



# LANIOTURDUS

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## CONTENTS

THOMSON N	Editorial	<b>1</b>
DEMASIUS E	An Early Morning Hunting Episode	<b>3</b>
MIDDENDORFF G	Chairperson's Report	<b>5</b>
THOMSON N	Cattle Egrets in Namibia	<b>6</b>
DEMASIUS E	A Different Kind of Birding: Birds on the Stamps of Namibia : Additions to Namibia's 5 <sup>th</sup> Definitive Series	<b>7</b>
FRIEDERICH G	A Zambian Birding Experience – Part 2	<b>9</b>
SWANEPOEL W	Red-eyed Dove <i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i> in Namibia : New Records and Range Extensions	<b>16</b>
DEMASIUS E	An Interesting Nest Site	<b>18</b>
THOMSON N	Short Notes and Interesting Observations	<b>19</b>
NIDDRIE R	Red-chested Cuckoo in Windhoek	<b>26</b>
KOLBERG H	Trends in Namibian Waterbird Populations 9 : Waders and Shorebirds – Part 2	<b>26</b>

DEMASIUS E	Rufous-cheeked Nightjars at the Coast	<b>31</b>
	ATLAS UPDATE	<b>32</b>
	RARITIES AND INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS	<b>33</b>

## Editorial

The Namibia Bird Club is often accused of being the “Windhoek Bird Club” as most of our activities are centred around Windhoek. With this in mind the chairperson organized a camping long weekend at Farm Eileen to the west of Omaruru. This outing was attended by ten people including two of our Swakopmund members, Mark Boorman and Sandra Dantu. The weekend was used to atlas three pentads and to do a bit of ringing. The morning walks in Omaruru were widely publicized on various radio stations in the hope of attracting some local residents to join us and perhaps to become members of the bird club. This turned out to be wishful thinking as there was absolutely no response from Omaruru residents and nobody at all turned up at the publicized meeting points. No one can now say that we have not tried to involve others from outside of Windhoek.

After many above average rainy seasons it looks as if drought conditions have returned to central Namibia. I have been measuring

and recording the rainfall at my Klein Windhoek home since the 1987/88 rainy season and, until the summer just past the lowest rainfall I recorded in a season was 192 mm in the 1995/96 season. This season I have measured only 146 mm, about three quarters of my previous lowest.

What does this year of low rainfall have in store for us in terms of birding?

Strangely throughout this dry summer I had relatively few birds in my garden in spite of food and water being available to them.

I would expect that certain species such as Red-billed Queleas which normally appear in town in numbers towards the end of the dry season will appear earlier to plunder seed from feeding stations as there will undoubtedly be far less food available in the veld. Already in February I noticed pale-winged Starlings in town; this species is usually more likely to be seen in Windhoek in the winter months.

Certain species which normally breed towards the end of the rainy season may not attempt to do so. Monteiro's hornbills which usually show some interest in the nest log set up in our garden have been absent altogether. While many dams still contain fair volumes of water from the previous good rainy seasons many of the smaller dams are likely to dry up. This will probably result in larger concentrations of waterbirds on the remaining dams. Avis Dam is likely to retain water for some time to come. Although the water level has already dropped substantially I doubt that it will, in the near future, be reduced to the puddle it was in the late 80s/early 90s and the number of waterbirds there is likely to increase.

It is a great pity that Namibia only came on board SABAP2 last year. Had we been able to bank data for five good rainy seasons the possible changes we are likely to experience due to these dry conditions could have

readily determined. I believe we are likely to see some dramatic changes in species demography and distribution this year so now is the time to get atlasing so that we can record these.

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Further to my comments on the Black Skimmer sightings at Walvis Bay in the editorial of *Lanioturdus* 46(1) I received the following from Tony Tree:-

"I read with some concern the statement in the last issue of *Lanioturdus* regarding observations of Black Skimmer in Namibia:

'The second record is Tony Tree's sighting of a single bird at Walvis Bay in February 1998, which, as far as I am aware was also shot down by the rarities committee.'

This statement is untrue as (a) there was no Rarities Committee in Namibia at that time and (b) the SA Rarities Committee has no say in Namibian records although this record was never submitted to any rarities committee hence the decision to publish it with full details and discussion in *Lanioturdus* (2005) 38(1): 17-20. On the strength of this short paper there is no reason at all as to why the record cannot be accepted as the sighting is very fully documented (a lot more than can be said for many records of rarities submitted to and accepted by rarities committees). I would also like to point out that Joris Komen's record was submitted to the SARC for their comments (only) and as a member of said committee at the time we would not put our heads on a block although we thought that the record was genuine it was inadequately supported by a description. The Namibian committee at the time decided to put the record in abeyance until subsequent sightings could support it."

## An Early Morning Hunting Episode

**Eckart Demasius**

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All photographs in this article are © Eckart Demasius

Whenever I am in Halali I have to check up on “my” resident pair of Shikras. They bred successfully at the end of 2011 and at the beginning of December the chicks were flying but they still had to be fed.

Whilst on my early morning walk in mid May 2012 I heard the call of one of the Shikras. On closer inspection I found one of the juvenile birds sitting on a verandah chair looking quite happily at a tree squirrel on the floor. Nice, I thought, like in a story book, but no one other than I was around to appreciate such an idyllic moment just after sunrise.



But, as in real life, these idyllic moments last only for a very short time and the hard reality sets in; in this case a hectic chase started, obviously in order to satisfy one of the basic needs of any living organism and that is to have a substantial breakfast on the table!!



In a flash the Shikra was on the floor chasing the tree squirrel. Had it not been for the smooth floor surface and had the Shikra not slipped, a possible squirrel breakfast could have been served.



But the chase went on and relentlessly the Shikra gave chase .....



... one moment the Shikra gained ground ...



.. and then it was the squirrel that was faster.



Then it went up and down again....



... and eventually the tree squirrel found some refuge behind the air conditioner....



... and a pretty frustrated and no doubt still hungry Shikra left to find breakfast elsewhere.

## **Chairperson's Report 2013 - Presented at the Annual General Meeting Held on 12 March 2013**

Gudrun Middendorff  
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First I wish to convey our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Arnold van der Westhuizen who would have been here tonight but unfortunately was involved in a motor accident. He will be confined to strict rest for 2 to 3 weeks.

Now allow me to reflect on the year, which was an absolute highlight in the history of the Namibia Bird Club. As you all know we organised a symposium at Arebbusch Travel Lodge and invited some high profile speakers such as Mark Anderson, Andre Botha, Les Underhill, Dieter Oschadleus, Rob Simmons, Pete Hancock from Botswana, Dayne Braine, John Mendelsohn, John Paterson and Chris Brown. Their presentations took us through Namibia, South Africa, into Botswana and Angola.

I want to thank the following: Arebbusch Travel Lodge for their "affordable" venue and excellent service, Gamsberg Macmillan Publishers for the donation of the Christine Marais prints, which were given to some of the speakers; the others received a discounted copy of John Carlyon's book "Nocturnal Birds of Southern Africa". Our gratitude also goes to Jock and Rosemary Orford, Danie and Gertrud Piek, Gillian Barnes, Nick Steven and Klaus Hoffmann for their generous donations.

Further, a very big thank you to my committee: Holger - thanks to your wide connections we were able to get excellent speakers, you compiled a slide show about the history of the bird club from your dad's resources and it seems Master of Ceremonies is your second/secret profession. Neil - with your quiet way and excellent knowledge you have guided us through many tricky situations. Between you, Eckart and Holger you compiled a super anniversary edition of Lanioturdus. Richard - thank you for compiling a budget which enabled us to stay

well within our financial limits. And now to Liz, Jutta, Sonja and Uschi for organising and helping with shirts sales, table decorations, shuttle services for our guests and hosting our members at the dinner and symposium.

Our bird club shirts have become very popular amongst members and their families and a word of thanks goes to Magda de Haan for the nice stitch work.

But I am not finished: thank you to all our members; it would not have worked if we had had no audience. We had 114 signed up members last year and I sincerely hope that you stay faithful to your bird club.

Our normal programme during the year consisted of morning walks, day outings, wetland counts at the coast as well as in the inland, weekend camping excursions to Smalhoek and Kachauchab and a very successful vulture ringing trip to family Stehn on Smalhoek.

Since March 2012 Namibia has been part of SABAP 2 - the South African Bird Atlas Project 2. We had Les Underhill, Michael Brooks and Arnold van der Westhuizen here to show us the ropes. Since then we have atlased 294 pentads, submitted 25 940 full protocol records and have thus covered 2.8 % of the total of 10 584 pentads. Just yesterday Holger gave another workshop to encourage birders to come on board to help with this huge task.

Last but not least our gratitude goes to the Scientific Society and their helpful staff for the venue and the equipment which we may use free of charge. Our thanks also to the radio stations and the printed media for the advertising of our outings.



African Black Oystercatchers © Eckart Demasius

## Cattle Egrets in Namibia

Neil Thomson  
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I grew up in Cape Town where the Cattle Egret (or Tick Bird as it was then commonly called) was an extremely common species. These birds were regularly to be seen in numbers on the dairy farms out towards Malmesbury and anywhere else where large herbivores were to be found such as certain areas of the Cape Flats. The birds were also often to be seen on school playing fields and there was a roost in a pine tree just outside the brewery near Newlands station. I remember having to walk through this extremely unpleasant smelling area (the tree and the road beneath it were white with droppings) twice a day as a junior school pupil on my way between the railway station and the school – yes - in those days it was safe to travel to school by train.

When I moved to Namibia some thirty years ago one thing that struck me immediately was that there were no (or very few) Cattle Egrets. There were plenty of cattle to be seen on farmland all over the country but no white egrets accompanying them.

I do not know when exactly I became aware of more frequent sightings of Cattle Egrets at various locations around Namibia. I would guess that it was most probably about five or six years ago. From that time on I started noticing numbers of these birds all over the country – small numbers at Mariental, Swakopmund and Walvis Bay, regular sightings of reasonable numbers accompanying livestock in the northern regions, a few birds in Katima Mulilo, frequent sightings of forty plus birds at the Gammams Sewage Works and even birds accompanying cattle in the Khomas Hochland. Eckart Demasius also remarked to me that he had noticed numbers of these birds accompanying herds of undulates in the Etosha National Park. In the summer of 2012/13 there seemed to be a further explosion of numbers with personal sightings of many birds all across the

Oshana, Kavango and Caprivi regions and a count of 273 at the Gammams Sewage Works.

Interestingly, Holger Kolberg's "Trends in Namibian Waterbird Populations 4 – Herons and Egrets Part 2" (Lanioturdus 44 (3)) indicates that the Cattle Egret is in decline in Namibia although it is globally on the increase. I find this difficult to believe given my own personal observations and awareness of this species. I can only wonder whether the habits of this bird have something to do with the decline as far as the wetland counts are concerned. Cattle Egrets are not really wetland birds. According to Robert's VII they roost communally in trees and then fly out to forage in the early morning. They may congregate at water in the late afternoon before returning to their roost. It seems to me quite likely that unless the wetland counts are conducted in the late afternoon it might be quite possible to miss this species altogether in the counts thus giving a false impression that the species is in decline in this country.



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### Advertising in Lanioturdus

We will accept advertisements to be published in Lanioturdus at the following rates:-

Full page	N\$ 300.00
Half page	N\$ 150.00
Quarter page	N\$ 75.00
Small advertisement	N\$ 35.00

## A Different Kind of Birding

### Birds on the Stamps of Namibia

#### Additions to Namibia's 5<sup>th</sup> Definitive Series

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My last contribution with regard to this topic was published in *Lanioturdus* 45(3) and it ended with the following prayer:

“But what about our remaining near-endemic birds that do not feature on this series?”

Well, let's hope they still have a chance. It is not uncommon for additional values to be added to a definitive series and instead of overprinting existing stamps which do not sell on account of their face values not being in demand. Monteiro's Hornbill, Barlow's Lark, Gray's Lark, Benguela Long-billed Lark and Rosy-faced Lovebird are all lined up to feature on any additional stamps.

I believe all bird club members have a duty to lobby for this. How nice would it be to have all of our endemics on this set of Namibian stamps?”

Well, the very good news is that this prayer has been answered and on 1 March 2013 five

additional stamps were released and with that we have one set of stamps depicting all the endemic and near-endemic birds in Namibia.

The additional values start off with the Benguela Long-billed Lark being perched in what seems to be the area west of the Brandberg singing its long drawn out song. Even for only 90 cents not many will come to hear the enchanting song.



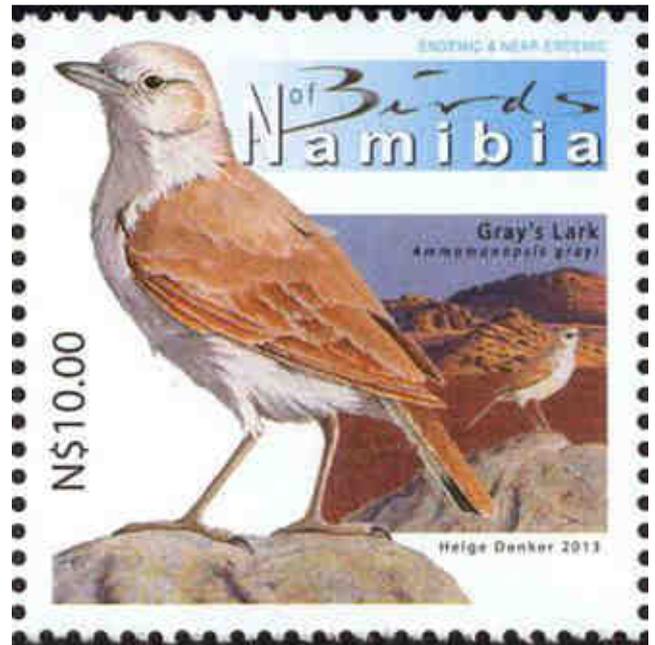
Far in the south of the country and only for only an additional 10 cents Barlow's Lark awaits us in the euphorbia landscape on the way to Lüderitz.



