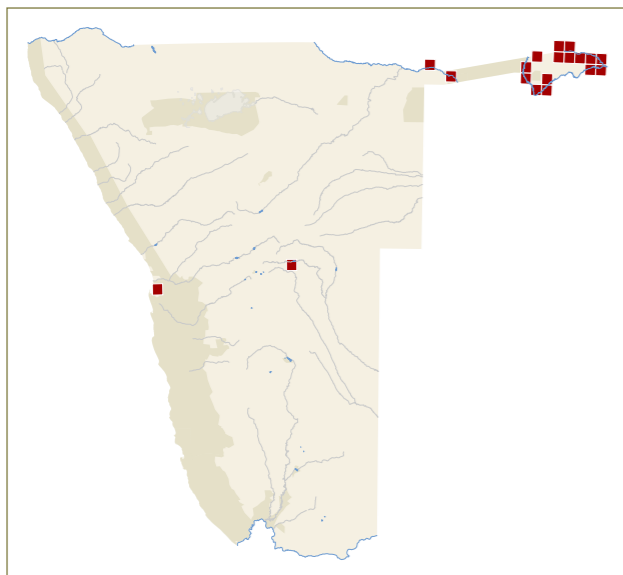




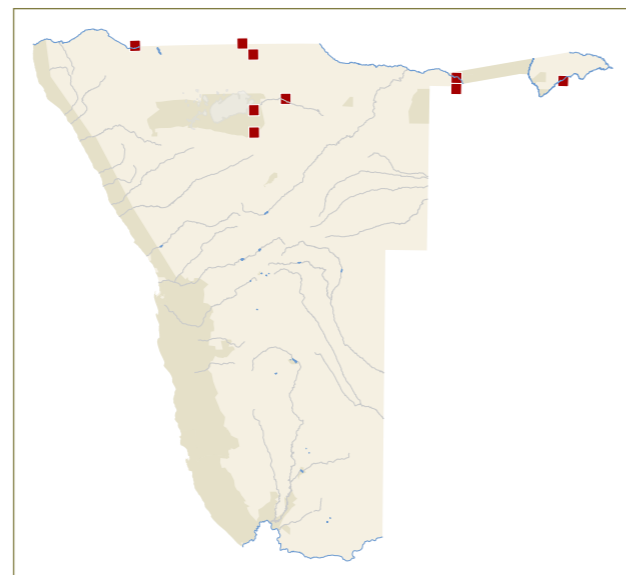
it is found on tropical rivers and swamps (Ward & Herremans 1997, Wetlands International 2002), but has been recorded near Windhoek and Walvis Bay. It occupies an area of 10,000 km² in Namibia, of which 22% occurs in protected areas, including the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park, and the Mudumu and Nkasa Rupara (Mamili) national parks (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is commonly found on the Chobe River at an average density of 2.0 birds per 10 km of river (Ward and Herremans 1997). On the Zambezi River, it occurs at a density of 6.0 birds per 10 km (R and V Sparg in Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Up to 31 birds have been recorded in the Bwabwata National Park (M Paxton in Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Extrapolation to all the rivers where it is found (Zambezi, Chobe, Okavango and Kwando) gives an estimate of about 200 birds for Namibia, contributing about 0.4% to the world population. It is not classified as threatened anywhere, but degradation of riverine banks may force birds out of previously occupied habitats.

White-crowned Lapwing (White-crowned Plover) | *Vanellus albiceps*



This tropical riverine species is found in sub-Saharan Africa from western to central Africa, with a break in distribution before it re-appears on the eastern side of southern Africa (Ward 1997, Wetlands International 2002). In Namibia, where it is resident, it is found only on sandy or muddy banks of the north-eastern rivers, including the Okavango and Kwando rivers, but its core population occurs on the Zambezi and Chobe rivers. It occupies an area of 7,300 km² in Namibia, of which 16% occurs in protected areas such as Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park and the Mudumu and Nkasa Rupara (Mamili) national parks. Breeding takes place between September and November (Ward 1997). Namibian wetland surveys indicate a mean of 11 birds per 10 km on the Zambezi River, giving a possible total of 170 birds for the 155 km section in Namibia (R Sparg, V Sparg in Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Assuming similar densities on the 185 km stretch of the Chobe River, the 170 km Kwando River and the latter sections of the Okavango River (approximately 125 km), Namibia's population is estimated at fewer than 550 birds. If the apparently isolated population in south-eastern Africa numbers about 20,000 to 50,000 birds (Wetlands International 2002), Namibia's contribution is about 1%. Wetland degradation may influence this species in future, so wetland counts should be continued to monitor population numbers in Namibia. It is classified as *Near Threatened* in South Africa because of the drying of rivers on which it occurs (Barnes 2000a).

