

An annotated list of the birds of the Skeleton Coast Park

by

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Skeleton Coast Park is situated on the northern coast of South West Africa/Namibia (Fig. 1). It stretches from the Ugab River in the south to the Kunene River, the Angolan border, in the north. Inland it extends only some 30 to 40 km from the coast.

The bird life of the park has not been previously listed. Both the Bernard Carp/Transvaal Museum and FitzPatrick Institute/State Museum, Windhoek expeditions (MacDonald and Hall, 1957; Winterbottom, 1966) passed through the area but concentrated on the more easterly Kaokoveld. Clinning and Jensen (1979) added several new records but still treated the park with the Kaokoveld. This paper provides the first bird list for the Skeleton Coast Park.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Most of the park is extremely arid, with a mean rainfall of less than 30 mm per annum (Viljoen, 1982). Vegetation is restricted to the river-beds, where the only free water is found. The extent and number of ponds varies with the quantity of rain in the interior, most being episodic. However, the ponds at the Unjab and Hoanib River mouths are fairly constant and the Kunene River flows throughout the year.

Away from the watercourses, much of the southern half of the park is rocky, gradually becoming more sandy in the north. Near the Kunene River, barren dunes stretch from the coastal strip to the eastern boundary. In the south, the western fringe of the Kaokoveld extends into the park, with a vegetation of scattered trees and some grass after rains.

Permanent settlements are found at the Ugab River mouth, Mōwe Bay and Terrace Bay, the last named being a tourist resort. Camping facilities are available at Torra Bay in summer (Penrith and Loutit, 1982).

ABSTRACT

The bird life of the Skeleton Coast Park is listed for the first time. A total of 203 species is recorded from the park, with a further 23 off-shore and 10 extra-limital. Breeding has been proven for 38 species. Most species are associated with the coast and its wetlands or occur only as vagrants.

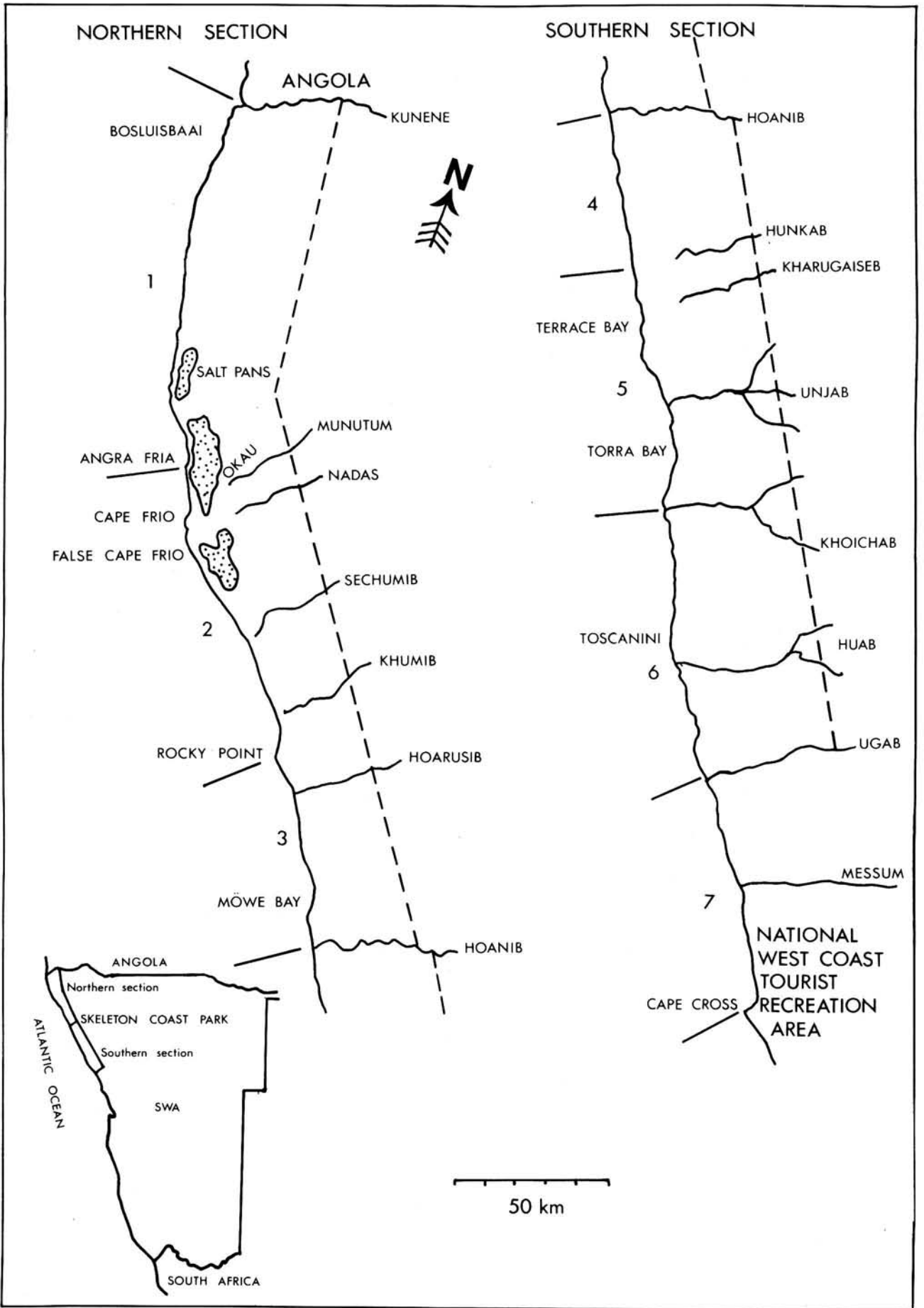


FIGURE 1: Skeleton Coast Park, South West Africa/Namibia.