The Rosy-faced Lovebird is depicted at Epupa Falls where there is enough water for it throughout the year, regardless of the endless debate as to whether the Rosy-faced Lovebird is or is not a Namibian near-endemic.

And the N\$ 3-00 face value will not change anything of that either, although to use these stamps for standard postage you will have to add a Hartlaub's Spurfowl (10c) as the going rate is N\$ 3-10!!

N\$ 10-00 for a sight of Gray's Lark is what many a birder would be prepared to pay to have such a great view of this so often elusive lark of the Namib Desert.



Finally, Monteiro's Hornbill greets us from somewhere in the north-west of Namibia. If N\$ 12-00 is too much for you, try an outing to the Daan Viljoen Game Reserve just west of Windhoek; you might just have a splendid view of it there at a hugely discounted rate.

## A Zambian Birding Experience Trip 3-6 July 2012 (Part 2)

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Jutta Surén

All photographs in this article are © Jutta Surén and Günther Friederich

In Part 1, a report was given about the first organized trip to develop a birding route into southwestern Zambia. This trip was led by “Caprivi Birding Safaris/Tutwa Tourism and Travel”, with three participants from the Namibia Bird Club. Nick Buys and Katy Sharpe were the guides; the participants were Günther Friederich (author of this article), Jutta Surén and Werner von Maltzahn.

### **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012:**

Our party departed from Shackleton Lodge at about 13h00, taking the road towards Livingstone. After some kilometers we reached the turnoff, signposted “Muchile IBA ...”, taking us further into the wilderness of southwestern Zambia. This was the “dry road”, a two spoor, much of it a hard, sandy track, through open savanna. The “dry road” is used to access the area in dry conditions; when wet, another access track has to be used. Much of this area gets flooded and there is no way through the “cotton soil”. The area is quite open, consisting of Purple-pod Terminalia (*Terminalia prunioides*) with mixed Acacia, Makalani Palm (*Hyphaene petersiana*) at places, (therefore we had African Palm-Swift), some big Baobab, (*Adansonia digitata*), also Giant Euphorbia (*Euphorbia ingens*) on termite mounds and small Mopane shrubs (*Colophospermum mopane*).



Giant Euphorbia



This open savanna was sometimes interspersed with large-tree thickets, which we investigated for birds. Here we found Meves’s Starling and Black-headed Oriole, Northern Grey-headed Sparrow, all lifers for me and

some others. On a cattle track I noticed Double-banded Sandgrouse. We had to stop for those, Jutta and Werner insisted on following them. Cape Turtle-Doves were aplenty, which caused Nick to remark that he wished he'd met somebody to whom this bird was a special.

Although we encountered very little human activity at this time, there were signs of their presence, like the sand well we encountered. In a shallow vlei, a well was dug and fenced off with thorn bushes. The water was about 3 m deep. The inside was divided into two parts with poles, presumably for cattle to access the one part, humans the other. However this did not divide the water, which was utilized from the same source, making it all murky. The birds however, did not mind. We encountered Rattling Cisticola, Red-billed Firefinch, Doves, Green-winged Pytilia, Southern Black Tit, Black-backed Puffback and others.



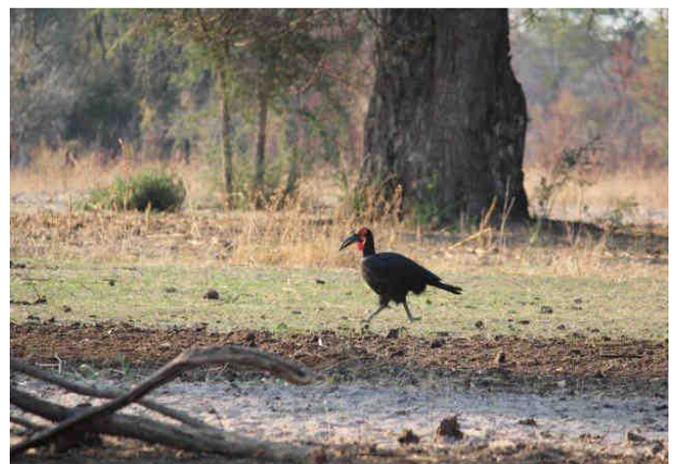
Local water point

Further on in a thicket we found Crested Barbet, which I had seen only during February 2008 in Vanderbijlpark, Gauteng, RSA. Other birds: Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird; Cardinal and Bearded Woodpecker; Chinspot Batis; Tropical Boubou.

We eventually entered the Mopane Savanna, where the Black-cheeked Lovebirds were apparently making their living. Some Mopane trees were huge, slender; we also passed through thickets. We reached a village, which was surrounded by some open fields, cultivated for Mahangu (Pearl millet). We stopped there to scan the area. At last, in the

trees: Black-cheeked Lovebird calling. Excitement all around; we followed the birds to get a better view. There – on the track – about 15 birds feeding on grass seeds, and soil?? Magnificent. Photo taking devices into action! No! Why not? All left in the vehicles! So – go and get them! By the time we got back, the birds were ready to depart and did so, without giving us a chance. In the meantime Werner tried to get a count of the birds. They flew all over the place. I took position under a Manketti tree (*Schinziophyton rautanenii*) in the open field, focusing the camera onto an Acacia, waiting for a chance. But the birds did not do me the honours, nor did any of my companions manage to flush some of the birds into that tree. Tough luck, but we would have more of them later. Werner's count totaled about 54 birds.

Carrying on, we encountered our first Dark Chanting Goshawk on a Baobab tree. Passing through another village, we had Black Flycatcher, the first Helmeted Guineafowl for this trip and another kind of self-domesticated wild fowl. The only ones of this kind I had seen before were during the December 2002 Solar Eclipse trip to the Kwando River in the Caprivi, Singalamwe area. We had birded the border with Zambia and just inside Zambia we had seen them. Six Southern Ground-Hornbills wandered through this village, undisturbed by people. Nice to see.



Self – domesticated Wild Fowl

Late that afternoon we collected our local guide at a village; she directed us through

non-tracked floodplains and bushes towards our bush camp at the Muchile River, where we arrived at 17h00. There was no need to cross the floodplains with Mokoro dugouts, everything was dry.

A surprise awaited us: under the supervision of the local bird guide, the locals had prepared our campsite. Undergrowth was cleared, there were sites for the tents, a canvas shade erected to become the cooking-house, cum dining room, cum lounge, cum conference centre. A primitive but effective shower and toilet were erected, chairs and firewood supplied. This would be our home for the next one and a half days



Installation for personal hygiene

With all hands involved, the tents were pitched and the kitchen prepared in no time. That's what we are used to – no supervision needed by anybody to see that the others do their job. Eventually we could settle down, drinks were popped and we could turn our attention to the birds again. Before that – a toast to Jutta. She had the privilege of experiencing her birthday, which one she would not reveal, on this trip. Earlier that morning she had a special flower, a wild Jasmine, (*Jasminum fluminense*) attached to her shirt; she had seen her birthday bird - the Black-cheeked Lovebird, now a song: Happy Birthday!

What is called the “Muchile River” was just a few paces from our conference centre. From this we got our water supply for the shower and for cleaning. For this purpose a dug-out mokoro was placed at right angles to the bank, to get the water from deeper in.



The Conference Centre



The living area



Water supply point

This river is not what we know the Okavango or Zambezi River to be like. It is a half-perennial river or more a channel, covering its vast floodplains with water during the rainy season. Now it was only a narrow, standing water body, meandering its way in long bends through the area. There was no way to cross dry-footed. Fish, like Barbel and Tilapia species had come upstream from the Zambezi, to supply a vast number of species of birds and the locals with a livelihood. Water lilies and even the pest, “Water Hyacinth” (I presume), were present. Along the banks were thickets of huge Paper-bark Acacia & Knob-thorn (*A. siberiana* & *nigrescens*), Jackalberry (*Diospyros mespilliformes*), Buffalo thorn (*Ziziphus mucronata*), Wild Fig (*Ficus spp.*), (I’m tree-atlassing again! - forgive me, I can’t resist).



Before dark we’d seen a number of birds like Black Crake, African Openbill, Hamerkop, Tropical Boubou, Kingfishers. A Verreaux’s Eagle-Owl gave us the honours across the water channel, in a tree. Some calls at the riverbank drew my attention. They were crickets, but not all of them, there must have been some frogs, so I started to try to locate the spot of origin. Turning aside the thick grasses revealed nothing. It would have been nice to get hold of one of these small frogs to take a photo home for my wife. Bad luck.

Everybody had an early warm shower. For this purpose the shower bucket had to be refilled, when necessary.

A three-course dinner followed, prepared on the fire by Katy and Nick (everybody had a third helping). We turned in at 22h00, with a good-night snack from Katy. Although it was quite cool, the bedding supplied was comfy and warm, even the sleeping bag fitted me, also the camping bed. No funny noises from within the campsite during the night - at least I did not hear any. Only some owls kept watch with their calls: African Scops-Owl, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Southern White-faced Scops-Owl and African Barred Owlet.

### **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012:**

At first light, before anybody else was up, “Philemon” got the fire started. This more or less woke the others. Katy got the coffee ready. Imagine – she was unsure of how much to put into the plunger. Therefore the morning coffee was of a high octane, which really gave us enough guts to do what we wanted to do for this day. As a result, the following morning we had to fall back to the emergency supply: plastic coffee. But in the bush you make do with what you have available.

After a snack we went out into the veld; along the river channel. Kingfishers, Black-headed Oriole; African Fish-Eagle; White-browed Robin-Chat; Herons; both Boubous; more Lovebirds; Luapula Cisticola; Flycatchers; Crested Barbet; Lizard Buzzard; African Hoopoe heard, Orange-breasted Bush-Shrike; Red-billed Oxpecker – the birds just kept coming into our view. I hardly had time to pick up my binoculars for keeping notes. Far off in the floodplains on two different perches were Long-crested Eagles.



Long-crested Eagle behind grass-plume on far-side tree

“Muchile IBA” covers an area of 447 000 hectares in southwestern Zambia. It has been established to conserve the Black-cheeked Lovebird, endemic to Zambia. In the Mopane woodlands it occupies the area in two localized population groups. Large Mopane trees are utilized for nesting. In the Red Data Book this bird is classified as “vulnerable”.

The Lovebirds are endemic to southwestern Zambia. They occur in two separate sub-populations. One in the Kafue catchment and one in the Zambezi catchment area – Muchile is the Zambezi one. They occur in mature woodlands, dominated by Mopane trees and need permanent water. Their population is declining due to habitat loss but also due to capture for cage birds. Their total population is less than 10 000 individuals but the biggest threat is the limited range.

Then Nick called – come here guys, cautiously, have a look in this bush! Where? There! I don’t see! There – third branch off to the left, second twig to the right, behind the leaves – no, it’s moved down, you see it? Which bush? That one! See ? No! (I really had to do something about this! This is no way to give a direction reference!)

At last everybody had this smallish, heavily streaked bird in view: African Broadbill! It is uncommon in this area; we were very lucky to see it. It was not worried about us, we were just a few paces off it. So close, we had difficulties focusing our camera lenses onto it.



The Bird

We had no chance of moving very much further. A big acacia kept us. Jameson’s Firefinch. Woodpeckers: Golden-tailed, Cardinal, Bearded, Bennett’s – all in that Acacia. African Green-Pigeon, African Goshawk. We must have spent close to an hour at this spot. We moved back through the floodplains to the camp and boarded the vehicles in search of more Lovebirds.

After collecting our guide, Agnita, the Community Bird Guide from Magumwi Village, we carried on to another village. This village was quite large, with some houses, entertainment establishments and a radio tower. The Muchile River, to which we moved, was close by. The Black-cheeked Lovebirds were all around, feeding, drinking, fluttering around in the big trees, feeding on Acacia pods. Photos? Not me, sorry. I tried my best, choosing a water spot from which they had flown up as a focus point. Having cleared my view to this spot of grasses and weeds, I made myself comfortable (?) underneath a tree, waiting. But to my disappointment no bird came there. Just a lonely African Harrier-Hawk flew overhead.

We moved back to our camp, dropping Agnita at her village. There she asked us whether we knew the Collared Palm-Thrush. What?? Yes, we have it here! At the village. So we started a search in between the Makalani palms of all sizes which were all around the village. It did not take us long to locate these birds; we saw at least four of them. They kept us very busy following them, never staying at one spot for

long, but we were able to get some photographs. This bird was no lifer for me this time. I have had the privilege of seeing this bird during November 2010, on the farm of my cousin in the north-eastern Tsumeb district. It was way out of its recorded range there and that was the second consecutive year it had made its appearance. A pair had appeared there during October, when the Makalani started flowering. It was even suspected to be breeding there in a tall *Washingtonia* palm. At the bird bath it was captured in a photograph. (See *Lanioturdus* 43(3) and 44(1) - Ed.).



Collared Palm-Thrush



Habitat of Collared Palm-Thrush

We moved back to the campsite for a short break. We wanted to rest for a while, but the birds around us did not let us. Meyer's Parrot, Green Wood-Hoopoe, Senegal Coucal, Red-billed Firefinch and a lot more birds were active around us. Malachite Kingfishers had a nesting site on the riverbank close to us, they kept coming and going. Not to forget the African Grey Hornbill, representing the more

common birds, in all its glory. And don't miss the Green-backed Heron!

What now? There was still a lot of time left for some exploration. We decided to split, a camera in each group. Katy and Jutta would this time again pay a social visit to the Lovebirds, maybe convince them to pose decently for some photographs. Nick, Werner and I decided to explore the floodplains and riverine thickets once more.

We took the same route we had during the morning walk, in the faint hope that the Broadbill would do us the honours again. Some Vervet Monkeys were swaying around in the tall Jackalberry trees, keeping a close watch on our intruding movements. Locals were attending to their fish traps in the channel.