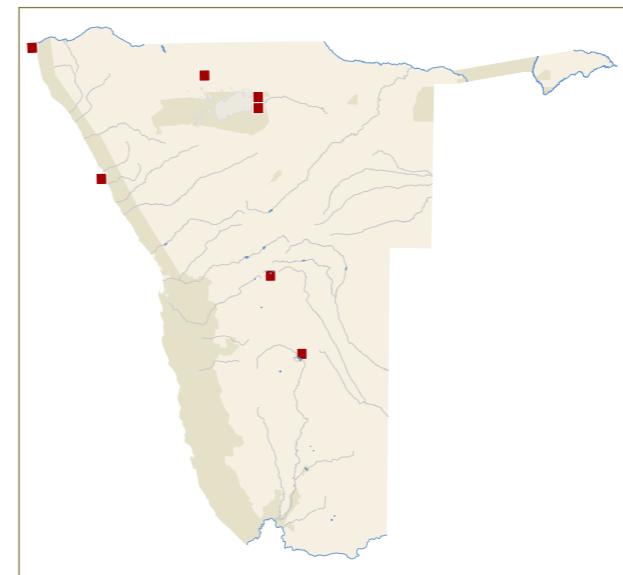
Three-banded Courser | *Rhinoptilus cinctus*



A nocturnal and rarely recorded species in Namibia, this species extends in a very narrow band northwards to Somalia and Sudan (Urban *et al.* 1986). The southern African subspecies *R. c. seebohmi* is found almost entirely in Zimbabwe (Tree 1997g). Namibia's records

are confined to the Etosha National Park, the northern border and patches in the north-east. A population of resident breeders is suspected to occur about 70 km north-west of Tsumeb (N Thomson pers. comm.). It occupies an area of 3,600 km² in Namibia, of which 48% occurs in the protected areas of Etosha National Park and the Mahango area in the Bwabwata National Park (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It favours *Acacia* and Mopane woodlands on alluvial soils and is generally noted on dirt roads at night or by its distinctive call (Tree 1997g). Population size of the subspecies *R. c. seebohmi* is estimated at 10,000 to 25,000 birds (Wetlands International 2002); its population size in Namibia is very small, although it may be more widespread than currently recorded. It is not currently considered to be a conservation priority anywhere.

Lesser Black-backed Gull | *Larus fuscus*

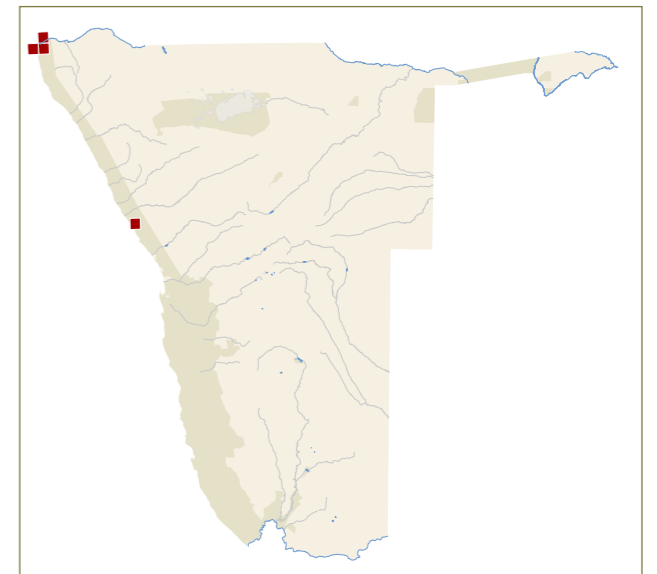


This common northern hemisphere gull migrates into Africa in a long distributional tail through Tanzania south to South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal coast, with a few birds each year reaching Etosha National Park and occasionally Hardap Dam. They are most commonly recorded in eastern Etosha, with five records of birds from Namutoni, an immature from Lake Oponono, and birds from Windhoek, Hardap Dam, Swakopmund and two from the Kunene River mouth (Nebe 1999, Jarvis *et al.* 2001, Paterson *et al.* 2009). This species may occur each year, but is overlooked and passed off as an out-of-range Kelp Gull *L. dominicanus*. All large dark-backed gulls inland of the coast need to be carefully scrutinised. The first ever ringing recovery for this species in southern Africa came from Torra Bay (Skeleton Coast) in December 2001. This record originated from southern Sweden, 9,000 km away (Oschadleus 2002). The bird was an immature and would be difficult to distinguish from



the resident Kelp Gulls. The world population size of the Eurasian nominate race of this gull is estimated at 156,000 to 228,000 birds (Wetlands International 2002). It is a curiosity rather than a conservation priority in Namibia.

