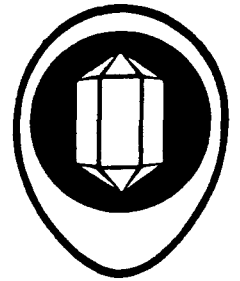


Lanioturdus torquatus
Drosselwürger

MITTEILUNGEN

ORNITHOLOGISCHE ARBEITSGRUPPE



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ICHABOE ISLAND

Ichaboe Island is Southern Africa's most prestigious and densely populated guano bird island. The island is 25 nautical miles north from Lüderitzbucht, facing Douglas Bay some 1,000 metres from the coast. Administered by the S.A. Government through the Department of Agriculture and Sea Fisheries, Ichaboe enjoys almost complete protection from outside disturbances.

Although a relevantly small number of different species of birds is resident on the island, several breeding colonies are the largest of their kind.

The population of birds fluctuates seasonably depending mostly on natural conditions, i.e. weather, availability of fish in the vicinity, and amount of territory available. As the island covers only $7\frac{1}{2}$ morgen, territory is an important issue.

The following are notes and observations on the 1980-1981 season. Population figures are approximate for all birds.

Cape Gannet. (*Morus capensis*).

120,000 breeding birds 60,000 non-breeding. It is noted that this season arrival of gannets shows an increase of 80% with more birds due to arrive from August to October.

Black Footed Penguin (*Spheniscus demursus*).

6,000 breeding pairs throughout the year, 3,000-4,000 non-breeding.

Bank Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax neglectus*).

Southern Africa's largest breeding colony of this bird.
7,500 breeding pairs, 25,000[±] non-breeding.

White Breasted Cormorant (*P. carbo lucidus*).

21 breeding pairs, a steady colony.

Crowned Cormorant (*P. coronatus*).

200 breeding pairs, 500-600 non-breeding.

Cape Cormorant (*P. capensis*).

250,000 breeding pairs, a staggering 3 million & immature of non-breeding. Apparently a lot of the immatures arrived from the Western Cape Islands as banding code colours denoted this.

One factor also is the almost continuous schooling of the pelagic gobius which formed the principal diet of these birds in the Ichaboe area.

Southern Black Backed Gull (*Larus dominicanus*).

6 breeding pairs; 40-500, depending on amount of carrion, eggs, etc..

Cape Wagtail (*Motacilla capensis*)

2 pairs.

Cape Sparrow (*Passer melanurus*).

25 - 30

Other non-breeding species are as follows:

Hartlaubs (*Larus novaehollandiae hartlaubii*). 200-2000

Grey Headed Gulls (*Larus cirrocephalus*) 4-11

Swift Terns (*Sterna bergii*) up to 400

Sandwich terns (*Sterna sandvicensis*) 50-100

Damara Terns (*Sterna balaenarum*) 12-50

Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) up to 400

Pied Crows (*Corvus albus*) 3

Oyster catchers (*Haematopus moquini*) 3

Rare visitors.

Titblitz (*Charadrius pecuarius*) and White Fronted Plovers (*Charadrius marginatus*).

Sanderlings (*Calidris alba*)

1 Large Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

1 Great White Egret (*Casmerodius albus*)

1 Karoo chat (*Cercomela schlegelii*)

1 European Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

3 Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)

Black-necked Grebes 3-6 (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

Great crested Grebes (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Seasonal visitors to vicinity of the island are the giant petrel (*macronectes giganteus*). The arrival of this bird coincides with advent of Cape Fur Seal pups.

There is a small breeding colony of the Fur Seal about 120 metres from the main island. Normally 12 bulls and 120-150 cows are the breeding population, but up to 3,000 immature seals habituate the same area.

Some predation by seals on seabirds does occur. One specific seal has been a chronic menace for some 3 years, as the island holds a .303 rifle special for such rogues. One hopes this present problem will be resolved in the very near future.

B.H. Smith

Lappenstare in Lüderitzbucht.

Lüderitzbucht erhält Besuch von einer Schar Lappenstare (*Creatorphora cinerea*) Roberts No. 735. Ein Beweisstück wurde uns durch einen toten Vogel im April diesen Jahres gebracht. Der Vogel war in die Fänge einer Netze geraten.

In seinem grauen Federkleid ist er als Star kaum anzusprechen. Bekannt ist er als Vagabund und taucht zu unmöglichen Zeiten in Gebieten auf,