

This issue of *Lanioturdus* is devoted to the raptor workshop which was held at Waterberg Plateau Park from 18-19 February 2005. The workshop was organized by the Namibian Nature Foundation and was open to all who were interested in raptors.

CONTENTS

VOLUME 38 (3-4) 2005

BROWN, C. Welcome and introduction	1
BRIDGEFORD, P. & BRIDGEFORD, M. Status of vultures in Namibia	1
OSBORNE, T. & M. WINK. Taxonomy of African raptors with emphasis on Namibian species	7
BRIDGEFORD, P., BRIDGEFORD, M. & DÜRR M. Monitoring and ringing of Lappet-faced Vultures on the Namib:1991-2004	9
BRIDGEFORD, P & HEINRICH D. Ringing of African White-backed Vultures on commercial farms	13
MENDELSON, J, BROWN C., MENDELSON M. & DIEKMANN M. Observations on the movements of adult Cape Vultures in central Namibia	16
OWEN-SMITH, G. Raptor issues within conservancies	21
HENGARI, G. M., CUNNINGHAM P. L., & ADANK W. The use of vultures by traditional healers in Namibia	22
KOMEN, L. Where we are and where we can go with poison and raptors: a perspective from NARREC	29
ROBERTSON, T. & JARVIS A. Raptors and the Avifaunal Database	36
BRAINE, S. Raptor road counts - the need for continuation	45
JOUBERT, D. Raptor road counts with students at Polytechnic of Namibia.....	46
DIEKMANN, M. The capture and attachment of satellite- and radio-telemetry equipment on vultures in the Waterberg area	50
RAPTORS NAMIBIA. <i>Action Plan</i>	52

Welcome and introduction

Dr Chris Brown

Namibia Nature Foundation, PO Box245, Windhoek

Namibia's vultures, other diurnal raptors and owls are increasingly under threat from factors such as disturbance, particularly at breeding sites; the misuse of poisons and pesticides; electrocution and collisions with overhead lines; habitat degradation; persecution; illegal harvesting; and drowning in reservoirs.

Much work has been done on raptors in Namibia in the past. People have come and gone, however, resulting in a lull in activity which is now picking up again. By collaborating in a close-knit group rather than in isolation we will be able to achieve more, encouraging one another and pooling our resources in effective, coordinated synergies. There is also a need for new actions, which will be incorporated into existing programmes/initiatives where possible, with a focus on increasing public involvement.

This is why the time is right for our workshop on birds of prey at Waterberg Plateau Park on 18-19 February 2005. We are privileged to welcome a healthy mix of "old-time" raptor enthusiasts here who bring years of experience to the table, and a new cohort of young conservationists who will carry the flag into the future. One of our main outcomes will be to develop an action plan for these threatened birds (see the plan below).

Status of vultures in Namibia

Peter & Marilyn Bridgeford

Vulture Study Group Coordinator Namibia

pmbridge@iway.na

Introduction

Vulture research in Namibia started in the 1960's in the Namib Desert Park, now part of the Namib-Naukluft Park (NNP). Sauer (1973), Jensen (unpublished reports), Clinning (1978) and Brown (1985, 1986) all worked on vultures in the same area over the years. The present project of ringing Lappet-faced Vultures

Table 1. Number of vultures and storks captured at REST.

Date	Cape Griffon Vulture	African White-backed Vulture	Lappet-faced Vulture	Marabou Stork
18 Jan 2004	1	92	0	0
21 Mar 2004	2*	41	0	0
29 Apr 2004	1	152	1	0
27 Nov 2004	1	93	0	0
28 Nov 2004	1	91	0	1
4 Dec 2004	1	74	2	1
15 Jan 2005	1	34	1	2
15 Feb 2005	0	31	0	5
20 Feb 2005	0	41	6	1
21 Feb 2005	0	20	2	3
26 Mar 2005	0	67	0	8
<i>Total</i>	9	736	12	21

