

# **LANIOTURDUS**

**SWA/NAMIBIA VOGELKLUB**  
 eine Zweigstelle der  
 SWA Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft  
 und der  
 Southern African Ornithological  
 Society

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Mitgliedschaft SWA Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft und  
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Als ein Ordentliches Mitglied von sowohl der S.A.O.S. als auch der SWA Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft, erhalten Sie die populärwissenschaftliche Zeitschrift BOKMAKIERIE, das wissenschaftlich ausgerichtete Journal OSTRICH und ebenfalls die lokalen Mitteilungen LANIOTURDUS, weiteres Informationsmaterial und die allgemeinen Publikationen der SWA Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft.

Als Ortsgruppen-Mitglied des SWA/Namibianischen Vogelklubs stehen Ihnen der LANIOTURDUS, sowie die Mitteilungen und zusätzliche Informationen der SWA Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft zu.

#### Bemerkungen an Mitarbeiter:

Manuskripte sollten mit Schreibmaschine (oder in gut leserlicher Handschrift) geschrieben sein und zwar mit doppeltem Zeilenabstand auf A4 (30 x 21 cm) Format.

Skizzen, Karten und Tabellen sollten auf weissem Qualitätspapier mit schwarzer Tinte gezeichnet werden.

Klare Schwarz-weiss-Photographien (15 x 20 cm) können eingereicht werden, um die Arbeit zu illustrieren.

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#### HARTLAUB'S GULLS AND SWIFT TERNS IN LÜDERITZ: A CONSERVATION PROBLEM

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(Received May 1986)

Hartlaub's Gull Larus hartlaubii and Swift Tern Sterna bergii are classed as potentially endangered within SWA/Namibia (Williams & Brown 1985), and status accounts are in preparation for both species in the national Red Data Book (A.J. Williams & C.J. Brown in prep.). The main reason for conservation concern is that breeding is restricted to a few colonies, and most of these colonies are located in areas where human disturbance can greatly reduce breeding success.

Both species have regularly bred in the Lüderitz area, mainly on Shark Island, although some Hartlaub's Gulls bred within the fenced railway shunting area of Lüderitz Harbour in 1984 (Williams 1985). The colony of Hartlaub's Gull at Lüderitz is one of only four frequently-used breeding colonies in SWA/Namibia, whereas the colony of Swift Terns is the only one in the country.

In April 1986 neither species bred on Shark Island but there was a large mixed colony of both species within the fenced harbour area.

The colony was visited on four occasions between 4 April and 17 April to count the number of breeding birds, record behavioural patterns and assess disturbance and predation. To avoid unnecessary disturbance, counts were made with binoculars from vantage points near the colony. Not all the areas used for breeding were visible at one time, and the numbers counted must be regarded as minimal.

On 4 April there were 759 pairs of Swift Terns and 247 pairs of Hartlaub's Gulls. On 17 April there were an additional 45 pairs of Swift Terns, whereas the numbers of Hartlaub's Gulls appeared to have remained stable. Most of the terns and gulls were incubating but a number of gulls, and at least two pairs of Swift Terns, were brooding small chicks. The incubation period of the Swift Tern is about 28 days, and that of Hartlaub's Gull not more than about 22 days (AJW,pers.obs.). This suggests that egg-laying must have been initiated in early March. Nest-building, egg-laying and copulation were recorded, however, for both species in the colony during our period of observation. Most of these activities took place at the perimeter of the colony, predominantly by Hartlaub's Gulls.

Six dead gulls and one dead tern were found lying outside the perimeter of the colony, and several broken eggs and abandoned nests were seen at the edge of the colony. The cause of death of the gulls and tern could not be determined. There was no evidence that the dead birds had been eaten so predation seemed unlikely. There were several broken eggs and abandoned nests in the centre of the colony, where Swift Terns had displaced Hartlaub's Gulls from their nests.