Activities at the channel

Cattle and donkeys were grazing stomach-deep in the water. Domestic pigs had also gone on a feeding spree. Our hope of finding the Broadbill dwindled; there was too much activity in the area, especially this cow that had decided to pass through exactly that same section where we had seen the bird. It would be gone, tough luck. But as there could still be a chance, Nick called in the bird just once. And there it was – in a small Mopane shrub. We were close to the bird once more, cameras ready. Did the bird mind all that snapping? Not in the least, it appeared. It moved around, dashed to the ground, picked up a morsel and carried it to its perch, it even demonstrated to us its toilet habits. The bird was not the least

concerned about us, just a few paces off. We thought it would have been affected by the activity in the area, like people, donkeys, cattle, even the mother pig that passed close by with her four offspring on her way back home. The bird was used to all this activity. It was such a great bird, we there and then decided this bird should be the highlight of the trip, downgrading the Lovebirds, for which we had actually come, to trash. It would be interesting to know whether this bird had claimed this area, and if so, to find its mate and probably their nest, when breeding.

We made our way back through the floodplains, logging some more LBJ's. Now Nick started getting botanical, asking me about those trees in the floodplains, with the broad leaves and large pods. They were Camel's Foot (*Piliostigma thonningii*). A short time later Katy and Jutta appeared, they had had success in capturing our "Trash birds" on camera.

Dinner was served – cooked chicken, into the pot still frozen, but everything went down well. Our cool boxes had done their jobs, the drinks also were still cool. Some discussions followed during the evening – arguments: Nick – "I still insist this owl we heard calling was the Pearl-spotted Owlet, not the African Barred Owlet". With the prospect of having some more adventures the following day, we all pulled back into our dwellings for the night.

#### List of Birds recorded in "Muchile IBA"

Bateleur  
 White-browed Sparrow-Weaver  
 Meves's Starling  
 Namaqua Dove  
 Arrow-marked Babbler  
 African Palm-Swift  
 Green Wood-Hoopoe  
 Lilac-breasted Roller  
 Fork-tailed Drongo  
 Cape Turtle-Dove  
 Red-billed Hornbill  
 Red-billed Quelea  
 Black-headed Oriole

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow  
 Grey Go-away-bird  
 Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove  
 Double-banded Sandgrouse  
 Blue Waxbill  
 Jameson's Firefinch  
 Rattling Cisticola  
 Red-billed Firefinch  
 Violet-eared Waxbill  
 Red-eyed Dove  
 Swainson's Spurfowl  
 Laughing Dove  
 Green-winged Pytilia  
 Southern Masked-Weaver  
 Southern Black Tit  
 Black-backed Puffback  
 Martial Eagle  
 White-bellied Sunbird  
 Long-billed Crombec  
 White-backed Vulture  
 Lapped-faced Vulture  
 Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird  
 Cardinal Woodpecker  
 Chinspot Batis  
 Tropical Boubou  
 Bearded Woodpecker  
 Bennett's Woodpecker  
 Golden-tailed Woodpecker  
 African Mourning Dove  
 Black-cheeked Lovebird  
 Dark Chanting Goshawk  
 Southern Ground-Hornbill  
 Southern Black Flycatcher  
 Helmeted Guineafowl  
 Hamerkop  
 Black Crake  
 Verreaux's Eagle-Owl  
 African Openbill  
 African Scops-Owl  
 Pearl-spotted Owlet  
 Southern White-faced Scops-Owl  
 African Barred Owlet  
 Red-billed Spurfowl  
 Pied Kingfisher  
 Brown-hooded Kingfisher

Giant Kingfisher  
 Malachite Kingfisher  
 African Fish-Eagle  
 Magpie Shrike  
 White-browed Robin-Chat  
 Green-backed Heron  
 Swamp Boubou  
 Grey Heron  
 Dark-capped Bulbul  
 African Jacana  
 Brubru  
 Luapula Cisticola  
 Tawny-flanked Prinia  
 Ashy Flycatcher  
 Burnt-necked Eremomela  
 Black-crowned Tchagra  
 Zitting Cisticola  
 Grey-headed Bush-Shrike  
 White-browed Coucal  
 Terrestrial Brownbul  
 Yellow-bellied Greenbul  
 Little Grebe  
 Lizard Buzzard  
 Senegal Coucal  
 African Hoopoe  
 Orange-breasted Bush-Shrike  
 Grey-backed Camaroptera  
 Red-billed Oxpecker  
 Long-crested Eagle  
 Yellow-breasted Apalis  
 Burchell's Starling  
 African Broadbill  
 Little Bee-eater  
 Black-faced Waxbill  
 Common Scimitarbill  
 African Green-Pigeon  
 African Goshawk  
 Green Wood-Hoopoe  
 Pied Crow  
 Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver  
 African Spoonbill  
 African Harrier-Hawk  
 Collared Palm-Thrush  
 Meyer's Parrot  
 Cattle Egret

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater  
 African Grey Hornbill

(106 species)

**Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia*  
*semitorquata* in Namibia: New Records  
 and Range Extension**

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The Red-eyed Dove occurs in southern Africa in the north-east, east and south, avoiding the arid areas of Namibia, the Kalahari Basin and western Karoo. In Namibia it is found only in the extreme north, from east to west, and again in the extreme south along the Orange River. Its habitat requirements are well-developed woodlands, riverine forests and alien plantations and thickets (Dean 2005) including urban and rural gardens and city parks (Maclean 1993). Two records of Red-eyed Dove from the arid areas of Namibia were mentioned in *Lanioturdus* (Swanepoel 2005). The first record was from Mariental on the Fish River in 2001 and the second from the Löwen River near the Naute Dam in 2003. At the time it was not clear whether the records represented resident populations or vagrants. Since 2005 more Red-eyed Doves have been recorded outside of their known range on several occasions:

**Lüderitz:**

- One bird seen calling from the tower of the railway station building (W. Swanepoel in July 2007)
- One bird heard from the centre of town (W. Swanepoel in June 2011)
- Five birds all over the centre of Lüderitz (June 2012, S. Rust pers. comm.)
- Up to a dozen birds on a residential roof. Population seems to be resident

and a pair engaged in nest building in a tree (July 2012, J. Kemper pers. comm.)

**Mariental** (along Fish River to Hardap Dam):

- Three birds seen and heard in the riverine acacias below the dam wall; two birds engaged in courtship activities (W. Swanepoel in February 2008)
- One bird seen and heard opposite town in riverine trees (W. Swanepoel in February 2008)
- One bird heard in riverine trees opposite town (W. Swanepoel in November 2009)
- One bird heard in riverine acacias below dam wall (W. Swanepoel in January 2011)
- One bird heard in riverine acacias below dam wall (W. Swanepoel in October 2011)

**Windhoek:**

- One bird seen calling from an exotic tree in a garden in Pioneer Park (W. Swanepoel in April 2008)

The Red-eyed Dove is inclined to considerable range extensions and has colonized vast areas of the arid Karoo, indicating dispersal over unsuitable habitat to towns and villages (Colahan 1997). In Namibia it has colonized the Lower Orange River and environs down to Oranjemund, including Ai-Ais and Rosh Pinah, since 1993 (Maclean 1993). Its ability to disperse over unsuitable habitat explains the Windhoek record and also its presence in Lüderitz. The bird seen in Windhoek was wary and took off immediately when approached indicative of a wild bird. The birds in the Mariental area and at Naute Dam probably utilized suitable riparian habitat provided by the Fish River to disperse northwards. All these records can probably be attributed to birds originating from the lower Orange River.

In the Mariental area, Red-eyed Doves were recorded in five out of six visits to the Fish

River (all in the period October – February) and in Lüderitz it seems to be resident (pers. comm. J. Kemper). Red-eyed Doves in certain parts of southern Africa are subject to seasonal movements (Colahan 1997) which is probably not the case with the Mariental population. The fact that it has not been recorded in the period March to August can be attributed to a lack of visits by the author to the locality during these months. Both the Windhoek and Naute Dam records seem to be of vagrant birds as it was not recorded again at these localities despite the author residing in Windhoek and visiting the Naute Dam on three subsequent occasions. However, the presence of this species is usually revealed by its distinctive call and when not vocal is easily missed.

In the light of the above and although no breeding records exist, the Mariental–Hardap and Lüderitz records clearly represent range extensions for the Red-eyed Dove. However, more work is needed to confirm whether Red-eyed Dove is resident in the Mariental–Hardap area or whether it is only a seasonal visitor.

Given its ability to colonize new areas, this species will most probably also establish new populations in other towns and cities in Namibia, such as Windhoek, Walvis Bay and Swakopmund.

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Red-eyed Dove in Lüderitz © Jessica Kemper

### **An Interesting Nest Site**

**Eckart Demasius**  
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All photographs in this article are © Eckart Demasius

I was on inspection duties when Rock Kestrels flying overhead attracted my attention. They seemed to be heading in the direction of one of our sportsfields, so we had the same destination as that was the subject of my inspection.

On arrival I noticed one kestrel sitting on a fence pole but it flew off as I approached.

The condition of one of the floodlights was of concern to me – it was clearly broken.



But something else caught my attention – some bird droppings on the structure!! The binoculars revealed the secret. The kestrels were using the broken floodlight as a breeding site and two chicks were in the nest.



Hoping to have better light conditions in the afternoon I inspected the sportsfield again. Only the chicks were found in the nest.



However at a neighbouring sportsfield one of the adult Rock Kestrels was keeping a close watch on proceedings while the second one was presumably out hunting.



Initially I was a bit upset about this lack of maintenance but I gave instructions to delay the repairs until after the Christmas break – without anyone knowing the real reason of course.

### **Short Notes and Interesting Observations**

Neil Thomson  
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#### **Chestnut Weavers**

It is well known that Chestnut Weavers choose their breeding sites in a highly erratic manner and that they will start building a colony only to abandon partially built nests and move on.

On 25/03/2012 while crossing farmland on our way back to the B1 after a Bird Club outing to Farm Krumneck south west of Windhoek we came across several small colonies of partially built nests. What was of interest was the activity of the birds around one of these colonies. There were a number of Chestnut Weavers, all females or perhaps non breeding birds, flitting about the nests and entering some of the partially built nests. There were no breeding plumaged males present at all. Some of the members present said that they had seen one or two of the birds carrying what appeared to be nesting material but there was no sign of any actual nest building. My first thought was that this colony had been abandoned by the males and that the females were in fact dismantling the nests but why the females should have remained

behind when the males abandoned the partially built nests I have no idea. The other possibility is that these were “practice nests” built by first year male birds not yet ready to breed.

While on the subject of Chestnut Weavers – on 01/04/2012 Gudrun and I caught and ringed about 60 at Farm Teufelsbach between Windhoek and Okahandja. These birds were all females feeding chicks in the nests. By this stage the males had deserted the breeding colonies. On 28/04/2012 Dieter Oschadleus caught a female and a juvenile bird at Farm Teufelsbach. Then on 17/05/2012 we caught 141 juvenile Chestnut Weavers at Farm Otjihavera Portion No 3 a few kilometers south of where we had ringed the females on Farm Teufelsbach and two weeks later we caught a further 75 at Farm Teufelsbach – again almost all of them juveniles. It would appear that, as the vast majority of the birds caught were juveniles, most females had left the area for their winter range. I have not been able to find any mention in the literature available to me of females departing before the young birds.

On 01/07/2012 we again went ringing at Farm Otjihavera Portion No 3 and this time caught and ringed 114 juvenile Chestnut Weavers. In addition we recaptured three of the birds we had ringed six weeks earlier on 17/05/2012. Also of interest was that many of these birds had commenced their primary moult with up to three feathers replaced or in the process of being replaced. I do not know at what age weavers start moulting their primaries but given that there were chicks in the nests in the general area on 01/04/2012 these birds must have been about three and a half months old when we captured them. (Dieter Oschadleus has advised that some weavers undergo a post fledging moult). As these juvenile birds were still present in central Namibia at the beginning of July it would seem that they were overwintering in the area. (Numbers of these birds were still present at the same location on 05/08/2012 and on 02/09/2012 we caught and ringed a further 85). While it is believed that the Chestnut Weavers which breed in central Namibia move to northern Namibia and

southern Angola in the winter there are usually a few individuals around Windhoek during the winter months. This is the first time I have been aware of them in these numbers though.

### **Greater Striped Swallows**

Gisa Grönning told us of a very interesting incident she had observed on her small holding near Aris south of Windhoek during the summer of 2011/2012.

A pair of Rock Martins had made their open cup type nest on a small platform (erected to encourage birds to nest there) fixed against a wall of the house above a door. A pair of Greater Striped Swallows had then driven the Rock Martins off their nest and had taken over the nest which they extended up to the eaves lining and then constructed an entrance tunnel typical of this species. The nest was, however, a rather bizarre shape with a bowl much deeper than would be expected in a nest constructed from scratch by Greater Striped Swallows and with a definite bulge at the joint between the work of the martins and that of the swallows.

I cannot find any mention in any of the literature available to me of this sort of behavior by Greater Striped Swallows. The only references I have been able to find in Roberts VII of swallows even using other nests are of Mosque Swallows occasionally taking over the nests of other swallows and of Red-breasted Swallows sometimes using old nests of Greater Striped Swallows.



The swallows building on © Gisa Grönning



The completed nest as modified the swallows © Neil Thomson



The Rock Martins on their nest © Gisa Grönning

### **Firefinches and Indigobirds**

Red-billed Firefinches have become well established in Windhoek over the past decade and a half. The first sighting in Windhoek of its brood parasite, the Village Indigobird, of which I am aware, was the sighting of a male and at least one female at Avis Dam in December 2009. Over the course of the succeeding summers small numbers of Village Indigobirds have been reported from a number of locations in the suburbs of the capital. These reports were received from several locations in Klein Windhoek and also from such diverse locations as Eros, Olympia, Olympus Village, Hochland Park, Kleine Kuppe, Suiderhof and Pioneer Park indicating

that this species was becoming established albeit still in low numbers.

