Namibia Bird Club
1962 – 2012

LANIOTURDUS

VOL. 45 (4) 2012

October 2012

www.namibiabirdclub.org

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Editorial

In this issue I am delighted to be able to publish articles on two species new to Namibia, one of which is in fact new to the southern African sub-region and is believed to be resident in the far north west of Namibia.

In May 2012 Wessel Swanepoel discovered a population of Angola Cave Chats on the southern slopes of the Zebra Mountains west of Swartbooisdrif in the far northwest of Namibia. This species was thought to be an Angolan endemic but has now been found south of the border. Please take note of Wessel's request that he be informed of any further sightings of this species in order to facilitate his research into this species in Namibia.

The second species new to Namibia which we feature in this issue is the Lesser Yellowlegs seen by Simon Woolley at the Rundu Sewage

the Mudumu National Park (Underhill & Brown 1997). It has been recorded from just 15 quarter degree squares. During the above described avifaunal survey two flocks of Sharp-tailed Starlings were encountered with a total of 11 birds in the 5.4 km² transect. This gives a density of about 20 birds per 10 km². This is the first record of Sharp-tailed Starlings in the Mopane woodlands in the interior of eastern Caprivi (Figure 2).

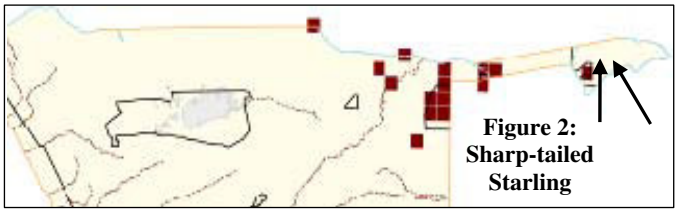

Figure 2: Sharp-tailed Starling

If we again assume that on average one third of the habitat of the now 17 quarter degree squares in which Sharp-tailed Starlings have been recorded is suitable habitat this would give about 2,500 km² of suitable habitat. Applying the above density figure to this area gives an estimate of about 5,000 birds. However, one survey can be misleading and additional information is needed before we can make any reliable estimates.

It is evident that we have poor population estimates on many bird species in Namibia. These simple transect counts can provide useful information on the status of many species, and the more transect information we have, the better will be the estimates.

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Summary of the 2011 Ringing Season in Namibia

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Namibian ringers once again excelled in 2011 ringing close to 16,000 birds of 248 species. Four ringers handled over 2,000 birds (Dirk, Neil, Mark B and Ursula) and Dirk's tenacity once again put him on top of the list for the number of species ringed. Two seabird species, Black Tern and African Penguin, top the list of all species handled whilst Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk just pips two vulture species to the top of the raptor list. Seabirds dominate the top of the list of waterbirds.

Nine of our endemic bird species were handled. Klein Windhoek is turning into a real hotbed of bird ringing, proving that town-based ringers can make significant contributions.

Several project based ringing activities continued this year. Sigi Braby continued the Damara Tern monitoring notwithstanding some serious difficulties, Mark Boorman continued his dedication to terns, especially Black Terns, Wilferd Versfeld managed to catch six Blue Cranes and the vulture ringers again had a good season.

Many thanks to all the ringers for their cooperation and hard work.

Table 1: Number of birds handled by each ringer.

Ringer	Code 1	Code 2*	Total
Dirk Heinrich	2476	561	**3037**
Neil Thomson	1802	921	**2723**
Mark Boorman	1951	89	**2040**
Ursula Franke	1936	84	**2020**
Rian Jones	233	1001	**1234**
Gudrun Middendorff	620	141	**761**
Pete Bartlett	10	484	**494**
Tim Osborne	454	31	**485**
Kobus Bekker	398	5	**403**
Tony Delport	17	338	**355**
Sandra Dantu	266	77	**343**
Mark Kirk	276	2	**278**
Dominic Rollinson	229		**229**
Hartmut Kolb	226	2	**228**
Wilferd Versfeld	204	13	**217**
Holger Kolberg	177	4	**181**
Jessica Kemper		138	**138**
Maren Thomson	64	24	**88**
Graham Grieve	68	8	**76**
Liz Komen	63	3	**66**
Robin Teifel	48	12	**60**
Sigi Braby	43	4	**47**
Colin de Kock	44		**44**
Dieter Oschadleus	41		**41**
Bernd Brell	33	3	**36**
Peter Bridgeford	22		**22**
Gabriel Shatumbu	7		**7**
Mike Yates	5		**5**
	11713	**3945**	**15658**

* Code 2 refers to re-traps, re-sightings, dead birds etc.

Table 2: Number of species handled by each ringer.

