

LANIOTURDUS

Volume 49 No 2

June 2016

Namibia Bird Club



since 1962

Journal of the Namibia Bird Club
www.namibiabirdclub.org

About the Namibia Bird Club

The Namibia Bird Club was founded in 1962 and has been active since then. The club's mission is to contribute to Namibian ornithology by, amongst other things, arranging regular birding outings, conducting bird ringing and atlasing excursions and educating the public about the value of birds. To achieve this, we organize monthly visits to interesting birding sites around Windhoek as well as regular visits to Avis Dam and the Gammams Sewage Works and occasional weekend trips further afield. Bird club members also participate in the African Waterbird Census twice a year.

Experienced birders are more than happy to help beginners and novices on these outings. If you have a transport problem or would like to share transport please contact a committee member. Depending on the availability of speakers and suitable material we present occasional lecture or video evenings at the Namibia Scientific Society premises. Members receive a digital newsletter, *Namibia Bird News*, which includes a programme of forthcoming events and the Bird Club journal, *Lanioturdus*.

The Namibia Bird Club is not affiliated to any global or regional organization and relies entirely on members' subscriptions and donations to fund its activities.

The opinions expressed in this journal are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Namibia Bird Club or its committee.

Instructions to Authors

Lanioturdus is a journal dedicated to birds and birding. Although the journal's primary focus is on Namibia, articles from other geographical parts of the globe will also be considered for publication. Authors should use common and scientific names of southern African birds as published in *Roberts' VII*. For other regions, English and scientific names following BirdLife International's species list (<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species>) should be used. Text should be submitted as a MS Word document. Photos, maps and figures should be sent as separate jpeg images, graphs as MS Excel charts or jpeg images and tables as MS Word or Excel documents. Please indicate in the article text where these should be placed.



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Editorial

Holger Kolberg
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The plethora of public holidays in March and May certainly had an impact on several bird related activities in Namibia.

The Namibia Bird Club embarked on two major atlasing expeditions – one to the “far east” around Buitepos and one to the south around Maltahöhe. During these expeditions we managed to nudge the total number of pentads atlased in Namibia past the 10% mark – a truly remarkable achievement considering the number of active atlasers and the size of the country. Well done to all!

May was also the time of the traditional bird ringers’ get-together. This time it was decided to combine this esteemed occasion with the bird club excursion and in my humble opinion it was a resounding success. Due to the current drought the

number of birds caught was very low (but then most of us don’t come to the get-together to ring birds) but the variety was quite amazing. In the end, between the ringers and the atlasers we racked up over 130 species, quite a number for an area that in places looked as if it had been swept with a broom. I think this may well be a recipe to be followed in the future.

As we are entering the “slowdown time” of winter this may be a chance to reflect on the past summer and perhaps write down some of the interesting observations we made (much like the contributions by Günther, Neil and Eckart in this issue) and send them to this, your journal.

Keep birding!

Sociable Weavers nesting on rock faces

Claire and Holger Kolberg
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During December 2015 we visited the southern Namib-Naukluft Park. On 13 December 2015 we found Sociable Weavers (*Philetairus socius*) nesting beneath a rock overhang near Dik Willem (coordinates 26° 28' 21"S 16° 01' 57"E). The same cliff was also used by Speckled Pigeons (*Columba guinea*) for nesting. This is not a unique occurrence though: Dürr (2004) reported a nest on a cliff-face at NamibRand Nature Reserve and in the slide archive of the Namibia Bird

Club there are slides of a Sociable Weaver nest on a rock overhang on farm Arimas in the Hunsberge in south-western Namibia. The slides were taken by Dr Wolfgang Wendt, well-known archaeologist, on 27 September 1980.

Reference

Dürr, M. 2004. Sociable Weavers nesting on a cliff-face. *Lanioturdus* 37(2): 19



Figure 1: Sociable Weaver nest near Dik Willem. Photo © Claire Kolberg