

LANIOTURDUS

Newsletter of the Namibia Bird Club
Volume 27, 1993.

CONTENTS

NAMIBIA BIRD CLUB

A branch of
the Namibia Scientific Society
and
the Southern African Ornithological Society

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

LANIOTURDUS publishes articles and other material of broad birding interest to the membership of the Namibia Bird Club. Contributors should examine recent issues of *LANIOTURDUS* for guidance on suitability and presentation of material. Manuscripts in German or English, should be typed in double-spacing on A4 paper. Sketches, maps and figures should be submitted on quality white paper with black ink. High contrast black-and-white or colour photographs may be submitted to illustrate articles. The editor is allowed wide latitude in his choice of material, thus any views and opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the Namibia Bird Club. All material in *LANIOTURDUS* is copyright, and permission to reproduce any items must be negotiated with the Editor.

Authors using MS-DOS or Macintosh compatible word processing software are strongly encouraged to submit their manuscripts on double or high density diskettes/floppy disks. Please inform the Editor which word processing software was used. Disks will be returned to the authors in due course.

A single copy of the volume-issue in which your article appeared will be sent to the senior author. Additional reprints may be purchased at cost from the Secretary, Namibia Bird Club, P.O. Box 67, Windhoek, Namibia.

All contributions (including books for review) to *LANIOTURDUS* should be addressed to the Editor, *LANIOTURDUS*, Namibia Bird Club, P.O. Box 67, Windhoek, Namibia.

EDITORIAL	.... 2
GALLAND, B. "Grusswort"	.... 3
ARTICLES, REPORTS, NEWS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION:	
BECKER, P. Blutschnabelweber (<i>Quelea quelea</i>) brütet im Zuckerrohr (<i>Saccharum officinarum</i>).	.... 4
FRIEDE, G. & G. FRIEDE. Birds of the Swakop river lagoon - (Follow-up report 1992/1993)	.... 7
SIMMONS, R. Namibia's third national wetland bird survey, July 1992.	.... 9
VAN DE REEP, J. & S. When in doubt, check again!!	.... 12
SCHOPPE, R. Die Ernährung der Eulen Namibias: eine übersicht.	.... 13
GERSTLE, K. & P. From rags to riches.	.... 31
SCHOLZ, C. Notes on captive Orange River Francolins.	.... 35
WALTER, A. Unusual feeding behaviour of terns.	.... 36
BROOKE, R. A five-toed European Nightjar.	.... 37
WALTER, A. Kittlitz's Plovers in town.	.... 37
WALTER, A. Some observations of humorous nature.	.... 38
ROBITZSCH, G. Beobachtungen mit Witwen- und Melba-Finken im Karibiber Garten 1980 bis 1983.	.... 38
ROBITZSCH, G. Vergeblicher Nestbau eines verliebten Cabanis Webers.	.... 39
BROWN, C.J. Birds of the upper Huab River catchment, Cunene province.	.... 40
BAUER, W. Vogelbeobachtungen im Norden.	.... 47
KOMEN, J. & E. MALULEKE. Bio-acoustic research at the State Museum of Namibia.	.... 48
VAN DE REEP, J. & S. Cockey Bustard.	.... 50
BRIDGEFORD, P.A. & M. South African Cliff Swallows in Namibia.	.... 53
VAN DE REEP, S. ? Thorn bird ?	.... 57
BECKER, P. & O.G. AMIR. Effects on non-target birds through spraying operations on quelea roost and colonies in Somalia (With a list of birds predatory on Red-billed Quelea and a list of palaeartic bird species observed in Somalia).	.... 58
VAN DE REEP, J. & S. Flashing jewels in combat.	.... 63
BRIDGEFORD, P.A. & M. More birds of the Naukluft Mountains.	.... 64
SIMMONS, R. The Namibian nest record scheme: history, contributors and competitors.	.... 66

They all kept up their harsh calls, challenging, displaying, giving each other strength and intimidating the opponents. The aerial battle was conducted in stages with rest intervals, but the hoarse summons to combat never abated.

