

NAMIBIA BIRD CLUB

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

LANIOTURDUS publishes articles and notes of broad birding interest to the membership of the Namibia Bird Club. Contributors should look at recent issues of the magazine for guidance on suitability and presentation of material. Manuscripts in English, German or Afrikaans are requested and should be typed in double spacing on A4 paper. Sketches, maps and figures should be submitted on good quality white paper in black ink. High contrast black and white or colour photographs may be submitted to illustrate articles. Artwork illustrating any aspect of birds and/or birding are also requested.

Authors are requested to submit articles on a computer disk (MS DOS: low or high density, 5.25" or 3.5"). The preferred word processing program is WordPerfect, but Word, WordStar and MultiMate and a few other commonly available word processing programs can also be accommodated. **Please mark which program has been used.** If you do not have one of the above programs please submit an ASCII conversion of your manuscript. The publication of handwritten articles are sure to be delayed as the current Editor and co Editors are unable to spend a great deal of time typing articles. Handwritten short notes and observations are acceptable but please make sure they are legible - typewritten is preferred and generally requires less editing.

All disks and photographs will be returned to authors - manuscripts will not be returned. A single copy of the issue in which your article appears will be sent to the senior author.

The editor is allowed a wide latitude in his choice of materials, thus any views and opinions expressed in LANIOTURDUS are not necessarily those of the Namibia Bird Club. All material in LANIOTURDUS is copyright and permission to reproduce material should be negotiated with the Editor.

All contributions for LANIOTURDUS should be sent to:

**The Editor LANIOTURDUS**  
**Namibia Bird Club**  
**PO Box 67**  
**Windhoek**

CONTENTS

VOLUME 30 (1), March 1997

Editorial ..... 1  
LUDWIG, D. In Memoriam: Herman Karl Friedrich Kolberg ..... 2  
BORELLO, WD, HERREMANS, M & UNDERHILL, LG. Some  
Palaeartic migrants in Namibia: Setting the record straight ..... 4  
HINES, C. Short Notes ..... 8  
Errata ..... 11  
FRIEDE, G. "Bird Parties" ..... 12  
SILVER, C. Rufous morph of European Cuckoo ..... 14  
McGIVERN, D. Waterberg Environmental Centre outing ..... 15  
DUFFIELD-HARDING, J. Nine days in Kavango ..... 16  
ALLAN, J. Personal memories of the Namibia Bird Club ..... 21  
DUFFIELD-HARDING, J. Join the waders at Walvis Bay ..... 23  
OTTO, A & LUDWIG, D. In Memoriam. Anna-Luise Beusele ..... 25  
Club members ..... backcover  
Club outings ..... backcover

Ornithological Congress). *The Kalahari broadleafed woodlands of the Okavango and Caprivi Regions are very similar to Brachystegia woodlands and getting on to bird parties is crucial to any successful birding in this habitat. Bird parties are generally multi species groupings of insectivorous birds and are usually quite noisy — if you hear birds calling (especially white-eyes and tits) you may be on to a bird party — follow it and you will be rewarded with views of often difficult to see species such as Sharpbilled Honeyguide, Rufousbellied Tit and Whitebreasted Cuckooshrike.* — Editor)

---

### RUFOUS MORPH OF EUROPEAN CUCKOO

Charmaine Silver  
PO Box 1340, Gobabis, Namibia

On 10 October 1996 I observed a strange looking cuckoo sitting on my lawn near the sprayer (at Ernst Meyer Primary School about 47 km east of Gobabis on the Buitepos Road). The most striking feature of the bird was the barring all over the underparts of the body. The barring on the head and throat was very fine and close together. Barring was from the throat down to the vent with the bars further apart towards the vent. The barring was dark brown on white on the chest and belly. The wings back and tail had rufous and brown strips. The legs were yellow-orange. The bird had a brown iris with a distinct yellow eye-ring, a yellow and black bill, with a yellow gape and the inside of the mouth was orange-red.

After observing the bird for several minutes it flew off, but reappeared two days later. When approached it was not very disturbed. It flew only 10–15 m at a time and would settle on the fence, or raingauge, returning to the lawn. When perched it would remain motionless for several minutes. On the lawn it caught insects. It also caught insects while hopping about in the flowerbeds. It made no noticeable sound or call while we observed it. The bird was later identified as a rufous morph of the European Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*.

*(The rufous morph (referred to in the latest edition of Roberts' as Erythristic or red morph) of the European Cuckoo is regarded by most*

*authorities as extremely rare. In several books consulted I cannot find any estimate of the actual percentage of the population that is thought to be rufous. It is not illustrated in any of the southern African field guides — however, they all make passing reference to it in the text. If seen in the field it looks remarkably like the illustration of the Barred Cuckoo *Cercococcyx montanus* in the SASOL guide. This is, however, a species of dense forests and woodlands of eastern Southern Africa and is highly unlikely to occur in Namibia. According to the Handbook of the Birds of the Western Palaearctic rufous morphs are all females. How common this form is in Namibia is uncertain — I have seen it twice since 1983, in Bushmanland and the Caprivi — and Steve Braine reports that there were two at Hobatere Lodge this wet season (1996/97)* — Editor).

---

### WATERBERG ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE OUTING 7–9 FEBRUARY 1997

Daphne McGivern  
PO Box 110, Windhoek

Without doubt the highlight of this outing was the Saturday morning spent in the vulture restaurant on the top of the plateau. After a couple of hours of patient waiting within the hide, we were rewarded with the sight of over 100 vultures demolishing an entire Gemsbok carcass within an hour. There were mainly Whitebacked Vultures, several Lappetfaced and about four Cape Vultures. Other birds were rather few with only a couple of Blacksmith Plovers and Yellowbilled Kites keeping the vultures company.

Mark Griffiths, from the Education Centre, had led our party of 24 up on to the plateau. The vegetation up there was thick and we unfortunately saw very few birds. A bonus on the mammal front were some good views of Klipspringer and Sable Antelope. We did get out of the vehicles to try and find a Redcrested Korhaan whose call had alerted us to its presence. We saw it after about ten minutes (and only because it moved out from under our noses!). Before descending back to the Centre, Mark took us on foot to