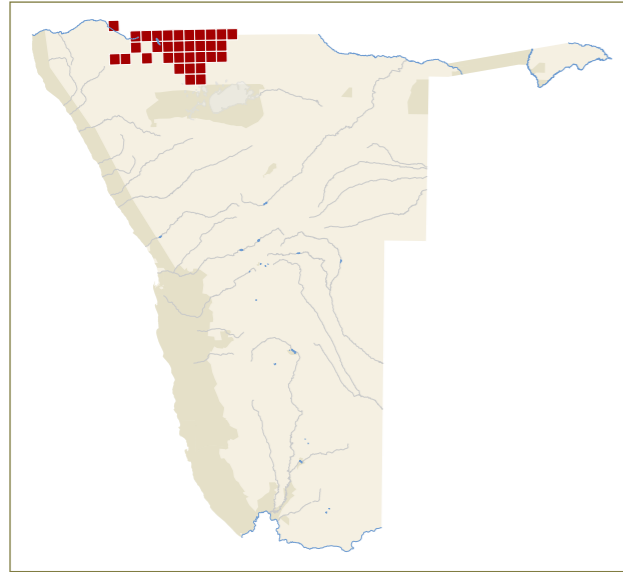


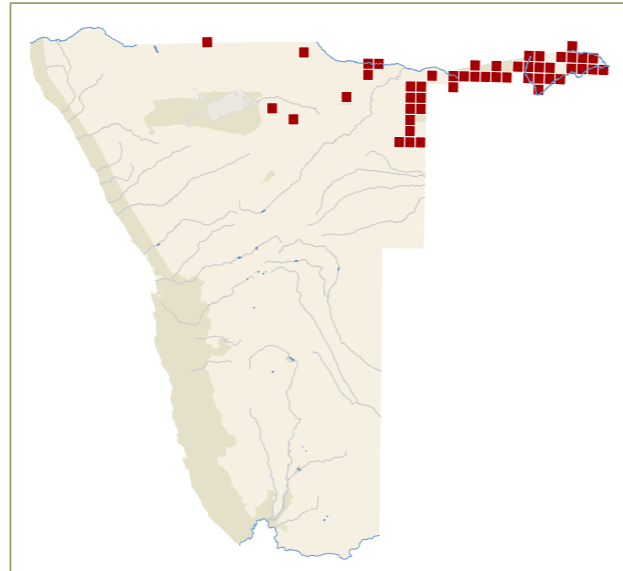
Grey Kestrel | *Falco ardosiaceus*



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*

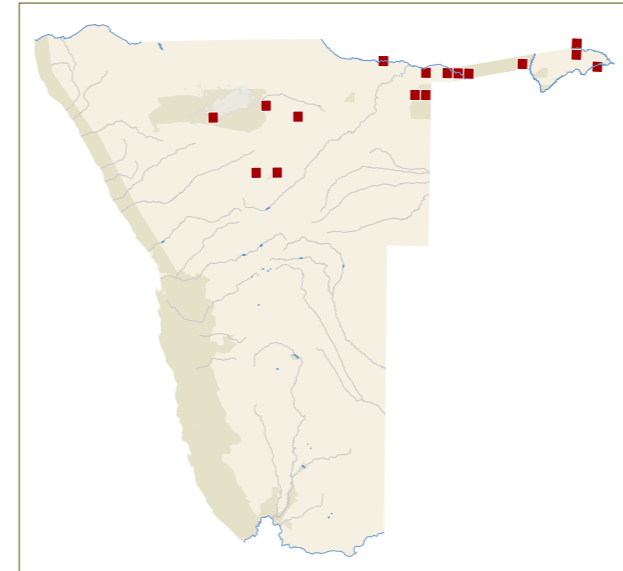
Easily confused with the Grey Kestrel *F. ardosiaceus*, which also inhabits palm savannah, this small falcon has a distribution that is limited to the lowland tropical areas of Tanzania and Zambia, south through Zimbabwe, Mozambique and northern South Africa, and west to Angola, north-eastern Namibia 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



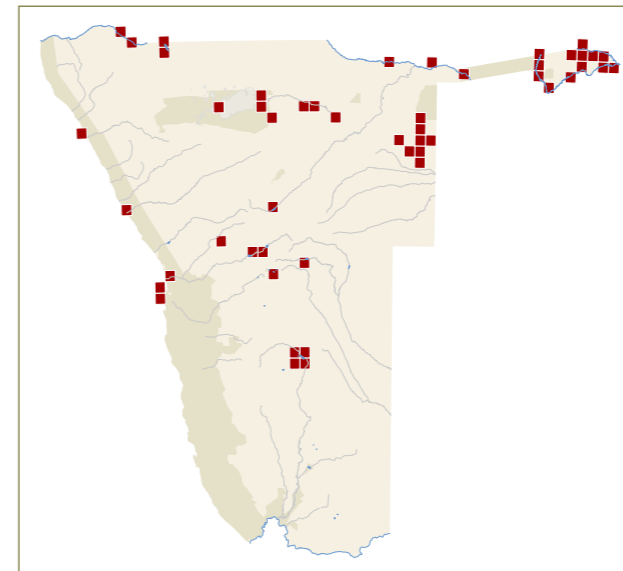
common in the Okavango Delta (Mendelsohn 1997c). Its area of occupancy in Namibia is considerably larger than that of the Grey Kestrel at 27,200 km² (Mendelsohn 1997c, Jenkins & Brown 1997). Only two nests have been recorded in Namibia, with eggs laid in September and October (Brown *et al.* 2015). Given 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-leafed 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***



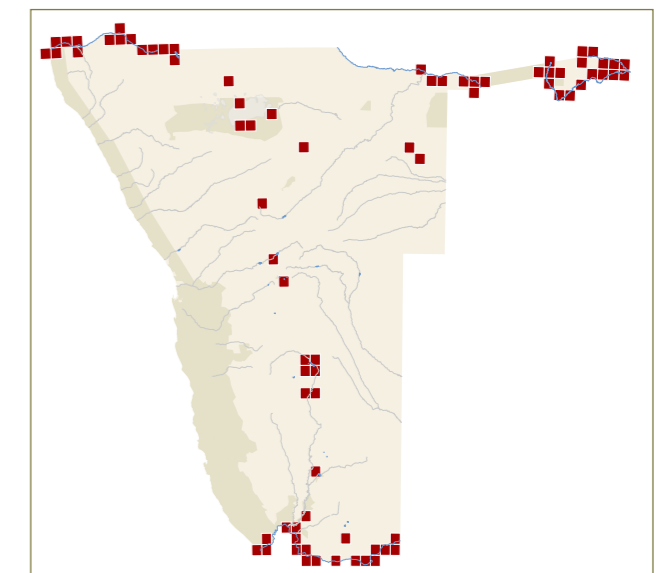
This species is found in suitable habitat throughout sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar; in southern Africa it is most abundant in the Okavango Delta (Anderson 1997a). There is no population estimate for southern Africa, but about 25,000 birds occur in Africa (Dodman 2002). It is peripheral in Namibia, 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



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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%