3 METHODS

Records are drawn from published accounts of the area (Watt, 1943; MacDonald and Hall, 1957; Winterbottom, 1966; Clinning and Jensen, 1979), field and nest record cards of the Division of Nature Conservation, S.W.A. Administration, and our own observations made during a coastal survey of water-birds in November-December 1981. Counts from this survey are reported separately (Ryan *et al.*, in press). In view of the nature of the records, most comments on abundance refer only to the frequency of observation and have no quantitative basis. The species' names and order of listing follow Clancey (1980). Doubtful species and those recorded off-shore or immediately outside the park's boundaries are bracketed in the systematic list.

Dr. C.J. Stutterheim was not able to make his full contribution to this paper owing to his tragic death in a light aircraft crash at the Etosha Pan on 1 June 1982.

4 DISCUSSION AND SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Being a desert park, the resident bird life is depauperate. Of the 203 species recorded, fewer than 40 occur away from water bodies whereas even fewer are found in the true desert. The vast majority are either associated with the coast and adjacent wetlands or occur only as vagrants. The sea off the Skeleton Coast Park is very productive, forming part of the Benguela upwelling system (Stander, 1964), and attracts large numbers of sea- and shore-birds. Many of these are migrants and regular observations could reveal interesting movement patterns. Large numbers of Palaearctic migrants appear to overwinter.

The composition of the avifauna is greatly influenced by the availability of water. Many species move into the park only after rain, and the breeding activity of most resident species is similarly restricted to the period after rains. This is illustrated by the spate of new species and breeding records following the rains in March and April 1982. A total of 38 species has been proved breeding in the park.

Vagrants to the park come mainly from the interior. These are generally recorded in winter when easterly winds blow. The frequency of such vagrancy may provide an index of explorative dispersal. Several Palaearctic migrants arrive after presumably losing their way (e.g. White Stork, *Ciconia ciconia*, and European Golden Oriole, *Oriolus oriolus*) and Nearctic species straggling across the Atlantic are also likely to turn up, concentrating around the few water bodies. In view of the large proportion of vagrants, the following list is likely to be frequently increased in length.

Struthio camelus Ostrich
Widely distributed but commoner in the east and along watercourses. Recorded throughout the year and breeds when conditions are favourable.

Spheniscus demersus Jackass Penguin
Rare visitor to coastal waters of the park. Beached corpses have been found near the Ugab River mouth in the south. No live birds have been recorded, probably because they are soon taken by black-backed jackals, *Canis mesomelas*.

Podiceps nigricollis Black-necked Grebe
Present throughout the year on most coastal water bodies. Recorded from the Kunene River in winter. Breeding has been suspected (T.G. Cooper) but not proved.

Tachybaptus ruficollis Little Grebe
Recorded from all sizeable water bodies except the Kunene River. Resident but subject to local movement. Breeds at the Unjab and Hoanib River mouths and inland on the Ugab River (S. Braine).

[*Diomedea* spp. Albatrosses
Wandering *D. exulans*, Shy *D. cauta*, Black-browed *D. melanophris* and Yellow-nosed *D. chlororhynchos* Albatrosses have been recorded at sea (Lambert, 1971) and stranded corpses have been found in jackal middens (G. Avery)]

[*Macronectes* spp. Giant Petrels
Giant Petrels have been observed feeding beyond the surf zone on several occasions, chiefly in summer. Both *M. giganteus* and *M. halli* probably occur in the area (Brooke, 1981). Remains have been found in jackal middens (G. Avery).]

[*Daption capense* Pintado Petrel
Recorded at sea (Lambert, 1971) and remains have been found in jackal middens (G. Avery).]

[*Pterodroma* spp. Gadfly Petrels
Great-winged *P. macroptera*, Soft-plumaged *P. mollis* and Atlantic *P. incerta* Petrels have been recorded at sea (Dixon, 1970; Lambert, 1971) and may come in-shore occasionally.]

[*Pachyptila* spp. Prions
Recorded at sea (Lambert, 1971) and remains have been found in jackal middens (G. Avery).]

[*Procellaria aequinoctialis* White-chinned Petrel
Common in coastal waters throughout the year.]

[*Calonectris diomedea* Cory's Shearwater
Common off the coast in summer.]

[*Puffinus gravis* Greater Shearwater
Remains have been recorded from jackal middens (G. Avery).]

[*Puffinus griseus* Sooty Shearwater
Common off the coast in summer and remains have been found in jackal middens (G. Avery).]

[*Puffinus puffinus* Manx Shearwater
Recorded at sea in summer (Lambert, 1971; 1975a). A small bicoloured shearwater seen off Angra Fria in December 1981 (P.G.R.) probably belonged to this species.]

