

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/326633715>

# Provisional atlas of breeding birds of Swakopmund in the coastal Namib Desert

Article · July 2018

---

CITATIONS

0

READS

10

1 author:



**Grzegorz Kopij**

University of Namibia

403 PUBLICATIONS 752 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE

Some of the authors of this publication are also working on these related projects:



SA kudu project [View project](#)



Przyroda Slaska Opolskiego [View project](#)

# LANIOTURDUS

Volume 51 No 2

June 2018



Journal of the Namibia Bird Club  
[www.namibiabirdclub.org](http://www.namibiabirdclub.org)

## **About the Namibia Bird Club**

The Namibia Bird Club was founded in 1962 and has been active since then. The club's mission is to contribute to Namibian ornithology by, amongst other things, arranging regular birding outings, conducting bird ringing and atlasing excursions and educating the public about the value of birds. To achieve this, we organise monthly visits to interesting birding sites around Windhoek as well as regular visits to Avis Dam and the Gammams Sewage Works and occasional weekend trips further afield. Bird club members also participate in the African Waterbird Census twice a year.

Experienced birders are more than happy to help beginners and novices on these outings. If you have a transport problem or would like to share transport please contact a committee member. Depending on the availability of speakers and suitable material we present occasional lecture or video evenings at the Namibia Scientific Society premises. Members receive the bird club's journal, *Lanioturdus* and outings and events are advertised on the club's website [www.namibiabirdclub.org](http://www.namibiabirdclub.org).

The Namibia Bird Club is not affiliated to any global or regional organisation and relies entirely on members' subscriptions and donations to fund its activities.

The opinions expressed in this journal are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Namibia Bird Club or its committee.



# LANIOTURDUS

Vol. 51 (2) 2018

June 2018

[www.namibiabirdclub.org](http://www.namibiabirdclub.org)

## CONTENTS

KOLBERG H	Editorial ..... <b>1</b>
KOPIJ G	Provisional atlas of breeding birds of Swakopmund in the coastal Namib Desert... <b>2</b>
DEMASIUS E	Axel Eriksson's "Memoir of Birds' Nests". ... <b>13</b>
KOLBERG H	Summary of the 2017 winter wetland bird counts in Namibia ..... <b>34</b>
THOMSON N	Identifying the females and non-breeding males of the <i>Vidua</i> species occurring in Windhoek ..... <b>38</b>
THOMSON N	Rarities and Interesting Observations ..... <b>40</b>
KOLBERG H	Bird Atlas Update ..... <b>47</b>
KOMEN L	Thank you! ..... <b>48</b>

Cover photo © Holger Kolberg

## **Editorial**

Holger Kolberg  
holgerk@afol.com.na

Winter is usually a time of dormancy and hibernation but this issue of *Lanioturdus* certainly has somewhat of a breeding flavour to it.

How many of us have birds breeding in our gardens? The only time we take notice is when the birds destroy our plants in their quest to gather nesting material or when we find a little chick that has dropped out of a nest before fledging.

We probably also notice the nests but how many of us have taken note of when the bird started building the nest, when were the eggs laid, hatching date etc.

Although a good summary of breeding data for the birds of Namibia has been published, it still contains many gaps and even when paging through 'The Bible' i.e. Roberts, it is amazing how little information is available about the breeding habits of some species.

In fact, I remember when Roberts VII was published, there was a list of 'missing information' published on the book's website and a lot of it pertained to breeding. I still have that list somewhere; perhaps it is time to dig it out...

Keep birding!

## Rarities and Interesting Observations

Compiled by Neil Thomson  
batqs@afol.com.na

Morne Pretorius atlasted a Black-tailed Godwit at Walvis Bay on 11 January 2018.

Ursula Franke-Bryson observed a Yellow-throated Sandgrouse at Farm Okatjirute Ost just north of Witvlei on 26 January 2018. This seems very far south for this species in Namibia.

On the weekend of 27 – 28 January 2018 Ulrich Hofmann heard and saw an African Mourning Dove at Farm Kakuse some 70 km north west of Tsumeb.

