



CONTENTS

THOMSON N	Editorial	1
DEMASIUS E	Roberts Geographical Variation of Southern African Birds	3
FRIEDERICH G	A Zambian Birding Experience – Part 3	6
KOLBERG H	Summary of the 2012 Ringing Year in Namibia	16
DEMASIUS E	Cuckoo – African or Common?	19
KOLBERG H	Trends in Namibian Waterbird Populations 9 : Waders and Shorebirds – Part 3	21
BARTLEWSKI S	Some Conservation Efforts in other Countries	27
SKINNER G	Birding Central and Northern Namibia – 10 to 20 October 2012	28
KOLBERG H	Summary of the 2012 Winter Wetland Bird Counts in Namibia	34
THOMSON N	Colour Rings on Sociable Weavers	34
AN APPEAL BY TREVOR HARDAKER		35

ATLAS UPDATE	36
RARITIES AND INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS	37

Editorial

Normally I would have been tempted to devote a good part of the editorial space to another two species which have allegedly turned up in the northwest of Namibia. These birds were allegedly seen by one of the region's top birders but the validity of these claims appears to be in doubt and hopefully I will obtain more information and will be in a better position to comment in a future edition.

However, my editorial comment concerning previous sightings of Black Skimmers in Southern Africa (Lanioturdus 46 (1)) seems to have raised some lively debate and I think it is only right to conclude this issue now.

I published Tony Tree's response in Lanioturdus 46(2) and this has in turn solicited a response from Joris Komen which I am reproducing here. I am going along with Joris's closing remark that this matter should now be put to rest and I will not publish any further correspondence on this matter.

Joris's response reads:-

This should be dealt with. Those guides should be made aware of the requirements and get the necessary training to cater for birders. This also applies to the guide Brian at Simungoma IBA. He has to get the necessary equipment and professional training.

For the Muchile IBA: This is an area that is not so easy to access, especially in the rainy season. The area is still undisturbed and should stay as it is. A bit of upgrading could be done on the access "tracks", although they are adequate. Semi-permanent campsites could be established at the Muchile River, one for the "wet season", one for the "dry season". The guide Agnita is willing, but she will also need proper training and equipment. The shop owners at this village could benefit by stocking up on basic supplies for tourists. We wanted to take home some Zambian beer but there was none available.

Summary of the 2012 Ringing Year in Namibia

Holger Kolberg
Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Windhoek
(holgerk@mweb.com.na)

The year 2012 was once again a successful one in terms of bird ringing in Namibia.

15 100 Birds of 240 species were handled by 26 ringers; out of that total 10 826 were newly ringed (code 1) birds and the remainder were re-traps, controls etc. Ursula Franke tops the list with almost 3 500 birds, followed by Neil Thomson and Dirk Heinrich. Rian Jones is in fourth place with a huge number of controls (mainly penguins, cormorants and gannets) and this significant contribution to the study of

seabirds certainly deserves recognition. In terms of different species ringed, Dirk Heinrich is once again the master, followed by Neil and Ursula.

Lark-like Bunting tops the list of birds ringed, followed by African Penguin and Chestnut Weaver. These are the only species of which more than one thousand individuals were handled. Thanks to the efforts of a dedicated team of vulture ringers, two vulture species top the rankings for the birds of prey and the ubiquitous Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk fills third place. The contribution of the island dwellers is manifest in the list of sea/shore/wetland birds where African Penguins and Bank Cormorants take the two top spots, followed by Black Tern. Ten of Namibia's endemic species were ringed, totaling 95 birds. Damara Tern is on top of this list.

Not surprisingly, since there are two active resident ringers there, Rykvoet Street sits on top of the list of localities. This is followed by Mercury Island and the Mile 4 Saltworks.

Several long-term ringing projects continued in 2012. The vulture ringing project in Etosha, the Namib and on farms once again resulted in a large number of chicks being ringed and fitted with patagial tags. The Braby family continued their monitoring of Damara Tern breeding around Swakopmund. Unfortunately this project ran out of funding halfway through the season and it is hoped that a new funding source can be found before the next breeding season so that this important project can continue. Mark Boorman continued his tern study at the Mile 4 Saltworks but this project may also soon come to an end because of light pollution from the encroaching northern suburbs of Swakopmund.

