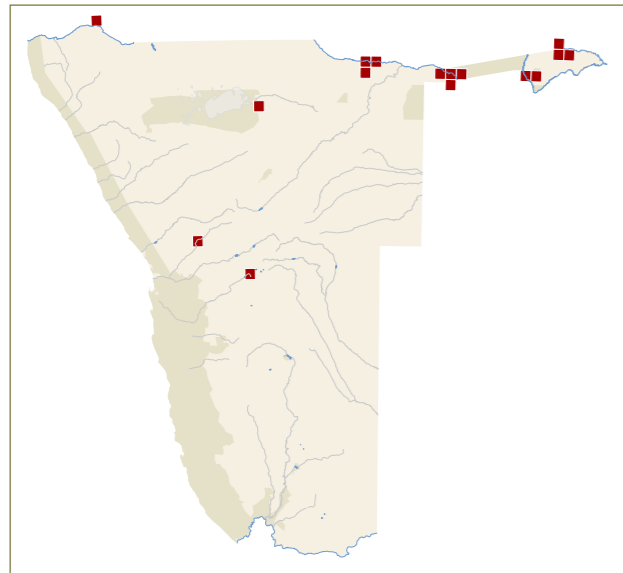


populations probably represent much less than 1% of the African population and thus it is treated as rare. It may suffer from the frequent burning that Caprivi grasslands experience (Mendelsohn & Roberts 1997) during the breeding season from August to November (Maclean 1997h). The South African subspecies is designated as *Vulnerable* because of its small and fragmented population (Parker 2000, Taylor *et al.* in press)

**Pennant-winged Nightjar |**  
*Macrodipteryx vexillarius*  
(*Macrodipteryx vexillaria*)



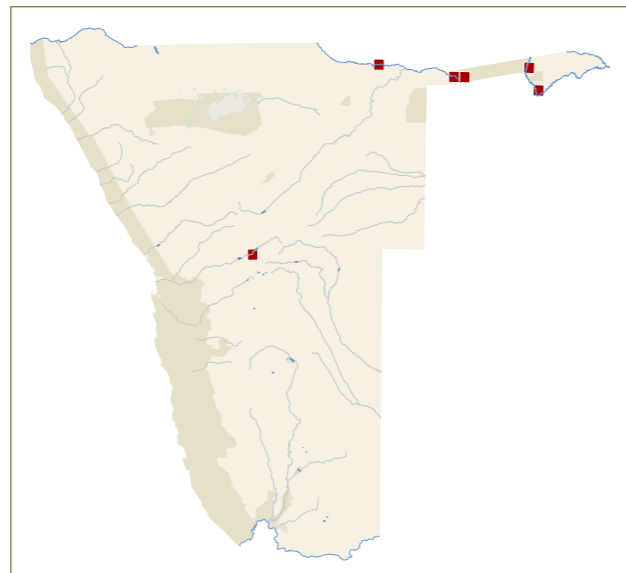
This extraordinary migratory tropical species breeds in central southern Africa (mainly from October to December) and flies in flocks to equatorial Africa from March (Maclean 1997g, del Hoyo *et al.* 1999). In southern Africa, it is found mainly in Zimbabwe, but birds occur peripherally in Namibia in the north-east and near Epupa Falls on the Kunene River. It is always associated with riverine habitat and broad-leaved woodlands, where it typically prefers stony hillsides and sandy areas (Maclean 1997g). Birds are occasionally sighted in Etosha National Park and in Windhoek, but these are vagrant. It occupies an area of 7,100 km<sup>2</sup> in Namibia, of which 20% occurs in the Mahango protected area in the Bwabwata National Park and in Mudumu National Park (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). No breeding records are known from Namibia. It is not a conservation priority here or elsewhere.