The Great Knot (see Lanioturdus 51[4]) was observed again at Walvis Bay on 31 January after which it disappeared until 05 February when it was seen again by Mark Boorman and others.

Gudrun Middendorff and I saw two Yellow-billed Kites at Nonidas on 01 February 2018. This is very far to the west for this species.

The wetland bird count at the Cape Cross lagoons on 02 February 2018 produced an Elegant Tern and two Red-necked Phalaropes.



**Figure 1:** Elegant Tern © Claire Kolberg

On 03 February 2018 a picture of a rallid seen on a farm near Gobabis was posted on the Birds of Namibia

Facebook page. The bird was tentatively identified as a juvenile Allen's Gallinule. This is not the first recent occurrence of this species far off its recognized range. In December 2016 one was reported at Farm Gomnab some 200 km south east of Windhoek – see Lanioturdus 50(2).

The wetland bird count at Walvis Bay on 03 February 2018 turned up an American Golden Plover and a Common Redshank while on 04 February a Red Phalarope and twelve Red-necked Phalaropes were seen in the Walvis Bay saltworks.



**Figure 2:** American Golden Plover © Neil Thomson

A single Glossy Ibis was seen at the Walvis Bay sewage ponds in the course of the wetland bird count there on 04 February 2018.

On 04 February 2018 a photograph of a Levillant's Cuckoo seen on a farm near the Kupferberg Pass was posted on the Birds of Namibia Facebook page.

Gudrun Middendorff and I saw a Peregrine Falcon at Langstrand on 05 February 2018. While not strictly a



rarity it is always nice to find species like this.

Toni Hart found another male Village Indigobird of the red billed form in Cimbebasia on 06 February 2018 while Emiliano Benolich found one in Klein Windhoek at about the same time.



**Figure 3:** Village Indigobird (red billed form) © Toni Hart

We (*that's Gudrun and Neil! – Ed.*) eventually found the Great Knot at Walvis Bay on 07 February 2018 after dipping several times.



**Figure 4:** Great Knot © Neil Thomson

Ulrich Hofmann photographed a bird in our Klein Windhoek garden on 08 February 2018 which Trevor Hardaker kindly identified as most probably a juvenile Sabota Lark. I have never seen a lark of any sort at this location in the thirty years I have lived there.



**Figure 5:** Probable juvenile Sabota Lark © Ulrich Hofmann

Large concentrations of Yellow-billed Kites, Abdim's Storks and Common Swifts were reported in the Wilhelmstal area in early February 2018.

The highlights of the Namibia Bird Club's morning walk at Avis Dam on 11 February 2018 were the sightings of a single White Stork and a small flock of Yellow-crowned Bishops, the latter a very uncommon species in the area.

On that same day Ulrich Hofmann saw two Woolly-necked Storks at Farm Kakuse about 70 km north west of Tsumeb.

Mel Kelly reported a European Honey Buzzard raiding paper wasp nests at her Finkenstein Estate home on 19 February 2018.



**Figure 6:** Peregrine Falcon © Eckart Demasius

On the same day Eckart Demasius found another Peregrine Falcon just

east of Usakos – again not really a rarity but a nice bird to find.

Paul Gascoigne and Helen Pooley found a single White Stork on a ploughed field just south of the Mururani Veterinary Control Point on 22 February 2018.



**Figure 7:** White Stork © Paul Gascoigne

Gudrun Middendorff and I saw a single Woolly-necked Stork about 40 km south of Otjiwarongo on 12 March 2018.

Also on 12 March 2018 Albert Voigts posted on the Birds of Namibia Facebook page a picture of a juvenile Black Sparrowhawk seen at the Tsumeb sewage works.

Ulrich Hofmann found a juvenile Saddle-billed Stork at the Tsumeb sewage works on 14 March 2018.

Uschi Kirchner again found a White Stork at Avis Dam on 18 March 2018 (see also above and below).

On the same day Franz Klein saw an adult African Harrier-Hawk in Eros.



