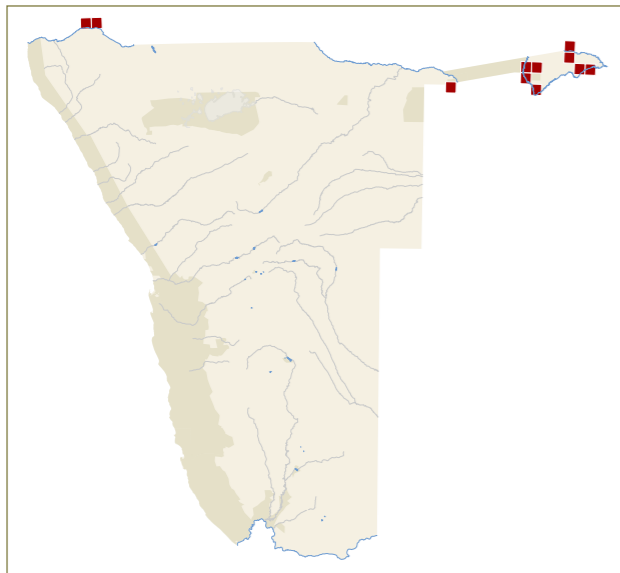


is required on this species, but at present it is unlikely that Namibia's population exceed the 5% threshold of African populations required for inclusion in a threat category. It is classified as *Near Threatened* in South Africa (Allan 2000b, Taylor *et al.* in press) because of an apparent decline in numbers in KwaZulu-Natal and lower than expected densities (20 birds per 10 km to one bird per 10 km of river) in various parts of its South African range (Allan 1997o).

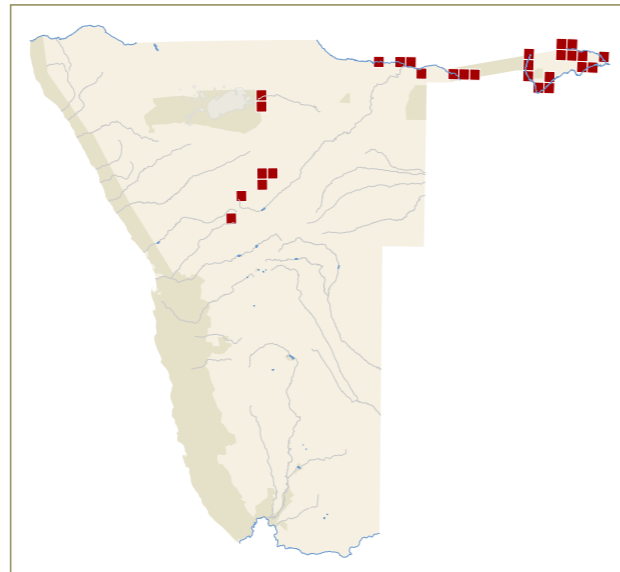
**African Pygmy-Kingfisher
(Pygmy Kingfisher) |
*Ispidina picta***



Like its half-collared sister species, this diminutive insectivore is surprisingly rare in the riparian and forested areas of northern Namibia (reporting rate of 5.1% from the Kwando, Chobe and Zambezi river riparian belts: Jarvis *et al.* 2001), missing from most of the Okavango Delta,

but widespread in eastern South Africa and throughout Zimbabwe (Clancey 1997a). Elsewhere, it occurs in forested habitat often near riverine forest south of the Sahara (del Hoyo *et al.* 2001). Its area of occupancy in Namibia is a mere 4,200 km². It has recently been recorded from the riparian belt along the Kunene River near Epupa Falls at a low density of 0.46 birds per 10 km of river (Simmons 1997o, Heinrich 2003). This is not an isolated population, but a southern extension of a distribution from Angola, where they are described as common (Dean 2000). The area is one of Namibia's 21 Important Bird Areas (Simmons *et al.* 2001b), but has no formal protection. No direct threats have been identified and the species is not considered threatened. The population in Namibia probably does not exceed 500 birds and therefore falls below the threshold of 5% of the world population occurring in Namibia, which is the requirement for inclusion in any threatened category.

