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About the Namibia Bird Club

The Namibia Bird Club was founded in 1962 and has been active since then. The club's mission is to contribute to Namibian ornithology by, amongst other things, arranging regular birding outings, conducting bird ringing and atlasing excursions and educating the public about the value of birds. To achieve this, we organize monthly visits to interesting birding sites around Windhoek as well as regular visits to Avis Dam and the Gammams Sewage Works and occasional weekend trips further afield. Bird club members also participate in the African Waterbird Census twice a year.

Experienced birders are more than happy to help beginners and novices on these outings. If you have a transport problem or would like to share transport please contact a committee member. Depending on the availability of speakers and suitable material we present occasional lecture or video evenings at the Namibia Scientific Society premises. Members receive a digital newsletter, *Namibia Bird News*, which includes a programme of forthcoming events and the Bird Club journal, *Lanioturdus*.

The Namibia Bird Club is not affiliated to any global or regional organization and relies entirely on members' subscriptions and donations to fund its activities.

The opinions expressed in this journal are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Namibia Bird Club or its committee.

Instructions to Authors

Lanioturdus is a journal dedicated to birds and birding. Although the journal's primary focus is on Namibia, articles from other geographical parts of the globe will also be considered for publication. Authors should use common and scientific names of southern African birds as published in *Roberts' VII*. For other regions, English and scientific names following BirdLife International's species list (<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species>) should be used. Text should be submitted as a MS Word document. Photos, maps and figures should be sent as separate jpeg images, graphs as MS Excel charts or jpeg images and tables as MS Word or Excel documents. Please indicate in the article text where these should be placed.



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How a springbok birth turned into a birding story

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We were on our way to Okaukuejo in Etosha National Park on 29 December 2014, when we noticed strange behaviour by a springbok ewe. We moved in closer and saw that the springbok appeared to be giving birth.



It became clear that we were about to witness a birth when the springbok stood up.



But the birth just would not happen, an hour later no progress had been made and we had to conclude that the little springbok would be

stillborn. The ewe really battled to get the young one out but to no avail.

Our worst fears were confirmed soon after when a Pied Crow flew in and landed next to the ewe and started feeding on the foetus partly protruding from the mother.



The springbok ewe would not give up however, she got up to chase away the Pied Crow, but we left the sad scene in the knowledge that we could not change the inevitable.