Both terns and gulls appeared to be remarkably tame, and remained on their nests while locomotives noisily shunted wagons only 20 m from the colony. They tolerated vehicles driving up, and people walking, to about ten metres from the colony. During our observations two other parties visited the colony. One party remained next to their car and caused no noticeable disturbance. On 5 April a car drove right up to the edge of the colony, and a man and his daughter got out and walked through the colony, taking photographs

The next day we saw a large disturbance at the colony and drove up to find the same man with three other people and a dog standing in the middle of the colony. The chaos caused by the presence of the dog and that of the humans was clear. During this incident Kelp Gulls (Larus dominicanus) were observed feeding on eggs or nestlings at three different places in the colony.

In view of the potentially great reduction in breeding success at this mixed breeding colony in Lüderitz, as the result of human disturbance, we strongly recommend that this colony urgently warrants protection. The colony is located on Harbour property, and efforts should be made by the appropriate government agencies to control human access to the immediate vicinity of this threatened colony.

## ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Im Rangiergelände der Eisenbahn des Lüderitzbuchter Hafens findet man eine Brutkolonie der Eilseeschwalbe Sterna bergii und der Weisskopflachmöwe Larus hartlaubii. Dies ist der einzige Brutplatz der Eilseeschwalbe in SWA/Namibia und die von nur vier Brutstellen der Weisskopflachmöwe. Beide Arten werden in Südwestafrika/Namibia als potentiell gefährdete Spezies angesehen, und die Störung durch den Menschen kann den Bruterfolg dieser Kolonie gross-teils vermindern. Deshalb müssen unbedingt Schutzmassnahmen eingeführt werden, um diese Brutkolonie in Lüderitzbucht zu beschützen.

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## Notes and News

## Bemerkungen & Mitteilungen

### WIEDERFUNDE UND WIEDERFÄNGE

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Ein Pelikan Pelecanus onocrotalus der am 30 Dezember 1976 auf der Guano-Insel bei Walfischbucht von Herrn Dr. H. Berry als Küken beringt wurde, ist am 12 September 1985 im Distrikt Karibib von Herrn Rudi Gramowski tot wiedergefunden worden. Die verstrichene Zeit beträgt 153 Monate. Entfernung vom Beringungsort: 209 Kilometer. Tabelle 1 gibt Data einiger beringter Wiederfunde für die Zeit von 1983-1985 an.

Wir danken SAFRING und Herrn Gramowski für diese interessante Meldung.

Table 1 : Data einiger beringter Wiederfunde für die Zeit von 1983-1985.

Art	Wissenschaftl. Name	Beringt	Ort	Wiederfang	Ort	Bemerkung
Rotbrauner Sperling	<u>Passer montanus</u>	26/09/76 12/06/83	Frauenstein "	04/12/83 04/12/83	Frauenstein "	7J.2M.8T. 5M.20T.
Rauchschwalbe	<u>Hirundo rustica</u>	05/03/84 09/03/84	Goreangab Dam "	14/03/84 21/03/84	Goreangab Dam "	9T. 12T.
Rotscheitelzistsänger	<u>Cisticola chiniana</u>	03/03/84	"	27/03/84	"	24T.
Mahaliweber	<u>Plocepasser mahali</u>	05/03/83	Frauenstein	17/06/84	Frauenstein	1J.3M.12T.
Buntastrild	<u>Pytilia melba</u>	04/03/84	"	26/05/85	"	1J.2M.22T.

t = J. = Jahre; M. = Monate und T. = Tage.

## SUMMARY

A White Pelican, ringed as a nestling on a guano platform near Walvis Bay on 30 December 1976, was recovered in the district Karibib on 12 September 1985. A period of 153 months had elapsed between ringing and recovery, and the recovery site was 209 km from the ringing site. Table 1 presents data for some additional species ringed, and retrapped during the period 1983-1985.

## PARK Notes / Berichte

### REDBILLED QUELEAS BREEDING NEAR NAMUTONI IN 1982

P. JARVIS (deceased)

No large colonies of Redbilled Queleas Quelea quelea were known to have formed in the Etosha National Park in the rainy seasons of 1980 and 1981 but in 1982, a year of high rainfall (515 mm), a large colony was formed in March and April, 6-7 km north of Namutoni.

The colony was built in a stand of Acacia mellifera bisected by the "Pans Edge" road and covered an area of 31,4 hectares (assessed by pacing off the periphery). Nest density was assessed in six sample plots, each of six by one hundred metres. The average number of trees in the sample areas was 85