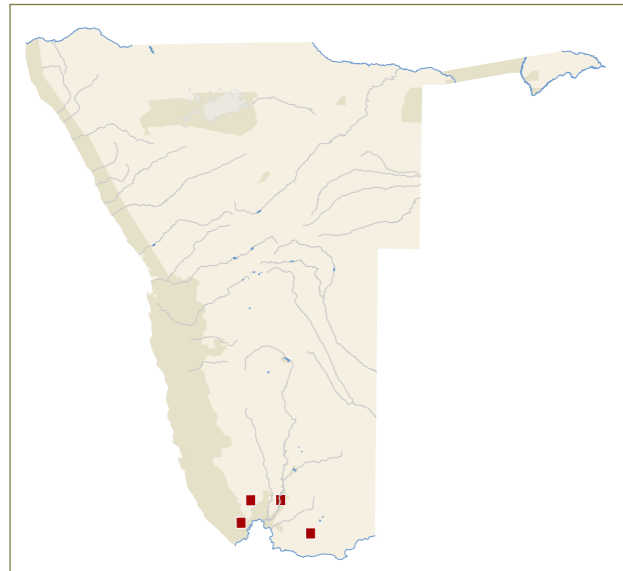


in a variety of broad-leaved woodland, it is almost certainly under-recorded in the north-east of Namibia. It occupies an area of 4,000 km², of which 38% occurs in the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park and the Mudumu National Park (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). This species is not a conservation priority in Namibia.

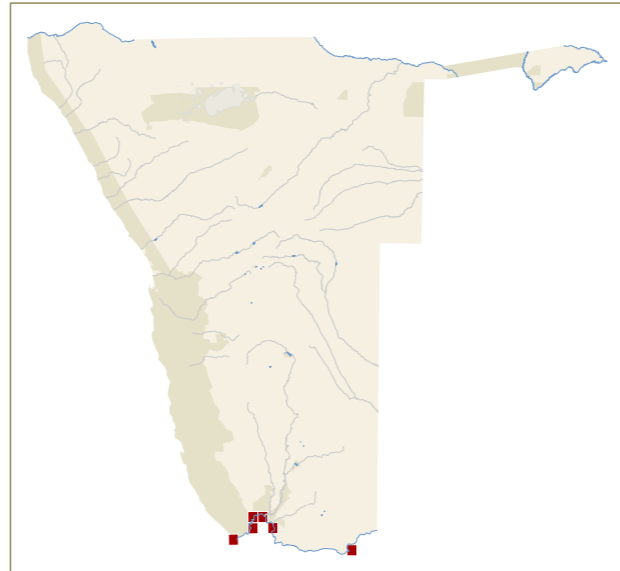
**Cape Clapper Lark |
*Mirafra apiata***



This southern African endemic enters the extreme south of Namibia from across the Orange River in South Africa. There are only a few scattered records from Namibia and, because of its close resemblance to the Eastern Clapper Lark *M. fasciolata*, the latter being common in Namibia, the possibility of misidentification cannot be ruled out. There is a small, seemingly semi-isolated population of Cape Clapper Larks in the area of Pofadder-Aggeney-Pella in the northern Cape, which extends north to the Orange River (Ryan & Dean 2005a), but as the Namibian side is largely inaccessible, it has not been surveyed. Nonetheless, the Cape Clapper Lark is likely to be more common in the far south of Namibia than current records suggest, and this region should be prioritised for future survey work.

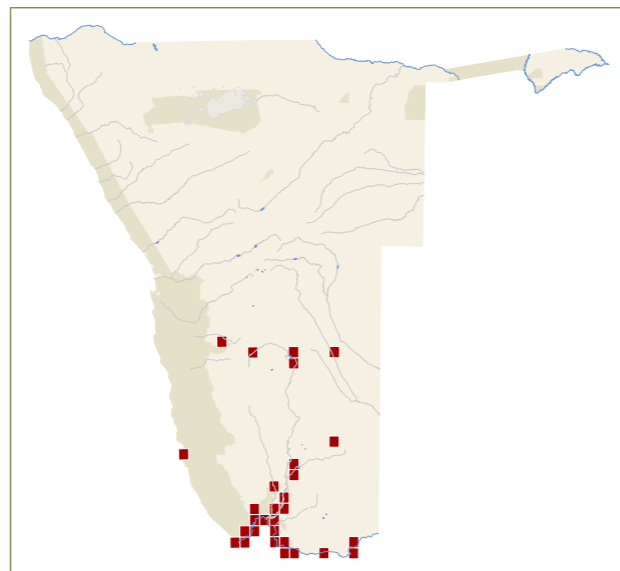
**Large-billed Lark (Thick-billed Lark) |
*Galerida magnirostris***

A southern African endemic species, this bird is found almost exclusively within South Africa and Lesotho, just crossing the Orange River into the extreme south of Namibia. It occurs along almost the full length of the south bank of the Orange River on Namibia's southern border, but surprisingly, there are only a handful of records of this relatively distinctive lark from southern Namibia. It is undoubtedly under-recorded. It favours



semi-arid grassland, dwarf shrubland and succulent Karoo, fallow crop-fields, degraded rangelands and shrub-lined watercourses (Dean 2005f). It is one of the few species that has benefited from poor range management. The extreme southern regions of Namibia have received relatively little ornithological attention and survey work would be beneficial to elucidate the status of this and a number of other poorly known species in Namibia.

