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2005). This record is 85 km to the southwest of 2016 DC. The habitat requirements of Lesser Striped Swallow are, *inter alia*, open grassy areas, open savanna and over water (Smith 2005).

On 23 February 2011, the author recorded Lesser Striped Swallows in the Wilhelmstal area. A single bird was observed 8 km east of Wilhelmstal and at Wilhelmstal itself two more birds which seemed to be a pair were seen. Both sightings were of birds foraging over the clearing between the B2 main road and the railway line, in quarter degree square 2116 CD.

These records are 75 km southeast of the Omaruru record mentioned above and 115 km south south west of quarter degree square 2016 DC south of Otjiwarongo.

The 2011 rainy season was an above average season, providing a possible explanation for the southwards range extension of Lesser Striped Swallow in Namibia.

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Summary of the 2013 Winter Wetland Bird Counts in Namibia

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The current drought in Namibia has had an effect on the wetland bird counts both in a positive and a negative way. A couple of sites have dried up completely and hence resulted in zero counts. On the other hand, the lack of water in the veld has caused the birds to concentrate on the remaining wet areas, resulting in good counts in those places.

A total of 38 sites were counted resulting in 284 739 birds of 110 species being recorded. Sandwich Harbour recorded the highest number of birds (131 012) mainly due to an abnormally (for this time of the year) high count of terns. The Walvis Bay wetlands and sewage works rank second and third respectively in terms of numbers of birds counted. Mark Paxton and his team recorded the highest number of species (51) at Shamvura on the Okavango River followed by Samsitu, also on the Okavango, with 46 species and Walvis Bay with 41.

More than half of the birds counted were flamingos. Most of them were counted at the coast and this not only reflects the dry conditions inland but is also an indication of the successful breeding attempts during the past couple of wet seasons that were experienced in Namibia. Nevertheless, a healthy number were still recorded at Lake Oponono and small flocks were seen at Hardap, Otjivero and Swakoppoort Dams.

A high count of Black-necked Grebes at Walvis Bay (16 494) makes up almost the entire total for this group of birds.

This is almost two thirds of the current population estimate for this species and illustrates the international importance of the Walvis Bay wetlands. Similarly, a high count of Cape Teal at Walvis Bay (11 562) makes up more than half of the ducks and geese counted.

Totals of birds of prey remain low with higher numbers of African Fish-Eagles recorded mostly in the protected areas, perhaps a reflection of the disturbance and competition caused by humans. However, almost as a counter to this observation, a healthy number of African Skimmers (38) was counted on the Okavango River, all of them outside of the protected area.

Rarities were few: a Red-chested Flufftail was seen in the River Dance area on the Okavango River, a Terek Sandpiper, Common Redshank and Red-necked Phalaropes were seen at Walvis Bay, four Pel's Fishing-Owls were seen in the Mahango core area and an Osprey was encountered at Swakoppoort Dam. Sixteen Wattled Cranes were counted, all on the Okavango River, and four Saddle-billed Storks, two on the Okavango and two at Lake Oponono.

I hereby wish to extend my gratitude to all the volunteers that make these counts happen every time. Your commitment to this cause is very much appreciated.

(Detailed table added to the end of the publication)

Atlas Update

We always knew that SABAP2 was going to be a monumental task in Namibia with a huge number of pentads to cover and a very small band of atlasers with which to do it.

It seems that the ADU is making our task even more difficult. When we started off we were told that Namibia

comprised 10 584 pentads. A year or so into the project I noticed that this had increased to 10 586. Okay – no big deal – what's two extra pentads between friends when there are over ten thousand anyway? But then on 24/09/2013 I noticed that the number had increased again, this time to 10 599. I am assuming that someone has discovered that there are a number of pentads that just touch our borders and has done a reassessment of the numbers. This now means that we have fifteen more than when we started. Hopefully this is now the final number and our coverage can start going forwards rather than backwards.

As at 19/02/2014 the score for full protocol cards in Namibia stood at 1 308 cards comprising 55 038 accepted records for 491 pentads. This means that about 4.6% of the pentads in the country have been visited at least once for the submission of a full protocol card.

What does this mean in terms of progress since Lanioturdus 46 (4) was issued with data up to 01/10/2013? In 140 days since then a further 70 pentads have been atlased, 318 more full protocol cards submitted and a further 13 130 records accepted. This is no mean feat but we really have a long way to go to achieve meaningful coverage of our country.

Following the very successful long weekend atlasing bash in the desert in August last year the Namibia Bird Club is planning to organize more outings of this nature.

