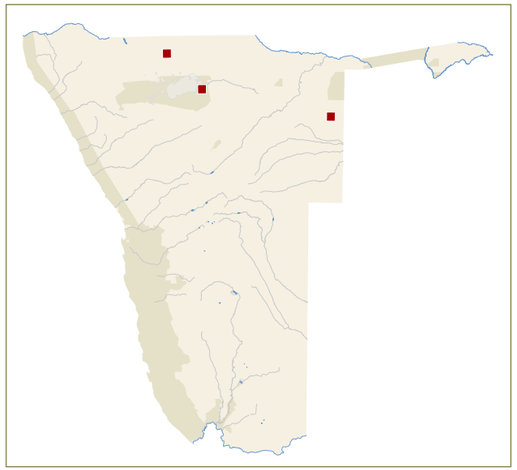
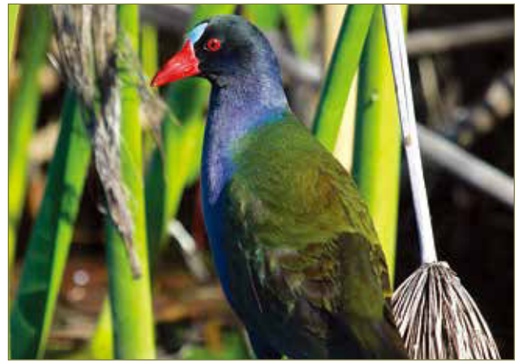


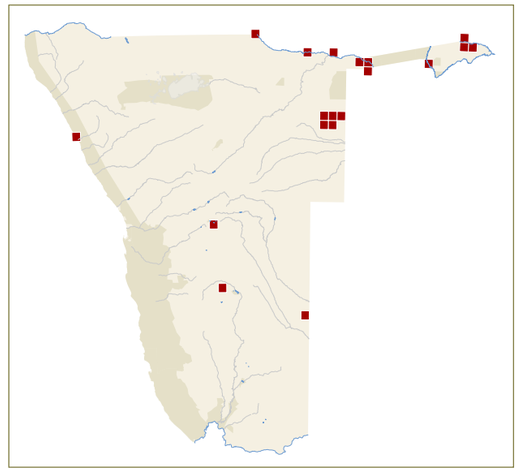
SABAP1 atlas period (Taylor 1997b). One record came from Etosha Pan and one from the Tsumkwe Pans (Taylor 1997b). Breeding birds were previously collected in Ondonga, just north of Etosha Pan in the 19th century (Andersson & Gurney 1872). It prefers ephemeral pools with short grasses and muddy patches around shallow pools (Taylor 1997b). Such conditions are found in the Pannetjies Veld and the Tsumkwe Pans in high rainfall years. Birds have been collected in the Tsumkwe Pans in high rainfall years (J Mendelsohn pers. comm.) and four nest records from that area have them laying in February and March (Brown *et al*. 2015). It has an area of occupancy of 1,500 km^2 in Namibia (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Its African population is estimated at 10,000 to 25,000 birds and declining (Delany & Scott 2002); Namibia's population, which is probably fewer than 100 birds, is therefore less than 0.5% of the world population. This species may well breed irregularly at Namibia's ephemeral north-eastern pans when rainfall is high, but its contribution to African population stability is likely to be minimal.

Allen's Gallinule (Lesser Gallinule) | *Porphyrio alleni (Porphyrula alleni)*

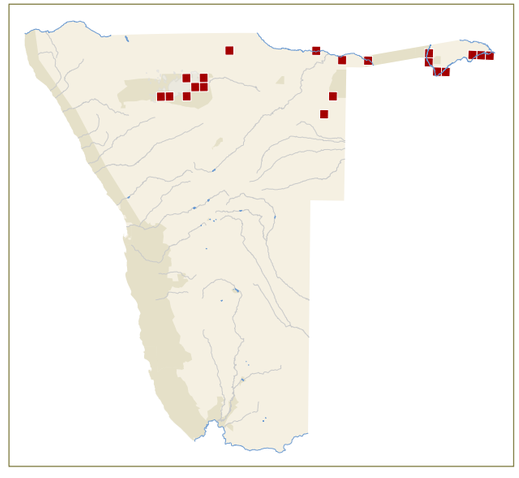
This small wetland species is found throughout Africa in suitable wetland margins. In Namibia, it occurs mainly along the Okavango and Zambezi rivers and their associated backwaters and floodplains. Birds are also recorded from the Tsumkwe Pans and as a vagrant (once) from the Kaokoveld (Dean 2005b). It occupied 9,500 km^2 in SABAP1 atlas data, of which an area of 1,200 km^2 is protected (Jarvis *et al*. 2001). Present atlas data from SABAP2 (December 2014) show a similar pattern of occurrence with an additional record east of Etosha. It is almost certainly overlooked and under-recorded. Fourteen nests are known from the Tsumkwe Pans with clutches laid in January (four), February (five) and March (five) (Brown *et al*. 2015).



