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Editorial

The trials of the Namibia Bird Club continue with it mainly being a Windhoek orientated organization. The number of articles submitted to its journal the *Lanioturdus* has withered to almost unacceptable levels. In 2006 only one issue of the *Lanioturdus* was published and here we are half way through 2007 and finally the editor has enough articles to publish what probably will be the only issue of 2007.

There is obviously an interest in birding within Namibia since there are now many subgroups specializing in aspects of birds. There is Raptors Namibia who publish an on line newsletter once a month. The Crane Working Group, Raptor Road Counts, Rare and Endangered Species Trust working on vultures, and the Wetland Bird Counts which enumerate all the wetlands twice per year.

I know that there are birders observing birds because of the rare birds which have been reported to the magazine *Birds and Birding* from Namibia.

Once again I appeal to all members to help the Namibia Bird Club. If you want to keep the club viable you must also do your part and try and get new members to join. We are currently down to fewer than 100 members.

Fortunately there is good news and there has been a recent increase in the number of articles submitted and hopefully this trend will continue and we could see another issue published this year.

I hope readers will note the addition to the Namibia list of Ruppell's Vulture. There are probably more juvenile Ruppell's Vultures visiting Namibia than we realize. Observers should keep their eyes open when watching vultures at a kill, you may be able to add a new species to your list. If you do see one of these birds please try to photograph it.

Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk
Red-billed Francolin
Swainson's Francolin
Helmeted Guinea Fowl
Kori Bustard
Red-crested Korhaan
Greater Painted Snipe
Three-banded Plover
Crowned Lapwing
Blacksmith Lapwing
Wood Sandpiper
Common Greenshank
Curlew Sandpiper
Spotted Thick-knee
Temminck's Courser
Namaqua Sandgrouse
Double-banded Sandgrouse
Rock Dove
Cape Turtle-Dove
Laughing Dove
Namaqua Dove
Rüppell's Parrot
Grey Go-away-bird
Barn Owl
Pearl-spotted Owllet
African Palm Swift
Red-faced Mousebird
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater
Lilac-breasted Roller
African Hoopoe
Violet Wood-hoopoe
Common Scimitarbill
Red-billed Hornbill
Damara Hornbill
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill
Acacia Pied Barbet

Groundscraper Thrush
White-browed Scrub Robin
Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler
Grey-backed Camaroptera
Barred Wren Warbler
Rattling Cisticola
Black-chested Prinia
Spotted Flycatcher
Pririt Batis
Buffy Pipit
Lesser Grey Shrike
Red-backed Shrike
Crimson-breasted Shrike
Black-backed Puffback
Brubru
Southern White-crowned Shrike
Wattled Starling
Burchell's Starling
Cape Glossy Starling
Marico Sunbird
Dusky Sunbird
Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow
Southern Masked Weaver
Green-winged Pytllia
Blue Waxbill
Violet-eared Waxbill
Black-faced Waxbill
Red-headed Finch
Shaft-tailed Whydah
Long-tailed Paradise-Whydah
Black-throated Canary
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting
Lark-like Bunting

Summary of the 2005 ringing season in Namibia.

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The 2005 ringing season ended on 30.06.2006 and the following is a summary of data received by 31.07.2006

Namibian ringers yet again excelled, ringing 16 650 birds of 298 species. Out of this total 15 842 were newly ringed birds, making this the highest total of birds ringed in Namibia in one season ever, easily beating the record set last season. Ursula Franke was the top ringer with over 3 000 birds, followed by Tim Osborne and Dirk Heinrich, both of whom ringed well over 2 500 birds. Dirk was again the top ringer in terms of number of species, followed by Ursula and Steve Braine. Common Tern head the list of species ringed, followed by Red-billed Quelea and Lark-like Bunting. Not surprisingly, Pale Chanting Goshawk head the list of 405 raptors of 33 species ringed, but only two species of vultures were ringed. The list of wetland birds is headed by Common Tern, followed by White Pelican and Black Tern; in total 2 855 birds of 47 species were ringed in this category. Ten out of fifteen Namibian endemic species were ringed (183 birds in total). In terms of localities, Mile 4 just pips the Osborne residence and the Heinrich residence. Birds were ringed at 672 different localities.

Several species specific projects were continued. Mark Boorman's tern ringing at Mile 4 continues to yield interesting data and controls. Rod Braby continued the work on the Damara Terns and for the first time news of controls from outside Namibia (West Africa) was received. Dirk has continued the nest box work in Daan Viljoen with some very interesting results. The pelican ringing at Hardap is in its third season and has already resulted in four amazing recoveries. The vulture ringing in Etosha and Namib-Naukluft was continued despite the lack of colour rings. Several ringers are collecting blood samples for DNA analysis for a global project on bird taxonomy.

One of the most encouraging aspects of this season is the number of trainee ringers currently being taught (eighteen). This can only bode well for the future of bird ringing in this country.

