



CONTENTS

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------|
| THOMSON N | Editorial | 1 |
| DEMASIUS E | Roberts Geographical Variation of Southern African Birds | 3 |
| FRIEDERICH G | A Zambian Birding Experience – Part 3 | 6 |
| KOLBERG H | Summary of the 2012 Ringing Year in Namibia | 16 |
| DEMASIUS E | Cuckoo – African or Common? | 19 |
| KOLBERG H | Trends in Namibian Waterbird Populations 9 : Waders and Shorebirds – Part 3 | 21 |
| BARTLEWSKI S | Some Conservation Efforts in other Countries | 27 |
| SKINNER G | Birding Central and Northern Namibia – 10 to 20 October 2012 | 28 |
| KOLBERG H | Summary of the 2012 Winter Wetland Bird Counts in Namibia | 34 |
| THOMSON N | Colour Rings on Sociable Weavers | 34 |
| AN APPEAL BY TREVOR HARDAKER | | 35 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| ATLAS UPDATE | 36 |
| RARITIES AND INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS | 37 |

Editorial

Normally I would have been tempted to devote a good part of the editorial space to another two species which have allegedly turned up in the northwest of Namibia. These birds were allegedly seen by one of the region's top birders but the validity of these claims appears to be in doubt and hopefully I will obtain more information and will be in a better position to comment in a future edition.

However, my editorial comment concerning previous sightings of Black Skimmers in Southern Africa (Lanioturdus 46 (1)) seems to have raised some lively debate and I think it is only right to conclude this issue now.

I published Tony Tree's response in Lanioturdus 46(2) and this has in turn solicited a response from Joris Komen which I am reproducing here. I am going along with Joris's closing remark that this matter should now be put to rest and I will not publish any further correspondence on this matter.

Joris's response reads:-

photographic record. Trevor Hardaker has done likewise for South Africa.

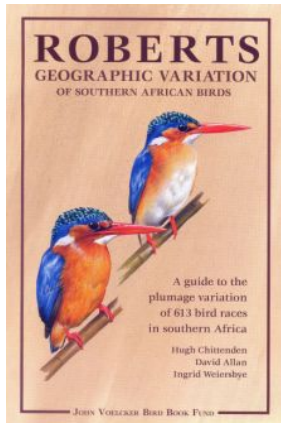
Frankly? Let's put the saga to rest. Liz and I got a thrill out of seeing this wayward vagrant in Rundu so very long ago, but I have no intention of holding this first Africa record to ransom."

Roberts Geographic Variation of

Southern African Birds

Eckart Demasius
e-b.de@iway.na

New books appear on the market towards the end of the year, presumably to make the work of Father Christmas a bit easier – and in my case he was very obliging.



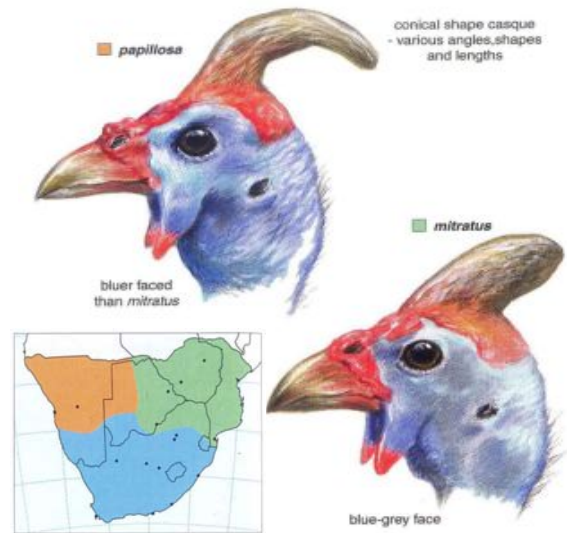
examples from the neighbouring regions.

The comparative paintings are exceptionally good and clearly show the variations in colour of the birds. Along with these go clear descriptions of the colouration of the various races as well as distribution maps indicating the distributions of the respective races that can be seen.

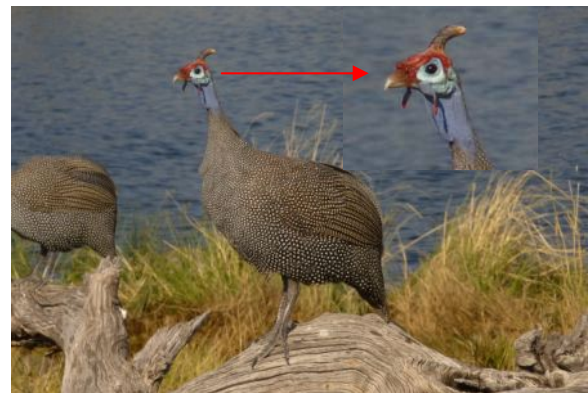
I started reading this new book authored by Hugh Chittenden, David Allen and Ingrid Weiersbye with interest and I found a number of birds with variations that can be seen in Namibia or can be compared with the neighbouring regions.

