

NAMIBIA'S ENDANGERED AND THREATENED BIRDS

Of the 687 bird species recorded in Namibia, 71 species are threatened and placed on the Red Data List (see diagram at left and list below). The main threat categories are:

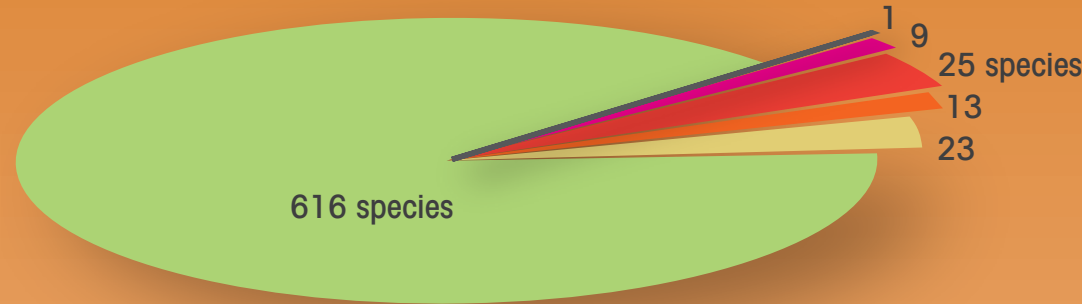
- ➔ **Nationally Extinct:** species with no breeding individuals left in Namibia.
- ➔ **Critically Endangered:** species with a 50% chance of going extinct in 10 years.
- ➔ **Endangered:** species with a 20% chance of going extinct in 20 years.
- ➔ **Vulnerable:** species with a 10% chance of going extinct in 100 years.
- ➔ **Near Threatened:** birds that do not fit into the above categories, but which are likely to become Vulnerable in the near future.

The conservation status of all other birds is considered to be secure.

About 75% of Namibia's 71 Red Data Bird species fall into one or more of the following groups (see diagram at right):

- ➔ Coastal and marine birds
- ➔ Scavenging birds
- ➔ Birds impacted by power lines
- ➔ Wetland birds

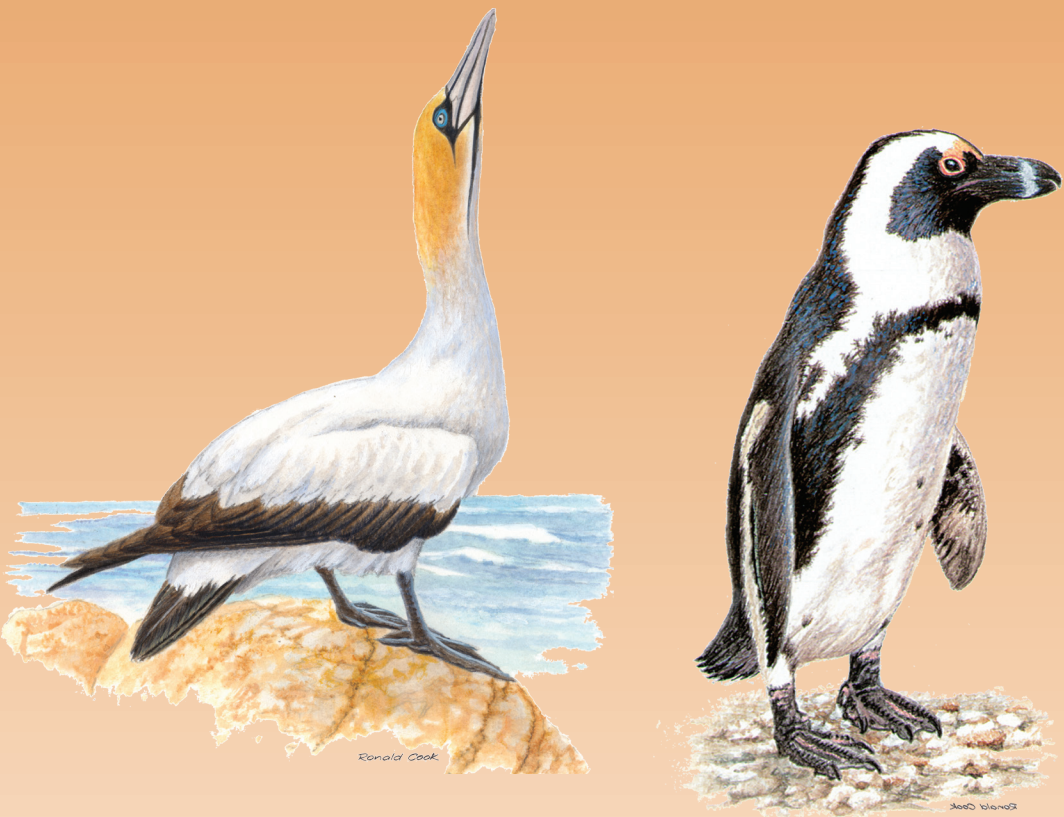
A few key factors have caused birds in each group to decline, and there are a few priority actions required to improve the situation. By addressing these root causes, the conservation status of these birds can be significantly improved.



