

## CONTENTS

VOLUME 32(1), March 1999

EDITORIAL .....	1
KAESTNER, P.G. A beginners guide to the larks of Namibia: Part Two .....	3
PAXTON, M. & SHEEHAN, L. January wetland bird count in the Mahango Game Reserve, Kavango .....	15
BRELL, B. & E. Birding on the Farm Rustig, Kamanjab District. ....	18
GLÄFKE, S. NBC bird of the quarter .....	20
NOTICE. News from the Namibia Scientific Society Library .....	22
BOIX-HINZEN, C. Interesting sightings from Daan Viljoen Game Reserve	24
BOIX-HINZEN, C. & JACOT, A. The counts of Monte Cristo .....	28
HINES, C. Short Notes .....	32
KIEKEBUSCH-STEINITZ, B. (Bird) Racing around Windhoek .....	38



### EDITORIAL

Summer has almost come and gone without my noticing it. It has been an odd summer in terms of weather but judging from my discussions with other people, the birding has been excellent this year. The thing I have noticed while putting this edition of *Lanioturdus* together is the really good numbers of rare birds that were seen during these last few months. These records raise the question of what brings these spurts of rarities about.

Is it the unusual rainfall and general climatic patterns experienced over much of the subcontinent? Is just that we are getting more reports of rarities because there are a lot more birders out there at the moment? Is it a consequence of the "Patagonia effect" described by Peter Kaestner in a previous edition of *Lanioturdus*. Whatever the situation is, we have had two new birds added to the Namibian list in the last six months. A presumed Pied Flycatcher at the Windhoek Sewerage Works (October 1998) and a Red-throated Pipit in Swakopmund (March 1999). These records may represent interesting biological indicators of broader environmental processes influencing the sub-continent. These records are interesting in themselves but seen against a background of a large number of other rare birds in the same period we have to admit the possibility of large scale climatic (or other) factors influencing their occurrence in Namibia.

So what happens to these records? Currently nothing much!! All records reported to me are put into the Short Notes section and I encourage people to write up their sightings. My feeling is that a tremendous amount of

## NBC BIRD OF THE QUARTER

Compiled by S. Glafke  
P.O. Box 2310, Windhoek

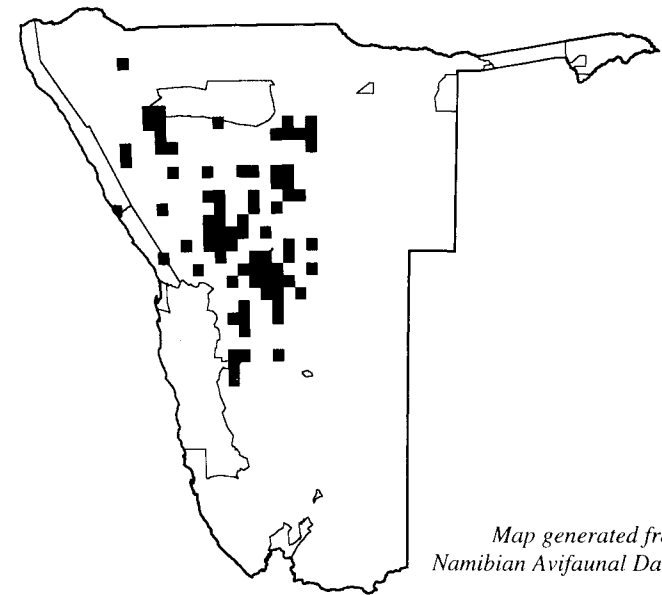
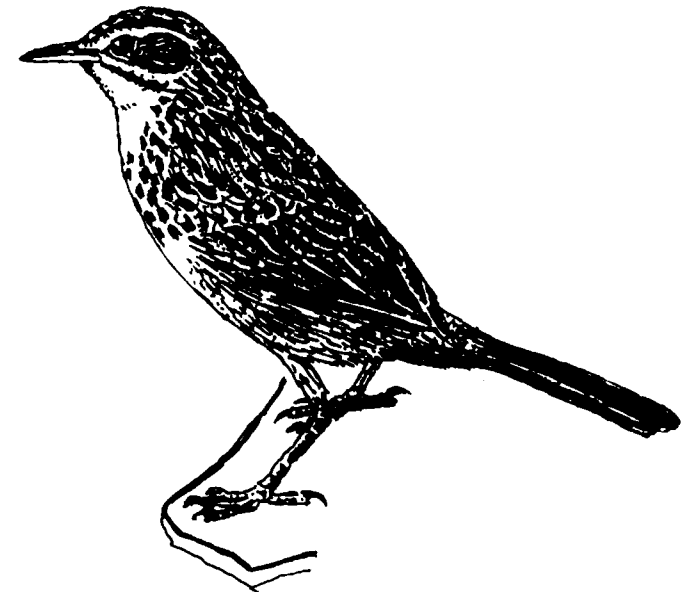
*Achaetops pycnopygius* 662 \*

Rockrunner (Damara Rockjumper)

Rotsvoël

Klippensänger (Damara – Felsenspringer)

- Status** : Uncommon to rare resident, localised.
- Identification** : Size large (robin-sized warbler); above streaked black and buff; ear coverts streaked black-and-white; throat and breast white, spotted black at sides; bold malar stripe; belly and under-tail rufous (diagnostic); tail black.
- Bare parts** : Iris brown, blackish bill with base ivory white; legs and feet purplish slate to blackish brown.
- Voice** : Song rapid rich warbling, somewhat like throaty warbler song; also mimics calls of other bird species.
- Food** : Insects (beetles and grasshoppers)
- Breeding** : November to March.  
Clutch: two to three eggs.  
Nestling unrecorded.
- Habitat** : Arid woodland or Namibian escarpment, on lower rocky slopes of hills and mountains or along dry watercourses.



Map generated from the  
Namibian Avifaunal Database

\* Roberts' Birds of Southern Africa, No.662