Many thanks to all the Namibian ringers who contribute to making us one of the

leading ringing 'provinces' in southern Africa and thanks also to the many 'imports' who don't shun considerable expenses to join our ringing efforts. Let's keep up the good work!

Table 1: Numbers of birds handled per ringer in 2012.

Ringer	Code 1	Code 2	Total
Ursula Franke	3299	189	3488
Neil Thomson	1506	877	2383
Dirk Heinrich	1717	311	2028
Rian Jones	381	1231	1612
Gudrun Middendorff	889	417	1306
Mark Boorman	908	218	1126
Tim Osborne	989	114	1103
Pete Bartlett	5	443	448
Jessica Kemper		231	231
Wilferd Versfeld	145	10	155
Graham Grieve	123	30	153
Dieter Oschadleus	119	29	148
Tony Delpport	11	115	126
Maren Thomson	87	15	102
Sandra Dantu	63	36	99
Kobus Bekker	96		96
Eben Müller	82	1	83
Robin Teifel	80	3	83
Holger Kolberg	80		80
Bernd Brell	67		67
Hartmut Kolb	65		65
Peter Bridgeford	43	1	44
Sigi Braby	32	1	33
Liz Komen	21	2	23
Mike Yates	11		11
Otto von Kaschke	7		7
	10826	4274	15100

Table 2: Number of species handled per ringer in 2012.

Ringer	Code 1	Code 2	Total
Dirk Heinrich	131	31	135
Neil Thomson	82	30	85
Ursula Franke	78	17	79
Tim Osborne	70	30	75
Gudrun Middendorff	57	26	58
Wilferd Versfeld	45	7	46
Mark Boorman	43	6	45
Hartmut Kolb	31		31
Eben Müller	30	1	30
Kobus Bekker	30		30
Graham Grieve	27	6	28
Robin Teifel	28	1	28
Dieter Oschadleus	25	9	26
Maren Thomson	21	7	23
Sandra Dantu	15	9	16
Bernd Brell	15		15
Liz Komen	15	2	15
Holger Kolberg	10		10
Rian Jones	3	7	7
Jessica Kemper		5	5
Pete Bartlett	2	3	5
Mike Yates	4		4
Otto von Kaschke	3		3
Peter Bridgeford	3	1	3
Tony Delpport	2	1	2
Sigi Braby	1	1	1
	234	85	240

Table 3: Top twenty species handled in 2012.

Species	Code 1	Code 2	Total
Lark-like Bunting	1502	33	1535
African Penguin	12	1050	1062
Chestnut Weaver	1025	22	1047
Bank Cormorant	150	782	932
Black-throated Canary	398	525	923
Cape Sparrow	692	93	785
Black Tern	662	4	666

Species	Code 1	Code 2	Total
Red-headed Finch	444	107	551
Laughing Dove	360	151	511
Common Waxbill	228	207	435
Cape Gannet	238	164	402
Sociable Weaver	238	143	381
Blue Waxbill	159	189	348
Southern Masked-Weaver	258	40	298
Red-billed Quelea	274	9	283
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	203	72	275
Black-faced Waxbill	259	11	270
Southern Red Bishop	157	111	268
Common Tern	255	12	267
Scaly-feathered Finch	219	26	245

Table 4: Numbers of birds of prey handled in 2012.

Species	Code 1	Code 2	Total
Lappet-faced Vulture	84		84
White-backed Vulture	83	1	84
Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk	41	4	45
Pearl-spotted Owllet	12	4	16
Greater Kestrel	12		12
Rock Kestrel	9	2	11
Pygmy Falcon	6	1	7
African Scops-Owl	3	2	5
Black-shouldered Kite	5		5
Lanner Falcon	4		4
African Barred Owllet	3		3
Barn Owl	3		3
Jackal Buzzard	3		3
Gabar Goshawk	2		2
Little Sparrowhawk	2		2
Red-necked Falcon	2		2
Spotted Eagle-Owl	2		2
African Hawk-Eagle	1		1
Augur Buzzard	1		1
Black-chested Snake-Eagle	1		1

Species	Code 1	Code 2	Total
Dark Chanting-Goshawk	1		1
Marsh Owl	1		1
Peregrine Falcon	1		1
Secretarybird	1		1
Steppe Buzzard	1		1
Tawny Eagle	1		1
Yellow-billed Kite	1		1
	286	14	300

Table 5: Top twenty sea, shore and wetland birds handled in 2012.

