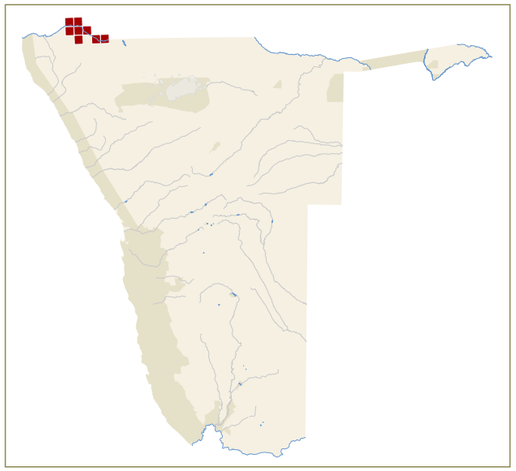
occur in the Okavango Delta where this habitat is abundant (Pollard & Herremans 1997). Although it was not recorded during the 24-year SABAP1 atlas period in Namibia, isolated populations have been found on Impalila Island and near Kwetche in the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park (C Hines, C Boix-Hinzen unpubl. data), where at least one pair and possibly up to five pairs may occur in *Hyphaene* palm habitat (Paxton 2010, C Boix-Hinzen pers. obs.). No formal surveys have been undertaken. It is not a conservation priority, given its relative abundance in East Africa and its location within a conservation area in Namibia. Surveys of its population are, however, required to determine its full status.

Rufous-tailed Palm-Thrush | *Cichladusa ruficauda*



This is a relatively common species outside southern Africa, from Gabon southwards, that is always associated with *Hyphaene* and *Borassus* palms (Underhill & Brown 1997a). It is confined in Namibia to just seven quarter-degree squares between Epupa Falls and Ruacana on the Kunene River, an area of 2,300 km² (Jarvis *et al.* 2001), but has also been noted on the Ombuku River (W Swanepoel pers. obs.). It is a relatively conspicuous species with a reporting rate of 23% and may be more common than believed (Underhill & Brown 1997a). In a 10-day survey of this region in March 1997, it was found on seven of the 10 days, with 25 birds recorded at a density of 8.7 birds per 10 km of suitable riverine vegetation**.** Most sightings occurred around Epupa Falls and the luxuriant palm vegetation associated with Epupa Falls and rapids (Simmons 1997p). None occurred in the Baynes Mountains, where palm-fringed river banks are rarer. It breeds in *Hyphaene* palms in a narrow strip near the Epupa Falls, laying in December (two), February (two) and March (three) (Simmons 1997p, Brown *et al*. 2015). While this is

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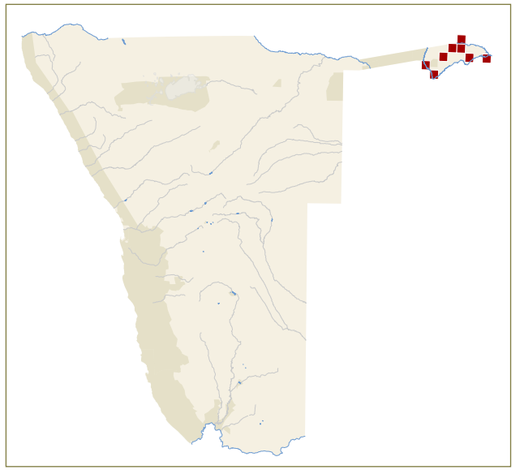
an Important Bird Area (Simmons *et al.* 2001b) it has no formal protection, and these palms will be submerged if a hydro-electric dam is built at Epupa (see Cinderella Waxbill *Estrilda thomensis* for further details). Since this represents a tiny proportion of the African range of this species, it will not unduly influence the conservation status of the species. Nonetheless, every effort should be made to conserve this population in Namibia.