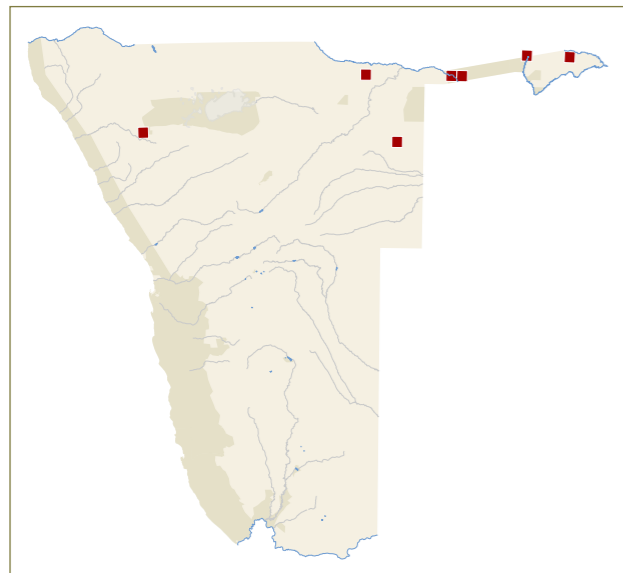
Royal Tern | *Thalasseus maximus* (*Sterna maxima*)



This species has a very wide distribution, breeding in the Americas as well as West Africa from Mauritania to Senegal (del Hoyo *et al.* 1996). It is the non-breeding migrants that populate the Angolan coast from September to January and densities along the Baia dos Tigres coast immediately north of the Kunene River mouth were reported as 349 birds in 175 km of sandy beach (20 birds per 10 km of coastline: Simmons *et al.* 2006b). The Kunene River mouth is the only locality where they are recorded regularly in the southern African sub-region (Paterson *et al.* 2009) and from where the first specimens

in southern Africa were collected (Komen & Paterson 1999). Although only four birds were recorded in 12 years of wetlands monitoring – three at the Kunene River mouth and one at Ugabmond (data in Jarvis *et al.* 2001) – several other records have been reported from the Kunene River mouth, including flocks of between one and 26 birds from July 2002 to 2006, and one from Walvis Bay (Sinclair & Turner 1981, Braine 1988, Ryan 1997e, Anderson *et al.* 2001, Paterson 2007, Paterson *et al.* 2009). Sightings are commonest between December and March, and may be related to seasonal movements of the warm Angola-Benguela front south into Namibia (Komen & Paterson 1999); sightings of Royal Terns may become more frequent as the Angola-Benguela front moves further south on a more regular basis (Roux 2003, Paterson *et al.* 2009). The breeding population from West Africa has been estimated at 225,000 individuals (Nagy *et al.* 2012) and it is neither globally nor locally threatened, even though some breeding terns are caught for food by local inhabitants in West Africa (T Dodman pers. comm.).

**African Cuckoo Hawk
(Cuckoo Hawk) |
*Aviceda cuculoides***



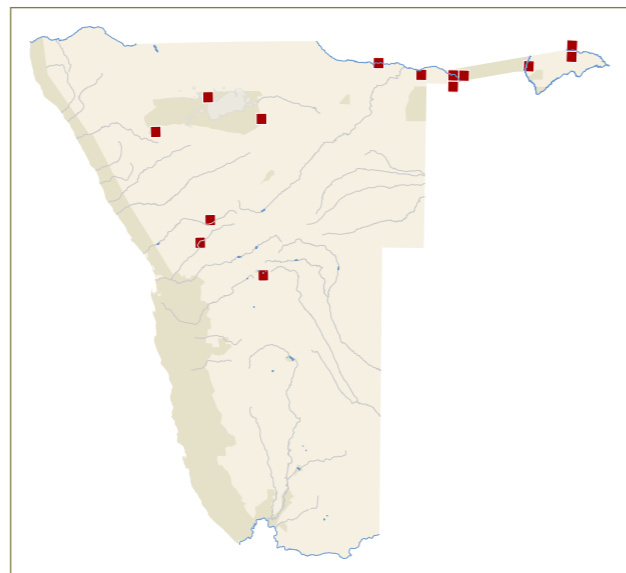
This species prefers the moist woodlands and forests of sub-Saharan Africa and is thus confined in Namibia to the north-eastern parts of the country (Jenkins 1997b). It is uncommon (or overlooked) in the forests of Zimbabwe and eastern South Africa, and a few records exist for Namibia, mainly from the Zambezi region. It probably extends its range in wet years (Tarboton & Allan 1984, AJ Tree in Jenkins 1997b), explaining its presence in areas west of Etosha National Park and a breeding pair with a subadult in the broad-leaved woodlands near Tsumkwe (RE Simmons pers. obs.). Raptor road counts indicate only 0.2 birds per 1,000 km in the north-east woodlands



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and there are no breeding records (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Population size is unrecorded in Namibia, but is not likely to exceed 200 birds in an area of occupancy of 3,900 km² (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is unlikely to have declined in population size, but forest degradation, especially along rivers in the Kavango and Zambezi regions, may decrease the chances of birds occurring there.