Ringer	Code 1	Code 2	Total
Dirk Heinrich	135	37	**139**
Ursula Franke	96	13	**96**
Neil Thomson	73	35	**77**
Tim Osborne	73	16	**74**
Mark Kirk	65	2	**65**
Gudrun Middendorff	62	26	**64**
Kobus Bekker	53	4	**53**
Hartmut Kolb	51	1	**51**
Wilferd Versfeld	48	7	**49**
Mark Boorman	39	8	**41**
Dominic Rollinson	39		**39**
Holger Kolberg	38	3	**38**
Liz Komen	28	3	**30**
Sandra Dantu	28	7	**28**
Colin de Kock	24		**24**
Graham Grieve	20	7	**23**
Robin Teifel	19	7	**21**
Maren Thomson	16	4	**16**
Bernd Brell	11	3	**12**
Sigi Braby	7	4	**8**
Rian Jones	4	6	**6**
Jessica Kemper		4	**4**
Mike Yates	4		**4**
Tony Delport	1	4	**4**
Dieter Oschadleus	3		**3**
Pete Bartlett	2	3	**3**
Gabriel Shatumbu	2		**2**
Peter Bridgeford	2		**2**
	245	**90**	**248**

Table 3: Top twenty species handled.

Species	Code 1	Code 2	Total
Black Tern	1350	19	**1369**
African Penguin	38	1151	**1189**
Red-headed Finch	796	191	**987**
Bank Cormorant	148	716	**864**
Common Waxbill	527	260	**787**
Laughing Dove	573	179	**752**
Southern Red Bishop	464	206	**670**
Common Tern	626	26	**652**
Black-throated Canary	244	339	**583**
Red-billed Quelea	540	18	**558**
Southern Masked-Weaver	442	43	**485**
Lark-like Bunting	471		**471**
Sociable Weaver	384	60	**444**
Cape Sparrow	383	44	**427**
Blue Waxbill	200	157	**357**
African Red-eyed Bulbul	308	23	**331**
Chestnut Weaver	225		**225**
Swift Tern	192	1	**193**
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	164	3	**167**
Cape Gannet	79	78	**157**

Table 4: Numbers of raptors handled.

Species	Code 1	Code 2	Total
Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk	69	3	**72**
White-backed Vulture	66	1	**67**
Lappet-faced Vulture	64	1	**65**
Pearl-spotted Owlet	21	7	**28**
Black-chested Snake-Eagle	9	1	**10**
Rock Kestrel	10		**10**
African Scops-Owl	7	1	**8**
Greater Kestrel	5		**5**
Tawny Eagle	5		**5**
Lanner Falcon	4		**4**
Secretarybird	4		**4**
Shikra	4		**4**
Southern White-faced Scops-Owl	4		**4**
Steppe Buzzard	4		**4**
Black-shouldered Kite	3		**3**
Gabar Goshawk	3		**3**
Pygmy Falcon	2	1	**3**
Spotted Eagle-Owl	3		**3**
Dark Chanting-Goshawk	2		**2**
African Fish-Eagle		1	**1**
African Hawk-Eagle	1		**1**
Booted Eagle	1		**1**
Jackal Buzzard	1		**1**
Red-footed Falcon	1		**1**
Red-necked Falcon	1		**1**
Verreauxs' Eagle	1		**1**
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	1		**1**

Table 5: Top ten waterbirds handled.

Species	Code 1	Code 2	Total
Black Tern	1350	19	**1369**
African Penguin	38	1151	**1189**
Bank Cormorant	148	716	**864**
Common Tern	626	26	**652**
Swift Tern	192	1	**193**
Cape Gannet	79	78	**157**
Great White Pelican	50	6	**56**
White-fronted Plover	53		**53**
Damara Tern	41		**41**
Chestnut-banded Plover	37		**37**

Table 6: Number of endemic birds handled.

Species	Code 1	Code 2	Total
Rosy-faced Lovebird	50		**50**
Damara Tern	41		**41**
Carp's Tit	10	5	**15**
White-tailed Shrike	15		**15**
Dune Lark	7	4	**11**
Monteiro's Hornbill	7	1	**8**
Rüppell's Korhaan	8		**8**
Rockrunner	3		**3**
Bare-cheeked Babbler	2		**2**

Table 7: Top twenty localities.

Coordinates	Locality	Total
2234S 1705E	Rykvoet St Klein Windhoek	**2244**
2235S 1432E	Mile 4 Salt Works	**1795**
2234S 1706E	Klein Windhoek	**1758**
2543S 1450E	Mercury	**1234**
2229S 1527E	Vredelus House	**574**
2701S 1512E	Possession	**492**
2617S 1456E	Ichaboe	**355**
2240S 1431E	Swakopmund Roonstr.	**284**
1844S 1734E	Kakuse House	**254**
2227S 1529E	Köcherbaumposten	**254**
2239S 1432E	Kramersdorf, Swakopmund	**208**
2236S 1431E	Swakop Saltworks	**203**
2256S 1430E	Walvis Bay Syncrolift	**193**
1921S 1529E	Tandala Ridge, Windpoort Farm, Outjo Dist	**178**
2319S 1732E	Wiese Farmhaus	**175**
2723S 1748E	Augurabis	**172**
2436S 1542E	Kulala desert Lodge	**157**
2239S 1432E	Swakopmund Kramersdorf	**153**
1921S 1529E	Tandala Ridge, Windpoort Farm	**144**
2637S 1504E	Halifax	**139**

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