Then I received a report that indigobirds had been seen at Monte Christo in the summer of 2011/12. Red-billed Firefinches have been established at Monte Christo, some 30 km northwest of Windhoek, for some time but this was the first record I had received of indigobirds in central Namibia outside of Windhoek. Then Gert Kotze photographed a firefinch and an indigobird in Okahandja on 03/06/2012. He identified them as Jameson's Firefinch and its brood parasite the Purple Indigobird. I do not believe that this identification is correct as I am fairly certain that the firefinch is a Red-billed Firefinch and the indigobird is a Village Indigobird of the subspecies *V c okavangoensis* although the legs of the bird in the photograph appeared very pale. What was also very unusual is that the male indigobird in the photograph was in breeding plumage in the middle of winter. These sightings are about 30 km further north for the firefinch and 40 km further north for the indigobird than any other central Namibian records of which I am aware. This coupled with the sighting of a Red-billed Firefinch south of the Etosha National Park (see *Lanioturdus* 44(5)) and Otto Schmidt's sighting of a small group of Red-billed Firefinches on the south side of the D 2315 west of Omaruru in October 2012 is starting to suggest that there may be a "corridor" from their traditional ranges in the north of Namibia to the central areas where both species seem to be becoming established and that these birds may not originate from escaped/released aviary birds as had previously been thought.



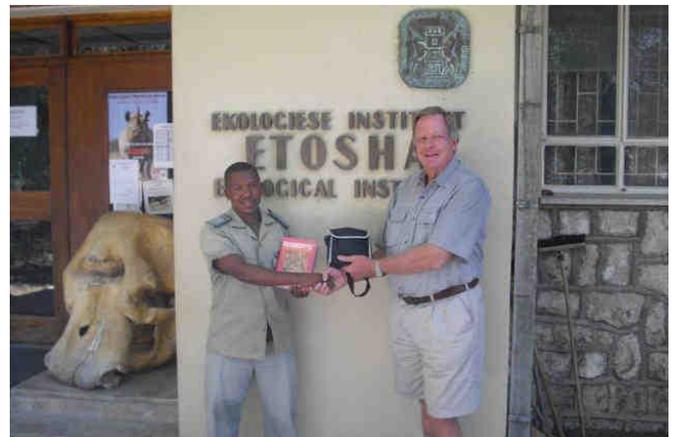
Male Village Indigobird (*V c okavangoensis*) in Windhoek © Eckart Demasius

## Black Tern

On 12/12/2007 Mark Boorman ringed an adult Black Tern (BH49310) at Mile 4 Saltworks. On 28/05/2011 this bird was captured at a breeding colony at Kinderdijk in the Netherlands and fitted with a geolocator by Jan van der Winden who specializes in Black Tern research. On 26/05/2012 the bird was again recaptured at this colony and the geolocator was recovered. It is now hoped that the data in the geolocator has not been corrupted and that a record of the bird's movements over the previous year can be obtained.

## Donation of Bird Book and Binoculars

The Namibia Bird Club was approached by Wilferd Versfeld of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism through Hanjo Böhme with a request for assistance in providing one of the Etosha Ecological Institute employees, Sageus Gariseb, with a bird book and binoculars.



Presentation of bird book and binoculars to Sageus Gariseb by Hanjo Böhme

Wilferd advised us that Sageus is Etosha born and raised having been born in Okaukuejo where his father is an operator/driver of heavy machinery with the Maintenance Division. Sageus started working for the Ecological Institute in 2009 and Wilferd started using him as a field work assistant on wetland counts and other projects. He is also part of the crane monitoring team and is used as a runner to catch Blue Crane chicks for ringing.

In Wilferd's opinion Sageus had shown an exceptional interest in birds and identifying them and after some instruction from Wilferd had borrowed Wilferd's field guides to further improve his skills.

Some time ago the Namibia Bird Club received a donation of several copies of Roberts VI and a number of pairs of used binoculars. The chairperson decided to support this request in order to further develop Sageus's potential and a copy of the book and a pair of binoculars was presented to Sageus by Hanjo on behalf of the Namibia Bird Club.

### **Pale-winged Starling gleaning Ectoparasites from a Klipspringer**

Hugo Haussmann sent in these interesting pictures of a Pale-winged Starling gleaning ectoparasites from a Klipspringer. These photographs were taken near Kokerboomkloof in the Richtersveld, south of the Orange River. This is not unrecorded behaviour. Under "Foraging and Food" Roberts VII states, inter alia, "Gleans ectoparasites from Klipspringers and Mountain Zebras." This is obviously behaviour that has been recorded in Namibia, as one of the footnotes refers to a paper by RL Tilson (1977) - Ostrich 48 : 110-111 entitled "Pale-winged Starlings and Klipspringers in the Kuiseb Canyon, Namib Desert Park". This is probably behaviour which has not been observed too often. Some other starling species are also known to glean ectoparasites from mammals. Wattled Starlings have been recorded taking ectoparasites from cattle in Kenya (Roberts VII).



© Hugo Haussmann (2)

### **Large Birds take Red-billed Teals**

In August 2011 Conny von Dewitz and her family were watching elephants at Groot Okevi Waterhole near Namutoni when they saw a Black-headed Heron run at and grab a young, not yet fledged, Red-billed Teal. The heron carried its struggling prey off to the shade of a tree where it proceeded to subdue and swallow the half grown duck leaving Conny's young children mildly horrified.



Black-headed Heron with Red-billed Teal © Conny von Dewitz

On 01/01/2012 Richard Niddrie and Christiane Maluche witnessed something similar but in their case it was a Marabou Stork that was seen taking a Red-billed Teal also in the Etosha National Park.



Marabou Stork taking Red-billed Teal © Richard Niddrie

*(Dieter Ludwig has told of observing a Grey Heron swallowing an adult Red-billed Teal while I have seen a series of photographs of a heron swallowing a rabbit in the Netherlands – Ed).*

### **Vulture Poisoning Incident in the Caprivi Region**

It was reported in the Allgemeine Zeitung on 09/08/2012 that 304 White-backed and Lappet-faced Vultures had been poisoned in June of that year in the Caprivi Region. Poachers of elephants and other game have taken to poisoning carcasses in order to deliberately kill vultures. Circling vultures are usually an indication that there is something dead on the ground and this is often a giveaway that poachers are active in an area. There have been several incidents of this nature in Botswana but this is only the second such incident of which I am aware in Namibia. This sort of slaughter of our vultures is definitely not sustainable and the vulture populations will be in serious trouble if these incidents continue.

### **Trac-trac Chat Nest**

On 12/09/2012 Uschi Kirchner found this rather unusual Trac-trac Chat nest in the vicinity of Kolmanskop near Lüderitz. The birds seem to have found a rather effective shelter from windblown sand!



© Uschi Kirchner



© Uschi Kirchner

### **Melanistic Gabar Goshawk in Windhoek**

On 16/09/2012 Windhoek resident Klaus Brandt had an unusual visitor to his Bowker Hill garden in the form of a melanistic or dark morph Gabar Goshawk. This form of the Gabar Goshawk is uncommon although some sources maintain that up to 10% of Gabar Goshawks in Namibia are melanistic. The bird appeared to be in poor condition and looked as if it had been injured and was very lacklustre in its attempts to devour its prey which appeared to be a dove chick. It was also observed interacting with a yellow mongoose which no doubt had ideas of turning the goshawk into a meal. Two days later the bird was found dead on the terrace of the house.



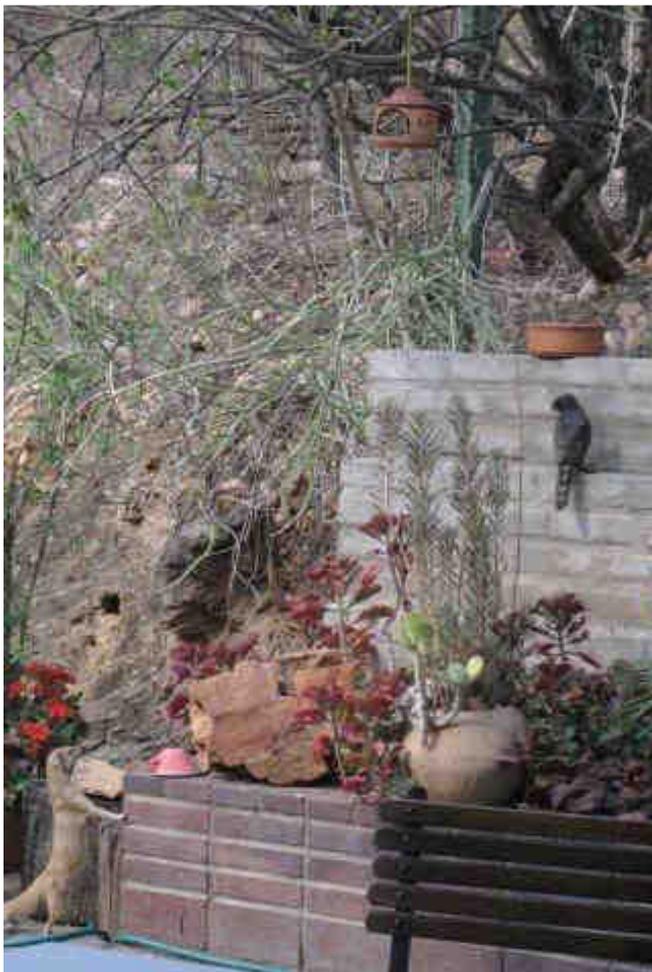
© Klaus Brandt

### **Night hunting Dusky Sunbirds**

Uschi Kirchner told us that she arrived home at about 22h30 on 08/12/2012 to find two Dusky Sunbirds hunting insects around an outside light which had been left burning. I have never heard of this behavior in Dusky Sunbirds before although other diurnal birds, such as Fork-tailed Drongos, are well known to adapt their behaviour to hunt insects around lights at night. I have personally observed this at the floodlit waterholes in the Etosha National Park and also around street lights in urban areas.

### **Thieving Red-billed Buffalo-Weavers**

On 10/12/2012 Gudrun Middendorff and I observed Red-billed Buffalo-Weavers engaging in nest building on a farm between Windhoek and Okahandja. What was of particular interest is that at least two of the builders were stealing nesting materials from other nests in the same tree! This behaviour is mentioned in Roberts VII where it is stated that the more females a male bird has in his harem the more material he is likely to steal!



© Klaus Brandt

### **Cape Vultures in the Namib**

This piece comes from Holger Kolberg:-

On 10 December 2012 Dawie, Claire and I pulled up at Hotsas waterhole in the Namib-Naukluft Park. We were on our way to tag a Lappet-faced Vulture chick that had been too small in October. Apart from the usual Lappets at the waterhole there were also 24 White-backed Vultures, quite unusual for the Namib. Several of the lappets had wing tags but we couldn't get close enough to read the tags before they flew off. The White-backs were more chilled and when we got closer we saw that one of them also had a tag! It looked like an old bird because it was quite pale and I was determined to "get this one's number". I slowly edged the GR(ee)N-machine closer to the birds, 'scope at the ready.

Eventually I could make out the prefix on the tag – it was a “C”! It wasn’t one of “our” birds! Alas, the heat haze made it impossible to read the numbers on the tag so I tried to get a bit closer and the bird flew off. Fortunately the vulture saw it fit to land on one of the taller trees near the waterhole and I used the classic wide berth/crawl/hold thumbs manoeuvre to get close to the target. This time I got close enough to read the tag – C131. And I even managed to snap a photo just in case somebody questioned my observation. I was really chuffed because we had just seen a tagged White-backed Vulture in the Namib and “got its number”. When we got home on the Wednesday afternoon I immediately sent a mail to Andre (*Botha - Ed*), reporting the sighting. Andre’s response nearly knocked me off my chair: C131 was a Cape Vulture that was tagged as an immature on 7 December 2011 at Blouberg Nature Reserve in the RSA. So not only was our old White-back a young Cape but it also added another species to our bird atlas card! Even more chuffed! I checked my photographs of that day again and it seems that C131 had at least one friend along. This begs the question: are these two young bachelors just cruising the 'hood to check out the scene or is this an advance recce to check if the old colony at Rostock is perhaps fit for resettlement? Who knows? - Only time will tell.



© Holger Kolberg

### **How do birds know?**

We spent the week before Christmas at Farm Kakuse some 70 km north west of Tsumeb.

On the night of 19 to 20 December it rained about 48 mm and, as it was still drizzling at daybreak, there was no point in getting up early to put up mistnets. When we surfaced at about 07h00 it was to find that the cleared fields around the house were flooded. On these flooded fields we saw four Pied Avocets, two Common Greenshanks, two Blacksmith Lapwings, three Cattle Egrets and a number of Wood Sandpipers. None of these birds had been seen on the farm in the previous three days before the rain started. The avocets and greenshanks stayed only a few hours but the other species were still present a day later. It never ceases to amaze me how birds know or sense that an area will be flooded and that there is a possible feeding opportunity there.

### **Karoo/Benguela Long-billed Larks – Where is the split?**

I do not profess to have any expertise in distinguishing between Karoo Long-billed Larks and Benguela Long-billed Larks in the field. Perhaps the new book on LBJ’s will be of some assistance here. My interpretation of the distribution map for Long-billed Larks (presplit) in the Atlas of Southern African Birds is that there is a gap in the distribution of Long-billed Larks in the vicinity of Uis and the Brandberg. The maps in the newer publications seem to indicate that Karoo Long-billed Lark occurs south of this gap and Benguela Long-billed Lark north of it. In a recently received trip report the author mentions seeing Benguela Long-billed Lark at Erongo Wilderness Lodge near Omaruru. In browsing some of the pentad lists on the SABAP2 website I have noticed that Benguela Long-billed Lark is being recorded even further south. Are these sightings misidentifications of Karoo Long-billed Larks? - or are these correct with the Benguela Long-billed Lark having a far greater range than has been accepted up until now? In Chamberlain’s LBJs (the new LBJ book) Faansie Peacock mentions that the range of the Benguela Long-billed Lark may extend further south possibly with some overlap with Karoo Long-billed Lark, probably depending on rainfall.