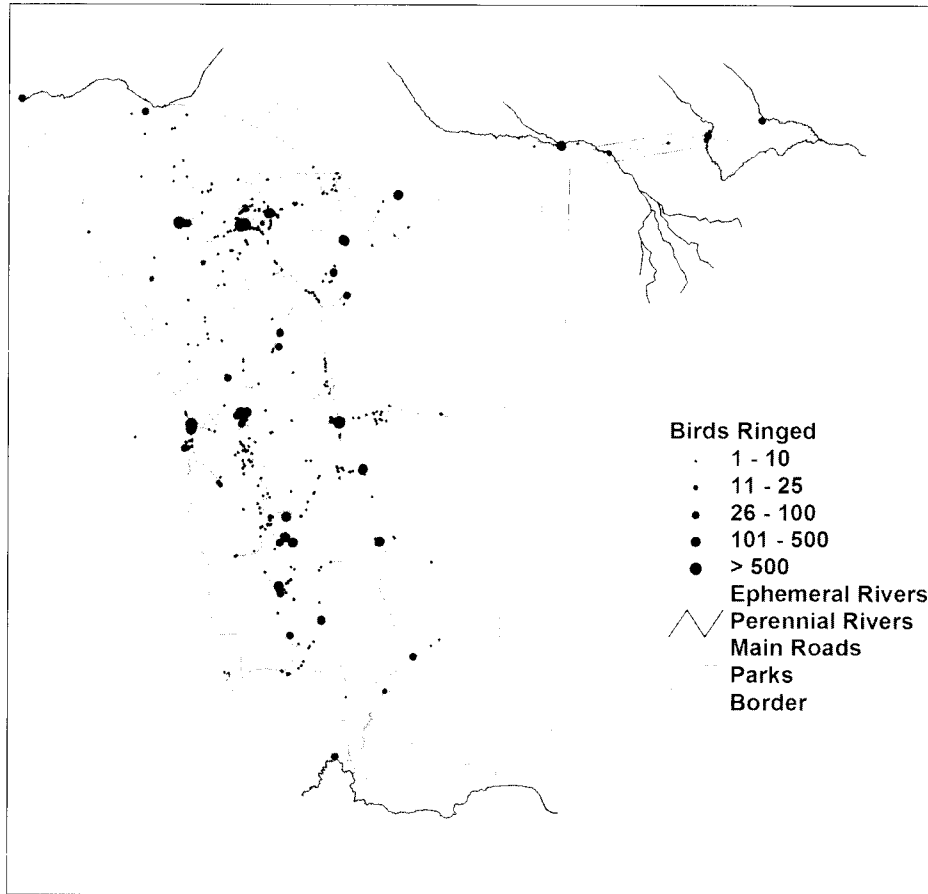


Table 1: Number of new birds (code 1) ringed per ringer.

Ringer	Birds
Ursula Franke	3 078
Tim Osborne	2 887
Dirk Heinrich	2 784
Mark Boorman	1 623
Steve Braine	1 242
Wilferd Versfeld	1 055
Tony Tree	912
Holger Kolberg	752
Marc Dürr	443
Sigi Braby	338
Mark Paxton	228
Sandra Dantu	126
Andrew Pickles	75
Gordon Scholtz	75
Gerrie Grobler	56
Ivan Pickles	51
John Paterson	47
Bernd Brell	30
Peter Bridgeford	27
Rod Braby	13
Marek Hrywniak	0
Total	15 842

Table 2: Number of retraps/controls per ringer.

Ringer	Birds
Dirk Heinrich	221
Tim Osborne	198
Ursula Franke	133
Wilferd Versfeld	97
Mark Boorman	54
Steve Braine	24
Mark Paxton	17
Marc Dürr	15
Holger Kolberg	13
Ivan Pickles	11
Andrew Pickles	10
Rod Braby	10
Tony Tree	4
Gordon Scholtz	1
Total	808

Table 3: Number of species per ringer.

Ringer	Species
Dirk Heinrich	139
Ursula Franke	108
Steve Braine	107
Tim Osborne	98
Wilferd Versfeld	71
Mark Paxton	63
Holger Kolberg	59
Mark Boorman	55

Marc Dürr	34
Andrew Pickles	33
Ivan Pickles	28
Gerrie Grobler	25
Sandra Dantu	23
Sigi Braby	22
Gordon Scholtz	14
Tony Tree	9
Bernd Brell	8
John Paterson	8
Peter Bridgeford	1
Rod Braby	1

Table 4: Top twenty species ringed.

Species	Total
Common Tern	2 225
Red-billed Quelea	1 612
Lark-like Bunting	1 088
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	743
Southern Masked-Weaver	708
African Red-eyed Bulbul	698
Cape Sparrow	662
Red-headed Finch	593
Violet-eared Waxbill	446
No-name Bird	368
Sociable Weaver	359
Laughing Dove	346
Black-throated Canary	302

Chestnut Weaver	291
Golden-breasted Bunting	256
Namaqua Dove	253
Green-winged Pytilia	202
Banded Martin	192
Common Waxbill	191
Blue Waxbill	173

Table 5: Numbers of raptors ringed.

