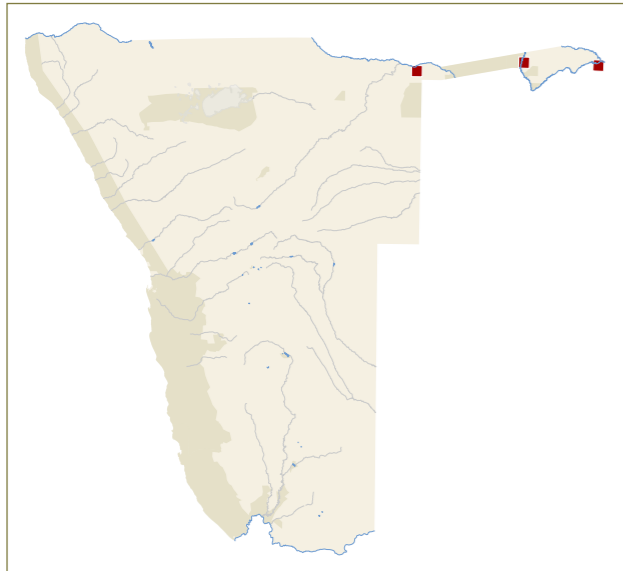


in December 2002 (Simmons 2003). Threats include predation by local inhabitants who plunder colonies by hanging nets over occupied tunnels to capture the trapped birds or spear the young birds in the nest (Barnes & Herremans 1997, Simmons 2003, M Paxton *in litt.*). Thus, although it can be a relatively common sight in Namibia (reporting rates above 20% are common along rivers), this species requires some monitoring and protection if it is not to enter the *Near Threatened* category in future years.

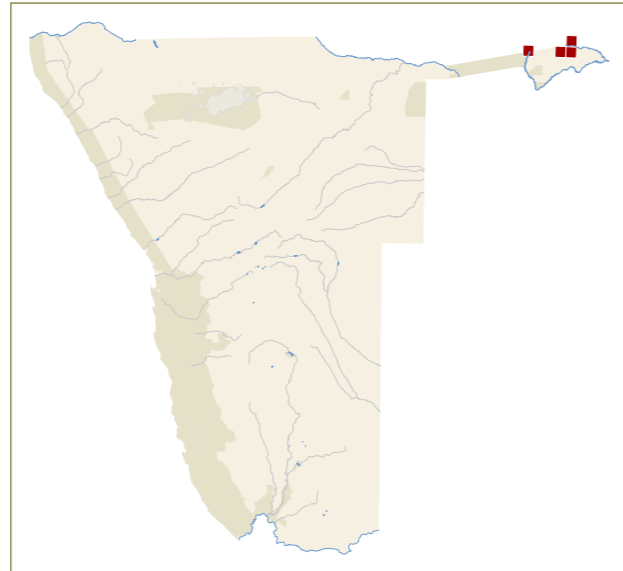
**Thick-billed Cuckoo I
*Pachycoccyx audeberti***



This is an uncommon to rare species of well-developed woodland, including Zambezi teak, miombo and Mopane, and lowland forest from West Africa through to eastern southern Africa, particularly Zimbabwe and Mozambique (Vernon & Dean 2005e). There are four known records in Namibia from Impalila Island, riparian woodland on the Kwando River near Susuwe and the Kavango east region near Shamvura. It is a brood parasite of Retz's Helmet-Shrike (Red-billed Helmet-Shrike) *Prionops retzii*, which occurs across the Caprivi Strip and through the northern parts of the two Kavango regions. The Thick-billed Cuckoo is generally solitary, unobtrusive and probably more common than the number of records suggest. Surveys in the vicinity of its host would reward the effort. There is no reason to suspect that it is under any threat in Namibia. Both the cuckoo and its host are protected by the Bwabwata, Mudumu, Nkasa-Rupala (Mamili) and Khaudum national parks.

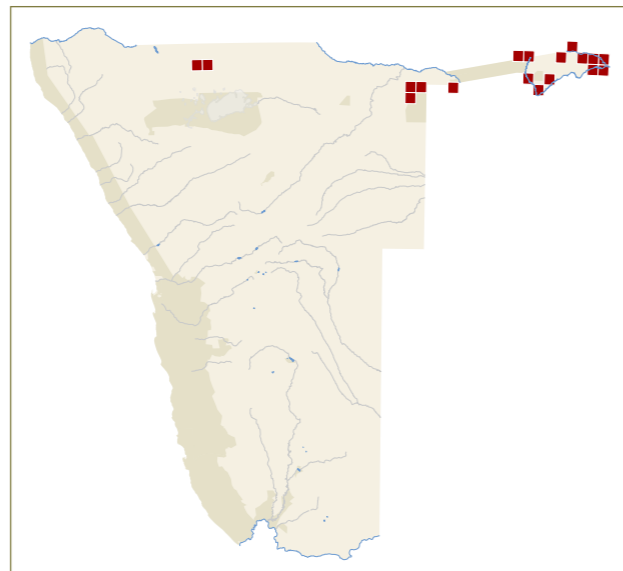
**African Emerald Cuckoo (Emerald Cuckoo) I
*Chrysococcyx cupreus***

This is a widespread species in Afrotropical forests from West Africa to Ethiopia and southwards into eastern parts of South Africa and Zimbabwe (Vernon & Underhill 1997a).



It is generally scarce, with a reporting rate averaging 6% for the region. In Namibia, it has only been recorded from the immediate area around Katima Mulilo and once from the Kwando River (Jarvis *et al.* 2001) in riparian forest or dense evergreen forest. It has a reporting rate of 4% in these areas and its population is clearly very small. It is presumed to be a migratory species that arrives in southern Africa in September and October and leaves (or becomes quiet and elusive) by February or March. It is not threatened anywhere.