* includes one hybrid

RAPTORS NAMIBIA

Action Plan

RAPTORS UNDER PRESSURE

Namibia's vultures, other diurnal raptors and owls are increasingly under threat from factors such as disturbance, particularly at breeding sites; the misuse of poisons and pesticides; electrocution and collisions with overhead lines; habitat degradation; persecution; illegal harvesting; and drowning in reservoirs. The *Raptors Namibia* Action Plan was developed by a group of raptor enthusiasts at a Birds of Prey workshop at Waterberg Plateau Park on 18-19 February 2005, facilitated by Dr Chris Brown of Namibia Nature Foundation. Several of these actions are already being implemented, but will benefit by increased co-ordination; new actions will be incorporated into existing programmes/initiatives where possible, with a focus on increasing public involvement. The six-point plan identifies the following priorities:

1. **Promote co-ordination and communication**
 - 1.1 Appoint working group coordinators
 - 1.2 Develop a raptor working group with sub-groups for projects
 - 1.3 Promote coordination and communication for all projects below (see also 3)
2. **Obtain information/data**
 - 2.1 Assess/determine needs for further information
 - 2.2 Aerial surveys
 - Co-ordinate where possible
 - 2.3 Ringing programmes
 - Reassess rationale/objectives and continue with ringing programmes
 - Increase effort to obtain ring resightings/recoveries
 - Increase public involvement in programmes (see also 4)
 - 2.4 Satellite/radio tracking programmes
 - Continue with tracking programme for Cape Vultures
 - Expand the programme to other targeted species/areas
 - 2.5 Avifaunal database
 - Update existing database
 - Provide internet access to database
 - Determine procedures for entry of information by participants
 - 2.6 Raptor Roadcounts
 - Reinstate the programme
 - Popularise the roadcounts
 - Determine data needs to determine status and population trends; identify focal species
 - 2.7 Further research programmes
 - Traditional beliefs and knowledge of raptor
 - 2.8 Analyse data and provide feedback (see 3)
3. **Promote awareness and education**
 - 3.1 Target relevant audiences, working through existing initiatives where possible
 - Commercial and communal farming areas/conservancies
 - Roadcount participants, MET/MAWRD, bird/nature clubs

- Media
 - Schools, Polytechnic, UNAM
 - Tourists, tourism staff/guides
- 3.2 Methods/materials
- Newsletter, website, radio programmes, technical reports, electronic and hard copies, popular “fun” information, competitions, posters
 - Brochure on correct procedures for bird trapping and ringing (see 5.3)
 - Develop further awareness materials as required
- 4. Manage raptor populations and habitats by addressing threats**
- 4.1 Apply scientific results (see 2) for developing practical conservation measures
- 4.2 Prioritize and address threats outlined in Red Data Book, including:
- Disturbance, particularly at breeding sites
 - Misuse of poisons, pesticides and other agricultural chemicals
 - Electrocution and collisions with overhead lines
 - Habitat degradation
 - Direct persecution
 - Illegal harvesting
 - Investigate a sustainable supply for traditional medicine trade
 - Drowning in reservoirs
- 4.3 Develop species and/or area-based action plans in consultation with local communities (commercial and communal farms, conservancies) by:
- (1) promoting awareness of conservation issues;
 - (2) agreeing on priorities and process at a meeting; and
 - (3) implementing and supporting actions
- 4.4 See also 5
- 5. Build capacity**
- 5.1 Circulate a questionnaire to determine needs for implementing projects

- 5.2 Identify targets for capacity building
- Land custodians (see 4.3)
 - General public, especially youth and volunteers
 - Government institutions
- 5.3 Promote training and skills development through existing organizations/ initiatives
- Polytechnic, UNAM
 - Nam Bird Club
 - NamRingers
 - Recruit and provide training courses for new ringers
 - Compile a brochure on procedures for trapping and ringing (see 3.2)
- 5.4 Lobby with MET and/or like-minded institutions for ornithological posts/services
- 5.5 Increase financial capacity
- Investigate partnerships e.g. with BirdLife International, Wildlife Society, CBNRM agencies
 - Compile fundraising proposals
- 6. Define protocols and policy and promote the enforcement of legislation**
- 6.1 Compile list of priority species for blood sampling for DNA etc. and co-ordinate sampling protocol
- 6.2 Although important, further aspects under this point will be addressed on an ad hoc basis at this stage

CONTACT DETAILS OF COORDINATORS

Ann & Mike Scott, Swakopmund

Email: ecoserve@iway.na
 Tel./fax (064) 404-866
 Cell 081 284 5130

Pete & Marilyn Bridgeford,
 Walvis Bay

Email: pbridge@iway.na
 Tel. (064) 220-443
 Cell 081 260 7375