Off they flew again, colliding, tumbling, gliding and settling on a perch. But one collision saw two adversaries locking claws, hacking at each other with strong beaks, and tumbling at terrible speed, their brilliant plumage flashing in the low sunlight. The Lilac Breasted Roller plummeted to the ground, while the other bird came out of the undergrowth and flew up to join its mate. A gasp of shock went up from us. We waited a moment, expecting the bird to fly up at any moment. Nothing happened. We walked across to the base of the tree and immediately found the Roller. It was mortally wounded, its neck broken, and it died as we reverently held it.

The other Lilac Breasted Rollers had departed while the Broadbilled Rollers sat triumphantly chuckling on a perch near the nesting hole.

MORE BIRDS OF THE NAUKLUFT MOUNTAINS

P.A. & M. BRIDGEFORD

Namib Naukluft Park, Private Bag 1018, Maltahöhe

The first checklist of birds of the Naukluft Mountains was published in 1988 (Boyer & Bridgeford 1988). In that publication 204 species were recorded. For a description of the area see this publication.

Several species can now be added to the checklist as well as new breeding records. The status and abundance categories are those used in the original publication.

SPECIES LIST

168. Black Harrier *Circus maurus*.

Vagrant. A single record from Zais, December 1989.

193. Orange River Francolin *Francolinus levaillantoides*.

Rare breeding resident. Originally recorded as vagrant with two sightings. Two more birds were seen on the Naukluft plateau and in November 1990 four adults and two immature birds were photographed near the Naukluft house.

197. Hartlaub's Francolin *Francolinus hartlaubi*.

Vagrant. Seen on the Naukluft plateau in September 1989 by J. Lenssen.

212. African Crake *Crex egregia*.

Vagrant. One bird caught, photographed and ringed at Zais. Was seen for four days in area.

266. Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*.

Palaeartic migrant. Vagrant. One individual in the garden at Zais in November 1990. Stayed for one week and then was killed by a predator.

457. Grey Hornbill *Tockus nasutus*.

Breeding resident. Rare. First recorded in May 1989 at Zais when two adults and an immature was seen. Has been recorded nearly every month since but only in the Zais area.

532. Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*.

Palaeartic migrant. Vagrant. Three birds seen at Zais in January 1990.

543. European Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*.

Palaeartic migrant. Occasional. This abundance category can be changed from the previous "vagrant" to occasional. This shy and elusive migrant was first recorded in February 1985 and then in 1986. Since then it has been recorded in 1987, 1989, 1990, 1992 and six have been ringed at Zais.

615. Kalahari Robin *Erythropgia paena*.

Resident. Occasional. A pair seen near Büllsport house in August 1991. Also reported from the farm Neu Onis (D. Tunnicliff). Both sightings are on the plains at the base of the mountains.

714. Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*.

Palaeartic migrant. Vagrant. One female photographed at Zais in November 1989 hawking insects on the lawn. Seen for several days and then a female was reported from Sukses (G. Wilson) a few days after the last sighting at Zais.

884. Golden Breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris*.

Vagrant. One bird seen in January 1990 at Zais.

DISCUSSION

The Naukluft Mountains cover a large area and all human habitations are on the outskirts of the mountains. There are few roads on the plateau and they are in a poor condition so that travel on the plateau is limited. These facts we think, are the reason why Orange River and Hartlaub's Francolin are so seldom recorded.

However, we are of the opinion that Grey Hornbills have moved into the area and are now established. It is unlikely that no one recorded these highly visible birds with their very audible and distinctive call before now.

CONCLUSION

As more birds are recorded the number of species will increase and status and abundance categories will change.

REFERENCES

- BOYER, H.J. & BRIDGEFORD, P.A. 1988. Birds of the Naukluft Mountains: an annotated checklist. *Madoqua* 15: 295-314.
- MACLEAN, G.L. 1985. Roberts' birds of southern Africa. John Voelcker Bird Book Fund: Cape Town.

