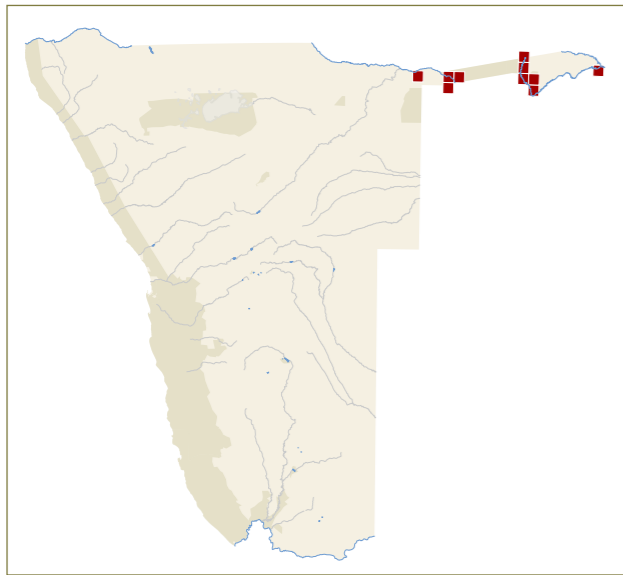


**Greater
Swamp-Warbler |
*Acrocephalus rufescens***



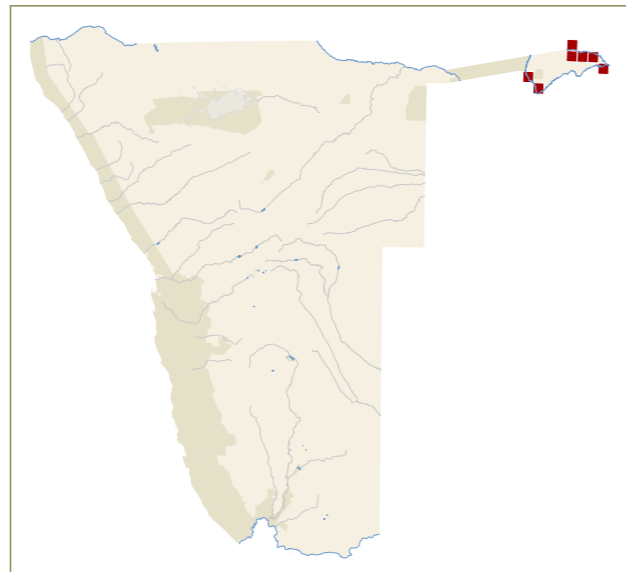
While this resident of Africa's permanent swamps occurs widely in sub-Saharan Africa, it only enters southern Africa in the Okavango River and Swamps, and in the Kwando and Chobe rivers of Namibia, at a mean reporting rate of 4% (Komen 1990, Herremans 1997c). It favours dense papyrus and reed swamps where it is shy and elusive, and is best located by its song (Komen 1990). This indicates that it may be overlooked and more common than the 3,600 km² area of occupancy (Jarvis *et al.* 2001) and low reporting rate suggest. It has been recorded from the Shamvura area on the Okavango since 2006 (Paxton 2010) and it is likely to occur along the length of the Okavango in Namibia in mature and undisturbed reed beds. It is found in the denser, taller stands of papyrus more often than the other reed warblers with which it can be visually confused (Komen & Myers 1988). It lays two or three eggs from November to April (n=10) (Brown *et al.* 2015). Where reed burning occurs, populations may be forced to move, but its small range in southern Africa, including in Namibia, means that it is not a conservation priority in Namibia.

