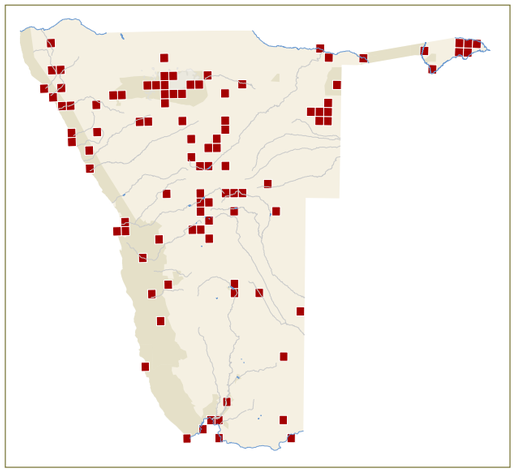
north-eastern rivers. The maximum (non-resident) number of birds in Namibia is estimated at fewer than 200 birds, with birds generally present after summer rains and absent by winter (Berruti 1997a). Namibia's population contributes less than 1% to the world population, which is estimated at 25,000 birds (Dodman 2002). It is not globally threatened, and its listing as *Near Threatened* in South Africa (Barnes 2000a) has been down-graded recently to that of *Least Concern* (Taylor *et al*. in press).

White Stork | *Ciconia ciconia*



This species is a rare palaearctic migrant to Namibia, but large numbers may occur in the eastern parts of southern Africa (Allan 1997c). It breeds in increasing numbers, estimated at 170,000 pairs in Europe in the mid 1990s (Schultz 1999). Up to 25,000 birds are estimated to visit South Africa in summer (Allan 1997c). A small breeding population occurs in South Africa (Brooke 1984). Birds are found unpredictably across Namibia, with concentrations known at Nyae Nyae Pan (64 birds), Etosha Pan (50 birds), Omatako Dam (50 birds) and Tsumkwe Pans (fewer than 20 birds); birds also concentrate at some of the northern rivers, including the floodplains of the Zambezi-Chobe system (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Numbers probably do not exceed 500 birds in Namibia, about 0.1% of global populations.

African Broadbill | *Smithornis capensis*

This species occurs from west Africa, through central Africa, to the south-eastern regions of southern Africa. It is often localised in its distribution in suitable deciduous thickets and the understorey of riparian forests (Keith *et al.*

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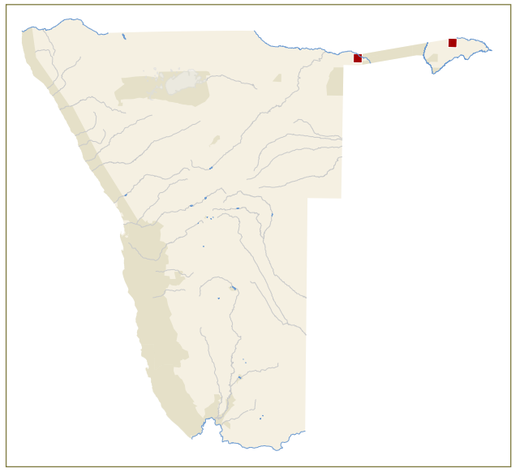
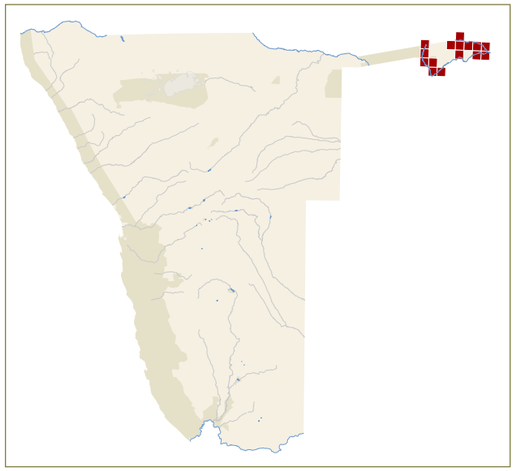


1992). There are only two Namibian records from SABAP1, both from Katima Mulilo and occupy an area of 720 km^2. A more recent record is from dense riparian woodland on the Okavango River near Divundu (CJ Brown pers. obs.). Although it may be overlooked, its occurrence in north-east Namibia may be limited by woodland cutting and burning (Mendelsohn & Roberts 1997), as has been recorded elsewhere in southern Africa (Allan 2000c). Population size and occurrence in Namibia requires further examination, but its small numbers preclude the inclusion of the African Broadbill as a conservation priority. Its designation as *Near Threatened* in South Africa (Allan 2000c) has recently been elevated to *Vulnerable* (Taylor *et al*. in press), based on a declining population due to habitat destruction.