© Neil Macleod

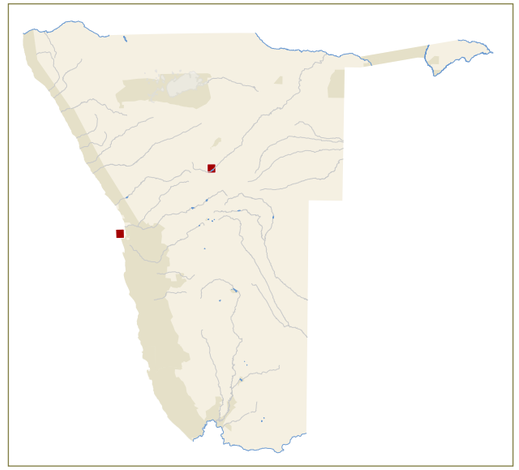


Yellow-throated Sandgrouse | *Pterocles gutturalis*



A nomadic species that, like other sandgrouse, is found in drier regions of the continent. It occurs patchily from Ethiopia to the northern parts of Botswana and Namibia, north-western South Africa and Zimbabwe. It prefers recently burned, open grasslands, fallow fields and other open areas on black clays near open water (Maclean 1997f). It is recorded sparsely from Etosha National Park (reporting rate of about 1%) and in grassland areas around the Kwando and Chobe rivers. Its area of occupancy is 11,900 km^2 (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is known to have declined in South Africa in historic times (Maclean 1997f), and populations there number about 500 birds (Tarboton *et al.* 1987). Population size is unknown elsewhere in southern Africa. It breeds from March to August in Botswana (Skinner 1996), while the only breeding record for Namibia has it laying in September (Brown *et al*. 2015). It is classified as *Near Threatened* in South Africa (Barnes 2000a, Taylor *et al*. in press) because of the small fluctuating population and its reliance on farming practices. It is, however, not globally threatened (IUCN 2012).

Red-necked Phalarope | *Phalaropus lobatus*

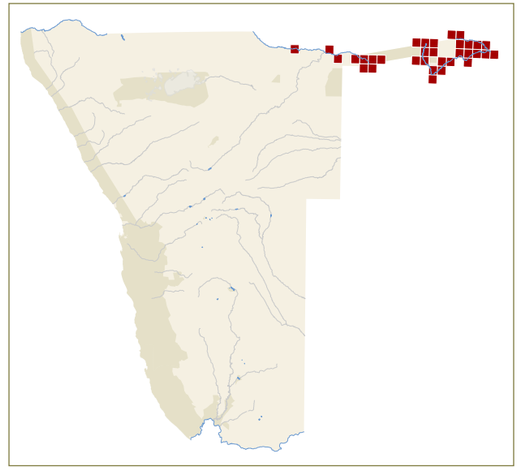


This common circumpolar species spends the non-breeding season off Peru, China and the Arabian peninsula (Hockey 2005b). In grey non-breeding plumage it is distinguished from the Red Phalarope (Grey Phalarope) *P. fulicaria* by its longer, thinner bill and darker grey back and rump. In Africa, it is found in the Rift Valley lakes of East Africa; in southern Africa it is most common in Walvis Bay, where up to 56 birds have been recorded in January (Wearne & Underhill 2005). There is one record from the Omatako Dam. Some birds over-winter in Namibia and up to nine birds have been recorded from Walvis Bay in July (Wearne & Underhill 2005). There has been a steady increase in birds seen at Walvis Bay in recent times from

© John Paterson

an average of about five (1991, 1992, 1995) to 56 (1999, 2000, 2001) and over 70 (2014) more recently (Jarvis *et al.* 2001, Wearne & Underhill 2005, H Kolberg unpubl. data). There are few conservation concerns for this species either worldwide or in Namibia and it may have benefited from coastal salt works that provide habitats where there were none previously. There is no evidence in Namibia for the assertion that it has decreased in southern Africa since 1980 (Hockey 2005b).