- [*Hydrobates pelagicus* European Storm Petrel
Recorded at sea in summer (Lambert, 1971). A dried corpse was found north of Terrace Bay in November 1981.]
- [*Oceanodroma leucorhoa* Leach's Storm Petrel
Recorded at sea in summer (Lambert, 1971) and may come inshore occasionally.]
- [*Oceanites oceanicus* Wilson's Storm Petrel
Recorded at sea mostly in summer (Lambert, 1971) and may come inshore occasionally.]
- Pelecanus onocrotalus* White Pelican
Occurs irregularly along the coast, singly or in small groups. Most records are in summer when it is common at the Kunene River mouth (Brooke, 1981). Birds have been recorded inland at the Hoanib Oasis.
- [*Morus capensis* Cape Gannet
Common off-shore, often in large flocks. A high proportion of birds are sub-adults. Corpses are often washed ashore.]
- Phalacrocorax carbo* White-breasted Cormorant
Found commonly along the coast-line, but less frequently on the long sandy stretches north of Rocky Point. Often bathes and roosts at coastal water bodies. Breeds in summer on towers and wrecks, on islands in the Kunene River and in reed-beds at the Hoanib Oasis (Brooke *et al.*, 1982).
- Phalacrocorax capensis* Cape Cormorant
Common along the coast, often in large flocks. Found bathing and roosting at coastal water bodies. Breeds in summer in the reed-bed at the Hoanib Oasis and on a few wrecks (Cooper *et al.*, 1982).
- Phalacrocorax africanus* Reed Cormorant
Common at the Kunene River where it breeds in the reeds (Clinning and Jensen, 1979). It is also found on the coast south of the Kunene River. T.G. Cooper's record of a Crowned Cormorant, *P. coronatus*, from Mōwe Bay (Clinning and Jensen, 1979) may refer to this species (Crawford *et al.*, 1982).
- Anhinga melanogaster* Darter
Uncommon. Only recorded from the Kunene River.
- Ardea cinerea* Grey Heron
Found throughout the year in small numbers on the larger coastal water bodies and along sheltered shore-lines.
- Ardea melanocephala* Black-headed Heron
Found all year round on the main watercourses, extending inland to the eastern boundary. Bred at the Hoanib Oasis in 1982.
- Ardea goliath* Goliath Heron
Uncommon. Only recorded from the Kunene River.
- Egretta garzetta* Little Egret
Uncommon. Only found at the Kunene River and along the adjacent coast-line, south to Bosluisbaai.
- Egretta intermedia* Yellow-billed Egret
Vagrant. A single record from the Unjab River mouth in March 1978 (P.F. de Wet).
- Bubulcus ibis* Cattle Egret
Recorded regularly at the Ugab, Unjab and Kunene Rivers, but not found elsewhere.
- Scopus umbretta* Hamerkop
Vagrant. One seen at the Ugab River in May 1979 after strong easterly winds (R.L. and P. Bridgeford) and one inland on the Kunene River in September 1981 (P.J. Viljoen).
- Ciconia ciconia* White Stork
Vagrant. A single record from the Kunene River mouth in September 1979.
- Phoenicopterus ruber* Greater Flamingo
Commonly found on large coastal water bodies including the Kunene River. Also frequents sandy beaches, particularly north of Cape Frio. Numbers peak in early spring and then drop off if breeding occurs in the interior (Berry and Berry, 1975). Young birds arrive at the coast in midwinter.
- Phoenicopterus minor* Lesser Flamingo
Common on large coastal water bodies (including the Kunene River) and rarely on adjacent beaches. Movements similar to the Greater Flamingo, with irruptions into the area when beach lagoons form after flooding.
- Dendrocygna viduata* White-faced Duck
Vagrant. A single bird present at the Hoanib Oasis in June and August 1979 (T.G. Cooper).
- Alopochen aegyptiacus* Egyptian Goose
Commonly found throughout the year on the well-grassed watercourses, including the Kunene River. Breeding has been recorded in summer.
- Anas capensis* Cape Teal
Common resident on nearly all water bodies including the Kunene River. Breeds throughout the year.
- Anas hottentota* Hottentot Teal
Fairly common resident on larger water bodies, including the Kunene River. Breeding reported in winter and spring.
- Anas erythrorhyncha* Red-billed Teal
Resident on larger water bodies including the Kunene River. Breeding recorded in spring at the Unjab River mouth.
- Anas smithii* Cape Shoveler
Resident on the larger water bodies in the south and central regions, but absent from the Kunene River.
- Netta erythrophthalma* Southern Pochard
Uncommon. Occurs irregularly on the larger water bodies, but not recorded from the Kunene River.
- Oxyura maccoa* Maccoa Duck
Common resident at nearly all water bodies except the Kunene River. Breeding reported in May at the Unjab River mouth.
- Thalassornis leuconotus* White-backed Duck
Vagrant. One seen at the Hoanib Oasis in September 1975.