## Red-chested Cuckoo in Windhoek

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December often finds me in Johannesburg. By then the rains have started, temperatures are pleasantly warm and migrant birds are back in full force. If you are a keen birder then the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Gardens are a must. No sooner have you arrived at the Gardens than you are enthralled by the non-stop calling of the Red-chested Cuckoos - Piet-my-vrou, Piet-my-vrou, Piet-my-vrou. With a bit of patience, you are almost certain to encounter this difficult to see bird in or on the outskirts of the garden's woodlands. December 2012 was no exception.

In January I was back in Klein Windhoek with its heat and summer birds. Imagine then my surprise, and delight I might add, at being woken up at half past three on the morning of 15 January 2013 by a Red-chested Cuckoo calling its characteristic Piet-my-vrou close by. This went on until twilight. The bird was heard calling again on 17, 18, 20, 24 and 25 January, mainly in the morning at twilight. The previous time I had heard a Red-chested Cuckoo in Windhoek was on 3 February 2004. What brings the Red-chested Cuckoo back after all these years? Could it be due to the recent outbreak of caterpillars? As for hosts, there is the Cape Wagtail which is common in the Klein Windhoek area. So welcome back and let's hope we hear you more often and with a bit of luck even see you.



Red-chested Cuckoo in Johannesburg © Christiane Maluche

## Trends in Namibian Waterbird Populations 9 : Waders and Shorebirds - Part 2

Holger Kolberg  
Directorate Scientific Services  
Ministry of Environment and Tourism  
Windhoek

The following is a summary of waterbird count data for selected species in Namibia, covering the period 1977 to December 2008. For each species the Red Data Book (RDB) status, both global and Namibian, is given, the population trend as per Wetlands International, the number of times the species was counted, the number of times it has passed the 1% population criterion, the maximum count and the sites where it has passed the 1% population criterion. The local trend is calculated using the computer programme TRIM (see an earlier publication for the selection criteria and methods) (*Lanioturdus 43 (2) - Ed.*). Population trends are graphically presented as indices relative to a base year (in this case 1991) and thus all have a value of 1 for 1991. Thus an index value of 2 indicates a doubling of the population relative to 1991 and an index of 0.5 would mean half of the 1991 figure. A slope value of 1 would indicate a perfectly stable population, whereas any value above 1 means a positive trend and a value of less than 1 a negative trend.

(Larger scale replications of the graphs in this article are attached to the end of this edition).

### 9.9 Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)<sup>1</sup>

IUCN RDB Status: Least concern  
Namibia RDB Status: ?  
WI Trend: Decreasing

<sup>1</sup> Names follow Hockey, P.A.R., Dean, W.R.J. and Ryan, P.G. (eds) 2005. *Roberts - Birds of Southern Africa, VIIIth Edition*. The Trustees of the John Voelcker Bird Book Fund, Cape Town, South Africa.



© Eckart Demasius

This migrant wader is regularly recorded during counts but in low numbers. It is unclear why this bird is decreasing globally but speculation is that it is affected by the degradation of coastal wetlands, especially estuaries.

No of times counted: 160  
 No of times past 1% population (=1900): 1  
 Maximum count: 1998 at Walvis Bay on 19 January 2003  
 Past 1% population at: Walvis Bay (1)

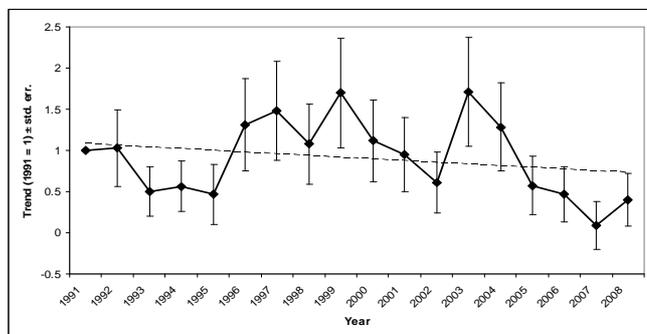
*Trend analysis*

Number of sites: 10  
 Number of observed counts: 142  
 Number of missing counts: 38  
 Total number of counts: 180

Sites containing more than 10% of the total count:

Site	Number	%
Sandwich Harbour	9453	50.8
Walvis Bay	8398	45.2

Overall slope: Uncertain  
 0.9534 ±0.0531



**Figure 9 : Trend of Common Ringed Plover population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.**

**9.10 Kittlitz's Plover (*Charadrius pecuarius*)**

IUCN RDB Status: Least concern  
 Namibia RDB Status: ?  
 WI Trend: Unknown



© Eckart Demasius

This is a relatively scarce wader in Namibia yet it is commonly encountered as the number of sites where it has been recorded testifies.

No of times counted: 240

No of times past 1% population (=2500): 0

Maximum count: 1860 at Lake Oponono on 15 May 2002

Past 1% population at: Nowhere

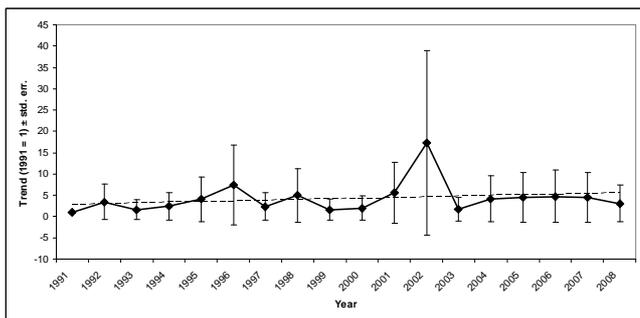
*Trend analysis*

Number of sites: 18  
 Number of observed counts: 242  
 Number of missing counts: 82  
 Total number of counts: 324

Sites containing more than 10% of the total count:

Site	Number	%
Lake Oponono	5354	72.1
Tsumkwe Pans	778	10.5

Overall slope: Uncertain  
 1.0471 ±0.0360



**Figure 10 : Trend of Kittlitz's Plover population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.**

### 9.11 Three-banded Plover (*Charadrius tricollaris*)

IUCN RDB Status: Least concern  
 Namibia RDB Status: ?  
 WI Trend: Unknown



© Eckart Demasius

This wader is very common at most wetlands in low numbers and has also benefited from the increase in artificial wetlands.

No of times counted: 529  
 No of times past 1% population (=1000): 0  
 Maximum count: 88 at Swakoppoort Dam on 25 April 2007  
 Past 1% population at: Nowhere

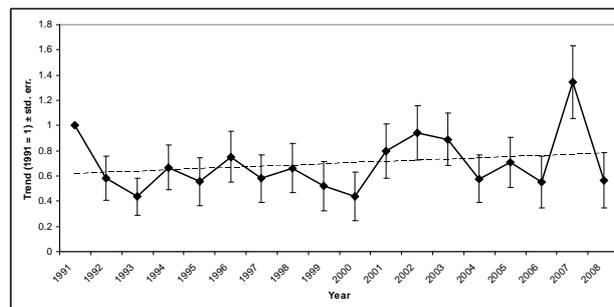
#### Trend analysis

Number of sites: 20  
 Number of observed counts: 267  
 Number of missing counts: 93  
 Total number of counts: 360

Sites containing more than 10% of the total count:

Site	Number	%
Sandwich Harbour	208	12.1
Swakop Sewage	496	29.0
Walvis Bay	173	10.1

Overall slope: Stable  
 1.0114 ± 0.0174



**Figure 11 : Trend of Three-banded Plover population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.**

### 9.12 White-fronted Plover (*Charadrius marginatus*)

IUCN RDB Status: Least concern  
 Namibia RDB Status: ?  
 WI Trend: Unknown



© Eckart Demasius

This sub-Saharan endemic is one of the most common resident waders on the coast but has also been recorded from inland wetlands. Large aggregations are regularly seen at Sandwich Harbour and Walvis Bay. The strong increase in this population is probably due to the fact that most of its breeding area, at least in Namibia, falls within protected areas.

No of times counted: 293  
 No of times past 1% population (=180): 103  
 Maximum count: 15138 at Sandwich Harbour on 20 January 2008  
 Past 1% population at: Lüderitz Peninsula (4), Mile 4 Salt Works (1), Sandwich Harbour (57), Walvis Bay (41)

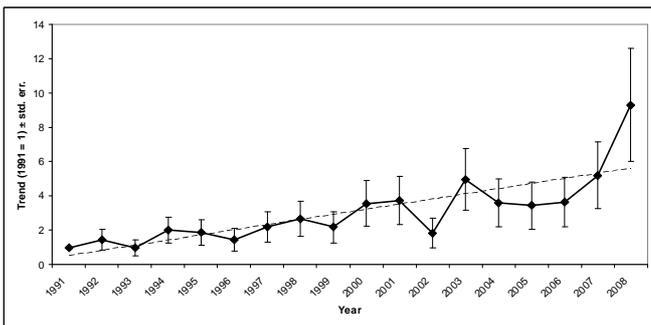
*Trend analysis*

Number of sites: 11  
 Number of observed counts: 143  
 Number of missing counts: 55  
 Total number of counts: 198

Sites containing more than 10% of the total count:

Site	Number	%
Sandwich Harbour	62816	66.1
Walvis Bay	28452	29.9

Overall slope: Strong increase (p<0.01)  
 1.1033 ±0.0124



**Figure 12 : Trend of White-fronted Plover population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.**

**9.13 Chestnut-banded Plover (*Charadrius pallidus*)**

IUCN RDB Status: Near Threatened  
 Namibia RDB Status: Near Threatened  
 WI Trend: Stable



© Eckart Demasius

This southern African endemic is also regularly seen at the coast and in Etosha during seasonal flooding. This bird's population is also increasing, probably for the same reason as mentioned for White-fronted Plover above.

No of times counted: 217

No of times past 1% population (=110): 111  
 Maximum count: 9982 at Walvis Bay on 15 July 2007  
 Past 1% population at: Cape Cross (1), Ekuma River (1), Lake Oponono (10), Mile 4 Salt Works (3), Okondeka (5), Sandwich Harbour (50), Walvis Bay (41)

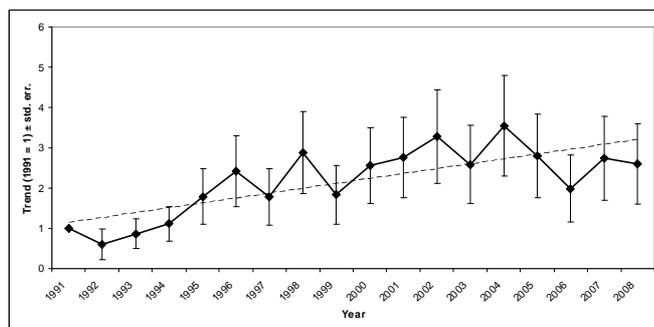
*Trend analysis*

Number of sites: 10  
 Number of observed counts: 151  
 Number of missing counts: 29  
 Total number of counts: 180

Sites containing more than 10% of the total count:

Site	Number	%
Sandwich Harbour	73565	45.1
Walvis Bay	82436	50.6

Overall slope: Moderate increase (p<0.01)  
 1.0747 ±0.0158



**Figure 13 : Trend of Chestnut-banded Plover population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.**

**9.14 Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)**

IUCN RDB Status: Least concern  
 Namibia RDB Status: ?  
 WI Trend: Decreasing



© Eckart Demasius

This wader is a common summer visitor to the Namibian coast, especially at Sandwich Harbour where it sometimes occurs in huge flocks.

No of times counted: 132  
 No of times past 1% population (=6000): 2  
 Maximum count: 10000 at Sandwich Harbour on 27 January 2004  
 Past 1% population at: Sandwich Harbour (2)

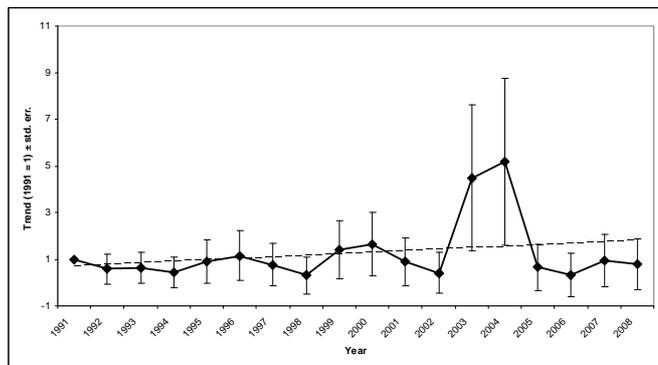
*Trend analysis*

Number of sites: 5  
 Number of observed counts: 74  
 Number of missing counts: 16  
 Total number of counts: 90

Sites containing more than 10% of the total count:

Site	Number	%
Sandwich Harbour	30186	69.7
Walvis Bay	13033	30.1

Overall slope: Uncertain  
 1.0262 ±0.0818



**Figure 14 : Trend of Bar-tailed Godwit population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.**

**9.15 Common Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)**

IUCN RDB Status: Least concern  
 Namibia RDB Status: ?  
 WI Trend: Unknown



© Eckart Demasius

This is a common Palearctic migrant to the Namibian coast.

No of times counted: 152  
 No of times past 1% population (=10000): 0  
 Maximum count: 385 at Sandwich Harbour on 2 February 2005  
 Past 1% population at: Nowhere

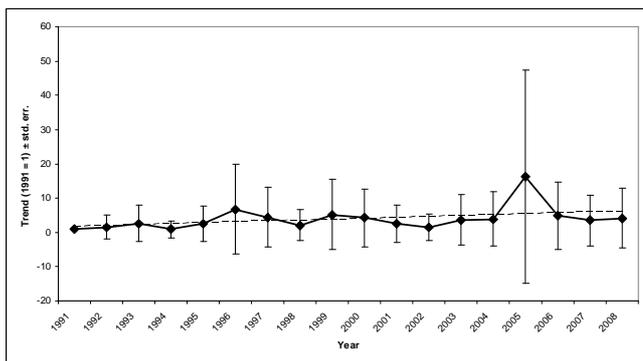
*Trend analysis*

Number of sites: 6  
 Number of observed counts: 83  
 Number of missing counts: 25  
 Total number of counts: 108

Sites containing more than 10% of the total count:

Site	Number	%
Lüderitz Peninsula	200	11.2
Sandwich Harbour	884	49.6
Walvis Bay	554	31.1

Overall slope: Uncertain  
 1.0758 ±0.0609



**Figure 15 : Trend of Common Whimbrel population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.**

### 9.16 Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

IUCN RDB Status: Near Threatened

Namibia RDB Status: ?