**Brown-hooded Kingfisher |
*Halcyon albiventris***



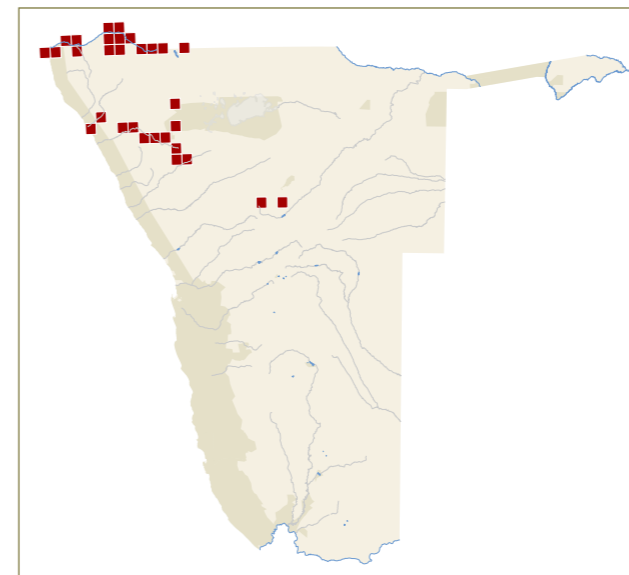
This terrestrial kingfisher is common in Zimbabwe and South Africa, but rare in Namibia, where it is confined to moist woodland associated with the Okavango, Kwando, Chobe and Zambezi rivers at a low reporting rate of 5%. Only one region around Katima Mulilo exhibits reporting rates above 25% (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It occupies an area of 12,600 km² in Namibia, of which 20% occurs in the protected areas of Mudumu and Nkasa Rupara (Mamili) national parks and the Mahango area of Bwabwata National Park (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Sightings also occur further south and west from Etosha National Park, the Waterberg Plateau Park and central Namibia (Clancey 1997b). There are no density estimates or nest records for this species from Namibia and it is not a conservation priority, given its abundance elsewhere.



© Carl-Hermann G Schlettwein

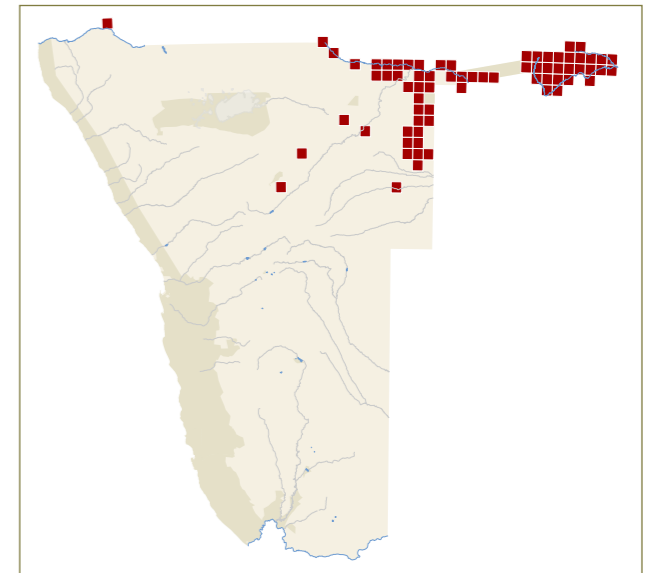
**Olive Bee-eater |
*Merops superciliosus***

This intra-African migrant only touches southern Africa in north-western Namibia, where it is locally common along the Kunene River and along a few ephemeral north-western rivers where it breeds. There are also scattered records in Zimbabwe and Mozambique (Underhill & Herremans 1997, Barnes 2005). It is divided into two subspecies, of which *M. s. alternans* breeds in Angola (Dean 2000) and Namibia and migrates to unknown quarters elsewhere in Africa (Fry *et al.* 1992, Barnes 2005). Population figures for Namibia are poorly known, but have been estimated at 3,000 to 5,000 birds (P Hockey in Barnes 2005). Densities of 9.2 bee-eaters per 10 km of the lower Kunene River (Simmons 1997p), with records from about 75% of the 344 km-long river (Underhill & Herremans 1997), give an estimate for the Kunene River of only about 250 birds. There are 16 breeding records for Namibia, including from the Huab River (S van der Reep pers. obs.), with egg-laying from September to January, but mainly November to January (Brown *et al.* 2015). The



species may move south as temperatures increase with climate change. These densities suggest that the population estimate of 3,000 to 5,000 birds may be too high and may be closer to 1,000 to 2,000 birds. They inhabit remote, unpopulated parts of Namibia and are therefore unlikely to be threatened in any way.

**Southern Carmine
Bee-eater (Carmine Bee-eater) |
*Merops nubicoides***



This bee-eater is more common in southern Africa than the Olive Bee-eater *M. superciliosus* and is also migratory within Africa. However, breeding colonies, which are found in northern and eastern Botswana, throughout Zimbabwe and the Caprivi Strip of Namibia, are often under threat (Barnes & Herremans 1997). Three colonies of unknown size were found during a survey of 60 km of the Zambezi River in October 2002 (L Scheepers unpubl. data), and a colony containing between 3,000 and 8,000 nest holes was found on the Zambezi River near Kalizo Lodge



© Carl-Hermann G Schlettwein