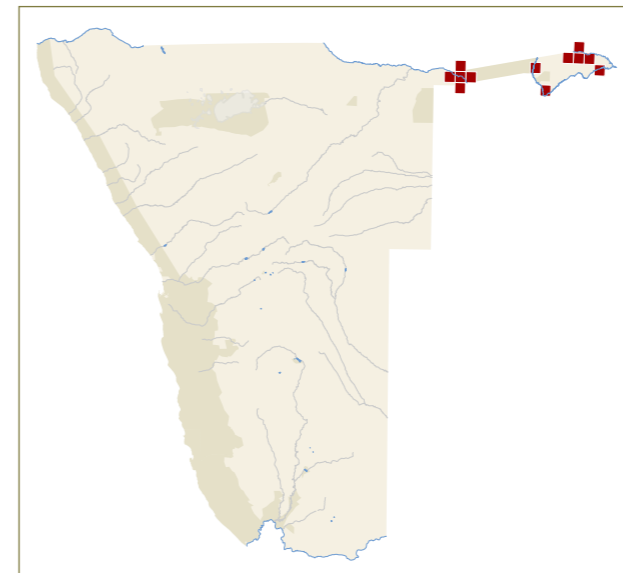
**Bat Hawk |
*Macheiramphus alcinus***



This secretive and crepuscular bat-specialist is rare or overlooked throughout sub-Saharan Africa and Asia (Steyn 1982). It is only found with any regularity in the woodlands around the Zambezi River in Zimbabwe (Jenkins 1997c), and less so in the Chobe woodlands of Botswana. In Namibia, it has been recorded from the riverine woodlands

of the Zambezi, Chobe, Kwandu and Okavango rivers and the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park, at a reporting rate of about 5% (Jenkins 1997c). It has also been reported from Farm Kakuse, about 70 km north-west of Tsumeb. It is no longer recorded at Otjimbingwe on the Swakop River (W Swanepoel pers. comm.), where the southern African population has previously been described (Hustler & Dean 2005). Its area of occupancy in Namibia is 7,000 km² (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Birds have been sighted in Etosha National Park and are regularly seen in eucalyptus trees alongside the Omaruru River at Omaruru (CJ Brown pers. obs.). The main sightings occur in November (Jenkins 1997c), the middle of its breeding season elsewhere (Hartley & Hustler 1993). There are no breeding records for Namibia (Jarvis *et al.* 2001), and the Namibian population is unlikely to exceed 100 birds. Its classification as *Near Threatened* in South Africa (Barnes 2000) has recently been revised to *Endangered* (Taylor *et al.* in press). It is not globally threatened.

**Western Banded
Snake-Eagle |
*Circaetus cinerascens***



This species occurs patchily through western Africa (Senegal) and central Africa, entering Ethiopia along the Blue Nile. It is absent from central African forests and appears again in northern Angola and Zambia (Brown *et al.* 1982). In southern Africa, it is highly restricted to Zimbabwe, especially along the Zambezi River (Edwards 1985), and Botswana's Okavango Delta (Herremans 1997b). It is an uncommon resident in Namibia: an estimated four pairs were recorded in the last 50 km of the Okavango River and no more than 10 pairs in the Zambezi region in the riverine woodland along the Chobe and Zambezi rivers (Brown & Hines 1987). Two nests in Namibia had eggs laid in March



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and June (Brown *et al.* 2015). Elsewhere, the breeding period is between December and March (Simmons 2005b, Tarboton 2011). Its area of occupancy in Namibia is 6,000 km² (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is not listed as threatened globally, although there is some evidence of habitat degradation in north-eastern Namibia's riverine habitat (Brown & Hines 1987), because of high human and elephant population pressure there (Mendelsohn & el Obeid 2004).

**African Goshawk |
*Accipiter tachiro***

This small, secretive hawk occurs widely through forests and woodlands of sub-Saharan Africa (Brown *et al.* 1982), and may occur at high breeding densities in the parts of southern Africa where it is found. It occurs extensively through Zimbabwe, in northern South Africa and along South Africa's east and south coasts (Allan 1997g). In Namibia, it occurs only in the north-east (at a reporting rate of about 2% to 14%), with two records from the Okavango River further west (Allan 1997g). It occupies an area of 5,300 km² (Jarvis *et al.* 2001), and although it is expected to breed in Namibia, there are no nesting records. It is not threatened globally or in South Africa, but may suffer from