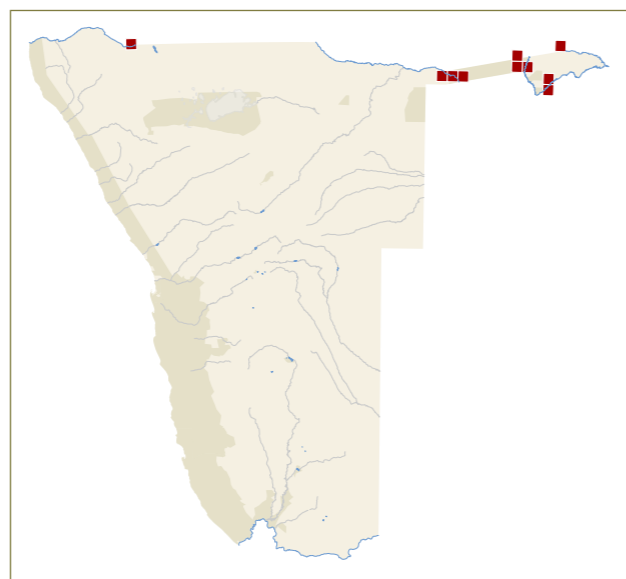


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Rupara (Mamili) National Park (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Despite the prominent wailing 'unhappy crèche' calls and distinctive flights for which this species is famous, it has a low reporting rate for Namibia, indicative of its rarity (18% from 11 quarter-degree squares). It is resident predominantly in mature riparian woodland and follows the Zambezi and Chobe rivers in Namibia. This makes its absence from the Okavango Delta puzzling (Oatley 1997d). There are no breeding records from Namibia, although it breeds co-operatively in tree hollows from September to January elsewhere in southern Africa (du Plessis 1994, Tarboton 2011). The highest reporting rates (Oatley 1997d) come from areas near Katima Mulilo where human population density is high, exerting pressure on woodland resources (Mendelsohn & Roberts 1997). This raises some concern for this species which may suffer degradation of its breeding and feeding habitat. It is therefore a species that should be monitored together with other riparian species in this region.

**Narina Trogon |  
*Apaloderma narina***

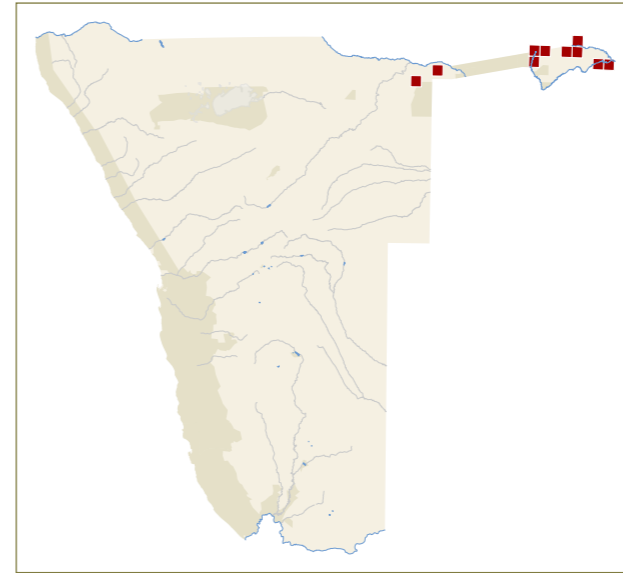
This stunningly coloured intra-African migrant is widespread throughout equatorial forests from central to West Africa. It occurs sparsely in southern Africa in the Caprivi Strip, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, eastern South Africa and South Africa's coastal regions from KwaZulu-Natal to the southern Cape (Oatley 1997b, Dean & du Plessis 2005). It is an insect-catching species of evergreen forests, often seen close to the rivers in the north-east of Namibia, including the Kwando, Okavango and Linyanti rivers. An individual recorded west of Ruacana (N Thomson pers. comm.) probably originated from an Angolan population. Curiously it does not occur regularly in the Okavango Swamps (Oatley 1997b). The mean reporting rate for southern Africa is 9%, and in Namibian habitats it is 7.5%



(Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Population size and density are not known and there are no nest records for Namibia. Loss of riparian forest could impact on its conservation status in the area.