WI Trend: Decreasing



© Eckart Demasius

This migrant wader is not very common in Namibia.

No of times counted: 97

No of times past 1% population (=1000): 0

Maximum count: 155 at Lake Oponono on 16 January 2002

Past 1% population at: Nowhere

#### *Trend analysis*

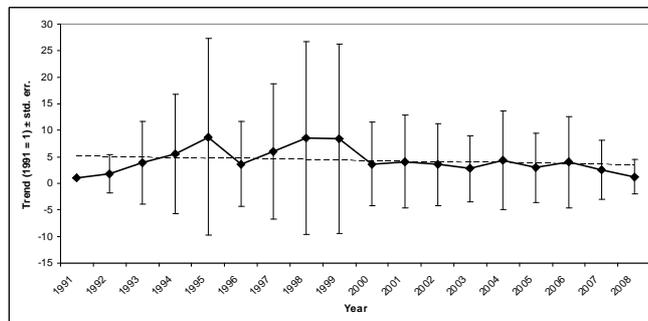
Number of sites:	4
Number of observed counts:	62
Number of missing counts:	10
Total number of counts:	72

Sites containing more than 10% of the total count:

Site	Number	%
Sandwich Harbour	252	30.0
Walvis Bay	527	62.7

Overall slope: Uncertain

0.9886 ±0.0619



**Figure 16 : Trend of Eurasian Curlew population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.**

### 9.17 Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)

IUCN RDB Status: Least concern

Namibia RDB Status: ?

WI Trend: Decreasing

This Palearctic migrant is widespread in southern Africa and is regularly recorded during counts inland as well as at the coast.

No of times counted: 145

No of times past 1% population (=750): 0

Maximum count: 246 at Lake Oponono on 5 February 2001

Past 1% population at: Nowhere

#### *Trend analysis*

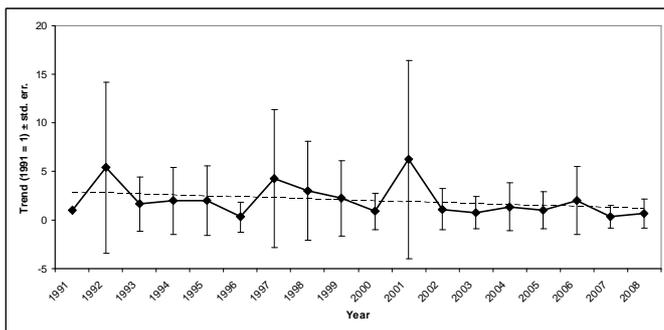
Number of sites:	11
Number of observed counts:	169
Number of missing counts:	29
Total number of counts:	198

Sites containing more than 10% of the total count:

Site	Number	%
Fischer's Pan	235	15.7
Lake Oponono	394	26.3
Mile 4 Salt Works	206	13.8
Walvis Bay	257	17.2

Overall slope: Uncertain

0.9435 ±0.0772



**Figure 17 : Trend of Marsh Sandpiper population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.**

**References:**

IUCN 2009. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2009.1 [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)  
 Wetlands International. 2006. *Waterbird Population Estimates – Fourth Edition*. S. Delany and D. Scott (Eds.), Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands

Simmons, R.E. and Brown, C.J. In press. *Birds to watch in Namibia: red, rare and endemic species*. Ministry of Environment and Tourism and Namibia Nature Foundation, Windhoek.

**Rufous-cheeked Nightjars at the Coast**

**Eckart Demasius**  
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All photographs in this article are © Eckart Demasius

On 21 September 2012 Elke Erb of the Swakopmund Museum telephoned me and requested my assistance with the identification of a bird.

That was far more interesting than what I had to do in the office, so off I went.

But I could not be of much assistance except sharing what had already been worked out by Elke and some of her colleagues.

A gentleman from Langstrand had delivered the wreck of a Nightjar to the Museum hoping to be helped with identification.



I took the wreck to Mark Boorman who confirmed the tailless, dead bird to be a Rufous-cheeked Nightjar.

According to Mark they are recorded along the coast between Walvis Bay and Swakopmund every now and then.

The weather experienced during that time of the year was not unusual neither was the east wind blowing.



On 28 November 2012 I was driving through town doing some inspections when I passed a dead bird on Nelson Mandela Avenue in

Mondesa. I turned around and went to pick up the wreck – and believe it or not, it was another dead Rufous-cheeked Nightjar.



This time the bird was intact and it must have died only shortly before I found it as the body was still very soft and warm.

Although the wreck was found lying in the street the bird had clearly not been driven over by a vehicle and it did not show any visible cause of death.

Again the weather was fine on that day and it remains a mystery to me how these birds are located so far off their normal range.



The Atlas of Southern African Birds (SABAP1) shows no records of this species along the Namibian Coast. For this general area a 0,2%

recording rate exists for one quarter degree square in the Namib only. I sent both records in to the Southern African Bird Atlas Project 2 and the record for Swakopmund was accepted as a rarity.

This is the first time in the 25 years that I have lived at the coast that I have seen Nightjars here, albeit both of them wrecks.

*(“Wreck” in a slang term in birding parlance for a dead bird. The inclusion of wrecks in one’s lifelist is considered a no-no. – Ed)*

### Atlas Update

The Namibia Bird Club wholeheartedly supports SABAP2 and I am pleased to note that a number of our members are regularly submitting data to this project.

I am also well aware that there have been problems with data submission and it was with this in mind that we invited Arnold van der Westhuizen to Namibia again, both to speak at our AGM on his work involving birds and wind farms and to present further workshops in both Windhoek and Swakopmund to hopefully sort out some of these problems and to help get more people started on this worthwhile project.

Unfortunately Arnold was seriously injured in a car accident near Cape Town while on his way to the airport and Holger Kolberg presented the workshop in Windhoek which was attended by about twenty two people while the workshop in Swakopmund had to be cancelled.

So – how is the atlas progressing in Namibia? On 24/04/2013 we hit some full protocol coverage (29 613 accepted records) for 318 (3%) of the 10 584 pentads that constitute our country. This is no mean achievement – the coverage for 3% of the country has been achieved in just less than one year since the project was officially launched on 01/05/2012! To put this further into perspective we have managed to atlas more

pentads than Gauteng (the smallest of the South African Provinces – 271 pentads) has in just one year! For many of these pentads only one full protocol card had been submitted while the most atlased pentad, 2230\_1705 (the north eastern part of Windhoek incorporating Avis Dam) had 32. Ad hoc data has also been submitted for numerous pentads as have incidental records.

A gentle reminder to those entering data – please check that you have entered the correct species name. Some names are very similar and it is quite easy to enter the incorrect one. Examples of this are Grey-backed and Green-backed Camaroptera, Northern and Southern Grey-headed Sparrow and Northern and Southern Black Korhaan. Green-backed Camaropteras occur on the eastern side of the sub continent and are unlikely to occur in Namibia. The vast bulk of the Grey-headed Sparrows found in Namibia are Southern Grey-headed Sparrows and their Northern cousins are likely to be found only on our northern borders (where “Southerns” also occur). Conversely the Black Korhaan occurring in Namibia is the Northern species. Ensuring that you have the correct species will make everyone’s job easier – you are less likely to receive an ORF (out of range form) and you will eliminate the risk of Holger inadvertently accepting an ORF for an incorrect species.

Namibian atlasers have done fantastically well to date but the project needs more of you on board. Zimbabwe recently joined SABAP2 and if the amount of data their enthusiastic birders collected for SABAP1 is anything to go by we will have an uphill task to keep ahead of them in spite of having a head start of nearly a year.

**Rarities and Interesting Observations**

First a slightly older record. Joe Gross photographed a Baillon’s Crake at Monte

Christo on 04/12/2012. This is a very uncommon species in central Namibia.



Baillon’s Crake © Joe Gross)

The Long-Crested Eagle (see Lanioturdus 46 (1)) was reported in Windhoek again on 23/12/2012 by Daniel Steinmann. The bird was seen yet again behind Hochland Park by Jennie Lates on 17/01/2012.

Eckart Demasius saw an immature Osprey and three Woolly-necked Storks on the Chudop Plains in the Etosha National Park on 28/12/2012 while the following day he recorded a Pallid Harrier at Okondeka. A Pallid Harrier was reported at this location on 01/12/2012 (see Lanioturdus 46 (1)) so perhaps this is the same bird.



Osprey © Eckart Demasius



Woolly-necked Storks © Eckart Demasius



Pallid Harrier © Eckart Demasius

Hartmut Kolb reported a tagged Lappet-faced Vulture (F077) seen near Hotsas on 29/12/2012. This bird had been ringed and tagged at Tumas View in October 2009.

On 17/01/2013 Hartmut Kolb photographed a Black-headed Oriole at Klein Aus Vista near Aus. This bird is a very long way off its recorded range. There is a previous record of this species also a long way off its normal range in Swakopmund in July 2011, (see *Lanioturdus* 44(4)).



Black-headed Oriole at Klein Aus Vista © Hartmut Kolb

Joe Gross photographed an African Crake at Monte Christo on 20/01/2013 – another very uncommon species in central Namibia.



African Crake © Joe Gross

The January wetland count at Kayova on the Okavango River produced a Red-chested Flufftail.

The wetland count at Monte Christo on 03/02/2013 turned up a number of interesting species. The most exciting was a single Rufous-bellied Heron which was a long way off its normal range. This bird had been photographed by Joe Gross on 22/12/2012 so it had been around for a while. Other interesting species seen in the course of this count were Greater Painted-Snipe (4), Yellow-billed Stork (1), African Black Duck (1), Pied Kingfisher (1) and Woodland Kingfisher (at least 1).



Rufous-bellied Heron © Joe Gross

Karel Neibeb informed Gudrun Middendorff that a Glossy Ibis had been seen again at the

Walvis Bay sewage ponds on the first weekend in February (see Lanioturdus 45(4)).

The summer wetland bird count at Walvis Bay on 09 & 10/02/2013 produced a Eurasian Oystercatcher, an American Golden Plover and numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes.



American Golden Plover © Neil Thomson



Red-necked Phalaropes © Neil Thomson



Eurasian Oystercatcher © Christiane Maluche

Dieter Ludwig reported yet another sighting of an African Harrier-Hawk in the Windhoek city area. This time a single bird being mobbed by swifts and a Rock Kestrel was seen on the municipal building on 15/02/2013. In addition Franz Klein reported a single bird in Eros on 07/03/2013 and Dawid van der Merwe reported one on Hidas Centre, Klein Windhoek on 09/03/2013.

Michael Houlden photographed a juvenile African Harrier-Hawk behind Hochland Park, Windhoek, on 02/04/2013 suggesting that there may well be a breeding pair of these birds in the Windhoek vicinity.



Juvenile African Harrier-Hawk © Michael Houlden

Mark Boorman found a Lesser Sand Plover at Mile 4 Saltworks on 17/02/2013.



Lesser Sand Plover © Mark Boorman

Mark also found another Elegant Tern at the same location earlier in the week. This is not the same bird reported below as that bird was ringed and this one was not. The ringed bird is apparently a hybrid Elegant/Sandwich Tern which was ringed in France so it likely that the second one may also be a hybrid.

Paul Gascoigne and Helen Pooley reported two sightings of Common Redshank from the Rundu area. The first was on 17/02/2013 while on a boat trip on the river out of Hakusembe River Lodge to the west of Rundu and the second the following day at the old Rundu sewage ponds. While this species is seen regularly at Mile 4 Saltworks, inland records are rare.

On 19/02/2013 Peter Erb photographed two Black-cheeked Lovebirds in the company of about five Rosy-faced Lovebirds in the Klein Windhoek River. While the Black-cheeked Lovebirds are almost undoubtedly escapees one wonders whether they will be able to establish a feral population. It is known that Fischer's Lovebirds hybridize with Yellow-collared Lovebirds in east Africa so perhaps there is also a risk here of hybridization with Rosy-faced Lovebirds.



Black-cheeked Lovebirds in Windhoek © Peter Erb

Illona Middendorff photographed a pair of Spotted Eagle-Owls in Olympus Village, Windhoek. While by no means a rarity these large owls are not frequently seen in a suburban environment.



Spotted Eagle-Owl © Illona Middendorff

The Bird Club outing to Farm Paulinenhof south east of Windhoek on 23/02/2013 produced a sighting of a European Honey-Buzzard.

On 26/02/2013 Wilferd Versfeld photographed three Wattled Cranes near the gravel pit north of the Andoni waterhole in the Etosha National Park. Holger Kolberg advised that this is the first record of this species in Etosha of which he is aware although they are seen regularly in the vicinity of Lake Oponono.



Wattled Cranes near Andoni © Wilferd Versfeld

Mark Boorman advised that both the Buff-breasted Sandpiper and the Elegant Tern put in appearances at Mile 4 Saltworks on 03/03/2013 for the large group of foreign birders who came to Namibia with the "Flock at Sea" cruise in the first week of March (see also above and below).

Liz Komen reported that tagged White-backed Vulture L313 had been seen at the NARREC vulture restaurant on 07/03/2013. This is a bird ringed by myself on 29/09/2012 at Farm Teufelsbach between Windhoek and Okahandja. Liz also reported that White-backed Vultures L312, L313, L314, L315 and L316 had visited the restaurant after September until December 2012 but that L313 was the only one of these birds seen since then. These are all birds ringed on Farm Teufelsbach and it is very gratifying to find out that they all fledged in spite of the fire that swept across Farm Teufelsbach shortly after they were ringed.