**Red-chested Flufftail |**  
*Sarothrura rufa*

This is among the commonest of Africa's flufftails, its distribution spreading westwards in finger-like projections from a predominantly easterly distribution in sub-Saharan Africa, south to Cape Town (Taylor 1997c, Delany & Scott 2002). It just touches the north-east of Namibia, where it

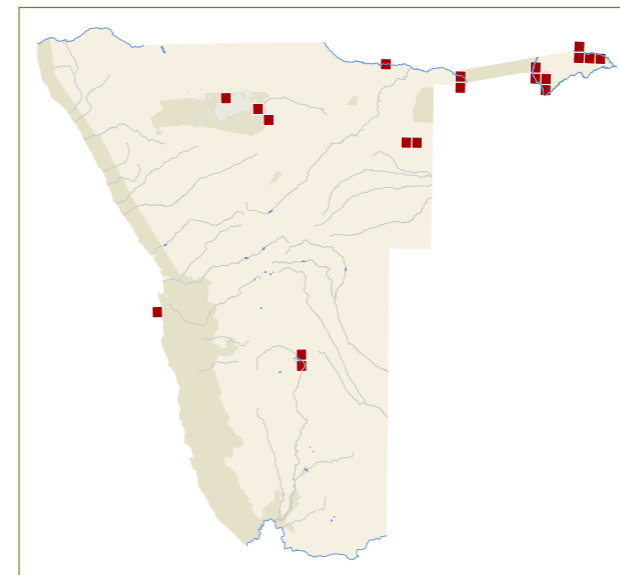


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is almost certainly under-recorded because it is heard more often than seen in wetlands comprising grasses and reeds. Its area of occupancy is therefore probably greater than the 1,600 km<sup>2</sup> recorded from the Okavango River and Linyanti Swamps (Taylor 1997c, Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Birds were also recorded in the Bwabwata National Park from the Okavango and Kwando river floodplains (Brown 1990), from the Zambezi eastern floodplain (Koen 1988), the Nkasa-Lupala Island complex nearby (RE Simmons pers. obs.), from north of Kamanjab (E Demasius pers. obs.) and near Windhoek (Taylor 1997c). Like other flufftails, it may respond to local rains, and appear unexpectedly in more arid parts of Namibia. Population size is currently impossible to predict, but it probably occurs throughout the perennial river systems of the two Kavango and the Zambezi regions. It is not threatened, given that most of this habitat is inaccessible wetland penetrated only by occasional fires.

**African Rail |**  
*Rallus caerulescens*



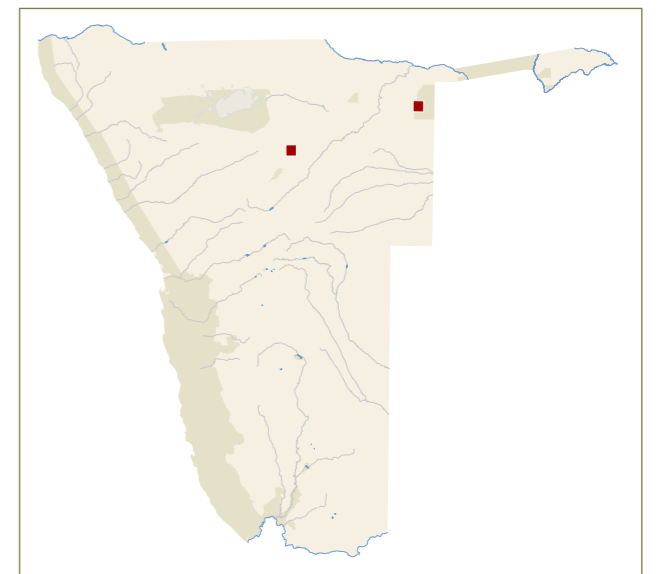
This small, unobtrusive species is found scattered throughout the wetter areas of East and central Africa (Dean 2005a). In Namibia, it occurs along the margins of the northern rivers (Zambezi, Kwando and Okavango), where it forages on the edge of reed beds and shallow water (Dean 2005a). Its area of occupancy from SABAP1 records was 10,000 km<sup>2</sup> (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). The bird is also recorded from the Tsumkwe Pans and northern Etosha. A recent record from SABAP2 is from further north in the north-central regions on the border with Angola. About 20% of the range is within protected areas, so it is unlikely to become a conservation priority. There are no nest records for the species in Namibia.