- Sagittarius serpentarius* Secretary-bird
Uncommon. Occurs irregularly in the north-eastern region, from the Hoanib River northwards. All records in winter.
- Neophron percnopterus* Egyptian Vulture
Vagrant. An immature stayed at the Ugab River mouth for two days in June 1982, feeding on Cape Cormorant corpses (R.L. and S. Braine). This is one of the few recent records for the subcontinent (Mundy, 1978).
- Gyps africanus* White-backed Vulture
Vagrant. Singletons reported from the eastern Khumib area in January 1978 and April 1979 (E.W. Karlowa) and at an elephant carcass in the Hoanib River valley in September 1982 (P. Bridgeford).
- Torgus tracheliotus* Lappet-faced Vulture
Fairly widespread in the eastern part of the park, where it breeds in trees along the watercourses. Present throughout the year.
- Trigonoceps occipitalis* White-headed Vulture
Vagrant. One seen in the Hoanib River valley in 1981 (P. Bridgeford).
- Milvus migrans* Black and Yellow-billed Kites
Vagrants. A Yellow-billed Kite was recorded from the Unjab River mouth in September 1974 (P.F. de Wet) and two Black Kites from the Ugab River valley in October 1978 (R.L. and G. Owen-Smith).
- Elanus caeruleus* Black-shouldered Kite
Common at most large watercourses. Mating has been observed at the Ugab River mouth (R.L.).
- Aquila veraauxii* Black Eagle
Uncommon. Recorded from the upper Huab and Ugab River valleys.
- [*Aquila rapax* Tawny Eagle
Extra-limital. Recorded east of the park boundary in the Koichab River valley (S. Braine). May stray into the park occasionally.]
- Hieraetus pennatus* Booted Eagle
Vagrant. One seen at the Hoanib Oasis in November 1981 (P.G.R., J.C. and C.J.S.) and again in April 1982 (S. Braine).
- Polemaetus bellicosus* Martial Eagle
Uncommon. Recorded from July to November in the eastern Hoanib River valley and an immature from the Ugab River mouth in July 1982 (R.L. and S. Braine).
- Circaetus gallicus* Black-breasted Snake Eagle
Uncommon. There are scattered records from the eastern part of the park, chiefly in spring.
- Haliaeetus vocifer* Fish Eagle
Uncommon. Only recorded from the Kunene River.
- Buteo rufofuscus* Jackal Buzzard
Widely distributed in the northern part of the park. Overlaps with Augur Buzzard in the south at the Hoanib and Unjab River valleys.
- Buteo augur* Augur Buzzard
Found along the watercourses of the south, overlapping with Jackal Buzzard at the Unjab and Hoanib River valleys.
- Accipiter minullus* Little Sparrow-hawk
Vagrant. Two reported from the Ugab River valley in March 1975 (J.A. Meyer).
- Micronisus gabar* Gabar Goshawk
Vagrant. One seen at the Ugab River mouth in July 1981 (R.L.).
- Melierax canorus* Pale Chanting Goshawk
Uncommon. Mostly recorded from the eastern boundary region, rarely reaching the coast.
- Circus maurus* Black Harrier
Vagrant. One present from April to August 1982 (B. Loutit).
- Pandion haliaetus* Osprey
Vagrant. One recorded 6 km north of Torra Bay in December 1982 (G. Avery and S. Braine).
- [*Falco peregrinus* Peregrine
Extra-limital. Recorded 4 km east of the park boundary in the Ugab River valley. (R.L.). May stray into the park.]
- Falco biarmicus* Lanner
Uncommon. Recorded from scattered localities throughout the park.
- Falco subbuteo* Hobby
Vagrant. Recorded twice from the Hoanib River mouth in June 1982 (S. Braine).
- Falco chicquera* Red-necked Falcon
Vagrant. One seen at Mōwe Bay in October 1982 (P. Bridgeford).
- Falco tinnunculus* Rock Kestrel
Widely distributed in the rocky areas of the park. Breeds at the Huab River bridge.
- Falco rupicoloides* Greater Kestrel
Uncommon. Recorded from most large watercourses except the Kunene River.
- Francolinus adspersus* Red-billed Francolin
Fairly common in the Hoanib River valley where breeding has been reported. There are scattered records from other watercourses on the eastern boundary.
- Coturnix coturnix* Common Quail
Uncommon. Recorded from scattered localities between May and October 1982 (R.L. and S. Braine).
- Coturnix delegorguei* Harlequin Quail
Vagrant. Reported from the Ugab River valley in November/December 1982 (R.L. and S. Braine).
- Numida meleagris* Helmeted Guinea-fowl
Resident in the eastern Unjab River valley, with a few scattered records from watercourses nearer the coast.
- Turnix sylvatica* Kurrichane Button-quail
Vagrant. Recorded from the Hoanib River mouth in October 1982 (S. Braine).

- Crex egregia* African Crane
Vagrant. A mummified corpse was collected at the Unjab River mouth in September 1975 (Clinning and Jensen, 1979).
- Amaurornis flavirostris* Black Crane
Resident in nearly all reed-beds, including those at the Kunene River.
- Porphyrio porphyrio* Purple Gallinule
Resident at the larger reed-beds, including those at the Kunene River.
- [*Porphyryla alleni/martinica* Lesser/American Purple Gallinule
Vagrant. A bird reported from the Unjab River mouth in June 1978 (R.L.) could belong to either species (Williams and Riekert, 1982).]
- Gallinula chloropus* Moorhen
Found on all water bodies with surrounding vegetation, including the Kunene River. Breeding recorded at the Unjab and Hoanib Rivers.
- [*Gallinula angulata* Lesser Moorhen
Vagrant. Two adults reported from the Unjab River mouth in June 1980 (R.L.), but this date suggests immature moorhen (R.K. Brooke pers. comm.).]
- Fulica cristata* Red-knobbed Coot
Recorded from the larger water bodies, including the Kunene River. Breeds occasionally at the Unjab and Huab Rivers.
- Neotis ludwigii* Ludwig's Bustard
Breeding resident confined largely to the eastern half of the park. A record of two Stanley's Bustards *N. denhami* from the Hoanib River area in April 1980 almost certainly pertains to this species.
- Eupodotis vigorsii* Karoo Korhaan
Widely distributed throughout the park. Probably resident but not recorded from February to May.
- Actophilornis africanus* African Jacana
Frequent vagrant to the larger water bodies. Most records in winter with one from February.
- Rostratula benghalensis* Painted Snipe
Rare. One male recorded from the Kunene River mouth in September 1975 (Clinning and Jensen, 1979). May be resident.
- Haematopus moquini* Black Oystercatcher
Uncommon. Occurs infrequently along the coast as far north as Möwe Bay. Records are scattered throughout the year and flock size ranges from one to nine (Hockey, 1983).
- Charadrius hiaticula* Ringed Plover
Summer migrant found in low numbers along the coast where it favours sandy beaches. Common on sand flats at river mouths.
- Charadrius marginatus* White-fronted Sandplover
Common resident on the coast, becoming scarcer north of Cape Frio. Also common on sand flats at river mouths. Breeds in summer.
- Charadrius pallidus* Chestnut-banded Sandplover
Found on saline seepages at the Hoanib River mouth and commonly on sand flats at the Kunene River mouth. Also recorded from the Ugab and Huab River mouths when conditions are suitable.
- Charadrius pecuarius* Kittlitz's Sandplover
Found quite frequently at the Kunene River, but scarce elsewhere.
- Charadrius tricollaris* Three-banded Sandplover
Common resident at all water bodies in the park.
- Pluvialis dominica* Lesser Golden Plover
Rare vagrant. One seen at the Hoanib River mouth and on the adjacent coast-line from 1 to 11 December 1981 (P.G.R., J.C. and C.J.S.).
- Pluvialis squatarola* Grey Plover
Common summer migrant to the coast and adjacent wetlands. Some birds overwinter.
- Vanellus coronatus* Crowned Plover
Vagrant. Three recorded in the upper Koichab River valley in March 1980 (P. Bridgeford).
- Vanellus armatus* Blacksmith Plover
Resident at the larger water bodies, including the Kunene River.
- Arenaria interpres* Turnstone
Common summer migrant to rocky and "mixed" shores with some birds on adjacent water bodies. Small numbers overwinter.
- Xenus cinereus* Terek Sandpiper
Rare summer migrant. One recorded at the Kunene River in December 1981 (P.G.R., J.C. and C.J.S.).
- Tringa hypoleucos* Common Sandpiper
Summer migrant to the rocky shore-line and water bodies of the park.
- Tringa glareola* Wood Sandpiper
Summer migrant to many water bodies in the park, but not recorded from the Kunene River.
- Tringa stagnatilis* Marsh Sandpiper
Uncommon summer migrant only recorded from the Hoanib River mouth.
- Tringa nebularia* Greenshank
Summer migrant to the larger water bodies with a few occurring on the coast.
- Calidris canutus* Knot
Summer migrant found quite commonly on the coast, occasionally moving onto adjacent water bodies.
- Calidris ferruginea* Curlew Sandpiper
Common summer migrant to the coast and most water bodies. Some birds overwinter.
- Calidris minuta* Little Stint
Common summer migrant to coastal wetlands with some birds occurring on the coast, particularly near river mouths. A few birds overwinter.
- Calidris alba* Sanderling
Common summer migrant occurring in large flocks on the coast, occasionally straying to adjacent wet-