Gudrun Middendorff saw a pair of Cape Sparrows on our feeding table on 09/03/2013. I have lived in Windhoek since 1982 and have never before recorded Cape Sparrows in the capital.

A Levaillant's Cuckoo was the highlight of the Namibia Bird Club's morning walk at Avis Dam on 10/03/2013. This is an uncommon species in central Namibia and was a lifer for most participants. I decided before setting off on the walk that I did not want to lug my camera along and remarked that this act would probably guarantee something out of the ordinary.....

Mark Boorman reported a Pacific Golden Plover seen at Walvis Bay in the second week of March.



Pacific Golden Plover © Mark Boorman

Eckart Demasius advised that the Pacific Golden Plover was still present at Walvis Bay on 16/03/2013.



Pacific Golden Plover © Eckart Demasius

In addition Trevor Hardaker's SA Rare Bird News Reports mention the following rarities etc. seen in Namibia since the beginning of 2013.



Buff-breasted Sandpiper © Mark Boorman



Franklin's Gull (left) © Hartmut Kolb

The weekend of 12 – 13/01/2013 was a good one at Mile 4 Saltworks with two Common Redshanks, an American Golden Plover, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper and a Franklin's Gull reported from there. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported at Lake Liambezi on the same weekend.

A "Mega Alert" was sent out on 22/01/2013 when Mark Boorman found an Elegant Tern at Mile 4 Saltworks. This is an extremely rare vagrant to southern Africa with the only previous records of which I am aware at Strandfontein Sewage Works (Cape Town), Velddrif (RSA west coast), Mile 4 Saltworks and Wlotzkasbaken in 2006/07.

It was reported on 28/01/2013 that the Elegant Tern had been seen again at Mile 4 Saltworks after an absence of a few days while the Buff-breasted Sandpiper and at least two Common Redshanks were also present.

The report dated 11/02/2013 advised that the Buff-breasted Sandpiper was still present at Mile 4 Saltworks (see above).

The Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen again at Mile 4 Saltworks on the weekend of 16-17/02/2013 while the American Golden Plover was again reported at Walvis Bay.

The Walvis Bay American Golden Plover was mentioned again in the report dated 04/03/2013.

Participants in the "Flock at Sea" cruise saw both Red and Red-necked Phalaropes and both American and Pacific Golden Plovers while ashore at Walvis Bay on 03/03/2013.

The report dated 18/03/2013 mentions both American (2) and Pacific Golden Plovers, a number of Red-necked Phalaropes and a single Wilson's Phalarope seen at Walvis Bay.

## **About the Namibia Bird Club**

The Namibia Bird Club was founded in 1962 and has been active since then. 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.

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 have lecture or video evenings at the Namibia Scientific Society premises. Members receive a programme of forthcoming events (Namibia Bird News) and the Bird Club journal, *Lanioturdus*.

## **Membership Fees 2013**

Members have been in the past been able to receive a discounted subscription to the *Africa Birds and Birding* magazine. This publication has been discontinued but *African Birdlife*, the new magazine published by BirdLife South Africa can be ordered through the Namibia Bird Club. We have been unable to secure a discounted rate though as was the case with the now defunct *Africa Birds and Birding*. A year's subscription to African birdlife currently costs N\$ 270.00

### **Category (excluding *African Birdlife* subscription)**

Single member	N\$ 140
Family membership (Husband, wife, children)	N\$ 160
Junior member (All scholars and students)	N\$ 90

Pensioner	N\$ 100
Foreign member (Not resident in Namibia)	N\$ 165
Corporate membership	N\$ 700

### **Namibia Bird Club Committee 2013**

Gudrun Middendorff (Chairperson)  
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Jutta Surèn (Treasurer)  
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Liz Komen (Planning and Education)  
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Sonja Bartlewski (Member)  
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Richard Niddrie (Member)  
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## Trends in Namibian Waterbird Populations 9 : Waders and Shorebirds - Part 2

### 9.9 Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

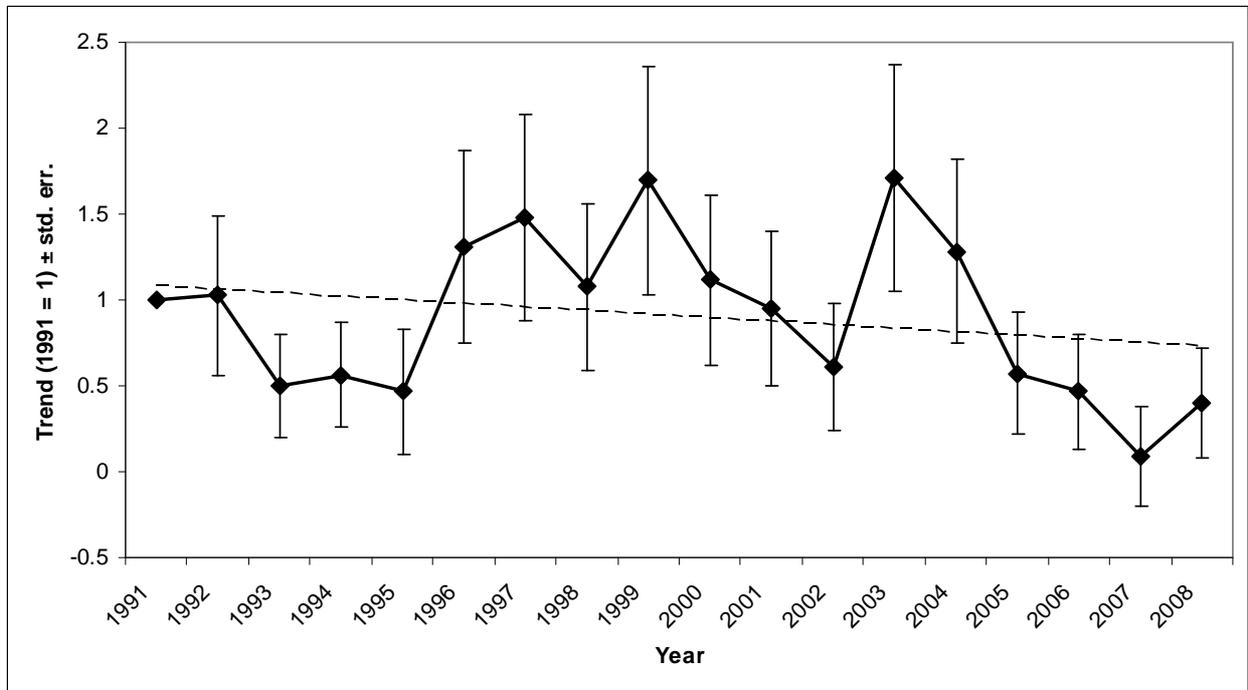


Figure 9 : Trend of Common Ringed Plover population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.

### 9.10 Kittlitz's Plover (*Charadrius pecuarius*)

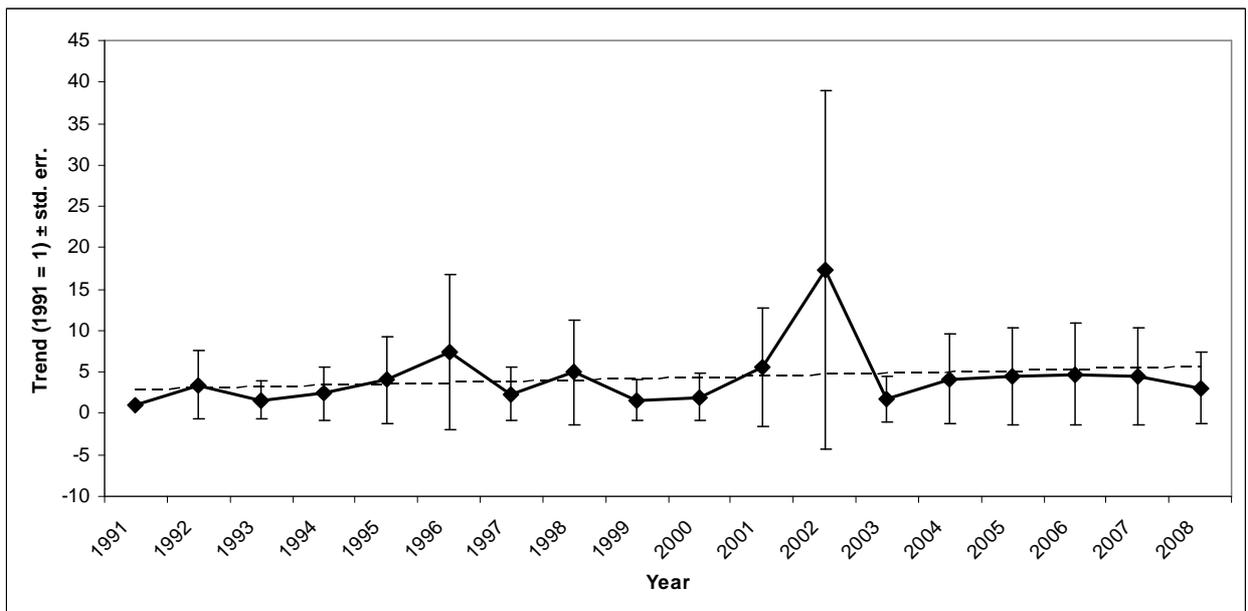


Figure 10 : Trend of Kittlitz's Plover population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.

### 9.11 Three-banded Plover (*Charadrius tricollaris*)

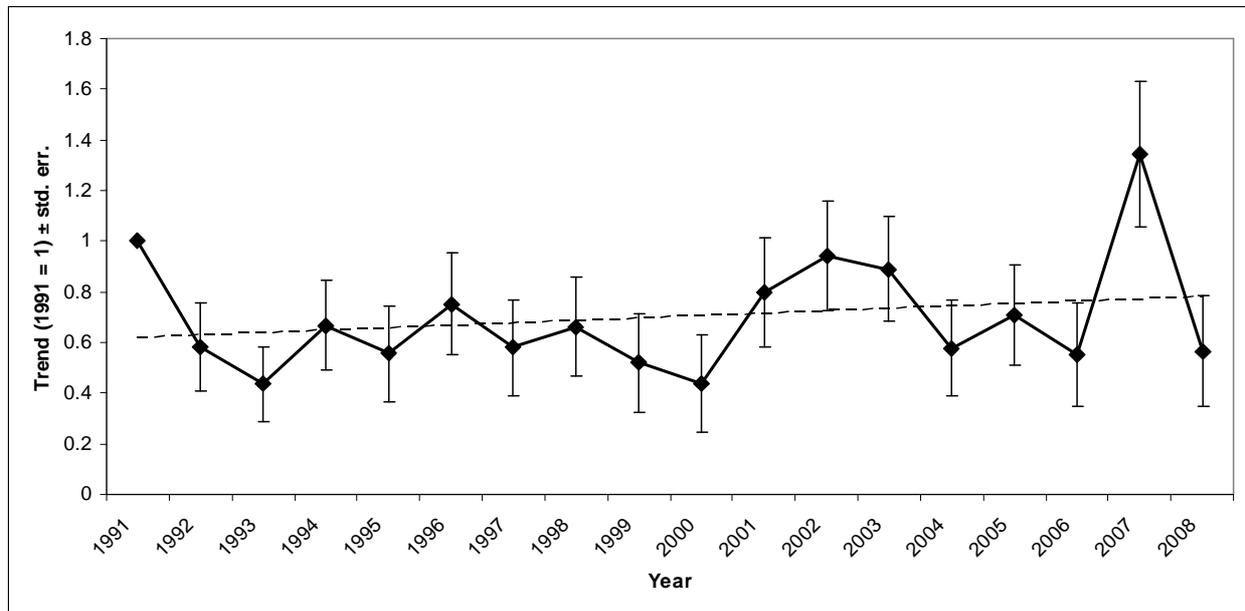


Figure 11 : Trend of Three-banded Plover population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.

### 9.12 White-fronted Plover (*Charadrius marginatus*)

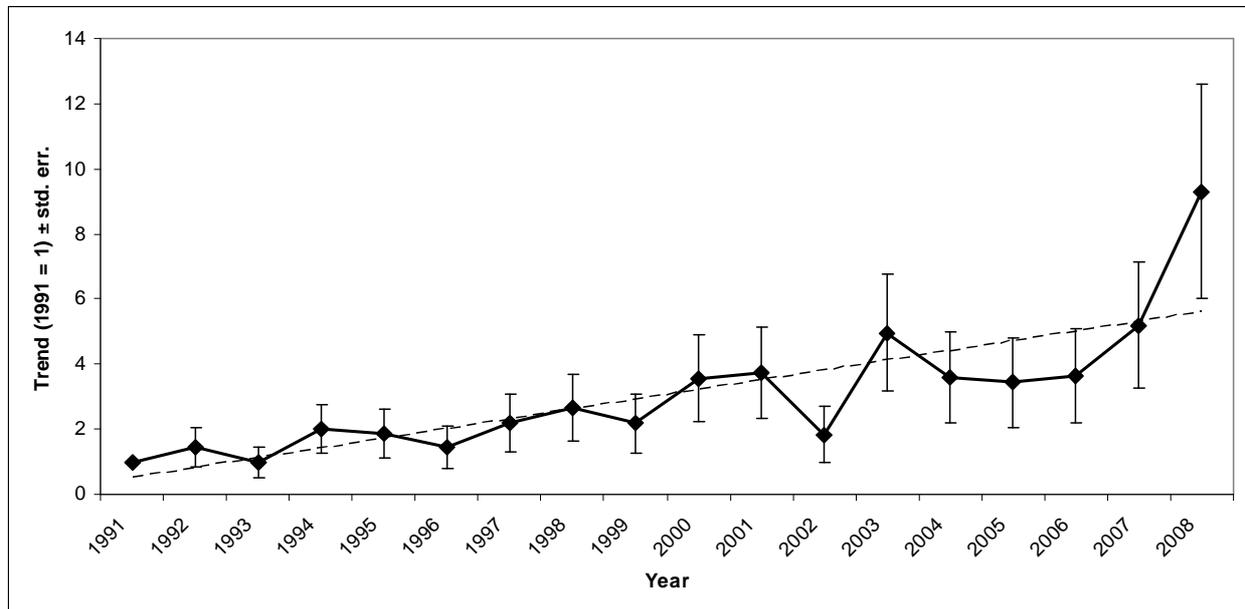


Figure 12 : Trend of White-fronted Plover population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.