Tropical Boubou | *Laniarius aethiopicus*

This boubou occurs widely throughout the Afrotropics; in southern Africa it is found commonly in Zimbabwe and eastern Botswana. It just enters Namibia in the eastern



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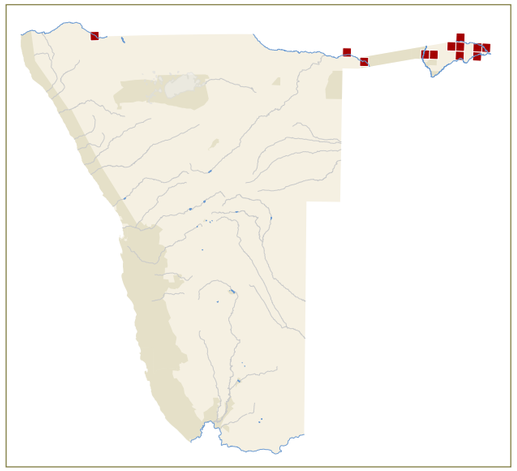
Zambezi region where it occurs on the Zambezi floodplain and the Kwando River (Bowie 2005). It occupies an area of 6,900 km^2, of which 1,100 km^2 occurs within protected areas. Recent SABAP2 records (December 2014) indicate a greater presence along the Chobe River than that recorded in the 1980s. It may be under-recorded, given that it is a skulking species, foraging low in dense undergrowth. Its call gives it away, although it may be confused with the Swamp Boubou *L. ferrugineus* with which it overlaps in range and appearance. However, the Tropical Boubou is a bird of woodland, not swamp. There is only one nest record for this species in Namibia, a two-egg clutch laid in December in riparian vegetation upstream of Katima Mulilo (Brown *et al*. 2015).

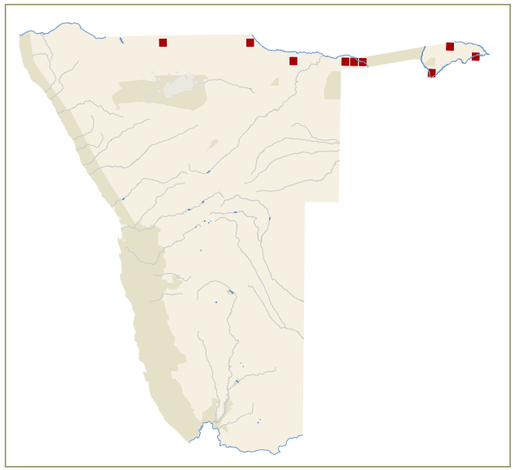
Grey-headed Bush-Shrike | *Malaconotus blanchoti*

This, the largest shrike in southern Africa, is one of a handful of species that occurs in both the Zambezi and Kavango East mesic woodlands, as well as in riverine bush near the Kunene River in north-west Namibia (Parker 1997). On the Kunene River it is very rare, whereas it is more common in the Chobe, Zambezi and Okavango river woodlands. It occupies an area of 6,100 km^2 of which 12% occurs in protected areas (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Elsewhere, it occurs commonly through Zimbabwe, eastern Botswana and northern and south-eastern South Africa. It is recorded all year in Namibia but at a low rate of 7%. It is not found in areas with rainfall below 500 mm or at altitudes above 1,500 m. It is a summer breeder elsewhere (Tarboton 2011), but there are no nest records for Namibia (Brown *et al*. 2015). It is not a conservation priority in Namibia because it is a common and widespread resident in other tropical areas of southern Africa.



Souza's Shrike | *Lanius souzae*

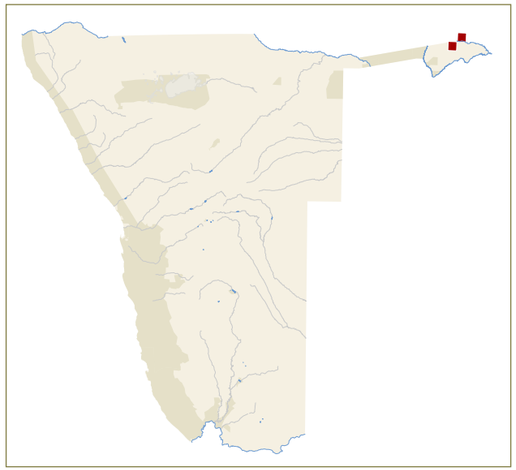
This extremely rare true shrike is endemic to the miombo woodlands of Angola and Tanzania (Harris & Arnott 1988) and only touches southern Africa in the north-eastern region's Kalahari sandveld *Baikiaea* woodlands and sporadically in Zambezi woodlands (Spottiswoode 1997b). Birds may be resident, but are easily overlooked for a variety of reasons (Paxton 2008); they also resemble pale-brown Red-Backed Shrikes *L. collurio*, and may be mistaken for juveniles of this species. Individuals have been recorded at Mpacha, near Katima Mulilo, at Nkasa Island on the Kwando River, in the Kavango woodlands at the neck of West Caprivi, and on the Chobe River. In addition, two birds have been reported from the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park (Harris & Arnott 1988, Spottiswoode 1997b, Jarvis *et al.* 2001). More