**Corn Crane |** *Crex crex*

This small, secretive and elusive grassland species is threatened by the massive loss of grasslands in its Eurasian breeding grounds (Stattersfield & Capper 2000). Recent conservation efforts focusing on changing the timing and methods of harvesting in the United Kingdom are proving successful; the populations are increasing again (A Balmford pers. comm.) and the species has been reclassified to *Least Concern* status in 2012 (IUCN 2012). The range in southern Africa where this species migrates to is poorly known, but includes the more mesic grasslands of Zimbabwe and eastern South Africa (Taylor 1997a). It is very rare in Namibia, with only one sighting recorded during the SABAP1 atlas period in the Nyae Nyae region (Taylor 1997a). More recent sightings include birds 30 km east of Otavi in black turf grasslands, where three single birds were observed in February 2004, following above average rains (B Nebe pers. obs.). Remains of a bird 70 km north west of Okahandja were found on treed thornveld



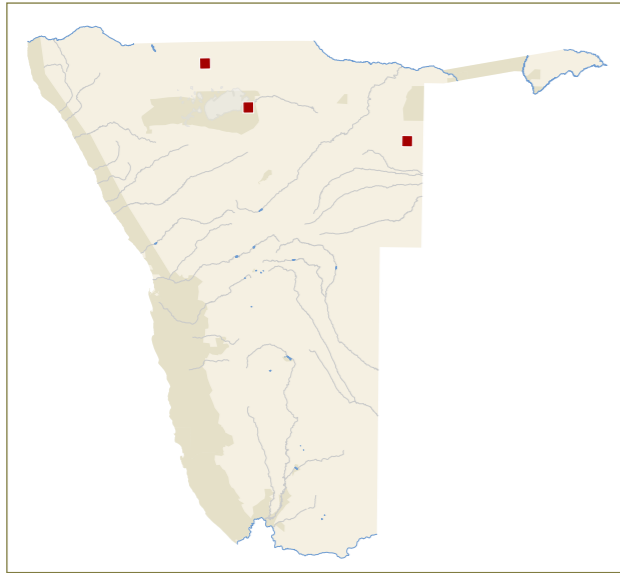
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savannah, also following above average rains there (C Nebe pers. obs.). Understanding its status in Namibia would require a concerted research effort because it is unlikely to be recorded by the casual observer, particularly because male birds do not call. It is doubtful for two reasons whether conservation efforts in Namibia will add to this bird's overall conservation. Firstly, its peripheral status and lack of evidence that it was ever common in Namibia suggest that conservation efforts would be futile. Secondly, the conservation problems responsible for its rarity occur in Eurasia, where harvesting practices may hold the key to recovery. It therefore seems inappropriate to assign it a threat category in Namibia.

**Striped Crane |**  
*Aenigmatolimnas marginalis*

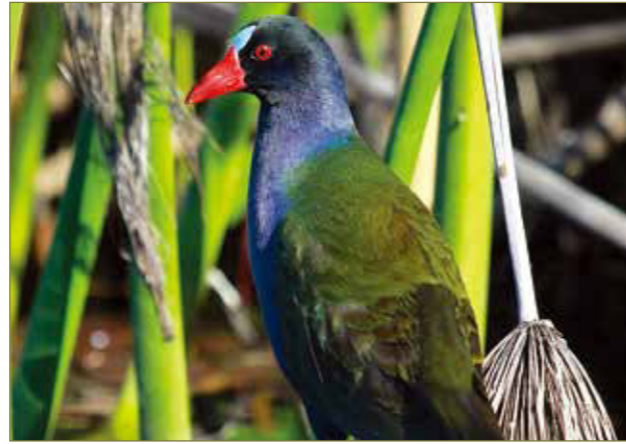
This uncommon Afrotropical species is a wet-season visitor to southern Africa, and is so secretive and poorly known that only two birds were recorded in Namibia during the 24-year



