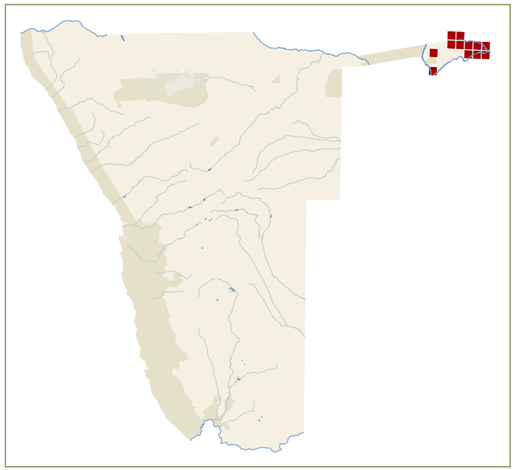

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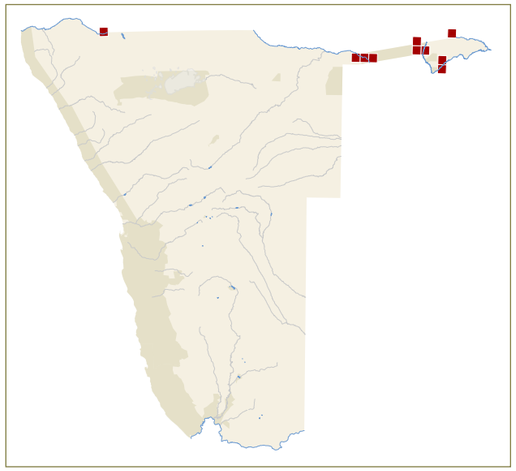
Rupara (Mamili) National Park (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Despite the prominent wailing 'unhappy crèche' calls and distinctive flights for which this species is famous, it has a low reporting rate for Namibia, indicative of its rarity (18% from 11 quarter-degree squares). It is resident predominantly in mature riparian woodland and follows the Zambezi and Chobe rivers in Namibia. This makes its absence from the Okavango Delta puzzling (Oatley 1997d). There are no breeding records from Namibia, although it breeds co-operatively in tree hollows from September to January elsewhere in southern Africa (du Plessis 1994, Tarboton 2011). The highest reporting rates (Oatley 1997d) come from areas near Katima Mulilo where human population density is high, exerting pressure on woodland resources (Mendelsohn & Roberts 1997). This raises some concern for this species which may suffer degradation of its breeding and feeding habitat. It is therefore a species that should be monitored together with other riparian species in this region.

Narina Trogon | *Apaloderma narina*

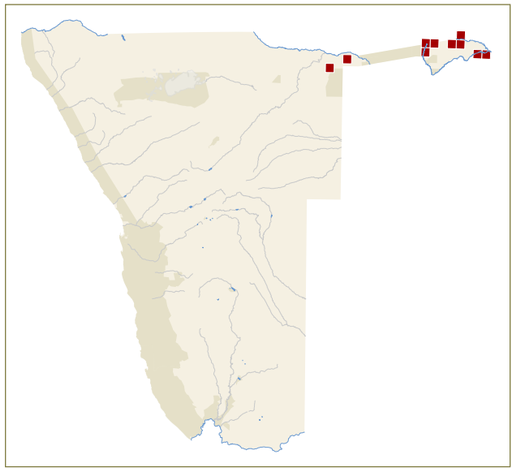
This stunningly coloured intra-African migrant is widespread throughout equatorial forests from central to West Africa. It occurs sparsely in southern Africa in the Caprivi Strip, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, eastern South Africa and South Africa's coastal regions from KwaZulu-Natal to the southern Cape (Oatley 1997b, Dean & du Plessis 2005). It is an insect-catching species of evergreen forests, often seen close to the rivers in the north-east of Namibia, including the Kwando, Okavango and Linyanti rivers. An individual recorded west of Ruacana (N Thomson pers. comm.) probably originated from an Angolan population. Curiously it does not occur regularly in the Okavango Swamps (Oatley 1997b). The mean reporting rate for southern Africa is 9%, and in Namibian habitats it is 7.5%



(Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Population size and density are not known and there are no nest records for Namibia. Loss of riparian forest could impact on its conservation status in the area.