**Racket-tailed Roller |  
*Coracias spatulatus*  
(*Coracias spatulata*)**

This species is endemic to the woodlands of south-central Africa (Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, and Zambia), and in southern Africa is most widespread in Zimbabwe (Fry *et al.* 1988). There it has declined in numbers due to thinning of its favoured habitat – undisturbed primary miombo woodland. It only occurs in Namibia in the Kavango east region in mature Kalahari sandveld woodland, and in the Zambezi region in the less disturbed northern woodlands near the



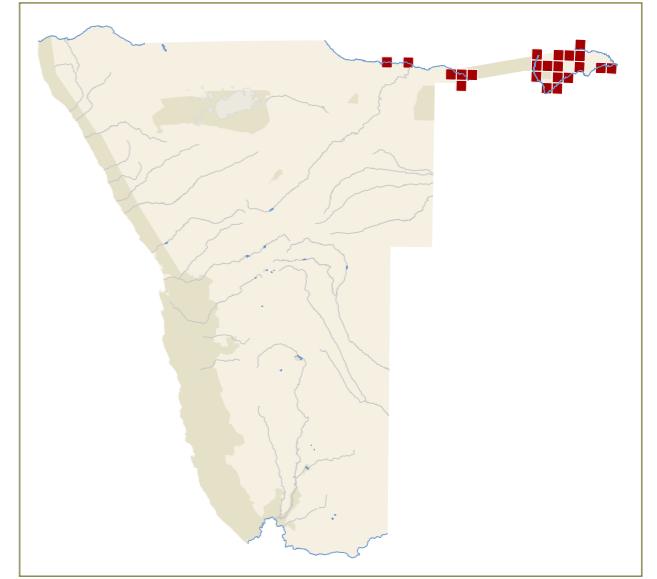
Kwando River (Tree 1997m). It occupies just 4,700 km<sup>2</sup> in Namibia, of which 5% lies within protected areas (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Population density or sizes are not known; reporting rates stand at 9%, with the highest just east of the northern Kwando River (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is unlikely that more than 500 birds occur in Namibia. There are nine breeding records for the country, laying in October (four), November (four) and December (one) (Brown *et al.* 2015). Pink-chested birds photographed near the Okavango River in the vicinity of Shamvura display the characteristics of the subspecies *C. s. weigalli*, not previously reported from southern Africa (Paxton 2010), and requiring further investigation. Like many other peripheral species that occur in primary Kalahari or riverine woodland, it may be under threat from increasing human population pressure on wood resources. There is, however, no current evidence of a decrease in Namibia.

**Broad-billed Roller |  
*Eurystomus glaucurus***

Slightly more numerous and somewhat more conspicuous than the Racket-Tailed Roller *Coracias spatulatus*, this species is also found only on mature, undisturbed woodlands in the north-east of Namibia, including along the Okavango River. Reporting rate is 15% in these areas and the area of occupancy is 9,500 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 22% occurs in protected areas (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It suffers more from the felling and degradation of riverine forest than the Racket-Tailed Roller because it is more often associated with rivers (Tree 1997f). It is a breeding migrant, with birds appearing in Namibia in September and departing by April (Tree 1997f). Clutches are laid from October to March in Namibia (n=6) (Brown *et al.* 2015). Its abundance and range outside Namibia preclude it from entering any threat category, but it may be a useful



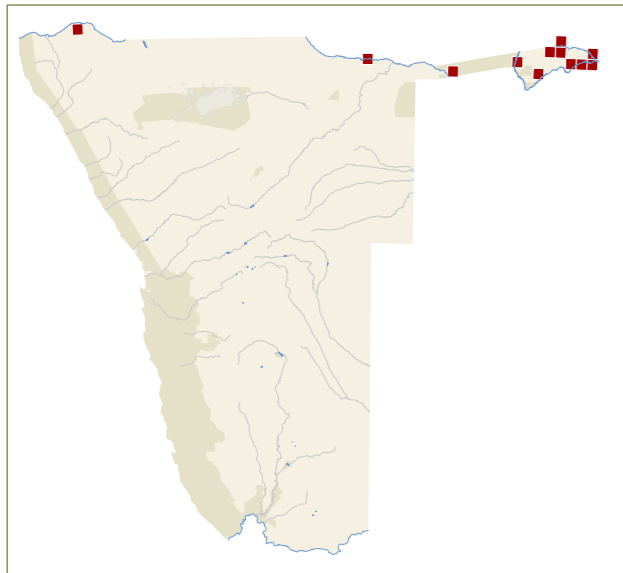
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indicator of the health of undisturbed forests, where it nests in tall trees. The protection of these riparian belts will influence the survival in Namibia of numerous tropical species that just touch southern Africa.