lands (but common at the Kunene River mouth). Some birds overwinter.

Calidris fuscicollis White-rumped Sandpiper
Rare Nearctic vagrant. One photographed at the Hoanib River mouth was present from 4 to 11 December 1981 (P.G.R., J.C. and C.J.S.).

Limicola falcinellus Broad-billed Sandpiper
Rare summer migrant. One seen at the Hoanib River mouth on 4 December 1981 (P.G.R.).

Philomachus pugnax Ruff
Summer migrant to the larger water bodies in the park.

Limosa lapponica Bar-tailed Godwit
Uncommon summer migrant to the coast. Chiefly found on "mixed" rocky and sandy beaches.

Numenius arquata Curlew
Uncommon summer migrant recorded from the Ugab River and Kunene River mouths. Some birds overwinter.

Numenius phaeopus Whimbrel
Summer migrant to "mixed" and rocky coast-lines, occasionally moving onto adjacent wetlands. Some birds overwinter.

Recurvirostra avosetta Avocet
Resident on the larger coastal water bodies including the Kunene River. Breeding recorded at the Hoanib River in November 1981.

Himantopus himantopus Black-winged Stilt
Resident in low numbers on the larger coastal water bodies including the Kunene River.

Burhinus capensis Spotted Dikkop
Uncommon. Only recorded three times, from the Unjab River mouth in winter.

Burhinus vermiculatus Water Dikkop
Uncommon. Only a few winter records from the Ugab and Hoanib River valleys. Four remained in the Ugab River valley for three months in 1979 (R.L.).

Cursorius rufus Burchell's Courser
Uncommon. Recorded from scattered localities in the east of the park. Bred after rains in June/July 1982 (S. Braine).

Stercorarius parasiticus Arctic Skua
Common summer migrant off-shore. Chases terns in the surf zone and over the shore-line. Occasionally rests on land. Some birds overwinter.

[*Stercorarius longicaudus* Long-tailed Skua
Summer migrant recorded at sea (Lambert, 1980) and may come inshore.]

Stercorarius pomarinus Pomarine Skua
Common summer migrant off-shore. Chases terns in the surf zone and over the shore-line. Occasionally rests on land. Some birds overwinter.

[*Catharacta antarctica* Subantarctic Skua
Chiefly a winter visitor to coastal waters (Lambert, 1971).]

Larus dominicanus Kelp Gull
Common resident along the coast and on coastal wetlands, ranging up to 8 km inland at the Hoanib Oasis. A high proportion of birds are sub-adults but isolated breeding records are known as far north as Cape Frio (Bridgeford, 1982). This represents a 440 km northward extension of the known breeding range of the species (Crawford *et al.*, 1982).

Larus cirrocephalus Grey-headed Gull
Common at the Kunene River mouth (Clinning and Jensen, 1979; Brooke, 1981) and may occur in the south of the park infrequently.

[*Larus hartlaubii* Hartlaub's Gull
Flocks of "Hartlaub's" Gulls recorded between the Ugab River mouth and Toscanini (R.L. and G. Owen-Smith) must be treated as indeterminate due to confusion with non-breeding Grey-headed Gulls and possible hybridisation with Grey-headed Gulls (Sinclair, 1977).]

[*Larus sabini* Sabine's Gull
Summer migrant recorded at sea (Lambert, 1975b) and remains have been found in jackal middens (G. Avery).]