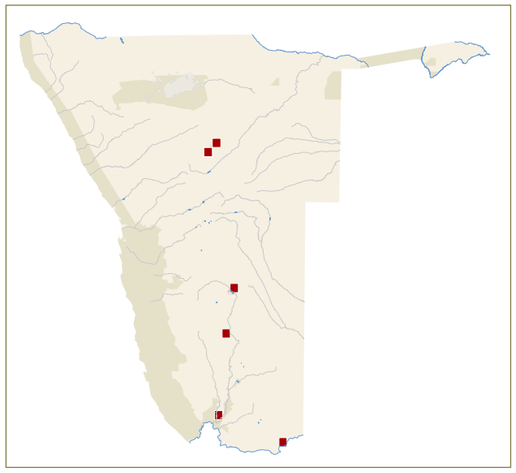
recent observations have shown that this species is not uncommon in the Shamvura area of the Kavango Region; in 2007 the first breeding records of this species in Namibia were noted there and established it as a breeding resident in the Kavango Region (Paxton 2008). About eight pairs and several breeding attempts have been monitored there since then (Paxton 2010). There are now seven breeding records for Namibia, with egg-laying in October (three), November (three) and December (one). Five known clutch sizes were all three eggs (Brown *et al*. 2015). Although birds seem to be territorial for much of the year, they leave the area for a few months once the chicks are mobile, returning at the start of the breeding period in October (M Paxton unpubl. data). The population size in Namibia is unknown and the species' conservation status elsewhere has also not been assessed. A population study of Souza's Shrikes in Namibia would be useful.

Eastern Saw-wing (Eastern Saw-wing Swallow) | *Psalidoprocne orientalis*

This is an uncommon and partly migratory species in southern Africa, with most records from the eastern Zimbabwe highlands and adjacent areas of Mozambique. It favours the edges and clearings of well developed woodland, often close to open water (Earlé 2005). In Namibia, it is recorded on the edge of riparian woodland on the Zambezi River with a flock of about 40 birds in the vicinity of the Wenela-Sesheke bridge, upstream of Katima Mulilo. This population is said to be of the western subspecies *P. o. reichnowi* (Clancey 1980). There are no breeding records or population estimates for Namibia and, while there is no evidence of a decline, the species would benefit from further study.



Fairy Flycatcher | *Stenostira scita*



There are only a few records from Namibia of this small flycatcher, which is endemic to southern Africa. It is common in South Africa but has only been recorded from the Orange River to the east of the Huns Mountains and the /Ai-/Ais National Park, and north from the Fish River to the Brukkaros volcanic remnant (Johnson 1997a). The species is recorded only during the winter and spring in Namibia, and birds disappear in summer when they are breeding elsewhere. There are, however, two historical breeding (egg) records for Namibia, one from February and the other from November (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). The nests were discovered in 1934 and 1936 in what is now the Waterberg Plateau Park, far from the bird's present breeding range. Other historic non-breeding

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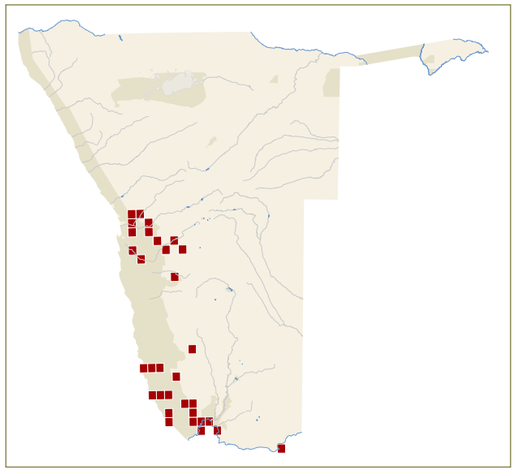
records are known from the Kunene region, as well as from Zimbabwe, where they no longer occur (Clancey 1966). This suggests either widespread wandering or a substantial range reduction that has occurred over the last few decades. It is found in riverine *Acacia* woodland in Namibia, but also in bushy scrub habitat throughout the Grassy Karoo (Johnson 1997a). Its secure status and widespread occurrence in South Africa, together with its small area of occupancy in Namibia of 2,700 km^2, indicates that it is not a conservation priority.

Karoo Eremomela | *Eremomela gregalis*

This elusive species is endemic to southern Africa and occurs, as its name implies, solely within karooid habitat. It occurs in pairs or small flocks and forages close to the ground or in low bushes on gravel plains (Berruti 1997b). It has a very limited distribution in Namibia of 18,600 km^2 (Jarvis *et al.* 2001), occurring from the Orange River through the Tsau//Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park. Then, following a large gap in distribution in the Namib sand sea, it occurs again in an apparently isolated population inland of Walvis Bay and Swakopmund. This population covers just 13 quarter-degree squares and is in need of genetic and morphological investigation to determine its specific status. According to the few records available (reporting rate of less than 1%, Berruti 1997b), the bird is resident – suggesting it is very likely



to be genetically isolated. Nests with chicks have been recorded only twice in Namibia from June and July (Jarvis *et al.* 2001), and recently fledged individuals have been recorded near Lüderitz in January and September (J Kemper pers. obs.). There are no density estimates that might allow a population estimate. In the central Namib, the species could be under threat from potential uranium mining. It is classified as a naturally rare southern African endemic in need of ecological, genetic and population study.