Racket-tailed Roller | *Coracias spatulatus (Coracias spatulata)*

This species is endemic to the woodlands of south-central Africa (Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, and Zambia), and in southern Africa is most widespread in Zimbabwe (Fry *et al.* 1988). There it has declined in numbers due to thinning of its favoured habitat – undisturbed primary miombo woodland. It only occurs in Namibia in the Kavango east region in mature Kalahari sandveld woodland, and in the Zambezi region in the less disturbed northern woodlands near the



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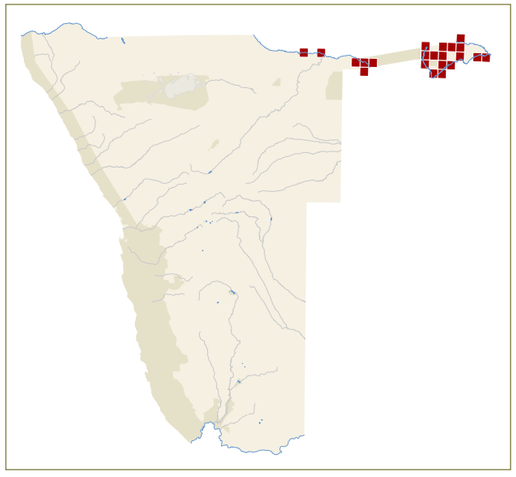
Kwando River (Tree 1997m). It occupies just 4,700 km² in Namibia, of which 5% lies within protected areas (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Population density or sizes are not known; reporting rates stand at 9%, with the highest just east of the northern Kwando River (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is unlikely that more than 500 birds occur in Namibia. There are nine breeding records for the country, laying in October (four), November (four) and December (one) (Brown *et al.* 2015). Pink-chested birds photographed near the Okavango River in the vicinity of Shamvura display the characteristics of the subspecies *C. s. weigalli*, not previously reported from southern Africa (Paxton 2010), and requiring further investigation. Like many other peripheral species that occur in primary Kalahari or riverine woodland, it may be under threat from increasing human population pressure on wood resources. There is, however, no current evidence of a decrease in Namibia.

Broad-billed Roller | *Eurystomus glaucurus*

Slightly more numerous and somewhat more conspicuous than the Racket-Tailed Roller *Coracias spatulatus*, this species is also found only on mature, undisturbed woodlands in the north-east of Namibia, including along the Okavango River. Reporting rate is 15% in these areas and the area of occupancy is 9,500 km², of which 22% occurs in protected areas (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It suffers more from the felling and degradation of riverine forest than the Racket-Tailed Roller because it is more often associated with rivers (Tree 1997f). It is a breeding migrant, with birds appearing in Namibia in September and departing by April (Tree 1997f). Clutches are laid from October to March in Namibia (n=6) (Brown *et al.* 2015). Its abundance and range outside Namibia preclude it from entering any threat category, but it may be a useful



indicator of the health of undisturbed forests, where it nests in tall trees. The protection of these riparian belts will influence the survival in Namibia of numerous tropical species that just touch southern Africa.

Half-collared Kingfisher | *Alcedo semitorquata*

This aquatic species is confined to rivers mainly in east, central and southern Africa, with an isolated population in Ethiopia (Fry *et al.* 1992). In Namibia, it occurs in the north-east, along the Zambezi, Chobe, Kwando and Okavango rivers at a low reporting rate of 4.4% (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). An isolated population is also known from the lower Kunene River, and it has also been recorded on the upper Kunene River. To date no density estimates are available. It is most common in clear, fast-flowing streams and rivers, but it is absent from the Okavango Delta (Allan 1997o). Further work