Bearded Scrub-Robin (Bearded Robin) | *Erythropygia quadrivirgata*



This is a rare species in Namibia, but with a widespread distribution from Somalia to South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal coast. It favours closed sandveld woodland associated with rivers or thickets around termite mounds (Oatley & Arnott 1998). In Namibia, it is only recorded from the Zambezi region, including from the Kwando, Chobe, and Zambezi rivers and intervening woodland (Oatley 1997f). Like other birds of woodland thickets, it may

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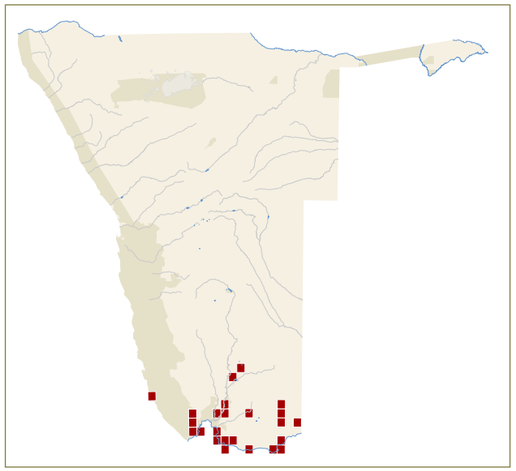
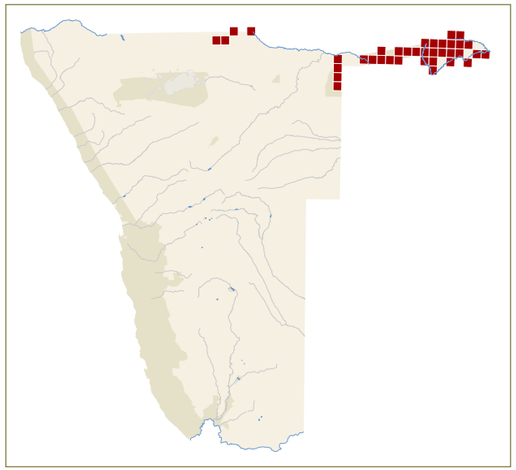
be overlooked and is possibly more common than the 3,300 km² area of occupancy and low reporting rate of 6% suggest (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Surveys of singing males during the breeding season between September and December may be the best way to survey this resident species (Oatley & Arnott 1998). It is most easily confused with the White-Browed Scrub-Robin (White-Browed Robin) *E. leucophrys*, but the two can be distinguished by the harsher, simpler song of the latter species (Oatley & Arnott 1998).

Sickle-winged Chat | *Emarginata sinuata (Cercomela sinuata)*



Easily confused with the larger, more robust Familiar Chat *Cercomela familiaris,* this southern African endemic just touches the southern edge of Namibia along the Orange River and the open scrub and overgrazed grasslands at about 28°S (Harrison 1997). Its reporting rate here is below 10%. It is a summer breeder in the southern part of the Western Cape, South Africa (Harrison 1997), with most records from October and November, but it has never been recorded breeding in Namibia (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Given that its range covers 10,400 km² in Namibia (6% of which is in protected areas), and densities of 10 to 28 birds per km² are known from the highest reporting rate areas of Lesotho (Brown & Barnes 1984), Namibia's population is unlikely to exceed about 20,000 birds. The species appears to benefit from the sparsely covered, over-grazed sections of the Karoo in both Namibia and South Africa (Harrison 1997).

Arnot's Chat | *Thamnolaea arnoti*



This striking black and white chat is found in the broad-leafed woodlands of the southern African tropics where it is confined to north-east Namibia, northern Botswana, northern South Africa and north-west Zimbabwe. In Namibia, it occurs in well-developed woodland in the north-east Ohangwena, and northern Kavango regions, and in Mopane woodland throughout the Zambezi region (Herremans 1997d). Density estimates of 833 birds per 10 km² have been recorded along rivers in Botswana (Herremans 1997d), but population sizes are much lower in the Salambala woodlands bordering the Chobe River, where only two birds were recorded in 7 km² of blocks in Mopane-dominated woodland (Ward & Robertson 2002). In a survey of Mopane woodland some 40 km south-west of Katima Mulilo, a population density of about 22 birds per 10 km² was estimated (Brown 2012b). There are some indications that populations have declined in both Zimbabwe and Botswana where miombo and Mopane woodlands have been extensively cleared for agriculture, and where use of pesticides has had a negative effect on these insectivorous birds (Herremans 1997d). Their unusually low numbers in parts of their range in Namibia