### 9.13 Chestnut-banded Plover (*Charadrius pallidus*)

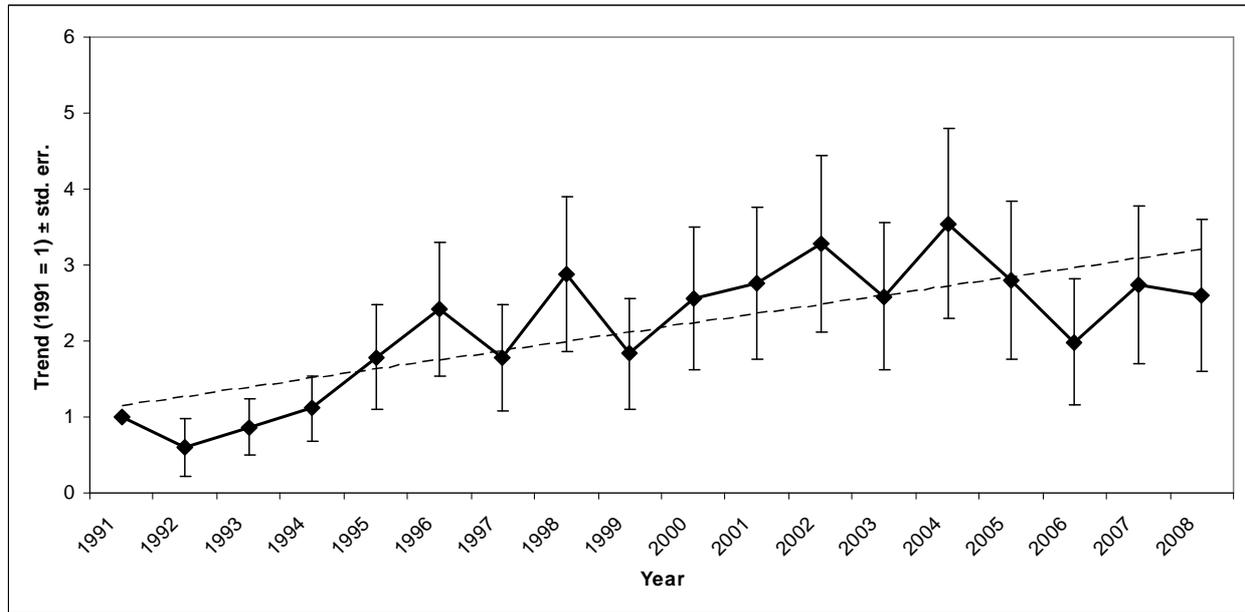


Figure 13 : Trend of Chestnut-banded Plover population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.

### 9.14 Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

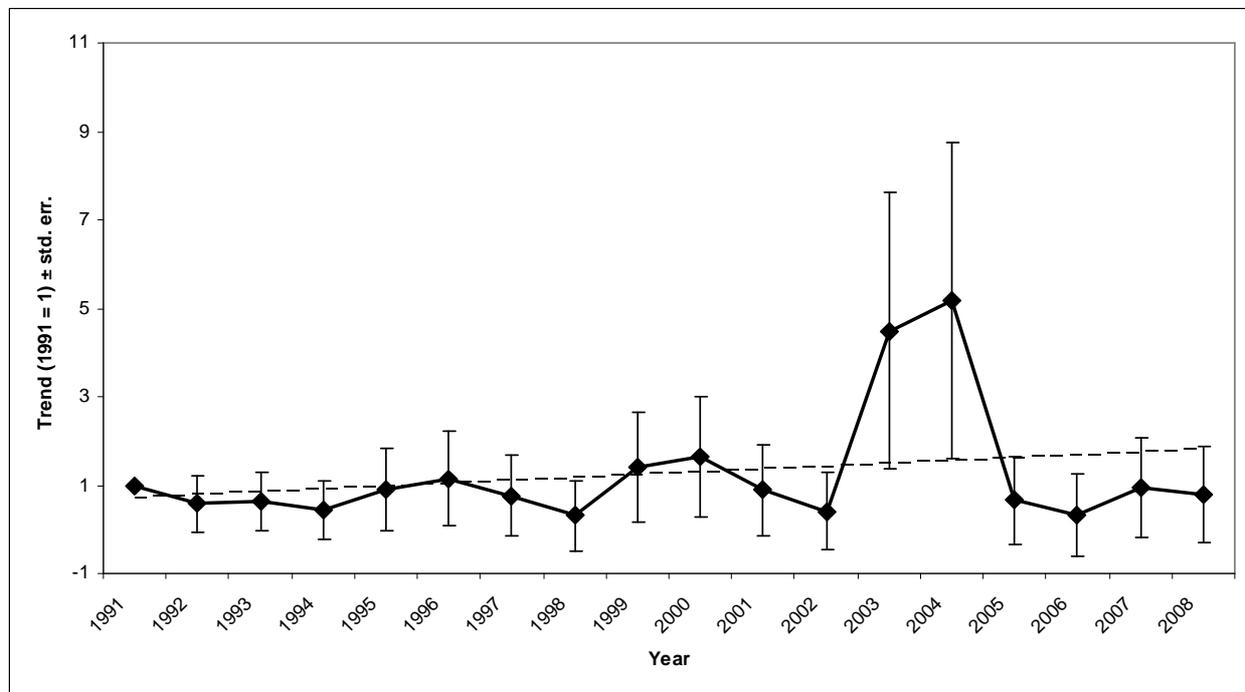


Figure 14 : Trend of Bar-tailed Godwit population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.

### 9.15 Common Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

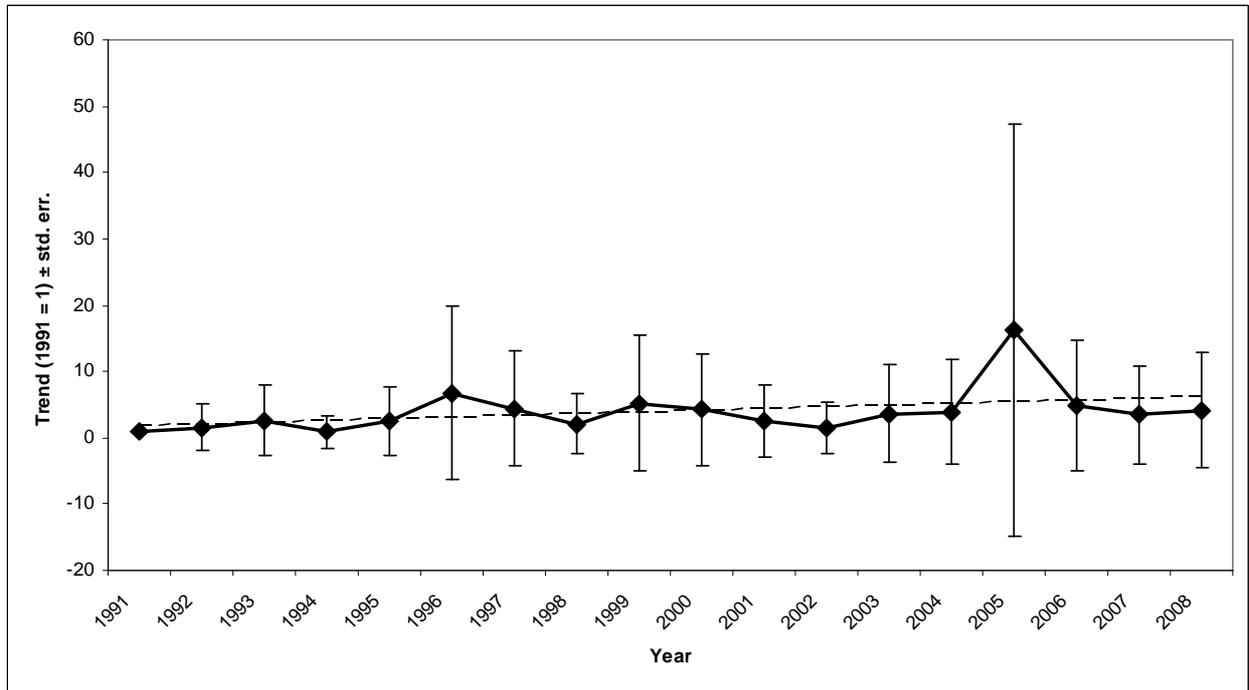


Figure 15 : Trend of Common Whimbrel population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.

### 9.16 Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

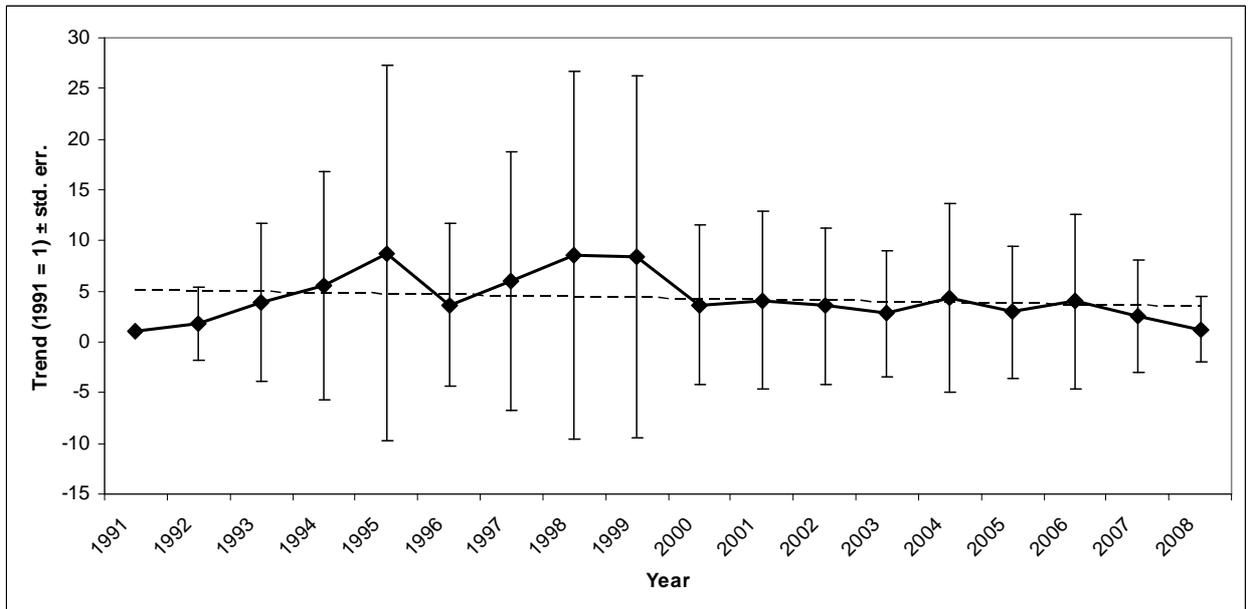
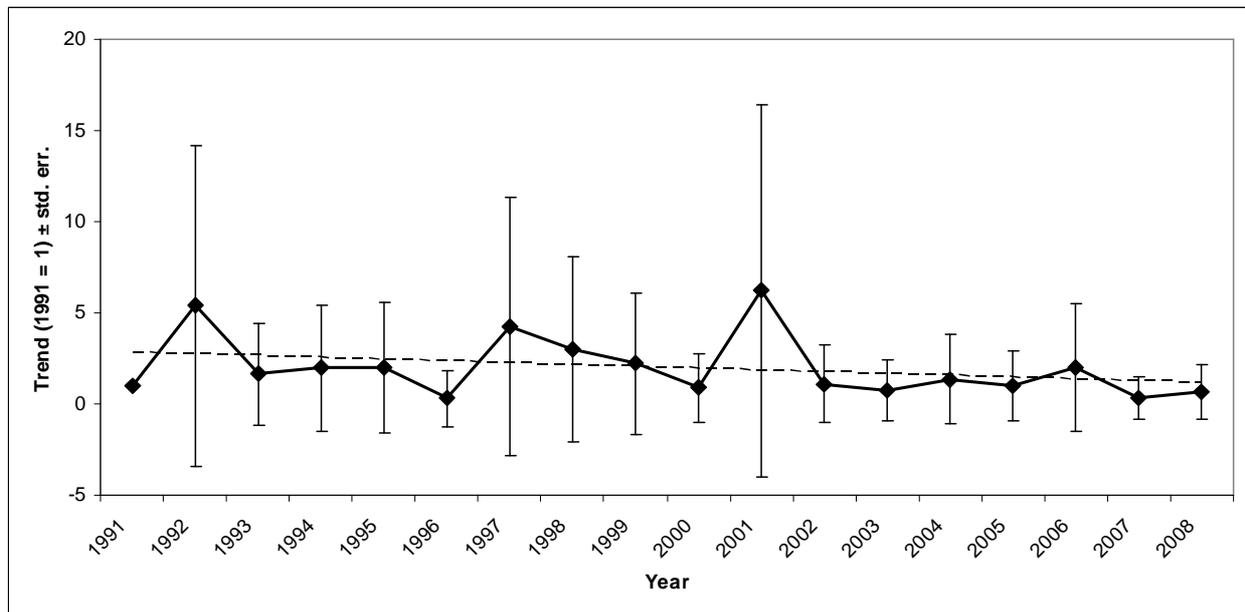


Figure 16 : Trend of Eurasian Curlew population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.

### 9.17 Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)



**Figure 17 : Trend of Marsh Sandpiper population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.**