Hydroprogne caspia Caspian Tern
Resident at the Kunene River mouth and on the adjacent coast-line. Occurs infrequently along the coast in the extreme south, where a flock of 32 has been seen (R.L.).

[*Sterna maxima* Royal Tern
A single Royal Tern was recorded from the north bank of the Kunene River in November 1968 (Pinto, 1973). This species is probably a scarce summer visitor to the park.]

[*Sterna bergii* Swift Tern
Two "Swift" Terns recorded from Mōwe Bay in November 1978 (T.G. Cooper) require confirmation due to the possibility of confusion with Royal Terns (*cf.* Brooke, 1981).]

Sterna sandvicensis Sandwich Tern
Common summer migrant which feeds off-shore and roosts in large flocks on the beaches or further inland. Scarcer north of Cape Frio. Some birds overwinter.

Sterna hirundo Common Tern
Common summer migrant which feeds off-shore and roosts in large flocks on the beaches. Considerable numbers overwinter.

Sterna paradisaea Arctic Tern
Summer migrant associated with Common Terns. More numerous in the north and some birds overwinter.

Sterna balaenarum Damara Tern
Fairly common along the coast and at the Kunene River mouth. Most conspicuous during the summer when it is vociferous and breeds on gravel slacks (Clinning, 1977; R.L.).

- Chlidonias niger* Black Tern
Summer migrant usually associated with flocks of Common Terns. Recorded from scattered localities along the coast.
- Chlidonias leucopterus* White-winged Black Tern
Uncommon summer migrant only recorded from the Kunene and Huab River mouths.
- Pterocles namaqua* Namaqua Sandgrouse
Uncommon. Recorded throughout the year from the eastern half of the park, with no records from the north. Bred after rains in 1982 (R.L. and J.A. Meyer).
- Pterocles bicinctus* Double-banded Sandgrouse
Vagrant. Recorded 25 km south-east of Torra Bay in 1982 (S. Braine).
- Columba guinea* Speckled Pigeon
Resident along watercourses, chiefly in the east. Also recorded from the Kunene River.
- Streptopelia decipiens* Mourning Dove
Vagrant. One arrived at the Ugab River mouth after strong easterly winds in June 1979 (R.L. and P. Bridgeford).
- Streptopelia capicola* Cape Turtle Dove
Uncommon. Small groups recorded from the eastern boundary between the Unjab and Hoanib Rivers in winter.
- Streptopelia senegalensis* Laughing Dove
Resident along the vegetated watercourses in the south of the park.
- Oena capensis* Namaqua Dove
Recorded throughout the year along the vegetated watercourses in the south of the park. Breeding reported after rains in 1982 (R.L. and S. Braine).
- Poicephalus rueppellii* Rüppell's Parrot
Vagrant. Two recorded from the upper Hoanib River valley in May 1979 (P. Bridgeford).
- Agapornis roseicollis* Rosy-faced Lovebird
Vagrant. A flock of over 20 recorded from the upper Hoanib River valley in May 1979 (P. Bridgeford).
- Corythaixoides concolor* Grey Loerie
Uncommon. Recorded throughout the year from scattered localities in the east of the park.
- Clamator glandarius* Great Spotted Cuckoo
Vagrant. One recorded from Möwe Bay in October 1982 (P. Bridgeford and P.J. Viljoen).
- Clamator jacobinus* Jacobin Cuckoo
Vagrant. A single pale phase bird was seen in the upper Unjab River valley in May 1980 (R.L.).
- Chrysococcyx caprius* Dideric Cuckoo
Vagrant. There are two sightings from the upper Hoanib River valley in summer (T.G. Cooper).
- Centropus senegalensis* Senegal Coucal
Vagrant. A coucal almost certainly of this species was seen at the Hoanib Oasis after strong easterly winds in June 1979 (T.G. Cooper).
- Asio capensis* Marsh Owl
Uncommon. One seen at the Ugab River mouth in June 1979 was later found dead (R.L.). Also reported from the Unjab and Ugab River mouths in late 1982 (R.L. and G. Avery), breeding at the Ugab River mouth (S. Braine).
- Bubo africanus* Spotted Eagle Owl
Uncommon. Reported from scattered localities throughout the park.
- Apus bradfieldi* Bradfield's Swift
Regular breeding resident recorded from scattered localities, often over watercourses (Loutit, 1982).
- Apus caffer* White-rumped Swift
Vagrant. Several flocks recorded from the south of the park after strong easterly winds in June 1978.
- Apus affinis* Little Swift
Uncommon. Recorded infrequently from the south of the park, often after strong easterly winds.
- Apus melba* Alpine Swift
Vagrant to the southern part of the park.
- Colius colius* White-backed Mousebird
Fairly common along the vegetated watercourses of the south. Recorded throughout the year.
- Colius indicus* Red-faced Mousebird
Vagrant. Recorded from the Hoanib River mouth in winter 1982 (S. Braine).
- Ceryle rudis* Pied Kingfisher
Only recorded from the Kunene River, where it is probably resident.
- Ceryle maxima* Giant Kingfisher
Uncommon. Only recorded from the Kunene River.
- Halcyon senegalensis* Woodland Kingfisher
Vagrant. Recorded from the Hoanib Oasis in June 1978 and January 1979 (T.G. Cooper).
- Merops hirundineus* Swallow-tailed Bee-eater
Regular along the vegetated watercourses in the east, where it occurs singly or in flocks throughout the year.
- Coracias naevia* Purple Roller
Vagrant. A single bird seen in the upper Hoanib River valley in August 1979 (T.G. Cooper).
- Tockus nasutus* Grey Hornbill
Vagrant. Three recorded from the Unjab River mouth after easterly winds in June 1979 (P. Bridgeford).
- Tockus flavirostris* Yellow-billed Hornbill
Vagrant. Five seen in the upper Hoanib River valley from May to August 1978 (P. Bridgeford and T.G. Cooper).
- Lybius leucomelas* Acacia Pied Barbet
Vagrant. A single record from the upper Hoanib River valley in May 1979 (P. Bridgeford).
- [*Mirafraba sabota* Sabota Lark
Extra-limital. Collected east of the park boundary between the Hoanib and Munutum Rivers (MacDonald and Hall, 1957). May reach the park occasionally.]