- Nationally Extinct
- Critically Endangered
- Endangered
- Vulnerable
- Near Threatened
- Secure



- Scavenging birds
- Birds vulnerable to power lines
- Wetland birds
- Coastal / marine birds



COASTAL AND MARINE BIRDS

e.g. albatrosses, petrels, penguins, gannets, cormorants, terns, gulls

CAUSE OF DECLINE

- ➔ food shortage from overfishing of sardines
- ➔ birds hooked by long-line fisheries
- ➔ birds collide with and caught by trawler cables on nets

CONSERVATION ACTION NEEDED

- ➔ Close the sardine / pilchard industry – no quotas – to allow this fishery to recover
- ➔ Enforce regulations of the Marine Resources Act (27 of 2000) and the Namibia Islands' Marine Protected Area Act
- ➔ Develop effective plans to deal with oil spills
- ➔ Ratify and enforce the National Plan of Action for Seabirds to:
 - ◊ Set long-lines at night
 - ◊ Reduce deck lighting
 - ◊ Use bird-scaring 'tori' lines over long-lines and trawler cables
 - ◊ Use weights to sink baited hooks rapidly
 - ◊ Discard offal where it will not cause potential harm to birds
- ➔ Monitor and work closely with the fishing industry

Photo: John Paterson



SCAVENGING BIRDS

e.g. vultures, eagles, marabou stork

CAUSE OF DECLINE

- ➔ birds poisoned by farmers targeting mammalian predators
- ➔ vultures deliberately poisoned by commercial poachers to avoid detection

CONSERVATION ACTION NEEDED

- ➔ Ban the use of all poisons for predator control
- ➔ Implement the Cape Vulture Action Plan (which will benefit all scavenging species)
- ➔ Implement the Protocol on vultures & poisoning as part of the larger initiative to stop commercial poaching of wildlife
- ➔ Continue monitoring and research
- ➔ Expand information and awareness

Photo: Liz Komen



BIRDS IMPACTED BY POWER LINES

e.g. bustards, flamingos, secretarybird, vultures, eagles, cranes, ground hornbill

CAUSE OF DECLINE

- ➔ birds collide with or are electrocuted on power lines

CONSERVATION ACTION NEEDED

- ➔ Ensure the alignment of planned power lines minimises chances of collision
- ➔ Place power lines as close together as possible to limit the area covered by lines
- ➔ Mark new power lines, where needed, with markers to make them visible to birds
- ➔ Where needed, fit markers to existing power lines
- ➔ Ensure EIAs are done for all new transmission and distribution lines
- ➔ Continue to monitor impacts of power lines on birds and expand research efforts to mitigate impacts

Photo: John Paterson



WETLAND BIRDS

e.g. cranes, herons, storks, flamingos, fish eagle, pelicans, skimmer, fishing owl

CAUSE OF DECLINE

- ➔ wetland habitat degradation
- ➔ riparian woodland degradation
- ➔ declining water quantity and quality
- ➔ disturbance

CONSERVATION ACTION NEEDED

- ➔ Protect riparian wetlands, particularly gallery forests and woodlands
- ➔ Develop and implement management plans for key wetlands
- ➔ Protect wetlands through legislation
- ➔ Ensure full EIAs are done for all developments likely to affect wetlands
- ➔ Continue monitoring birds as key indicators of wetland health
- ➔ Expand information and awareness

Image: Google Earth

- Nationally Extinct**
- Egyptian Vulture
- Critically Endangered**
- Black-cheeked Lovebird
- Blue Crane
- Cape Gannet
- Cape Vulture
- Eurasian Bittern
- Great Crested Grebe
- Grey Crowned Crane

- Pel's Fishing Owl
- Tristan Albatross
- Endangered**
- African Penguin
- African Finfoot
- African Marsh-Harrier
- Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross
- Bank Cormorant
- Bateleur
- Black-browed Albatross

- Black Harrier
- Black Stork
- Booted Eagle
- Cape Cormorant
- Cinderella Waxbill
- Hooded Vulture
- Ludwig's Bustard
- Martial Eagle
- Rock Pratincole
- Rufous-bellied Heron

- Saddle-billed Stork
- Slaty Egret
- Southern Ground-Hornbill
- Tawny Eagle
- Violet Wood-Hoopoe
- Wattled Crane
- White-backed Vulture
- Yellow-billed Oxpecker

- Vulnerable**
- African Fish-Eagle
- African Skimmer
- Caspian Tern
- Greater Flamingo
- Great White Pelican
- Harlaub's Gull
- Lappet-faced Vulture
- Lesser Flamingo
- Secretarybird

- Spectacled Petrel
- Wandering Albatross
- White-chinned Petrel
- White-headed Vulture
- Near Threatened**
- African Oystercatcher
- Angola Cave-Chat
- Black-necked Grebe
- Black-winged Pratincole
- Cape Eagle-Owl

- Chestnut-banded Plover
- Crowned Cormorant
- Damara Tern
- Eurasian Curlew
- European Roller
- Great Snipe
- Kori Bustard
- Maccosa Duck
- Marabou Stork
- Northern Giant-Petrel

- Pallid Harrier
- Peregrine Falcon
- Red-footed Falcon
- Rüppell's Parrot
- Sclater's Lark
- Sooty Shearwater
- Verreaux's Eagle
- White-capped Albatross

This information is from Namibia's Red Data Book for Birds, which aims to:

- ➔ direct attention and resources to the greatest conservation priorities
- ➔ improve planning and environmental assessments
- ➔ monitor the status and health of threatened birds
- ➔ provide a training and educational tool for scientific and conservation studies.

This poster and Namibia's Red Data Book for Birds were produced with support from:



Namibia's Red Data Book for Birds: Simmons RE, Brown CJ and Kemper J 2015. *Birds to watch in Namibia: red, rare and endemic species*. Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Windhoek.