Species	Total
Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk	126
Lappet-faced Vulture	65
White-backed Vulture	49
Pearl-spotted Owlet	34
Greater Kestrel	22
Gabar Goshawk	16
Shikra	15
Rock Kestrel	14
African Scops-Owl	6
Black-chested Snake-Eagle	6
Little Sparrowhawk	5
Pygmy Falcon	5
African Hawk Eagle	4
Augur Buzzard	4
Tawny Eagle	4
Barn Owl	3
Black-shouldered Kite	3
African Fish-Eagle	2

Brown Snake-Eagle	2
Dark Chanting-Goshawk	2
Lanner Falcon	2
Secretarybird	2
Southern White-faced Owl	2
Spotted Eagle-Owl	2
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	2
Dickinson's Kestrel	1
Jackal Buzzard	1
Lizard Buzzard	1
Martial Eagle	1
Steppe Buzzard	1
Verreaux's Eagle	1
Wahlberg's Eagle	1
Western Banded Snake-Eagle	1

Table 6: Numbers of wetland birds ringed.

Species	Total
Common Tern	2 225
Great White Pelican	127
Black Tern	123
Damara Tern	41
Arctic Tern	33
African Sacred Ibis	30
Crowned Lapwing	29
White-fronted Plover	28
Sandwich Tern	27
Swift Tern	27

Lesser Flamingo	19
Ruddy Turnstone	16
Spotted Thick-knee	16
African Spoonbill	10
Three-banded Plover	9
Black-headed Heron	8
Chestnut-banded Plover	7
Little Bittern	7
Sanderling	7
African Penguin	6
Curlew Sandpiper	6
Hartlaub's Gull	5
Blacksmith Lapwing	4
Greater Flamingo	4
Grey Heron	4
African Wattled Lapwing	3
Common Sandpiper	3
Kelp Gull	3
Little Stint	3
White-breasted Cormorant	3
African Crake	2
Black Crake	2
Black Stork	2
Black-winged Stilt	2
Lesser Moorhen	2
Baillon's Crake	1
Bar-tailed Godwit	1
Common Moorhen	1

Giant Kingfisher	1
Green-backed Heron	1
Kittlitz's Plover	1
Maccoa Duck	1
Pied Avocet	1
Pied Kingfisher	1
Red-knobbed Coot	1
Ruff	1
Sabine's Gull	1

Table 7: Numbers of endemics ringed.

Species	Total
Monteiro's Hornbill	86
Damara Tern	41
Damara Hornbill	20
Bare-cheeked Babbler	9
Dune Lark	6
Ruppell's Parrot	6
Carp's Tit	5
Rüppell's Korhaan	4
White-tailed Shrike	4
Herero Chat	2

Table 8: Top twentyfive localities.

Coordinates	Locality	Total
2235S 1432E	Mile 4 Salt Works	1 484
1921S 1529E	Tandala Ridge, Windpoort Farm	1 269
2234S 1706E	Klein Windhoek	1 023
2235S 1432E	Mile 4 Salt Works	908
2225S 1524E	Nelsville Farmhouse	769
1919S 1422E	Hobatere, Kamanjab	732
1922S 1525E	Klipoort, Windpoort Farm	549
1910S 1554E	Okaukuejo	455
1921S 1529E	Tandala Ridge, Windpoort Farm, Outjo District	371
1910S 1555E	Okaukuejo Rest Camp, Etosha National Park	366
1937S 1711E	Ritzdorf Farmhaus	359
2319S 1732E	Wiese	334
1910S 1555E	Okaukuejo house	320
1802S 2051E	Shamvura	272
2239S 1432E	Swakopmund Sewage Works	248
1919S 1422E	Hobatere	241
2431S 1618E	Zebra River Lodge, Matahole District	241
1852S 1806E	Farm Tsutsab	221
2430S 1750E	Hardap dam	176
1852S 1806E	Tsutsab	174
2406S 1611E	Arbeitsdelt	164
2224S 1530E	Marmor Kuduposten	161
1921S 1529E	Garden, Windpoort Farm	156
2514S 1603E	NRNR, Die Duine house	154
1920S 1527E	Tampan Post, Windpoort Farm	147

BIRD OBSERVATIONS AND NOTES

On 19.12.2006 I saw a single African Spoonbill at the Mile 4 Salt Works north of Swakopmund. On the evening of 21.12.2006 Mark Boorman and I saw the bird again in the same vicinity and Mark thought that you might be interested in the sighting and that it was possibly worth a mention in *Lanioturdus*. The bird in question was sighted near the Seabird Guano building at the extreme northern end of the saltworks. I am pretty sure that it is an immature bird as the legs were dark (not pink) and the facial skin and bill were very dull.

Neil Thomson



Rarely seen at Swakopmund last summer (2006)

Photo: Neil Thomson

White Stork

2 adult birds seen on 6.07.2006, 09h20, near Tsumeb, 1917 BB next to main road M 83 on small holding "Amanzi". These small holdings are irrigated for agriculture, forming a good habitat for those birds. According to "The Atlas of