**Karoo Thrush |
*Turdus smithi***



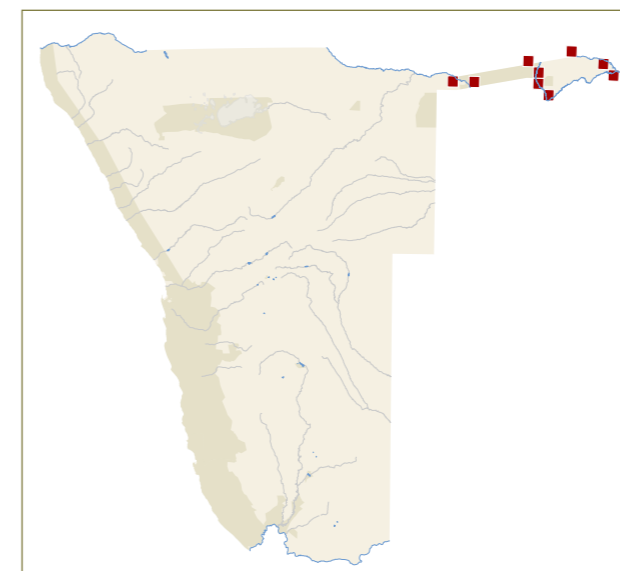
A widespread and common southern African species endemic to the Karoo, it is found along the Orange and Fish rivers in Namibia and occurs over an area of about 14,000 km² (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It favours riverine vegetation and gardens (Johnson 2005b). Scattered records occur farther north in the Naukluft rivers, the Mariental-Stampriet area (Johnson 2005b) and Lüderitz (J

© Jessica Kemper



Kemper pers. obs.), which may be related to the irrigation and/or urban development in some of these areas. It is partially protected in 1,800 km² of protected area along the Orange River, and also within the previous mining area around Oranjemund, which falls into the Tsau//Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park. Despite its abundance along the Orange River, there are only two nest records, both from the Mariental region (Brown *et al.* 2015). Breeding in Lüderitz is suspected but has not been confirmed (J Kemper pers. obs.).

**Red-capped Robin-Chat
(Natal Robin) |
*Cossypha natalensis***



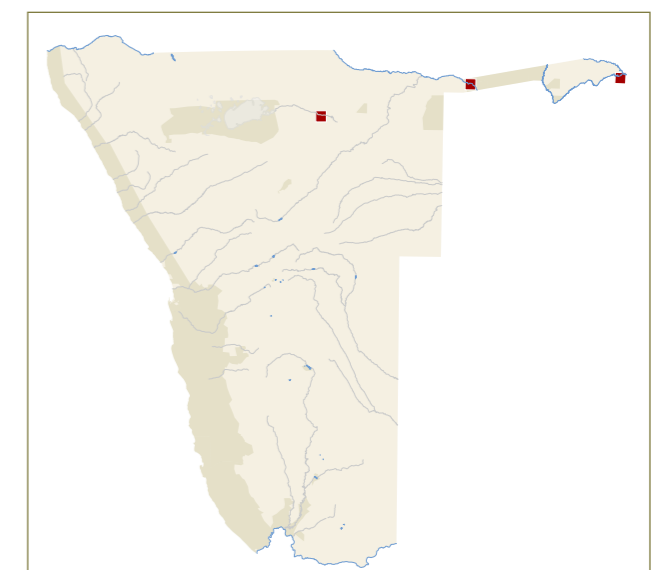
This is a very widespread species of the underbrush of evergreen coastal and riverine forest across Africa (Oatley 1997e). However, it is a very rare species in Namibia with a reporting rate of 4%, and is distributed sparsely along the Zambezi, Kwando and Okavango rivers. It occupies an area of 4,000 km², of which 37% occurs in the protected area of Nkasa Rupara (Mamili)



© Eckart Demasius

National Park and the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park in West Caprivi (Oatley 1997e, Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is more likely to be heard than seen and this may account for all the records clustering around November and January in Namibia, when birds may be breeding and singing (Oatley & Arnott 1998). However, it is also a migrant, seeking evergreen habitats in the dry season and moving to more open scrub habitat in the wet season (Oatley & Arnott 1998). This may equally explain the seasonal sighting records for Namibia. It is not threatened in Africa because of its wide distribution, but human subsistence pressure on riverine forest in Namibia is often intense (Mendelsohn & el Obeid 2004) and this may locally reduce some populations.

**Collared Palm-Thrush |
*Cichladusa arquata***



This species just enters southern Africa along the Zambezi River in Zimbabwe from the north-east to Kasane on Namibia's eastern-most border. It depends upon *Hyphaene* and *Borassus* palms but is highly localised and does not