**Red-faced Cisticola |
*Cisticola erythrops***

This small, seldom seen warbler just touches the eastern margins of the Zambezi region where it is found on the edges of wetlands (such as streams and marshes) in reeds or long grasses (Berruti 1997d). It occurs on the Zambezi River eastern floodplain, the Chobe River and the lower Kwando River at a very low reporting rate of 3%. It occupies an area of just 3,100 km², of which 15% is located in protected areas of the Nkasa Rupara (Mamili) National Park (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is widespread elsewhere in the



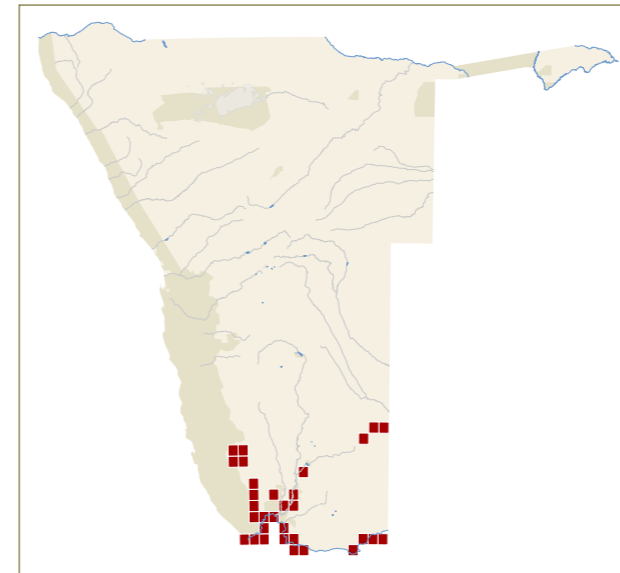
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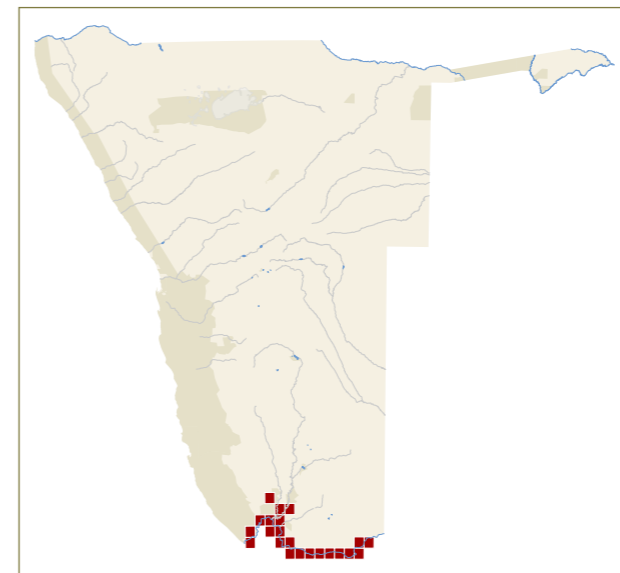
tropical wetlands of Africa, so the pressure on wetland margins from livestock and people in the Zambezi region will not influence its conservation status.

**Karoo Prinia (Spotted Prinia) |
Prinia maculosa
(*Prinia hypoxantha*)**

This very common endemic species to southern Africa has a U-shaped distribution that just enters Namibia along most of its southern border (Berruti & Allan 1997). It is a species that covers a wide variety of habitats from fynbos and coastal strandveld to dry Karoo scrub across a rainfall gradient ranging from less than 100 mm per year to more than 700 mm per year (Berruti & Allan 1997). It occupies an area of 12,400 km², of which 10% occurs within the protected areas of the /Ai-/Ais and Tsau//Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) national parks. It has a low reporting rate of 6% (Jarvis *et al.* 2001), befitting a species at the north-western edge of its global range. It is not a conservation priority in Namibia or in South Africa.