**Black Coucal I
Centropus grillii
(*Centropus bengalensis*)**



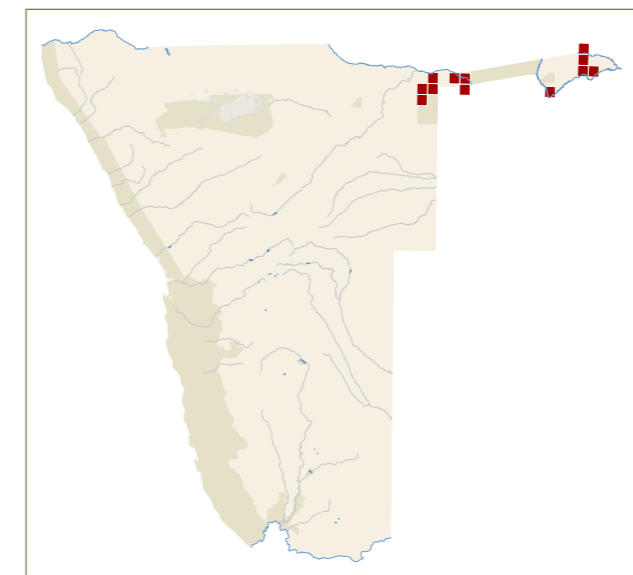
This polyandrous species occurs in the floodplains and associated grassland vegetation of the Zambezi, Chobe, and Kwando rivers. Small populations are also recorded in the Cuvelai drainage system in the north-central regions and the Khaudum National Park (Brown 1990, Vernon



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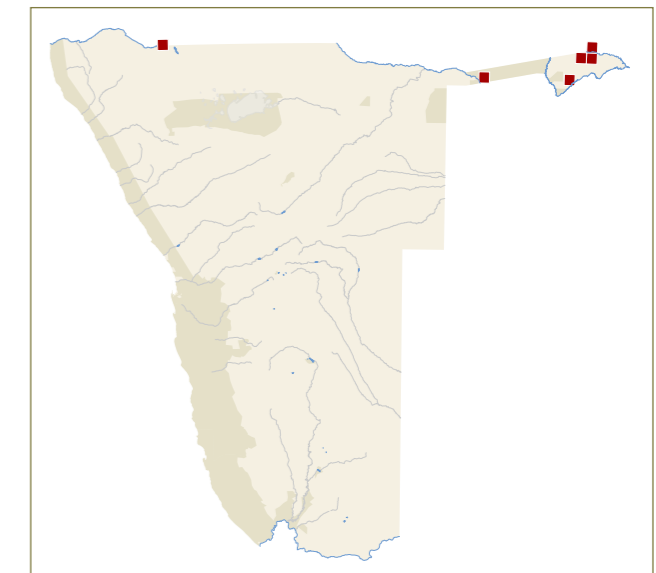
& Herremans 1997a). Its southern African stronghold is the Mashonaland Plateau of northern Zimbabwe and the Okavango Swamps, but it is not common anywhere (Vernon & Herremans 1997a). The overall reporting rate for this easily overlooked species is 6% (Jarvis *et al.* 2001), but population size is unknown. It is a migratory species that occurs in Namibia from October to April (Vernon & Herremans 1997a). It was found in healthy numbers, with a minimum of ten birds, in one locality on the Salambala floodplain of the Chobe River in February and September 1998, where it almost certainly breeds (Robertson *et al.* 1998a). The high frequency of grassland burning and trampling by the large herds of cattle in Caprivi (Mendelsohn & Roberts 1997) may negatively influence this species if fires and livestock spread into the wetlands. It is not threatened in other ways, but was designated *Near Threatened* in South Africa because of historical range contractions (Allan 2000a).

**Grey-headed Parrot I
*Poicephalus fuscicollis***



This, the largest parrot in southern Africa, just touches the Zambezi and Kavango regions in a range that extends north to Tanzania and Uganda (Fry *et al.* 1988) and south from Zimbabwe to northern South Africa (Wirminghaus 1997). The population south of this distribution in South Africa has recently been given full species status (Symes 2005) as the Cape Parrot *P. robustus*. The Grey-headed Parrot is found mainly in mature miombo and Mopane woodland below 1,000 m (Rowan 1983). It occupies an area of 7,000 km² in the Zambezi and Kavango regions. Its movements are not understood because atlas data indicate records from October to June, but no records from the winter and spring months (Wirminghaus 1997). They breed in Namibia and lay from February to May (n=6) (Brown *et al.* 2015). Reporting rates suggest low numbers, representing much less than 5% of the range of the African population. There are some indications that it suffers from local inhabitants taking nestlings for the parrot trade and for food, while in Namibia damage to its forest habitat is evident from elephant and human pressures (CJ Brown pers. obs.). Populations are currently being monitored by members of KOAR (Kavango Open Africa Route), and this initiative should be extended to other tourism facilities and partners across the north-east of Namibia (M Paxton pers. comm.). Cutting of large mature fruiting trees should be discouraged. It has recently been assessed as *Near Threatened* in South Africa (Taylor *et al.* in press).

**Böhm's Spinetail I
*Neafrapus boehmi***



This rare species occurs in a highly fragmented distribution from coastal Angola (isolated) east to Tanzania and is probably most common in Mozambique (del Hoyo *et al.* 1999). It occurs patchily in north-west and south-east Zimbabwe and north-eastern South Africa. In Namibia, it just touches the north-east of the country at the Zambezi River, the Linyanti Swamps and the Okavango River (Brooke 1997b),