- Certhilauda curvirostris* Long-billed Lark
Uncommon but widespread south of the Hoanib River. Only recorded in summer.
- Certhilauda albescens* Karoo Lark
Extra-limital. Recorded from south of the Ugab River (R.L.) and may occur in the park occasionally.]
- Chersomanes albofasciata* Spike-heeled Lark
Uncommon. Resident in the Ugab River valley in 1982 (S. Braine).
- Calandrella cinerea* Red-capped Lark
Widespread resident, usually found near vegetation. Bred after rains in April/May 1982 (J.A. Meyer).
- Calandrella starki* Stark's Lark
Ten collected 50 km west of Orupembe (i.e. near the Munutum River) in June 1951 (MacDonald and Hall, 1957). Also recorded east of Torra Bay by Winterbottom (1966), but outside the park. Breeding reported from several localities after rain in April/May 1982 (R.L., S. Braine and J.A. Meyer).
- Ammomanes grayi* Gray's Lark
Uncommon. Recorded from the gravel plains of the south.
- Eremopterix verticalis* Grey-backed Finch-lark
Widespread resident in the interior. Bred after rains in April/May 1982 (R.L., S. Braine and J.A. Meyer).
- Hirundo rustica* European Swallow
Widespread summer migrant, common along the coast. Roosts in reed-beds at wetlands.
- Hirundo albigularis* White-throated Swallow
Uncommon. Recorded irregularly from the Ugab and Unjab Rivers, mostly in summer.
- Hirundo fuligula* African Rock Martin
Widespread breeding resident, found in rocky areas throughout the park.
- Riparia riparia* European Sand Martin
Rare summer migrant. One seen at the Kunene River mouth in December 1981 (P.G.R.).
- Riparia paludicola* Brown-throated Sand Martin
Recorded from the larger water bodies including the Kunene River. Usually occurs in large flocks.
- Campephaga flava* Black Cuckoo-shrike
Vagrant. A male bird was present at the Ugab River mouth in November 1981 (R.L.).
- Dicrurus adsimilis* Fork-tailed Drongo
Vagrant. Single records from the upper Hoanib River valley in May 1979 (P. Bridgeford) and the Ugab River valley in 1981 (R.L.).
- Oriolus oriolus* Golden Oriole
Vagrant. An immature bird was seen in the upper Ugab River valley in January 1979 (P.F. de Wet and C. Hines).
- Oriolus auratus* African Golden Oriole
Vagrant. One seen in the Koichab River valley in January 1982 (S. Braine).
- Corvus capensis* Black Crow
Fairly common resident along watercourses and around settlements.
- Corvus albus* Pied Crow
Common resident along watercourses, around settlements and on the coast. Recorded breeding at the Unjab River mouth in 1979.
- Anthoscopus minutus* Cape Penduline Tit
Vagrant. Recorded from the Koichab River valley in May 1982 (S. Braine).
- Pycnonotus nigricans* Red-eyed Bulbul
Uncommon. Recorded in winter from vegetated watercourses, including the Kunene River.
- Oenanthe monticola* Mountain Chat
Widespread resident, found in the rocky areas of the park.
- Oenanthe pileata* Capped Wheatear
Vagrant. Recorded near the eastern boundary of the park in May 1982 (S. Braine).
- Cercomela familiaris* Familiar Chat
Uncommon. Only recorded from the Ugab River and Hoanib River valleys in autumn.
- Cercomela tractrac* Tractrac Chat
Widespread resident, common in rocky areas and often found in the intertidal zone. Breeds in spring and summer.
- Cercomela schlegelii* Karoo Chat
Uncommon. Recorded from Mōwe Bay in April (T.G. Cooper).
- Parisoma subcaeruleum* Chestnut-vented Tit-babbler
Vagrant. A single record from the upper Hoanib River valley in August 1978 (T.G. Cooper).
- Acrocephalus baeticatus* African Reed Warbler
Common resident found in all reed-beds and almost certainly breeds.
- Acrocephalus gracilirostris* Lesser Swamp Warbler
Uncommon. Only recorded calling from the Kunene River (C.F. Clinning and R.A.C. Jensen; P.G.R.).
- Phylloscopus trochilus* Willow Warbler
Summer migrant to vegetated watercourses.
- Sylvietta rufescens* Crombec
Vagrant. One seen in the Ugab River valley in July 1979 (R.L. and P. Bridgeford).
- Eremomela icteropygialis* Yellow-bellied Eremomela
Uncommon. Recorded from the watercourses in the east. Bred after rains in the Huab River valley in May 1982 (S. Braine).
- [Achaetops pycnopygius* Damara Rock-jumper
Extra-limital. Recorded from south of the Ugab River (R.L.) and may occur in the park occasionally.]
- Cisticola juncidis* Fan-tailed Cisticola
Common resident along most watercourses with reeds or rank grass.

