

NAMIBIA BIRD CLUB

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

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Authors are requested to submit articles on a computer disk (MS-DOS, low or high density, 5.25" or 3.5"). The preferred wordprocessing programme is WordPerfect, but Word, Wordstar and Multimate and a few other commonly available wordprocessing programmes can also be accommodated. **Please mark which programme has been used.** If you do not have one of the above programmes please submit an ASCII conversion of your manuscript. Handwritten articles are sure to be delayed as the current Editor and co-Editors are unable to spend a great deal of time typing articles. Handwritten short-notes and observations are acceptable but please make sure they are legible - typewritten is always better and invariably requires the author to give some thought to what is written (less editing is therefore required).

All disks and photographs will be returned to authors - manuscripts will not be returned. A single copy of the Volume issue in which your article appeared will be sent to the senior author.

All contributions for *LANIOTURDUS* should be sent to:

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TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR WALVIS BAY LAGOON

Keith Wearne
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In 1996 a group of citizens in Walvis Bay realised that the lagoon was silting up fast and the scientific opinion was that it would become a mudflat within 15-20 years. It was decided that the lagoon must be given more prominence than it presently enjoyed. The *Environmental Action Group* (EAG) was then formed with the specific purpose of raising public awareness of the environmental issues in the Walvis Bay area in mind. Encouraged by the interest shown during an "Information Weekend" at Gobabeb a sub-committee of the EAG presented the idea of a workshop on the lagoon and other environmental concerns to the city authorities, represented by the Mayor, Councillor Manuel de Castro. Under the Mayor's chairmanship a committee comprising members of the Municipality, the EAG, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and other interested parties was formed and it was agreed that a workshop was to be held under the auspices of Agenda 21 of the 1992 Rio Convention.

A number of invited speakers presented papers on subjects ranging from sedimentation to the ecology of the system in relation to birds and mammals and the effects of recreational tourism. The workshop was very well attended with 174 participants taking part in the lectures and the discussion groups. The participants agreed that the Municipality of Walvis Bay be mandated to assume planning, policy and management control of the lagoon and its environs. Of principal concern is how the area is to be run and what is required to maintain its ecological integrity and socio-economic development potential. A preliminary workshop report and development plan are currently being put together and should be available for public comment in the near future.

SHORT NOTES

Christopher Hines, Editor

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus*

During a recent birding tour, I found an adult male African Golden Oriole in fresh plumage in a garden in Katima Mulilo on the 24th of July. This is the first wintering bird I have found of this species. They generally only arrive back in Namibia in any numbers during September/October. Peter Leonard who lives just South of Lusaka in Zambia tells me that he has recorded African Golden Oriole in all months of the year, but that winter populations are markedly lower than summer. The good rains this year may well have an influence on the population of overwintering birds. Please report any winter sightings of intra-African migrants in this column.

Marsh Owl *Asio capensis*

Suzan Mallet-Veale reports a Marsh Owl in the vicinity of Windhoek International Airport in late May. This is a significant southward range extension. The new Atlas shows a single record from the Mariental area, but most records are from further North or along the coast (where they are quite common in the dense grass and reed areas at river mouths). This species is known to be eruptive and given that this year was a good rain year they may be able to intrude much further into dry areas where prey items are usually at a premium.

Unfortunately no other records were reported to me in the last quarter. Please drop me a line or phone me (235603 or 081 1275603) to report any interesting sightings. If anyone is interested in helping to set up a RARE BIRDS COMMITTEE please contact me. It must be stressed that all records in the Short Notes section are unvetted and as such are open to question.