**Figure 8:** Peregrine Falcon © Eckart Demasius

Eckart Demasius found yet another Peregrine Falcon west of Wilhelmstal on 19 March 2018.

Danie Brand reported a Saddle-billed Stork at Vreugde Guest Farm south of Okaukuejo on 23 March 2018.

Sibylle Hähner photographed a European Honey Buzzard in the Daan Viljoen Game Reserve on 25 March 2018. (There seem to be far fewer reported sightings of this species in Namibia in the summer of 2017/18 than there were in the previous summer. Were there fewer birds around or have people ceased reporting these, deeming that they are no longer newsworthy?)



**Figure 9:** European Honey Buzzard © Sibylle Hähner

A photograph of a Village Indigobird seen at Farm Krumhuk south of Windhoek was posted on the Birds of Namibia Facebook page on 27 March 2018.

Ulrich Hofmann saw a single Woolly-necked Stork at Fischer's Pan in the Etosha National Park on 31 March 2018.

On 31 March 2018 a single, rather off range, Eurasian Golden Oriole was seen at Keerweder in the NamibRand Nature Reserve by most participants



in the Namibia Bird Club's southern tour.



**Figure 10:** Eurasian Golden Oriole © Neil Thomson

Holger and Claire Kolberg were very surprised to find a single White Stork on the Keerweder landing strip that same day.



**Figure 11:** White Stork © Holger Kolberg

On the Easter weekend Chris and Gudrun Weaver found a ringed pair of Blue Cranes near Sueda/Charitsaub in the Etosha National Park. The ring numbers appear to be NHF and NHH (*NHF – ringed as a chick on 26 April 2006 by Holger Kolberg near Chudop, NHH – ringed as a chick on 12 March 2007 by Wilferd Versfeld east of Salvador – Ed.*). In addition they found an unringed pair of Blue Cranes with two unringed chicks at Fischer's Pan between Twee Palms and Aroe.



**Figure 12:** Blue Cranes © Chris Weaver

Eckart Demasius was rather surprised to find a juvenile Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk at Wlotzkasbaken on 11 April 2018. While there are a few SABAP2 records for this species at Walvis Bay, Swakopmund and Henties Bay, this seems to be the first SABAP2 record for Wlotzkasbaken.



**Figure 13:** Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk © Eckart Demasius

Gudrun Middendorff and I were somewhat taken aback to see a single Marabou Stork circling over our Klein Windhoek home on 14 April 2018.

On 17 April 2018 Gudrun Middendorff again found a single White Stork at Avis Dam (see above).

A rather lost African Paradise Flycatcher was photographed on Ichaboe Island on 21 April 2018. Given the time of the year it is highly likely that this bird is a reverse migrant. This species was then reported in Lüderitz on 29 April 2018 – surely another reverse migrant.

Danie Brand found a Woodland Kingfisher at Gammams Water Care Works on 25 April 2018. I am not aware of any other records of this species this late in the summer in central Namibia.

Wilfried Friederich informed us that he had seen at least two Bat Hawks in the vicinity of Windhoek cemetery on 25 April 2018. It is most probable that these are the same birds which for some time frequented a roost in von Eckenbrecher Street in Klein Windhoek but which they seem to have abandoned.

Wilferd Versfeld found a leucistic Namaqua Dove at Farm Windpoort just south of the Etosha National Park on 27 April 2018.



**Figure 14:** Leucistic Namaqua Dove - © Wilferd Versfeld

On 28 April Gudrun Middendorff saw two African Harrier Hawks, an adult and a juvenile, over Eros while on the other side of town Michael Houlden photographed a pale morph Booted Eagle over Rocky Crest.



**Figure 15:** Booted Eagle © Michael Houlden

On 30 April 2018 two White Storks were seen near Sossusvlei by Tracey Robb.

Gudrun Middendorff and I were rather surprised to find a Common (Steppe) Buzzard near Kombat on 04 May 2018 and even more surprised to find a single male Amur Falcon between Kombat and Otavi later that day. It seems to be very late in the year for these migratory raptors to be present in Namibia.



