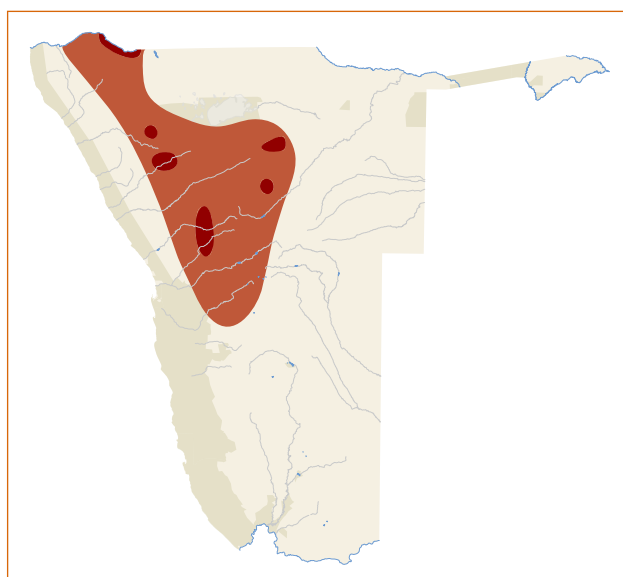


**Hartlaub's Spurfowl (Hartlaub's Francolin) |**  
***Pternistis hartlaubi* (*Francolinus hartlaubi*)**



© Dayne Braine, Batis Birding Safaris

This small, elusive and ancient spurfowl is endemic to rocky outcrops dotted along Namibia's western escarpment zone (Little *et al.* 2000), and is found in similar terrain in southern Angola (Dean 2000). It occupies a minimum area in Namibia of 34,300 km<sup>2</sup>, where its population is estimated at 26,500 birds (Jarvis & Robertson 1999). It is best located by its thin grating calls early in the morning, when its true abundance becomes apparent. Its breeding density is unknown. It usually lays a three-egg clutch (small for a Phasianidae), mainly from March to July, with a peak in May and June (n=36) (Little 1997c, Little *et al.* 2000, Brown *et al.* 2015). It has a complex breeding system (Komen 1987), but its ecology is poorly known, other than that it is resident and feeds on corms and other bulbs. It faces few threats, given the isolated nature of its habitat, but uncontrolled small-scale mining on granite outcrops may pose a localised threat (Little *et al.* 2000). About 15% of its range occurs within protected areas, including Etosha National Park and the Waterberg Plateau Park (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Its ground nests are susceptible to numerous predators in these regions because it shares its breeding habitat with Black Mongoose *Galerella nigrata*, baboons



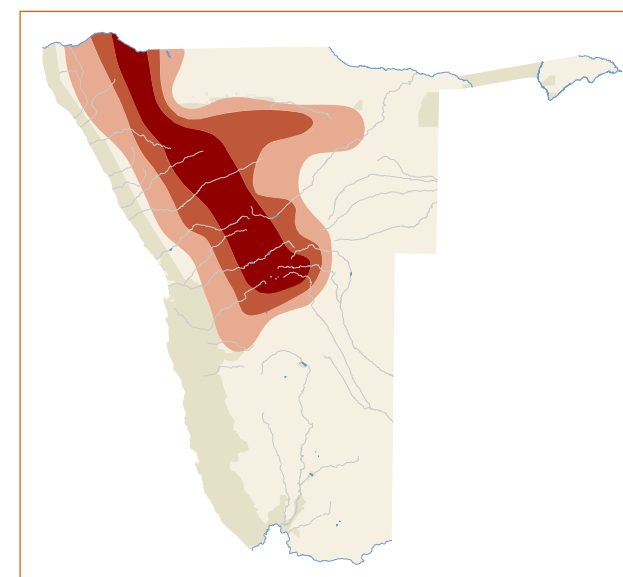
and many snakes (RE Simmons pers. obs.). It adapts well to protection provided through tourist lodges, where densities around bungalows are high.

**Monteiro's Hornbill | *Tockus monteiri***



© Cillie Burger

This is the largest and most arid-adapted of the resident hornbills in Namibia, and is common and conspicuous throughout rocky habitat in central and north-western Namibia. Population size in Namibia is estimated at 339,500 birds, with an area of occupancy of 224,800 km<sup>2</sup> (Jarvis & Robertson 1999). It is also found in southern Angola (Dean 2000). The Etosha National Park supports about 6,000 birds. Densities vary greatly from one or two birds per km<sup>2</sup> to 13 birds per km<sup>2</sup> (Robertson *et al.* 1995). Its conservation needs are relatively secure, given these high densities and the fact that, like other hornbills in Namibia, it readily adapts to nest boxes, which increases its breeding density by up to seven-fold (J Mendelsohn in Simmons 1997i). Breeding has been recorded in the suburbs of Windhoek (Thomson 2010). Like many arid near-endemics in Namibia, it breeds in response to rains, mainly from January to March (n=132), and lays an average clutch of 4.4 eggs, but clutches of up to seven eggs have been recorded in high rainfall years (Brown *et al.* 2015, J Mendelsohn pers. obs.). Nesting in holes in old trees and crevices in rock faces allows it numerous breeding sites and 10%



of its Namibian range occurs within conservation areas (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Thus, it is not considered to be a conservation priority in Namibia.