

CONTENTS

VOLUME 30 (2), June 1997

Editorial 1

LUDWIG, D. Chairman's report for 1996/97 2

LUDWIG, D. Jahresbericht für 1996/97 4

NOTICE. New committee for 1997 6

DEDEKIND, H. Ehrenmitglied-Honorary Life Membership: Dieter Erhard Ludwig 7

DUFFIELD-HARDING, J. While there is "nothing" at the waterhole . 8

DEDEKIND, H. Barbets and Honeyguides 9

FRIEDRICH, G. Vogelwelt auf Tsutsab 11

HENSCHEL, I. Communication in our feathered friends 13

KAESTNER, PG. A sight record of White-bellied Storm Petrel — A new species for Namibia 15

NOTICE. Botanical Society of Namibia 20

FRIEDRICH, G. Ein wochenende bei den Popa Fällern 21

DUFFIELD-HARDING, J. May field trip to Arbeid Adelt, Namib Naukluft Mountains 24

LUDWIG, D. Osterfahrt nach Farm Okatjirute 27

GUDDE, E & E. Easter weekend at Farm Okatjirute, Omaruru 28

HINES, C. Short Notes 29

SCHMIDT, S. Die eule läßt sich massiern 31

NOTICE. Birds of Botswana: An annotated working bibliography, 1835–1995 33

KAESTNER, PG. A short visit to Hardap Dam 34

The first six months of this year have been agonizing for the Committee of the Club — we had taken the Club out from under the wing of the Namibia Scientific Society and now the question arose as to whether it was the right decision. The fundamental changes that were decided upon were fairly simple. Firstly we had to take control of our own administration, secondly we had to get more information out to members on a regular basis (i.e. get *Lanioturdus* out regularly) and we had to put a cohesive programme of events and outings together.

When we sent out our early appeal for members to indicate whether they were interested in joining the "new" Club we were a little concerned that only 80 or so people responded — we had "lost" nearly 50 members overnight!! This gave us some food for thought, but it was decided we needed to go ahead with the changes as these were designed to make the Club more appealing. Happily, we think we made the right decision. Membership is up to where we were before the changes, we have a broader membership base (with a good representation on the coast and in the country districts) and more people are signing up every month.

Our programme of events seems to be hitting the right spot as well. We are averaging about 20 people per outing, with some reaching the unbelievable level of over 50!! The evening lectures are also being well attended and it is gratifying to see new people coming to these activities.

Lastly, it seems that *Lanioturdus* may be taking off as well. Articles and information seem to be coming in at a steady pace and we were able to put this copy together with the minimum of begging for material. Many thanks to Coleen Mannheimer for her artwork! I think it is the first copy for a long time with minimal inputs from professional ornithologists!!

Many thanks to all of you who have supported us through this period of change. Much still remains to be done (most importantly we need to appeal to younger members) and we depend on you, the Club members, for support and guidance in the future. Lets keep on hearing from you.

die Zerlebnisse nochmal besprochen, nachgedacht und Meinungen ausgetauscht.

Am Montagmorgen hiess es Abfahrt nach Hause. Der Abschied war leicht, es gibt ja ein Wiedersehen am Waterberg. Wir trennten uns in der Gewissheit, einige gute neue Freundschaften geschlossen zu haben. Wir möchten uns bei Allen bedanken die uns in ein noch relativ neues Gebiet eingeführt haben. An Sean und Daphne unseren besonderen Dank, auch an Chris für seine ausgezeichnete Führung. Ihr werdet uns auf der Farm jederzeit willkommen sein.

Mich hat der Vogel gründlich gebissen !!!

The long weekend trip to Popa Falls and Mahango Game Reserve was a great success with over 180 species seen over the four days in the area. This is very good for this time of the year (early May) as most of the Palaearctic migrants had left. With luck we will be able to make it up there again next year, but the Government's plans to deproclaim the area and shut down the community campsite in which we stayed may result in the venue being changed. — Editor.

MAY FIELD TRIP TO ARBEID ADELT, NAMIB-NAUKLUFT MOUNTAINS

Jeremy Duffield-Harding
PO Box 30452, Windhoek.

Birding normally takes a back-seat here at Naukluft, where the rugged mountain scenery often steals the limelight. This weekend was different; no, the birds didn't quite snatch our complete attention, that honour had to go to the prevailing alpine conditions.

While the Naukluft area can hardly be described as one of Namibia's birding hot-spots, it does possess some interesting features. The mountain slopes and flat areas are typical Nama-Karoo habitat. Low shrubs and thin

grass cover much of this home to chats, buntings, canaries and many larks including the Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafra africana*. The mountains, though essentially an extension of this Karoo scrub offer a niche for cliff dwellers such as swifts, parrots, martins, pigeons and the majestic Black (Verreaux's) Eagle *Aquila verreauxii*. Riparian woodland follows the Dang-nab watercourse with some larger trees such as the Common Fig, enabling birds not found in the Nama-Karoo biome to exist here. Naukluft's best feature however, has to be its rock pools. Some of these are perennial and provide water in an otherwise arid landscape.

Arriving late Friday night, we were pleased to find five Spotted Dikkop *Burhinus capensis*, on the track leading to the house. One stubborn bird refusing to let us past, obviously concerned that we didn't miss his prominent white ear coverts. These nocturnal birds are probably more common than they are thought to be; normally, all we see is a glimpse leaving the roadside as we speed past.