**Figure 16:** Amur Falcon © Neil Thomson



On 05 May 2018 Eckart Demasius found a Common Redshank at Walvis Bay Lagoon.

Sibylle Hähner photographed a Jackal Buzzard of the white-breasted morph at Regenstein just south of Windhoek on 10 May 2018. Jackal Buzzards (including white-breasted morph birds) are known to occur near Seeis but this is the first record of which I am aware in this area.



**Figure 17:** Jackal Buzzard © Sibylle Hähner

A single Ludwig's Bustard was found on 15 May 2018 by Eckart Demasius about 3 km beyond the end of the tar on the C28 east of Swakopmund. This seems to be fairly far west for this species although there are records close to Swakopmund.



**Figure 18:** Ludwig's Bustard © Eckart Demasius

In addition, Trevor Hardaker's SA Rare Bird News Reports mention the following rarities etc. seen in Namibia since the end of January 2018:-

After an absence of several days the Great Knot (see Lanioturdus 51[1])

was seen again on 30 January 2018 on the mudflats at Walvis Bay (see also above).

A European Honey Buzzard was reported near Noordoewer on 01 February 2018 while another was reported in Klein Windhoek on 08 February.

A Eurasian Oystercatcher was seen again near Pelican Point on 07 February 2018.

A European Honey Buzzard was seen at Daan Viljoen Game Reserve on 10 February 2018 while on the same day at least one Bat Hawk was seen at the usual roost in Klein Windhoek after an absence of several weeks.

The Great Knot was reported again at Walvis Bay on 11 February 2018.

A European Honey Buzzard was seen at Nfoma Village in the Zambezi Region on 13 February 2018 while a rather lost Great Reed Warbler was seen at Meob Bay between Lüderitz and Walvis Bay a few days previously.

A Red-necked Buzzard was reported at the Rundu sewage works on 19 February 2018.

An Eleonora's Falcon was photographed at Olifantsbad waterhole in the Etosha National Park on 20 February 2018. It seems that this is a new species for Namibia.

A Black-tailed Godwit and a Caspian Plover were seen on the Andoni Plains on 21 February 2018.

Yellow-throated Leafloves were seen again at Caprivi Houseboat Safari Lodge near Katima Mulilo on 24 February 2018 and a European Honey Buzzard was also found there that day.

An American Golden Plover was seen at the Nyae Nyae Pans on 27 February 2018 while three very lost looking Intermediate (Yellow-billed) Egrets were seen at Sossusvlei Lodge the following day.

The Great Knot put in another appearance at the Walvis Bay lagoon on 01 March 2018.

A European Honey Buzzard was reported in Olympia on 02 March 2018.

A Pectoral Sandpiper was seen at Mile 4 Saltworks on 03 March 2018 while an Elegant Tern was found at the same location on 05 March.

Two Elegant Terns and a Red Phalarope were reported at Mile 4 Saltworks on 10 March 2018 while two American Golden Plovers were seen at Walvis Bay on 12 March 2018.

A Green Sandpiper was recorded about 5 km south of Katima Mulilo on 12 March 2018.

On the same day a single Schalow's Turaco was seen at Shamvura Camp. This is a long way to the west of its recognized range.

Village Indigobirds and Jameson's Firefinches were reported at Grootfontein sewage works on 20 March 2018. (I can't help wondering whether the firefinches were again misidentified Red-billed Firefinches as this is the host species of the Village Indigobird – NT).

European Honey Buzzards were reported 10 km south of Rundu on 21 March 2018, at Shamvura Camp on 24 and 25 March and at Caprivi Houseboat Safari Lodge on 26 March.

A Northern Grey-headed Sparrow was seen in Rundu on 22 March 2018.

On 24 March 2018 a Red-necked Buzzard was found in the Kwando Core Area of the Bwabwata National Park. This constitutes only the ninth record of the species in southern Africa.

Yellow-throated Leafloves were reported again at Caprivi Houseboat Safari Lodge on 29 March 2018.

An American Golden Plover was seen again at Walvis Bay on 06 April 2018.