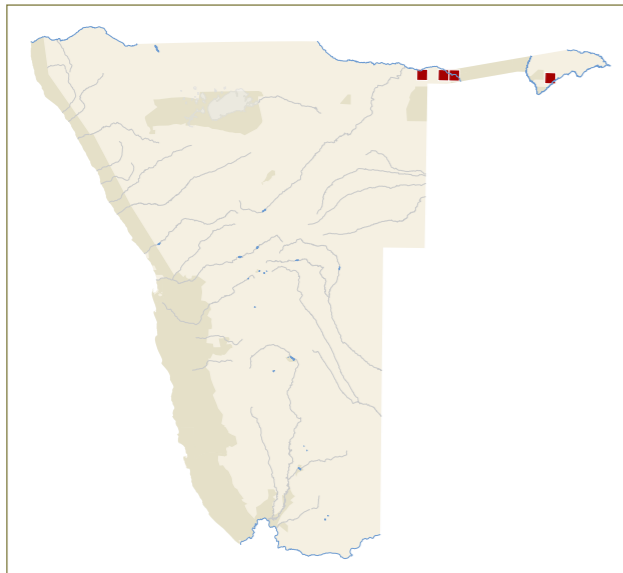
Green-backed Honeybird (Slender-billed Honeyguide) | *Prodotiscus zambesiae*

This overlooked and drab species parasitises the African Yellow White-Eye *Zosterops senegalensis* (Vernon & Dean 1997c). Outside southern Africa, it has a fragmented distribution from Angola to south-east Kenya and isolated populations in Ethiopia (Fry *et al.* 1988). In southern Africa, it is most widespread in Zimbabwe, but is not common

African Pygmy-Goose (Pygmy Goose) | *Nettapus auritus*

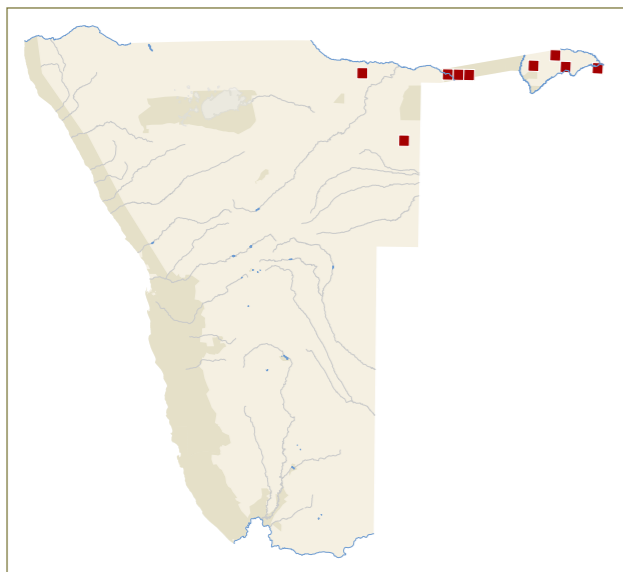


This sedentary species is confined to sub-Saharan wetlands, especially in tropical regions, with a minimum population of about 120,000 birds (Rose & Scott 1997). It is very sparsely distributed in southern Africa with the only concentration occurring in the Okavango Swamps, and is widely scattered in Zimbabwe (Maclean 1997c).



anywhere. In Namibia, it was only recorded in four quarter-degree squares in woodland associated with the Okavango River and Linyanti Swamps (Hanmer & Chadder 1997). It occupies an area of only 2,100 km² in Namibia, of which 26% occurs in the protected areas of Mahango in the Bwabwata National Park (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Little is known of the biology of this naturally rare species, but it is not thought to be a conservation priority in Namibia or elsewhere.

Brown-backed Honeybird | (Sharp-billed Honeyguide) | *Prodotiscus regulus*



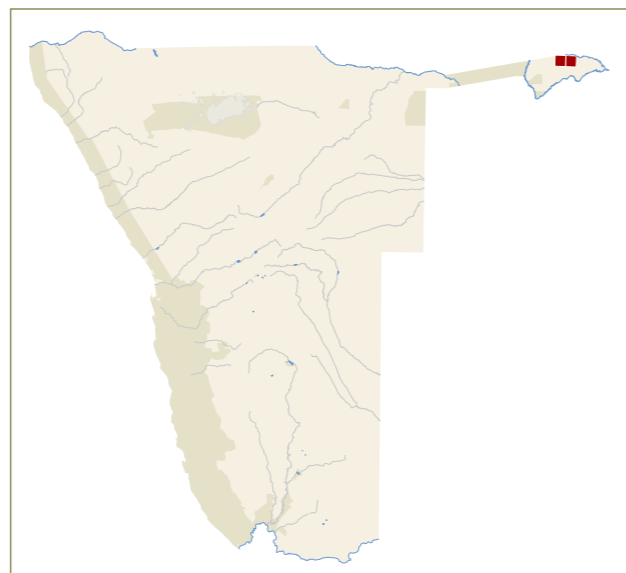
This species has a fragmented distribution from Cameroon and Ethiopia southwards to the eastern side of southern Africa. Its distribution just grazes north-eastern Namibia, with birds occurring in a variety of broad-leaved woodlands, often associated with rivers such as the Okavango (Vernon