Long-toed Lapwing (Long-toed Plover) | *Vanellus crassirostris*

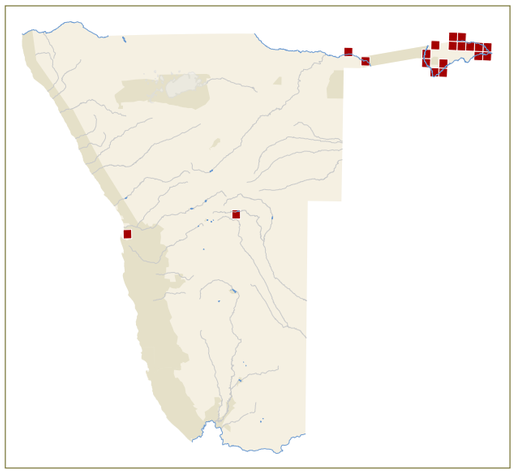


This species has a more restricted African range than the White-crowned Lapwing (White-crowned Plover) *V. albiceps*, occurring mainly in the central and eastern sections from southern Sudan to KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. Its world population is estimated at 25,000 to 50,000 birds and like the White-crowned Lapwing,

© Pete Hancock

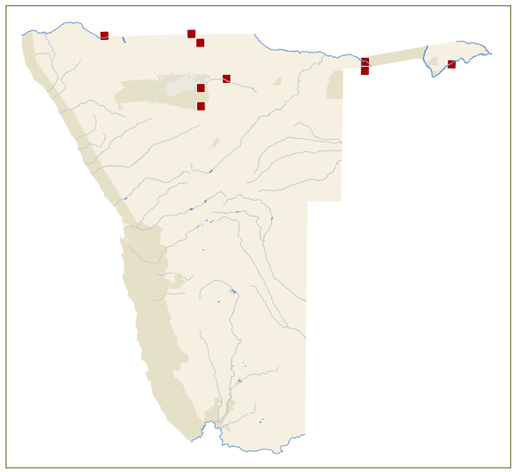
it is found on tropical rivers and swamps (Ward & Herremans 1997, Wetlands International 2002), but has been recorded near Windhoek and Walvis Bay. It occupies an area of 10,000 km^2 in Namibia, of which 22% occurs in protected areas, including the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park, and the Mudumu and Nkasa Rupara (Mamili) national parks (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is commonly found on the Chobe River at an average density of 2.0 birds per 10 km of river (Ward and Herremans 1997). On the Zambezi River, it occurs at a density of 6.0 birds per 10 km (R and V Sparg in Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Up to 31 birds have been recorded in the Bwabwata National Park (M Paxton in Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Extrapolation to all the rivers where it is found (Zambezi, Chobe, Okavango and Kwando) gives an estimate of about 200 birds for Namibia, contributing about 0.4% to the world population. It is not classified as threatened anywhere, but degradation of riverine banks may force birds out of previously occupied habitats.

White-crowned Lapwing (White-crowned Plover) | *Vanellus albiceps*



This tropical riverine species is found in sub-Saharan Africa from western to central Africa, with a break in distribution before it re-appears on the eastern side of southern Africa (Ward 1997, Wetlands International 2002). In Namibia, where it is resident, it is found only on sandy or muddy banks of the north-eastern rivers, including the Okavango and Kwando rivers, but its core population occurs on the Zambezi and Chobe rivers. It occupies an area of 7,300 km^2 in Namibia, of which 16% occurs in protected areas such as Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park and the Mudumu and Nkasa Rupara (Mamili) national parks. Breeding takes place between September and November (Ward 1997). Namibian wetland surveys indicate a mean of 11 birds per 10 km on the Zambezi River, giving a possible total of 170 birds for the 155 km section in Namibia (R Sparg, V Sparg in Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Assuming similar densities on the 185 km stretch of the Chobe River, the 170 km Kwando River and the latter sections of the Okavango River (approximately 125 km), Namibia's population is estimated at fewer than 550 birds. If the apparently isolated population in south-eastern Africa numbers about 20,000 to 50,000 birds (Wetlands International 2002), Namibia's contribution is about 1%. Wetland degradation may influence this species in future, so wetland counts should be continued to monitor population numbers in Namibia. It is classified as *Near Threatened* in South Africa because of the drying of rivers on which it occurs (Barnes 2000a).