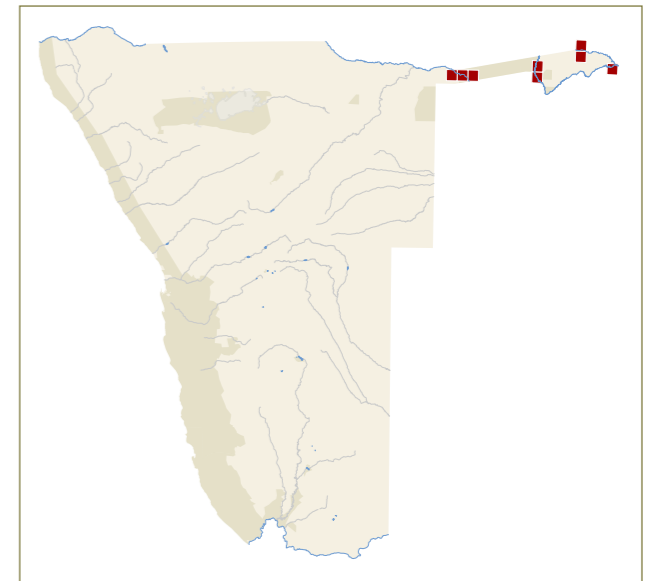


**Namaqua Warbler |
*Phragmacia substriata***



This species is virtually endemic to South Africa's Great and Little Karoo, but its predilection for Karoo rivers means that it has a strong and continuous population along the entire Orange River from the mouth at 16.5°E to about 26°E (Dean & Harrison 1997). The distribution along the Orange River is somewhat separate from the remaining distribution, with a reporting rate of 11% in Namibia (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It occupies an area of 5,700 km² in Namibia, of which 16% occurs within the protected areas of the /Ai-/Ais and Tsau//Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) national parks (Frazee *et al.* 2005). It seems to have adapted to the alien vegetation along the river, but its preferred habitat is *Acacia* thickets and reeds. The density of birds along the river is unrecorded, so the Namibian population size cannot be estimated.

**Stierling's
Wren-Warbler | (Stierling's
Barred Warbler)
*Calamonastes stierlingi***



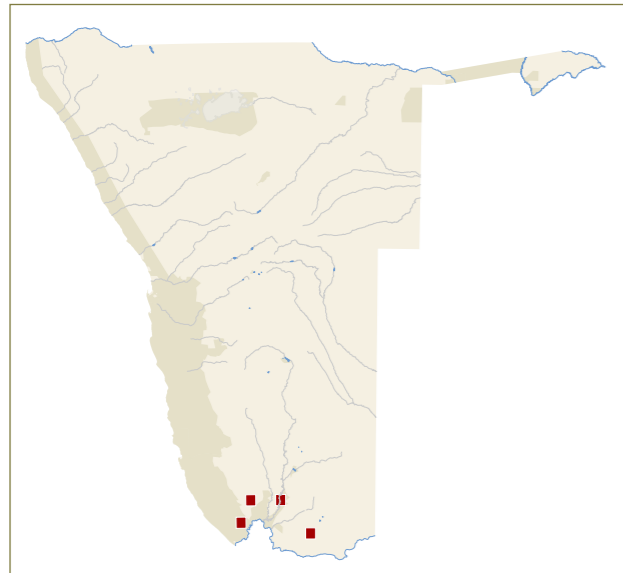
This Afrotropical warbler occurs from Tanzania to the KwaZulu-Natal coast, South Africa, and is common in Zimbabwe, Mozambique and north-eastern South Africa. It is reported rarely from the Caprivi Strip in Namibia (Berruti 1997c). While its reporting rate was a mere 2% from well-studied areas such as the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park, the Katima Mulilo woodlands and the Kongola Bridge on the Kwando River (data in Jarvis *et al.* 2001), it was found to be the commonest tropical warbler in nearby Botswana at one pair per three to six hectares (Herremans & Herremans 1992). Brown (1990) also described it as common on the riparian fringes of the Okavango River. Given this and its preference for thickets



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in a variety of broad-leaved woodland, it is almost certainly under-recorded in the north-east of Namibia. It occupies an area of 4,000 km², of which 38% occurs in the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park and the Mudumu National Park (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). This species is not a conservation priority in Namibia.

