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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

I would also like to thank Neil and Gudrun for allowing us to stay with them before the Get-Together and for the arrangements they made to enable us to do some more ringing north of Windhoek.

May there be many more such Get-Togethers.



Eben with a Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill

## **Summary of the 2012 Summer Wetland Bird Counts in Namibia**

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Ministry of Environment and Tourism

Wetland bird counts were once again conducted throughout Namibia during the months of January and February 2012. A total of 33 sites were covered resulting in 262 833 birds of 112 species. For the first time since 2007 counts were also conducted in the Caprivi, on the Okavango and the

Kwando Rivers. The effects of the good rainy seasons over the past few years are still very evident with low numbers of especially flamingos and ducks recorded at the coast. Rains which had fallen in the central northern and north-eastern parts of the country since early January probably account for the low numbers recorded at those sites.

Walvis Bay and Sandwich Harbour made up the bulk of the total of birds counted, once again confirming the importance of these two sites not only in Namibia but also as internationally important wetlands. The highest number of species was recorded in the Mahango, with Walvis Bay running a close second. Several rarities were observed: 4 Common Redshanks at Mile 4, 3 Eurasian Oystercatchers at Sandwich Harbour, 1 Common Redshank, 3 Terek Sandpipers and 13 Red-necked Phalaropes at Walvis Bay, 2 Slaty Egrets on the Kwando and one in the Mahango, 1 Black Heron at Otjivero Dam and 1 Pink-backed Pelican at Hardap Dam. Maccoa Ducks are making a come-back at the Walvis Bay sewage ponds with a total of 27 counted.

I would like to thank all the counters for the time and effort that they spend to do the counts. My sincere gratitude goes to Christian Thimende and Dan Stephens who expertly skippered us around the Okavango and Kwando Rivers respectively.

Note: See the last page of this edition for a table of the counts by location.

## **Red-billed Queleas**

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I think that most people know Red-billed Queleas as rather drab little birds almost fitting the LBJ (little brown job), or the Afrikaans equivalent VVV (vreeslike vaal voëltjie), moniker. The bright red bill however makes them readily distinguishable from most other LBJ's.