Neil Thomson

Rarities and Interesting Observations

On 07/09/2013 Jutta Surèn photographed a Southern White-faced Scops-Owl at Wlotzkasbaken. As far as I can determine this is the only SABAP2

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		GREBES	PELICANS	CORMORANTS & DARTER	HERONS & EGRETS	STORKS	IBISES & SPOONBILLS	HAMERKOP & SHOEBILL	FLAMINGOS	CRANES	GEESE & DUCKS	RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS	FINFOOT & JACANAS	WADERS/SHOREBIRDS	GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMER	BIRDS OF PREY	ADDITIONAL SPECIES	Birds	Species
Aeroplane Bay	15-Jul-13	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	5	0	0	16	174	0	0	200	10
Agate Beach	15-Jul-13	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	8	0	3	0	0	9	1	0	0	23	8
Avis Dam	20-Jul-13	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	47	0	0	43	0	1	0	98	10
Cape Cross	27-Jul-13	2000	0	3004	1	0	0	0	2630	0	475	0	0	526	9	0	0	8645	18
Daan Viljoen GR	20-Jul-13	5	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	69	16	0	29	0	0	1	127	14
Fischer's Pan	11-Aug-13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Friedenau Dam	20-Jul-13	0	0	39	3	0	0	0	0	0	269	44	0	27	0	0	0	382	17
Griffith Bay	15-Jul-13	0	0	16	2	0	0	0	45	0	2	0	0	15	4	0	0	84	11
Grosse Bucht	15-Jul-13	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	18	27	0	0	52	9
Guano Bay	15-Jul-13	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	14	0	12	0	0	40	5	0	0	88	10
Hardap Dam	17-Jul-13	0	137	175	7	0	66	0	16	0	227	29	0	298	2	2	0	959	25
Hoffnung Dam	21-Jul-13	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	154	0	0	15	0	0	0	171	4
Kwando River	05-Jul-13	0	0	6	27	80	8	2	0	0	9	8	37	69	0	5	18	269	29
Kayova Area, Okavango River	05-Aug-13	0	0	145	68	1	0	1	0	4	27	7	22	25	0	3	40	343	25
Lake Oponono	30-Jul-13	7	2	0	168	14	2	0	2158	0	597	0	0	340	100	0	0	3388	21
Lüderitz Sewage Works	15-Jul-13	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	0	7	0	0	3	152	0	0	266	6
Mahango Core Area	02-Jul-13	0	0	32	490	82	85	4	0	10	3624	0	149	180	0	8	11	4675	39
Mile 4 Salt Works	30-Jul-13	476	0	37	8	0	0	0	2080	0	422	0	0	126	285	0	0	3434	21
Monte Christo	20-Jul-13	12	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2036	9	8	48	0	2	0	2128	17
Naute Dam	13-Jul-13	0	52	71	1	0	1	0	0	0	54	6	0	5	0	2	0	192	12
Ndhovu Area, Okavango River	05-Aug-13	0	0	84	61	3	34	2	0	2	53	5	10	40	10	4	34	342	33
Nunda Area, Okavango River	29-Jul-13	5	0	23	71	0	0	0	0	0	121	6	28	70	0	0	9	333	19

		GREBES	PELICANS	CORMORANTS & DARTER	HERONS & EGRETS	STORKS	IBISES & SPOONBILLS	HAMERKOP & SHOEBILL	FLAMINGOS	CRANES	GEESE & DUCKS	RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS	FINFOOT & JACANAS	WADERS/SHOREBIRDS	GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMER	BIRDS OF PREY	ADDITIONAL SPECIES	Birds	Species
Okondeka	11-Aug-13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	2	0	0	0	12	3
Otjivero Dam	21-Jul-13	2	3	256	11	0	28	0	52	0	236	47	0	120	0	2	0	757	24
Radford Bay	15-Jul-13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	1	0	0	21	8	0	0	55	8
Riverdance Area, Okavango River	31-Jul-13	6	0	29	60	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	6	62	0	2	7	181	26
Samsitu Area, Okavango River	01-Jul-13	7	0	76	412	6	1	7	0	0	356	16	50	64	35	6	79	1115	46
Sandwich Harbour	25-Jul-13	8	3	20049	27	0	0	0	67948	0	128	0	0	6940	35908	0	1	131012	31
Second Lagoon	15-Jul-13	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	194	0	1	0	0	151	9	0	0	363	16
Shamvura Area, Okavango River	28-Jul-13	1	0	231	90	2	5	3	0	0	29	14	19	93	11	3	25	526	51
Shearwater Bay	15-Jul-13	0	0	45	0	0	0	0	166	0	4	0	0	18	20	0	0	253	8
Swakoppoort Dam	08-Aug-13	77	321	1141	86	3	117	2	61	0	309	88	0	423	8	2	0	2638	31
Swakop River Mouth	31-Jul-13	8	0	96	3	0	0	0	734	0	20	25	0	29	143	0	0	1058	23
Swakop Sewage Works	31-Jul-13	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	72	0	55	22	0	25	530	0	0	705	10
Van Rhyn Dam	12-Jul-13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walvis Bay	27-Jul-13	16494	396	616	156	0	0	0	56560	0	11568	0	0	9874	7440	0	2	103106	41
Walvis Bay Sewage Ponds	28-Jul-13	72	88	0	9	0	1	0	15202	0	76	214	0	148	349	0	0	16159	32
Windhoek (Gammams) Sewage Works	21-Jul-13	3	4	13	44	0	3	4	0	0	201	297	1	30	0	0	0	600	25
Total		19193	1015	26229	1813	191	352	27	148063	16	21209	860	330	19942	45230	42	227	284739	110