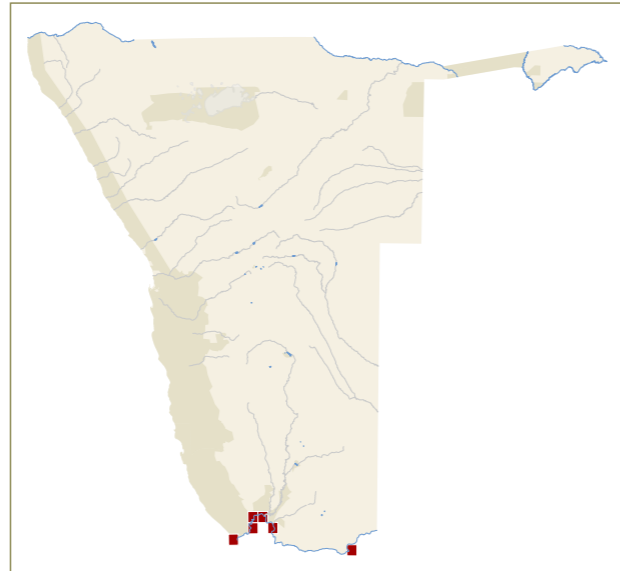
**Cape Clapper Lark |
*Mirafra apiata***



This southern African endemic enters the extreme south of Namibia from across the Orange River in South Africa. There are only a few scattered records from Namibia and, because of its close resemblance to the Eastern Clapper Lark *M. fasciolata*, the latter being common in Namibia, the possibility of misidentification cannot be ruled out. There is a small, seemingly semi-isolated population of Cape Clapper Larks in the area of Pofadder-Aggeney-Pella in the northern Cape, which extends north to the Orange River (Ryan & Dean 2005a), but as the Namibian side is largely inaccessible, it has not been surveyed. Nonetheless, the Cape Clapper Lark is likely to be more common in the far south of Namibia than current records suggest, and this region should be prioritised for future survey work.

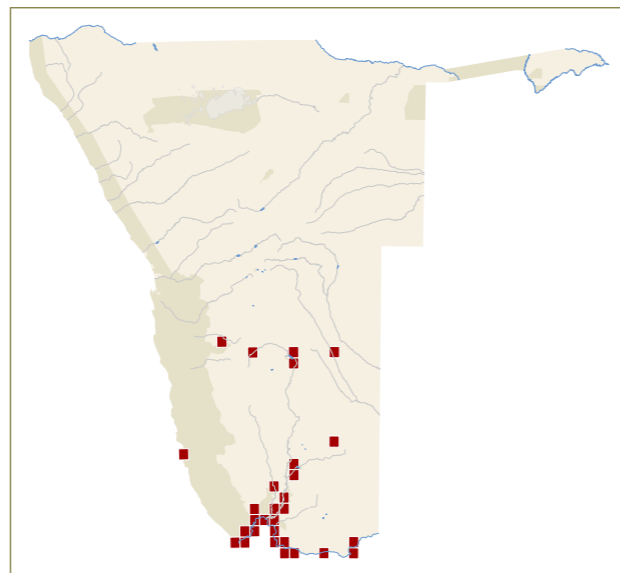
**Large-billed Lark (Thick-billed Lark) |
*Galerida magnirostris***

A southern African endemic species, this bird is found almost exclusively within South Africa and Lesotho, just crossing the Orange River into the extreme south of Namibia. It occurs along almost the full length of the south bank of the Orange River on Namibia's southern border, but surprisingly, there are only a handful of records of this relatively distinctive lark from southern Namibia. It is undoubtedly under-recorded. It favours



semi-arid grassland, dwarf shrubland and succulent Karoo, fallow crop-fields, degraded rangelands and shrub-lined watercourses (Dean 2005f). It is one of the few species that has benefited from poor range management. The extreme southern regions of Namibia have received relatively little ornithological attention and survey work would be beneficial to elucidate the status of this and a number of other poorly known species in Namibia.