Saturday morning found us huddled in the kitchen of the old farmhouse watching the water tank outside. Many birds came to drink, but we struggled to identify the majority. Whitethroated Canary *Serinus albogularis*, Redheaded Finch *Amadina erythrocephala*, and Rosy-faced Lovebird *Agapornis roseicollis* were easy, but for the remainder, little-brown-jobs was an apt description; daringly, we could guess that they were Larklike Buntings *Emberiza impetuani*, and Stark's Lark *Spizocorys starki*, but this was clearly open for debate!

T. Shawn McGrath joined us for a walk up the Dang-nab river as far as the first rock pool, a veritable oasis situated in a small ravine. Although cold and breezy, the sun shone, ideal walking conditions as long as you kept moving! A great diversity in Mountain Chat *Oenanthe monticola* coloration was found; perhaps, due to immature birds and adults of a local dark race displaying a light grey crown with variable amounts of white on the lesser wing and median coverts, belly and flank, plus the familiar lighter grey form.

The rest of the party arrived in the afternoon, so did the rain! Temperatures continued to drop, making it impossible to venture outside. Dying of

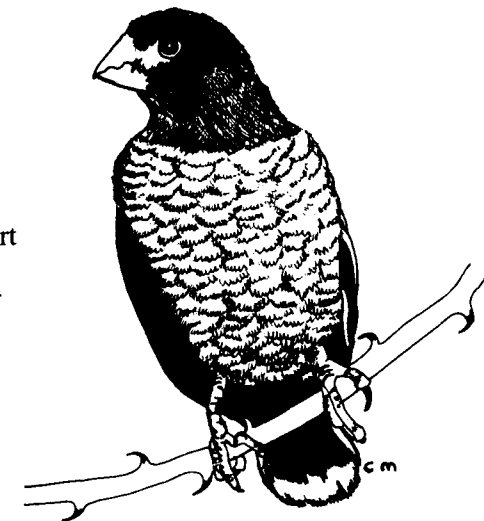
exposure, a White-headed race of the Blackheaded Canary *Serinus alario* allowed us to pick him up for a close view. According to Peter Kaestner, the American Birding Association recognises Clement's classification which lists this as a separate species, calling it the Damara Canary. Unrelenting, the rain continued all night, Sunday morning was bracing to put it mildly. In contrast to yesterday, this morning was almost "birdless" we wondered how many had made it through the night. Peter Bridgeford arrived, surprised to find us still here. Helmut and Agnes Bistri were perhaps the most sane of us all, knowing when to throw the towel in.

A break in the rain allowed Peter Kaestner to exercise his considerable knowledge of our birds, negotiating the rocky shrub-lined tributaries. Monteiro's Hornbill *Tockus monteiri*, Cape Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus minutus* and Yellowbellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis* were amongst the birds bagged. Temperatures though, were still falling and the rain returned, jokes about the weather were wearing thin, T. Shawn and Peter sensibly headed back to the house. I carried on to see the three rock pools upstream.

Alarmed, two groups of Klipspringer barked as they hurriedly left the shelter of the Dang-nab. Nearby, I found a Bearded Woodpecker *Thripias namaquus*, several Ashy Tits *Parus cinerascens* and a pair of Karoo Eremomela *Eremomela gregalis*. The latter were in a low shrub and brave enough to allow close inspection. Their olive-green backs and yellow vents were clearly visible. Further upstream the rain fell heavier and I crouched under a rock overhang. Sleet announced a further drop in temperature, now about two degrees. Bushes on the far bank provided some shelter for a warbler, still intent on foraging for food. Layard's Titbabbler *Parisoma layardi* was the second we had seen this morning. His pale eye showed well against a dark grey head, throat streaking is not as pronounced as his chestnutvented cousin *P. subcaeruleum*; also, the vent being white and not chestnut. At the largest pool I climbed the waterfall and was forced to find shelter once again. My only companions now were Rock Pigeons *Columba guinea* and Dassie-rats who ran over the rocks, trailing long mouse-like tails behind. At midday, the dark walls of the Dang-nab gorge rose high above; now, just above freezing, shafts of light escaping from the grey sky appeared to hold the white flakes of snow in mid-air, a magical scene. By

now, I too had had enough!

The weather had surprised us with its severity; unprepared, we had to beat a hasty retreat back to the comparative comfort of Windhoek. While we will soon forget the cold, visions of those cloud-capped mountains and birds will remain with us.



OSTERFAHRT NACH FARM OKATJIRUTE

Dieter Ludwig
PO Box 21870, Windhoek

Wie geplant ging die fahrt über Ostern auf die Farm Okatjirute zur Familie Redecker. Zu dem wochenende hatten sich 15 Mitglieder angemeldet. Die fahrt dorthin war sehr intressant denn das ganze Land war grün nach dem tollen Regen den wir in diesem Jahr erhielten. Auf einer großen Fläche konnte mann die Teminck *Cursorius terminckii* und Doppelbandrennvogel *Rhinoptilus africanus* beobachten.

Auf der Farm angekommen führte uns ein gut beschildeter weg unter große Bäume an eine revierbiegung. Ein wahrhaft idilisches Plätzchen mit aussicht auf ein großes Revier. Ein von Unkraut gesäuberter kamplatz mit Wasser sollte für die nächsten tage unser zu hause werden. Nach aufschlagen des Lagers besuchte uns kurz drauf Frau Redecker und es wurde kurz die lage für das wochenende besprochen.

Kurze Wanderungen im Revier erwiesen sich als sehr erfolgreich und es konnten einige Vogelarten bestimmt werden. Am spätern nachmittag wurden wir von einem heftigen Regen überrascht so dass wir mit