- Cisticola aridula* Desert Cisticola
Uncommon. Resident in the Ugab River valley in 1982 (R.L. and S. Braine).
- Cisticola subruficapilla* Grey-backed Cisticola
Resident along vegetated watercourses in the south.
- Cisticola rufilata* Tinkling Cisticola
Uncommon. Recorded carrying nesting material in the Koichab River valley in May 1982 (S. Braine).
- Prinia flavicans* Black-chested Prinia
Uncommon. Found along well-vegetated watercourses, including the Kunene River.
- Muscicapa striata* Spotted Flycatcher
Common summer migrant to most watercourses.
- Batis pririt* Pririt Batis
Vagrant. Recorded from the Ugab and Hoanib River valleys after rains in October/November 1982 (S. Braine).
- Terpsiphone viridis* Paradise Flycatcher
Vagrant. Singletons recorded from the Hoanib Oasis and Ugab River mouth in April 1978 and June 1979 respectively (T.G. Cooper; R.L. and P. Bridgeford).
- Motacilla aguimp* African Pied Wagtail
Resident at the Kunene River but scarce elsewhere. Immature birds present at the Sechumib River in December 1981 (P.G.R. and J.C.).
- Motacilla capensis* Cape Wagtail
Common resident found at most water bodies, along the coast and around settlements.
- Motacilla flava* Yellow Wagtail
Rare summer migrant, recorded from Möwe Bay in April 1978 (T.G. Cooper) and from south of the Ugab River (extra-limital) in May 1980 (R.L.).
- Lanius minor* Lesser Grey Shrike
Rare summer migrant, recorded from the Hoanib Oasis. One bird overwintered in 1979 (T.G. Cooper).
- Lanius collaris* Fiscal Shrike
Fairly common breeding resident found along vegetated watercourses.
- Corvinella melanoleuca* Long-tailed Shrike
Vagrant. One recorded from the upper Khumib River valley in April 1979 (E.W. Karlowa).
- Telophorus zeylonus* Bokmakierie
Resident. Recorded from vegetated watercourses, but not the Kunene River.
- Lanioturdus torquatus* White-tailed Shrike
Vagrant. Two recorded from the upper Hoanib River valley in May 1979 (P. Bridgeford).
- Creatophora cinerea* Wattled Starling
Vagrant. Recorded from scattered localities after strong easterly winds, generally in winter.
- Lamprotornis nitens* Cape Glossy Starling
Vagrant. Two recorded from the upper Hoanib River valley in May 1979 (P. Bridgeford) and a small flock stayed at the Ugab River mouth from June to December 1982 (R.L. and S. Braine).
- Onychognathus nabouroup* Pale-winged Starling
Widespread resident found in the rocky parts of the interior.
- Nectarinia talatala* White-bellied Sunbird
Vagrant. A male in breeding plumage was seen in the Ugab River valley in July 1979 (R.L. and P. Bridgeford).
- Nectarinia fusca* Dusky Sunbird
Common resident along vegetated watercourses, including the Kunene River. Breeding recorded after rains in 1982.
- Nectarinia senegalensis* Scarlet-chested Sunbird
Vagrant. An adult male was seen in the Ugab River valley in August 1979 (R.L.).
- Plocepasser mahali* White-browed Sparrow-weaver
Vagrant. A flock of five was recorded from the upper Hoanib River valley in May 1979 (P. Bridgeford).
- [*Passer motitensis* Great Sparrow
Recorded by Winterbottom (1966) from the "fore-Namib". No records for the park, but it may occur occasionally.]
- Passer melanurus* Cape Sparrow
Common breeding resident in well-vegetated watercourses and around settlements. Absent from the Kunene River.
- Sporopipes squamifrons* Scaly-feathered Finch
Uncommon. Recorded several times from the upper Hoanib River valley and collected near the Munutum River (MacDonald and Hall, 1957). Breeding reported from the Hoanib River valley.
- Ploceus ocularis* Spectacled Weaver
Uncommon. Only recorded from reed-beds at the Kunene River in June 1979 (T.G. Cooper).
- Ploceus velatus* Masked Weaver
Resident in large reed-beds and along well-vegetated watercourses. Breeding recorded in May.
- [*Ploceus intermedius* Lesser Masked Weaver
Extra-limital. One immature collected east of the park boundary in the Hoanib River valley in July 1951 (MacDonald and Hall, 1957).]
- Ploceus xanthops* Golden Weaver
Uncommon. Recorded from the Kunene River reed-beds in September 1975 (Clinning and Jensen, 1979).
- Quelea quelea* Red-billed Quelea
Uncommon. Only recorded from the Hoanib Oasis and River mouth.
- Estrilda astrild* Common Waxbill
Common resident in reed-beds and along vegetated watercourses.
- [*Amadina erythrocephala* Red-headed Finch
Recorded by Winterbottom (1966) from the "fore-Namib". There are no specific records for the park but it may occur occasionally.]

Serinus atrogularis Black-throated Canary
Uncommon. Small flocks recorded from the eastern boundary and the Hoanib Oasis. No records from the north.

Serinus flaviventris Yellow Canary
Vagrant. Recorded from the Hoanib and Huab River valleys in 1981 (P. Bridgeford; P.G.R.).

Serinus albogularis White-throated Seed-eater
Uncommon. Found in small flocks in watercourses along the eastern boundary. Breeding recorded from just outside the park (S. Braine).

Emberiza capensis Cape Bunting
Resident in the rocky interior, south of the Hoanib River.

[*Emberiza tahapisi*
Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting
Extra-limital. Recorded from south of the Ugab River (P. Bridgeford) and may reach the park occasionally.]

Emberiza impetuani Lark-like Bunting
Irregular. Collected east of the park boundary in the Hoanib River valley in July 1951 (MacDonald and Hall, 1957). Large numbers moved into the park and bred after rains in the winter of 1982 (R.L., S. Braine and J.A. Meyer).

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