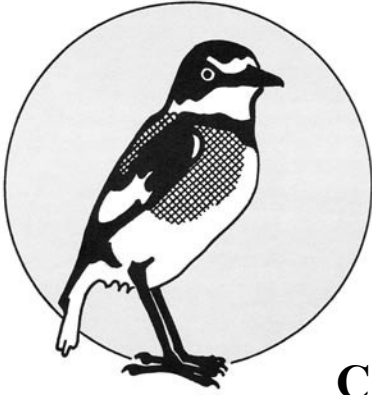


LANIOTURDUS



VOL. 42 (1)
2009

CONTENTS

THOMSON, N. Editorial	2
DEMASIUS, E. A Visit to the Vänersborg Museum	3
PATERSON, J. Blackcap, <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> , a New Record for Namibia	10
PATERSON, J. Sooty Tern, <i>Sterna fuscata</i> , a New Record for Namibia	12
KOLBERG, H. Summary of the 2007 Ringing Season in Namibia	15
THOMSON, N. Some highlights of a Birding/Ringing Trip to the Kunene	21
RARITIES AND INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS	26

RARITY SIGHTINGS AND INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS

On 11 November 2008 Mark Boorman observed a colour flagged sanderling at the Mile 4 Saltworks north of Swakopmund. Investigation revealed that this bird had been ringed at Asenko Village in Ghana on its southward migration in 2007.

On 16 November 2008 Sakkie von Plato reported two African black ducks at Avis dam, Windhoek. This sighting is somewhat unusual as a large expanse of open water is not the preferred habitat of this species. They are usually found in streams of running water and have been recorded various locations in central and southern Namibia including Monte Christo Guest Farm north of Windhoek and at Kub on the Fish River.

On 17 November 2008 Mark Paxton reported a single wattled crane on the Angolan side of the Okavango River near Shamvura.

Rolf Adrian reported a single glossy ibis at von Bach Dam near Okahandja on 20 January 2009. Although there are a few records of this species in central Namibia this is an unusual sighting. Given the recent report of this species at Swakopmund and the reports of hadeda ibises in and around Windhoek one must wonder whether we are seeing the beginning of range extensions of the ibis species. The glossy ibis at the Swakop River mouth was seen by Gudrun and myself again on 25/01/2009.

The summer birdcount of the Ramsar site at Walvis Bay on 24 & 25 January 2009 produced three red-necked phalaropes, one European oystercatcher, one common black headed gull and two terek sandpipers. The tereks do not seem to be regarded as southern African rarities but they are certainly not common on the Namibian coast.

On 26 January 2009 I saw three white storks about 10 km east of Karibib. This is furthest west that I can recall seeing this species although there are a number of Atlas records further to the west.

Trevor Hardaker's SA Rare Bird News Reports mention the following rarities seen in Namibia since November 2008:-

Firstly a "megatick" for those lucky enough to have seen it. The fourth great knot recorded in southern Africa was seen at Walvis Bay on 24 November 2008. The bird was present for several days and was seen by, inter alia, Mark Boorman and John Paterson among local birders.

On 16 November 2008 Mark Boorman reported a single American golden plover at the Swakop River mouth. In mid January 2009 there were two of these birds present at this location and on 25 January 2009 one was seen by Gudrun and myself.

Common redshank continued to show itself regularly at the Mile 4 Salt Works and two birds were present on 08 January 2009.

A Western marsh harrier was reported from Shamvura on 15 January 2009.

A grey plover was seen near Mahango Lodge on 04 January 2009. Although there are inland records for this species it is not common away from the coast and there are no atlas records for this species in this vicinity.

Older records

Some older records recently received from Günther and Tineke Friedrich from the Rundu vicinity include a tree pipit seen on 10 October 2007 which was not recorded at all from this area during the atlas period with the nearest records being at least 130 km further to the east. Also African harrier-hawk and grey-backed sparrowlark in this area. In the Atlas of Southern African Birds the reporting rate for these two species in this area is less than 2%. They also reported an Osprey seen near their home on Farm Tsutsab in the Tsintsabis area on 15 October 2007. This was only their second sighting of this species here with the first being on 21 August 2004.

Neil Thomson

The Namibia Bird Club was founded in 1962 and has been active since then. We organize monthly visits to interesting birding sites around Windhoek as well as regular visits to Avis Dam and the Gammams Sewerage Works and occasional weekend trips further afield.

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 have lecture or video evenings at the Namibia Scientific Society premises. Members receive a programme of forthcoming events (the Bird Call Newsletter) and the Bird Club journal, Lanioturdus.

Membership Fees 2009

Members can receive a discounted subscription to the *Africa Birds and Birding* magazine. The fees below are with and without this subscription.

Category	Without	With
Single member	N\$ 120	N\$ 300
Family membership (Husband, wife, children)	N\$ 140	N\$ 320
Junior member (All scholars and students)	N\$ 80	N\$ 260
Pensioner	N\$ 80	N\$ 260
Foreign member (Not resident in Namibia)	N\$ 165	N/A
Corporate membership		N\$ 400

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