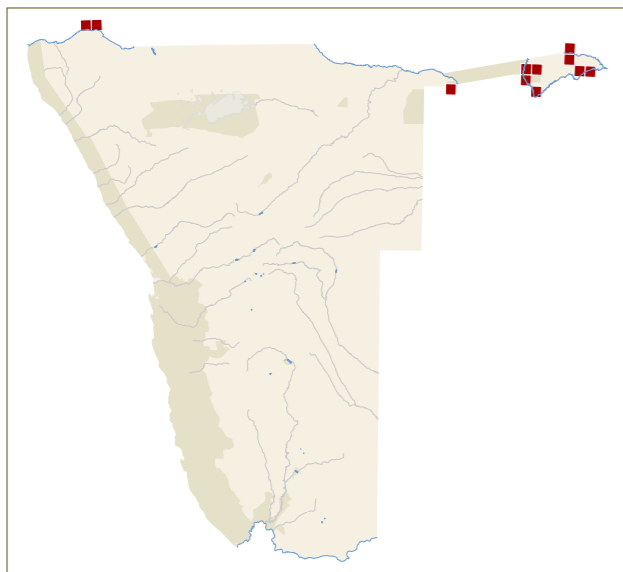
**Half-collared Kingfisher |  
*Alcedo semitorquata***

This aquatic species is confined to rivers mainly in east, central and southern Africa, with an isolated population in Ethiopia (Fry *et al.* 1992). In Namibia, it occurs in the north-east, along the Zambezi, Chobe, Kwando and Okavango rivers at a low reporting rate of 4.4% (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). An isolated population is also known from the lower Kunene River, and it has also been recorded on the upper Kunene River. To date no density estimates are available. It is most common in clear, fast-flowing streams and rivers, but it is absent from the Okavango Delta (Allan 1997o). Further work



is required on this species, but at present it is unlikely that Namibia's population exceed the 5% threshold of African populations required for inclusion in a threat category. It is classified as *Near Threatened* in South Africa (Allan 2000b, Taylor *et al.* in press) because of an apparent decline in numbers in KwaZulu-Natal and lower than expected densities (20 birds per 10 km to one bird per 10 km of river) in various parts of its South African range (Allan 1997o).

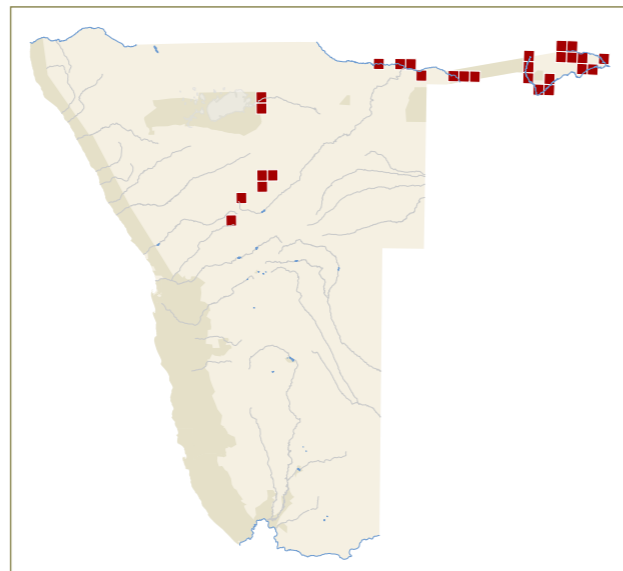
**African Pygmy-Kingfisher  
(Pygmy Kingfisher) |  
*Ispidina picta***



Like its half-collared sister species, this diminutive insectivore is surprisingly rare in the riparian and forested areas of northern Namibia (reporting rate of 5.1% from the Kwando, Chobe and Zambezi river riparian belts: Jarvis *et al.* 2001), missing from most of the Okavango Delta,

but widespread in eastern South Africa and throughout Zimbabwe (Clancey 1997a). Elsewhere, it occurs in forested habitat often near riverine forest south of the Sahara (del Hoyo *et al.* 2001). Its area of occupancy in Namibia is a mere 4,200 km<sup>2</sup>. It has recently been recorded from the riparian belt along the Kunene River near Epupa Falls at a low density of 0.46 birds per 10 km of river (Simmons 1997o, Heinrich 2003). This is not an isolated population, but a southern extension of a distribution from Angola, where they are described as common (Dean 2000). The area is one of Namibia's 21 Important Bird Areas (Simmons *et al.* 2001b), but has no formal protection. No direct threats have been identified and the species is not considered threatened. The population in Namibia probably does not exceed 500 birds and therefore falls below the threshold of 5% of the world population occurring in Namibia, which is the requirement for inclusion in any threatened category.