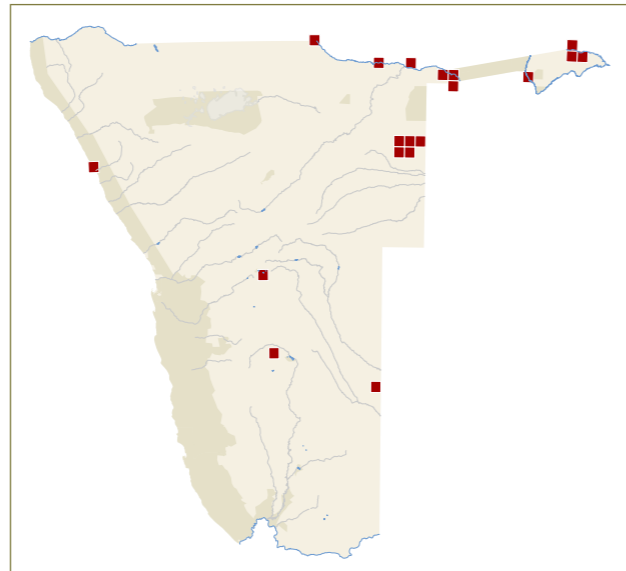
SABAP1 atlas period (Taylor 1997b). One record came from Etosha Pan and one from the Tsumkwe Pans (Taylor 1997b). Breeding birds were previously collected in Ondonga, just north of Etosha Pan in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Andersson & Gurney 1872). It prefers ephemeral pools with short grasses and muddy patches around shallow pools (Taylor 1997b). Such conditions are found in the Pannetjies Veld and the Tsumkwe Pans in high rainfall years. Birds have been collected in the Tsumkwe Pans in high rainfall years (J Mendelsohn pers. comm.) and four nest records from that area have them laying in February and March (Brown *et al.* 2015). It has an area of occupancy of 1,500 km<sup>2</sup> in Namibia (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Its African population is estimated at 10,000 to 25,000 birds and declining (Delany & Scott 2002); Namibia's population, which is probably fewer than 100 birds, is therefore less than 0.5% of the world population. This species may well breed irregularly at Namibia's ephemeral north-eastern pans when rainfall is high, but its contribution to African population stability is likely to be minimal.

**Allen's Gallinule (Lesser Gallinule) | *Porphyrio alleni* (*Porphyryla alleni*)**

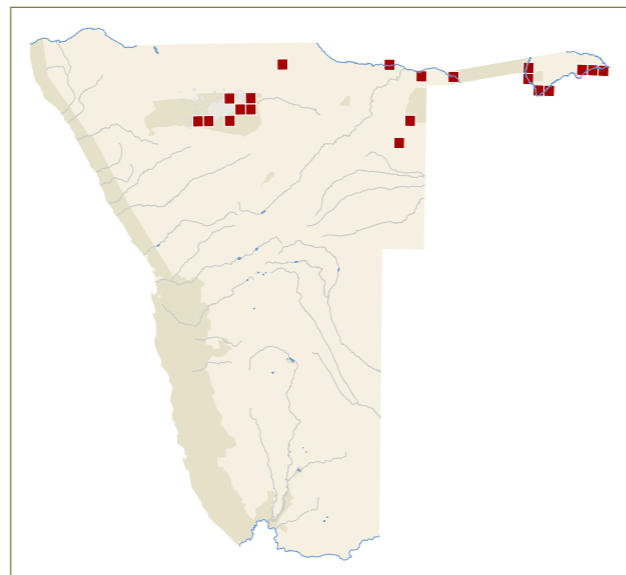
This small wetland species is found throughout Africa in suitable wetland margins. In Namibia, it occurs mainly along the Okavango and Zambezi rivers and their associated backwaters and floodplains. Birds are also recorded from the Tsumkwe Pans and as a vagrant (once) from the Kaokoveld (Dean 2005b). It occupied 9,500 km<sup>2</sup> in SABAP1 atlas data, of which an area of 1,200 km<sup>2</sup> is protected (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Present atlas data from SABAP2 (December 2014) show a similar pattern of occurrence with an additional record east of Etosha. It is almost certainly overlooked and under-recorded. Fourteen nests are known from the Tsumkwe Pans with clutches laid in January (four), February (five) and March (five) (Brown *et al.* 2015).



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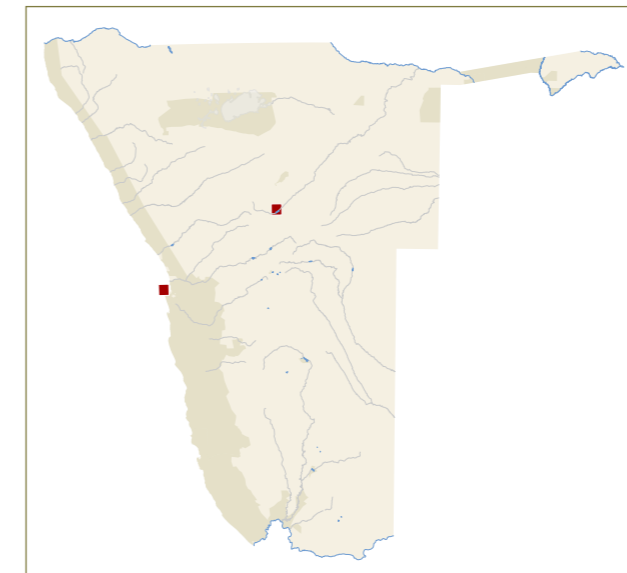