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& Underhill 1997b). Reporting rates during the SABAP1 atlas period were low in all areas, averaging 2.6% (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). This bird may be overlooked because of its drab plumage and quiet perching habits. This species parasitises several cisticolas, prinias and warblers (Vernon & Dean 2005d). It occupies an area of 5,000 km² in Namibia, of which 26% occurs in the protected Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is resident and of no conservation concern anywhere in southern Africa.

Olive Woodpecker | *Dendropicos griseocephalus* | (*Mesopicos griseocephalus*)



Among the rarest of the Namibian *Rare and Peripheral* species, it was recorded only twice during the 24-year SABAP1 atlas period, with both sightings from the Zambezi



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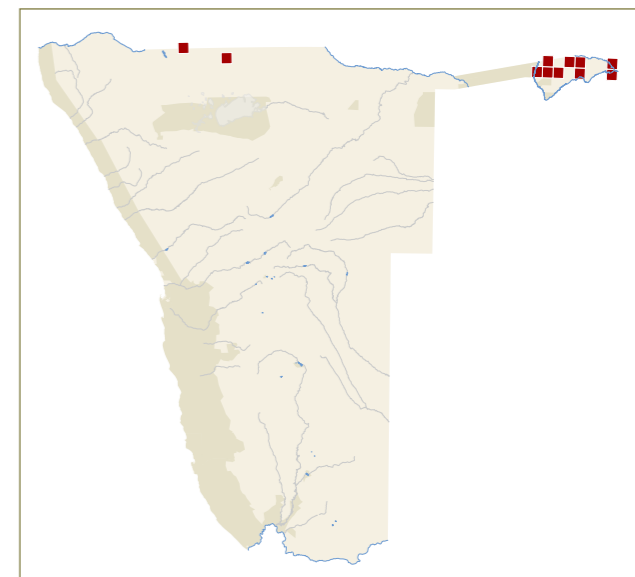
River (Tarboton 1997). The subspecies *D. g. ruwenzori* originates in central Africa; the southern tail of its distribution just touches Namibia and western Zimbabwe. It occupies an area of only 1,500 km² in Namibia, none of which occurs in any protected areas (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). A pair of Olive Woodpeckers was collected in October 1970 by Kemp (1971) from an island two kilometres downstream of Katima Mulilo. These were the first records of this subspecies for southern Africa. Olive Woodpeckers are resident and breeding on islands in isolated clumps of thick riparian forest along the Zambezi River (CJ Brown pers. obs.). The wide distribution of this subspecies from Angola up to Rwanda makes it unlikely to be a conservation priority, but its loss from the Zambezi River (through deforestation of the islands, for example) would reduce southern Africa's biodiversity. This species would benefit from further investigation.

Crowned Hornbill | *Tockus alboterminatus*

This is one of two large tree-dwelling hornbills in the Zambezi region. It closely resembles, and is said to be sister to, the Bradfield's Hornbill *T. bradfieldi* (del Hoyo *et al.* 2001), with which it is sympatric in the Zambezi region (Oatley 1997c). The Crowned Hornbill is endemic to mature montane, riverine and coastal forests, overlapping extensively with the Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator*. The area occupied in the eastern Zambezi region is very small at 6,200 km², of which 4% lies within the protected areas of the Nkasa Rupara (Mamili) National Park (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is rarer (or perhaps less obvious) in Namibia than the Trumpeter Hornbill, with a reporting rate of 8% (from 11 quarter-degree squares) – half that of the Trumpeter Hornbill. It is not so closely associated with riparian woodland in Caprivi, preferring instead the mature sandveld woodlands in the central regions. There



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are no breeding records from Namibia, possibly because it is a visitor, as evidenced by nomadic flocking habits in deciduous woodlands elsewhere (del Hoyo *et al.* 2001). Records of its presence in Namibia are also limited to July and January to February (Oatley 1997c). There is less concern for this species than for the Trumpeter Hornbill because its diet consists of fruits and arthropods, which it captures away from the highly pressurised rivers.

Trumpeter Hornbill | *Bycanistes bucinator*

This large, conspicuous, tree-living hornbill just touches the eastern edge of Namibia's Zambezi region. It is endemic to tropical forests from equatorial Kenya southwards to the Eastern Cape Province in South Africa (Oatley 1997d). The area occupied in Namibia is very small at 5,200 km², of which 8% lies within the protected areas of the Nkasa