**Brown-hooded Kingfisher |  
*Halcyon albiventris***



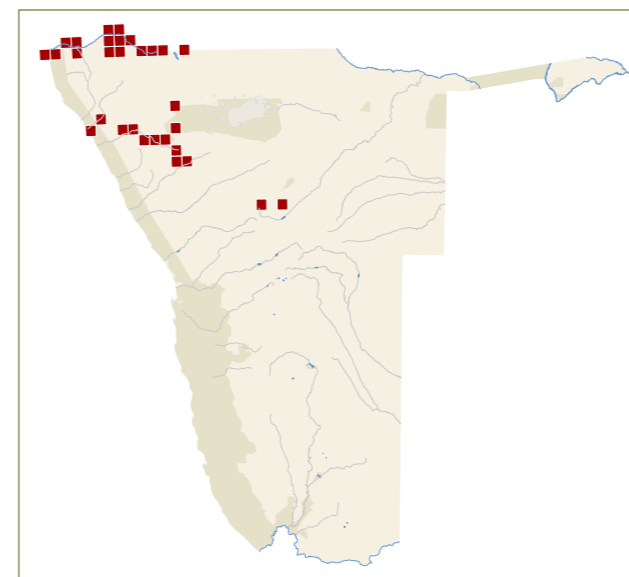
This terrestrial kingfisher is common in Zimbabwe and South Africa, but rare in Namibia, where it is confined to moist woodland associated with the Okavango, Kwando, Chobe and Zambezi rivers at a low reporting rate of 5%. Only one region around Katima Mulilo exhibits reporting rates above 25% (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It occupies an area of 12,600 km<sup>2</sup> in Namibia, of which 20% occurs in the protected areas of Mudumu and Nkasa Rupara (Mamili) national parks and the Mahango area of Bwabwata National Park (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Sightings also occur further south and west from Etosha National Park, the Waterberg Plateau Park and central Namibia (Clancey 1997b). There are no density estimates or nest records for this species from Namibia and it is not a conservation priority, given its abundance elsewhere.



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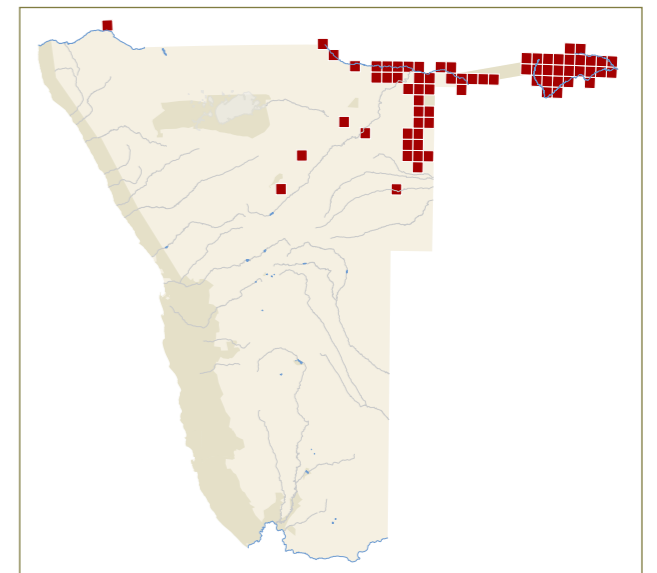
**Olive Bee-eater |  
*Merops superciliosus***

This intra-African migrant only touches southern Africa in north-western Namibia, where it is locally common along the Kunene River and along a few ephemeral north-western rivers where it breeds. There are also scattered records in Zimbabwe and Mozambique (Underhill & Herremans 1997, Barnes 2005). It is divided into two subspecies, of which *M. s. alternans* breeds in Angola (Dean 2000) and Namibia and migrates to unknown quarters elsewhere in Africa (Fry *et al.* 1992, Barnes 2005). Population figures for Namibia are poorly known, but have been estimated at 3,000 to 5,000 birds (P Hockey in Barnes 2005). Densities of 9.2 bee-eaters per 10 km of the lower Kunene River (Simmons 1997p), with records from about 75% of the 344 km-long river (Underhill & Herremans 1997), give an estimate for the Kunene River of only about 250 birds. There are 16 breeding records for Namibia, including from the Huab River (S van der Reep pers. obs.), with egg-laying from September to January, but mainly November to January (Brown *et al.* 2015). The



species may move south as temperatures increase with climate change. These densities suggest that the population estimate of 3,000 to 5,000 birds may be too high and may be closer to 1,000 to 2,000 birds. They inhabit remote, unpopulated parts of Namibia and are therefore unlikely to be threatened in any way.

**Southern Carmine  
Bee-eater (Carmine Bee-eater) |  
*Merops nubicoides***



This bee-eater is more common in southern Africa than the Olive Bee-eater *M. superciliosus* and is also migratory within Africa. However, breeding colonies, which are found in northern and eastern Botswana, throughout Zimbabwe and the Caprivi Strip of Namibia, are often under threat (Barnes & Herremans 1997). Three colonies of unknown size were found during a survey of 60 km of the Zambezi River in October 2002 (L Scheepers unpubl. data), and a colony containing between 3,000 and 8,000 nest holes was found on the Zambezi River near Kalizo Lodge



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