**Yellow-throated Sandgrouse | *Pterocles gutturalis***



A nomadic species that, like other sandgrouse, is found in drier regions of the continent. It occurs patchily from Ethiopia to the northern parts of Botswana and Namibia, north-western South Africa and Zimbabwe. It prefers recently burned, open grasslands, fallow fields and other open areas on black clays near open water (Macleod 1997f). It is recorded sparsely from Etosha National Park (reporting rate of about 1%) and in grassland areas around the Kwando and Chobe rivers. Its area of occupancy is 11,900 km<sup>2</sup> (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is known to have declined in South Africa in historic times (Macleod 1997f), and populations there number about 500 birds (Tarboton *et al.* 1987). Population size is unknown elsewhere in southern Africa. It breeds from March to August in Botswana (Skinner 1996), while the only breeding record for Namibia has it laying in September (Brown *et al.* 2015). It is classified as *Near Threatened* in South Africa (Barnes 2000a, Taylor *et al.* in press) because of the small fluctuating population and its reliance on farming practices. It is, however, not globally threatened (IUCN 2012).

**Red-necked Phalarope | *Phalaropus lobatus***



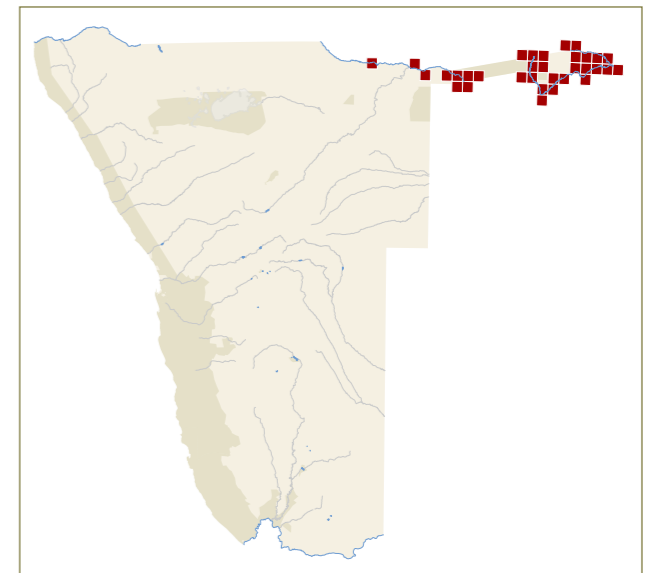
This common circumpolar species spends the non-breeding season off Peru, China and the Arabian peninsula (Hockey 2005b). In grey non-breeding plumage it is distinguished from the Red Phalarope (Grey Phalarope) *P. fulicaria* by its longer, thinner bill and darker grey back and rump. In Africa, it is found in the Rift Valley lakes of East Africa; in southern Africa it is most common in Walvis Bay, where up to 56 birds have been recorded in January (Wearne & Underhill 2005). There is one record from the Omatako Dam. Some birds over-winter in Namibia and up to nine birds have been recorded from Walvis Bay in July (Wearne & Underhill 2005). There has been a steady increase in birds seen at Walvis Bay in recent times from



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an average of about five (1991, 1992, 1995) to 56 (1999, 2000, 2001) and over 70 (2014) more recently (Jarvis *et al.* 2001, Wearne & Underhill 2005, H Kolberg unpubl. data). There are few conservation concerns for this species either worldwide or in Namibia and it may have benefited from coastal salt works that provide habitats where there were none previously. There is no evidence in Namibia for the assertion that it has decreased in southern Africa since 1980 (Hockey 2005b).

**Long-toed Lapwing (Long-toed Plover) | *Vanellus crassirostris***



This species has a more restricted African range than the White-crowned Lapwing (White-crowned Plover) *V. albiceps*, occurring mainly in the central and eastern sections from southern Sudan to KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. Its world population is estimated at 25,000 to 50,000 birds and like the White-crowned Lapwing,