Most of us are aware that birds usually appear lighter coloured in the western areas than further east. But how do these variations really show in nature? Well, I thought, let me have a look at some of my photographs.

The Helmeted Guineafowl shows some facial colour variations and it wears a different head dress i.e. the casque on the head in Namibia differs from the southern race.



Comparing this with some of my photographs I found that some of the stated differences are indeed very visible.



Helmeted Guineafowl in Etosha, *Numida meleagras papillosa*, versus



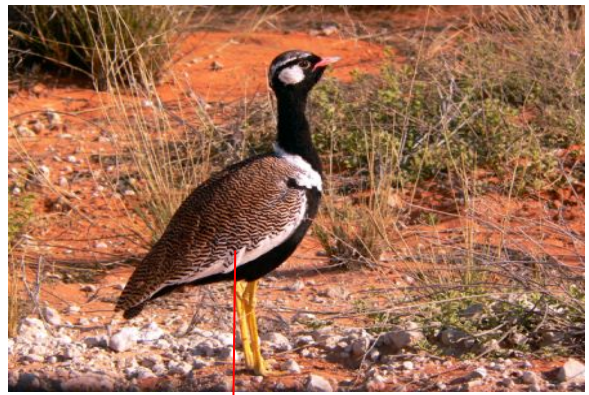
Helmeted Guineafowl, *N m mitratus*, at the Amphitheatre in the Drakensberg, South Africa.

An additional challenge with guineafowl is that a lot of hybridised fowl are around, which may lead to confusion.

Two races of Northern Black Korhaan are seen in Namibia, *Afrotis afroides etoschae* in the north and *A a damarensis* in the south. My photographs clearly show the difference in colouration as described in the book:



A a etoschae, with whiter back and wider spacing of barring, compared to...



A a damarensis, with darker plumaged back.

Sabota Lark has eight different races on offer and four of those can be seen in Namibia, *Calendulauda sabota waibeli* in the north, *C s herero* in central and southern Namibia, *C s naevia* in the west and *ansorgei* in the far north west of the country.

I have photographs of Sabota Lark from three of these regions and they appear as described in the book.



C s waibeli, “greyer than *ansorgei* and with white feather margins to upperparts”, compared to



C s naevia with “lightly streaked breast” and



compared to *C s herero*, “overall browner than *naevia*.”

The usually overall drab looking Familiar Chat also shows the different colouration of the two races seen in Namibia very well:



Cercomela familiaris angolensis occurs in the north more greyish than nominate; underparts washed cinnamon.



C f galtoni, overall pale greyish-brown to sandy brown in the south of the country.

Some of our colourful birds also show colour variations and an example referred to here is Meves’s Starling. An isolated race, *Lamprotornis mevesii violacior*, occurs in the north west of Namibia and the more blue nominate in the north east of the country.



L m violacior with violet sheen to upper breast and upperparts photographed at Hobatere.



L m mevesii with blue iridescence to upper breast and upperparts, belly

purple glossed photographed at Mahangu Safari Lodge.

Malachite Kingfishers occur along our perinneal rivers but they differ significantly in colouration from the Malachites occurring further south and east of Namibia in that “ours” has a white chest and belly compared to the darker underparts of the other two races.



Corythornis cristatus longirostris with white chest and belly photographed on the Okavango River, Mahango Game Reserve.



C c cristatus with darker chest and lower belly but paler than in *canostigma* photographed at Zinkwazi Lagoon, KwaZulu Natal.

However, the Common Fiscal and Rüppell’s Korhaan drew my attention:

The book indicates a number of races of the Common Fiscal in Namibia with *Lanius collaris capelli* in the north without the clear white supercilium,

something I have not yet encountered. All my Etosha photographs of the Common Fiscal show a clear white supercilium and the same applies to the southern race, *L c collaris*, which is indicated to occur south of Keetmanshoop.

Rüppell’s Korhaan has two races, *Eupodotis rueppellii rueppellii* in the north being described with *paler brown back and whiter belly*, whilst *E r fitzsimonsi* appears with *a pale white breast*. I could also not detect these differences on any of my Rüppell’s Korhaan photographs.

Defenitely something to keep the eyes wide open for.

I believe this book is a welcome addition to our range of bird books, it widens the scope of birding and will no doubt be a constant companion of mine in the bush.

A Zambian Birding Experience Trip 3 – 6 July 2012 (Part 3)

Günther Friederich
bateleur@iway.na

with input from
Nick Buys and Katy Sharpe
tutwasafaris@mweb.com.na
Jutta Surèn

In Part 2, a report was given about the second leg of the first organized trip to develop a birding route into south western Zambia. This trip was lead by “Caprivi Birding Safaris/Tutwa Tourism and Travel”, sponsored by “Birding Africa”. Three participants from the Namibia Bird Club joined. Nick Buys and Katy Sharpe were the guides; the participants Günther Friederich (author of this article), Jutta Surèn and Werner von Maltzahn.