THE NAMIBIAN NEST RECORD SCHEME:
HISTORY, CONTRIBUTORS AND COMPETITORS

ROB SIMMONS

Ornithology Section (nest records), Ministry of Wildlife,
P/Bag 13306, Windhoek

SUMMARY

This first annual report on the Namibian nest record scheme provides details of the top contributors since inception, and the top contributors, number of cards and species for 1991/1992. Over 5 000 cards have been received, and 66% were provided by just 14 contributors. The highest total was achieved by Rolf Jensen (over 700 cards) and the top contributor for 1991/92 was Dave Noble with 70 cards. A general downward trend in the number of contributors and the number of cards has been observed in recent years; drought-affected breeding is probably the reason. However, the number of cards received for 1991/92 increased to 362 from 29 observers following the announcement of a competition for the most cards received each year. This year's total would have been even higher but for some nest-finders not submitting their records. With the establishment of this form of feedback we hope to encourage more observers and timeous submission of records.

INTRODUCTION

Namibian nest records started as long ago as 1866 when CJ Anderson, collecting and travelling in Namibia, recorded four White-backed Mousebird nests. His tally of 30 cards marked the beginning of nest recording, which began in earnest in 1960. In that year a mere two contributors filed 6 cards, a total which has now grown to an impressive 5 000 records, and up to 32 contributors per year. While these cards were summarised in 1988 by former ministry of wildlife ornithologist Chris Brown, no regular feedback has been forthcoming and this is reflected in a gradually diminishing number of contributors in recent years (see Figure 1). Without feedback many such schemes languish in filing cabinets, unused and forgotten, hence of little use to anyone. However, the information they hold is vital for monitoring Namibia's avifauna, for recording new breeding species and is of great use for research projects which require baseline data on endemics or single-species studies.

This first report is an attempt to provide up-to-date information on new cards received per year, to stimulate participants to record (and submit! - see below) everything they come across and to provide some guidelines as to what data we lack in such a scheme. For example Brown (1988) found in his summary that of 510 potentially breeding species, 289 had at least one nest record card. While that may seem a healthy figure, a look at the reverse side of the coin means that 221 SPECIES HAVE NO CARDS AT ALL. These are not necessarily rare species either: No records exist for any nightjars, any kingfishers, virtually nothing exists on *Parus* tits, House Sparrows are represented by one record, Pygmy Falcons have just 3 cards, and Augur Buzzards 4 records. Larger wetland birds are very poorly represented also. Here I also provide a historical perspective on the scheme and chart those individuals, past and present, who have added most to its success over the years.

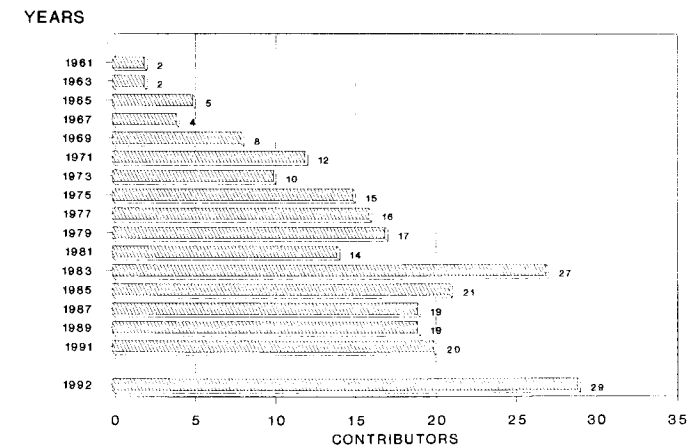


Figure 1. The average number of contributors for two year periods from 1960 to 1991. The year 1991/92 is given separately since it represents one breeding year not one calendar year. The trend is for a decreasing number of contributors following a peak in 1982 + 1983. The average number of contributors from 1960 to 1991 was 12.