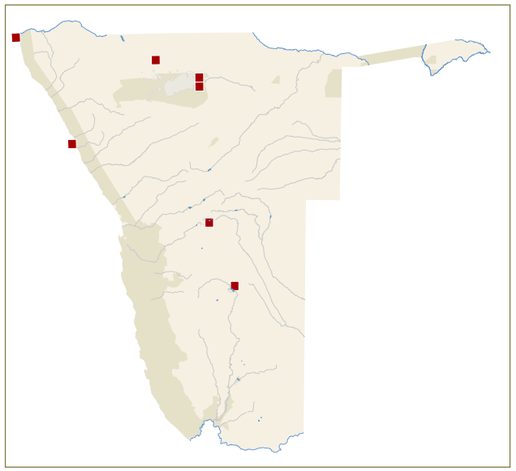
Three-banded Courser | *Rhinoptilus cinctus*



A nocturnal and rarely recorded species in Namibia, this species extends in a very narrow band northwards to Somalia and Sudan (Urban *et al.* 1986). The southern African subspecies *R. c. seebohmi* is found almost entirely in Zimbabwe (Tree 1997g). Namibia's records

are confined to the Etosha National Park, the northern border and patches in the north-east. A population of resident breeders is suspected to occur about 70 km north-west of Tsumeb (N Thomson pers. comm.). It occupies an area of 3,600 km^2 in Namibia, of which 48% occurs in the protected areas of Etosha National Park and the Mahango area in the Bwabwata National Park (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It favours *Acacia* and Mopane woodlands on alluvial soils and is generally noted on dirt roads at night or by its distinctive call (Tree 1997g). Population size of the subspecies *R. c. seebohmi* is estimated at 10,000 to 25,000 birds (Wetlands International 2002); its population size in Namibia is very small, although it may be more widespread than currently recorded. It is not currently considered to be a conservation priority anywhere.

Lesser Black-backed Gull | *Larus fuscus*

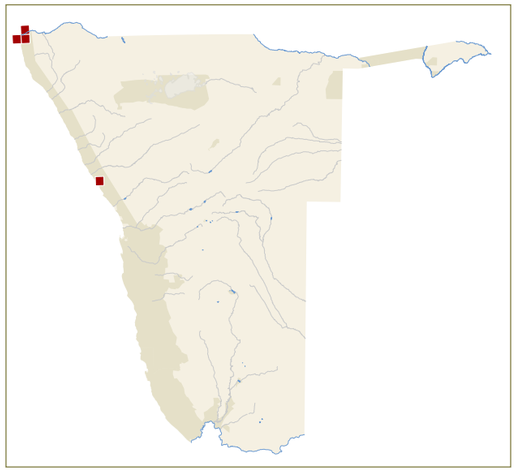


This common northern hemisphere gull migrates into Africa in a long distributional tail through Tanzania south to South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal coast, with a few birds each year reaching Etosha National Park and occasionally Hardap Dam. They are most commonly recorded in eastern Etosha, with five records of birds from Namutoni, an immature from Lake Oponono, and birds from Windhoek, Hardap Dam, Swakopmund and two from the Kunene River mouth (Nebe 1999, Jarvis *et al.* 2001, Paterson *et al.* 2009). This species may occur each year, but is overlooked and passed off as an out-of-range Kelp Gull *L. dominicanus*. All large dark-backed gulls inland of the coast need to be carefully scrutinised. The first ever ringing recovery for this species in southern Africa came from Torra Bay (Skeleton Coast) in December 2001. This record originated from southern Sweden, 9,000 km away (Oschadleus 2002). The bird was an immature and would be difficult to distinguish from

© Mark Paxton

the resident Kelp Gulls. The world population size of the Eurasian nominate race of this gull is estimated at 156,000 to 228,000 birds (Wetlands International 2002). It is a curiosity rather than a conservation priority in Namibia.

Royal Tern | *Thalasseus maximus (Sterna maxima)*



This species has a very wide distribution, breeding in the Americas as well as West Africa from Mauritania to Senegal (del Hoyo *et al.* 1996). It is the non-breeding migrants that populate the Angolan coast from September to January and densities along the Baia dos Tigres coast immediately north of the Kunene River mouth were reported as 349 birds in 175 km of sandy beach (20 birds per 10 km of coastline: Simmons *et al*. 2006b). The Kunene River mouth is the only locality where they are recorded regularly in the southern African sub-region (Paterson *et al*. 2009) and from where the first specimens