**Karoo Thrush |
*Turdus smithi***



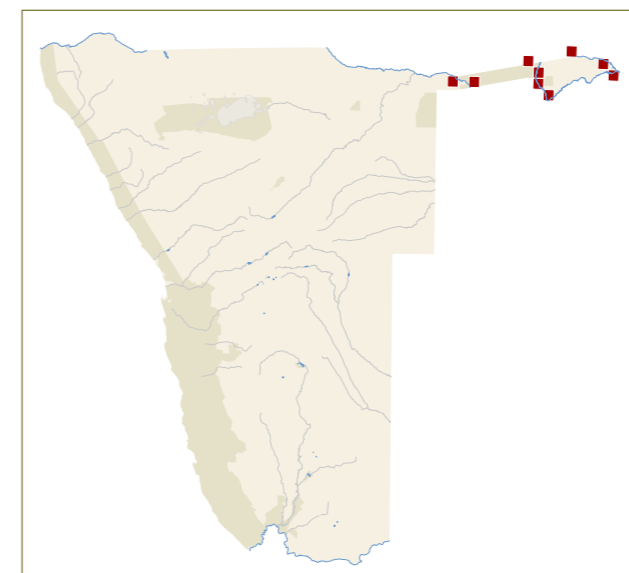
A widespread and common southern African species endemic to the Karoo, it is found along the Orange and Fish rivers in Namibia and occurs over an area of about 14,000 km² (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It favours riverine vegetation and gardens (Johnson 2005b). Scattered records occur farther north in the Naukluft rivers, the Mariental-Stamriet area (Johnson 2005b) and Lüderitz (J



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Kemper pers. obs.), which may be related to the irrigation and/or urban development in some of these areas. It is partially protected in 1,800 km² of protected area along the Orange River, and also within the previous mining area around Oranjemund, which falls into the Tsau//Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park. Despite its abundance along the Orange River, there are only two nest records, both from the Mariental region (Brown *et al.* 2015). Breeding in Lüderitz is suspected but has not been confirmed (J Kemper pers. obs.).

**Red-capped Robin-Chat
(Natal Robin) |
*Cossypha natalensis***



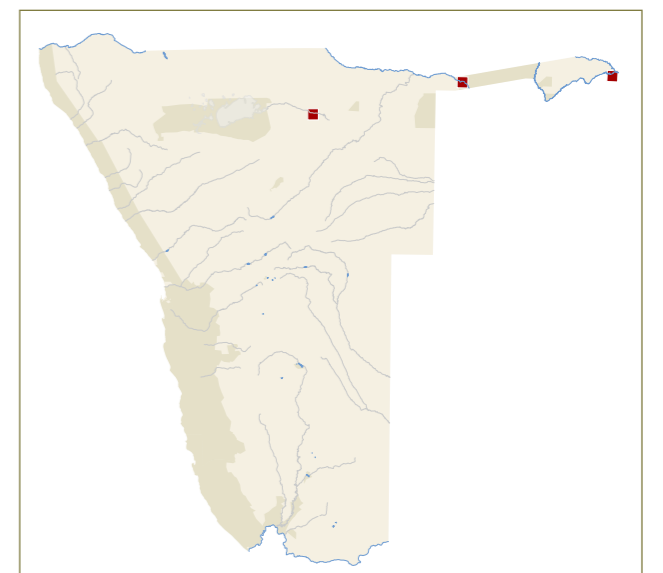
This is a very widespread species of the underbrush of evergreen coastal and riverine forest across Africa (Oatley 1997e). However, it is a very rare species in Namibia with a reporting rate of 4%, and is distributed sparsely along the Zambezi, Kwando and Okavango rivers. It occupies an area of 4,000 km², of which 37% occurs in the protected area of Nkasa Rupara (Mamili)



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National Park and the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park in West Caprivi (Oatley 1997e, Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is more likely to be heard than seen and this may account for all the records clustering around November and January in Namibia, when birds may be breeding and singing (Oatley & Arnott 1998). However, it is also a migrant, seeking evergreen habitats in the dry season and moving to more open scrub habitat in the wet season (Oatley & Arnott 1998). This may equally explain the seasonal sighting records for Namibia. It is not threatened in Africa because of its wide distribution, but human subsistence pressure on riverine forest in Namibia is often intense (Mendelsohn & el Obeid 2004) and this may locally reduce some populations.

**Collared Palm-Thrush |
*Cichladusa arquata***



This species just enters southern Africa along the Zambezi River in Zimbabwe from the north-east to Kasane on Namibia's eastern-most border. It depends upon *Hyphaene* and *Borassus* palms but is highly localised and does not