Species	Code 1	Code 2	Total
African Penguin	12	1050	1062
Bank Cormorant	150	782	932
Black Tern	662	4	666
Cape Gannet	238	164	402
Common Tern	255	12	267
Sandwich Tern	5	161	166
Damara Tern	39	1	40
Sanderling	3	23	26
Grey Heron	22		22
Great White Pelican	4	15	19
Swift Tern	13	6	19
Hartlaub's Gull	11	7	18
Chestnut-banded Plover	11		11
Crowned Lapwing	8	2	10
Curlew Sandpiper	9		9
White-fronted Plover	8		8
Kelp Gull	1	6	7
Arctic Tern	6		6
African Jacana		5	5
Cape Cormorant		5	5

Table 6: Numbers of endemic birds handled in 2012.

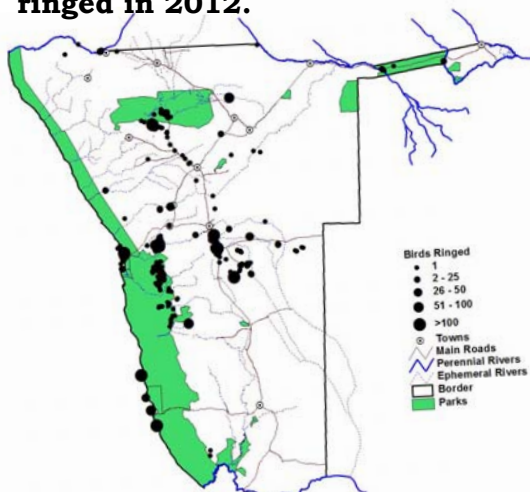
Species	Code 1	Code 2	Total
Damara Tern	39	1	40
White-tailed Shrike	9	2	11
Carp's Tit	6	4	10
Damara Hornbill	8	2	10

Species	Code 1	Code 2	Total
Bare-cheeked Babbler	9		9
Monteiro's Hornbill	5	1	6
Rosy-faced Lovebird	4		4
Rüppell's Korhaan	2		2
Rüppell's Parrot	2		2
Rockrunner	1		1
	85	10	95

Table 7: Top twenty localities in 2012.

Locality	Total
Rykvoet St Klein Windhoek	1858
Mercury	1611
Mile 4 Salt Works	977
Klein Windhoek	834
Kocherbaumposten	771
Vredelus House	569
Königsberg	556
Possession	445
Rykvoetstr. KlWdk	380
Marmor Kuduposten	374
Tandala Ridge, Windpoort Farm, Outjo Dist	353
Tandala Ridge, Windpoort Farm	321
Wiese Farmhaus	314
Otjihavera No 62	236
Halifax	229
Otjihavera portion No 3	226
Vredelus Springbokposten	209
Königsberg Sphinxposten	163
Vredelus Revierposten	152
Wiese Red Nest	149

Figure 1: Localities where birds were ringed in 2012.



Cuckoo – African or Common?

Eckart Demasius
e-b.de@iway.na

All photographs in this article are © Eckart Demasius

During my summer visits to the Etosha National Park I am usually lucky enough to see a cuckoo or two. Okaukuejo has been the best camp for African or Common Cuckoo.



They are normally shy, silent and are not easy to approach to photograph. Whenever I got lucky, something else attracted my attention soon afterwards and I never really bothered to check whether my cuckoo was an African or a Common Cuckoo.

In 2011 however, I was in Etosha at the beginning of December and while I was busy with my early morning walk in Halali I followed a restless noisy grey raptor-like bird and I was lucky enough to get a photograph of it. Then another call came from the opposite direction, somewhat different and I found what I thought were juvenile Shikras. I had seen them there before and a pair seems to breed there every year.

When I looked at my photographs later I was disappointed and excited at the same time. Disappointed for the specific photographs turned out to be not very good as the early morning light was still too poor for photography and excited as