

LANIOTURDUS

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und der
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Manuskripte sollten mit Schreibmaschine (oder in gut leserlicher Handschrift) geschrieben sein und zwar mit doppeltem Zeilenabstand auf A4 (30 x 21 cm) Format. Skizzen, Karten und Tabellen sollten auf weißem Qualitätspapier mit schwarzer Tinte gezeichnet werden. Klare Schwarz-weiss-Photographien (15 x 20 cm) können eingereicht werden, um die Arbeit zu illustrieren.

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WALVIS-BAY BIRD COUNT

On the first and second of August 1987 the Bird Club, in cooperation with the Directorate of Nature Conservation and Walvis Bay Round Table 36, carried out the last of the current cycle of mid winter bird counts at the Walvis Bay Wetland. About 30 counters took part and by the end of the second day just over 75,000 birds had been recorded. (Table 1). The weather on the first day was superb - clear and warm with little wind, however, on Sunday a strong easterly wind blew up in the mid morning making counting unpleasant and often difficult.

The majority of the birds using the Wetland were intra-African migrants, birds which breed inland on seasonal pans during the rainy season and which move to the coast when the pans dry out. These include the flamingoes, Blacknecked Grebes, Teal, Chestnutbanded Plovers and Avocets. In all there were just over 54,000 intra-African migrants of which 61% were in the saltworks. This was our second highest mid winter population and in 1985 when recorded numbers were larger there was a possibility of some overestimation of flamingo numbers by one of the recorders. The 1987 populations of Blacknecked Grebe, Cape Teal and Avocet all topped previous peak numbers.

At the beginning of August most Palaearctic migrants should be just completing breeding in northern Eurasia and expected numbers at the Walvis Bay Wetland should be low. In fact more Palaearctic waders were present in the Wetland this year than in any of the previous three mid winter counts. Particularly notable were the almost 5,000 Curlew Sandpipers, two thousand more than at any previous winter count. Palaearctic seabirds were also exceptionally numerous for the time of year with almost 10,000 Common/Arctic Terns. One interpretation of these increased figures is that 1986 must have been a good breeding season for many Palaearctic species so that unusually large numbers of young birds were left behind when the adult birds migrated north to breed. However, the story is likely to be more complex than that and may relate to poorer conditions elsewhere in southern Africa which could have led to more birds concentrating at Walvis Bay. Questions like this can only be answered if more counts are made at the same time in other wetlands both in southern Africa and elsewhere.

Overall numbers of resident birds were normal but numbers of Little Egrets and Kelp Gulls were high. A surprise was the discovery of a small (8 pairs) breeding colony of Hartlaub's Gulls in the southern saltworks pans.

Few rarities are expected at this time of year as Palaearctic

species are breeding and indeed few were reported. The rarest species recorded was a Mongolian or Lesser Sandplover (identity subject to confirmation by the Rare Bird Committee). Two Terek Sandpipers in the lagoon were unusual. A Subantarctic Skua, a species which normally keeps offshore, gave reasonable views to most of the counters as they waited at the yacht club for their boat transport to counting areas.

Of serious concern was the finding of two freshly dead adult Great White Pelicans in immaculate plumage. One was collected and brought back as a specimen for the State Museum. Samples of its' tissues contained high levels of "hydrocarbonated polychlorines" - a highly toxic material used in insecticides. A freshly dead Lesser Flamingo was also collected and is to be analysed. Although the two pelicans were both found in the lagoon they need not have ingested on the toxins there.

On a pleasanter note those who spent Saturday afternoon counting birds at the Bird Paradise were rewarded by the discovery of a flock of 63 Caspian Terns, perhaps the largest single group of this locally rare species which has ever been recorded along the Namib coast. These were probably birds roosting after feeding earlier in the Wetland and are not to be thought additional to the total in Table 1.

Partly from interest, and partly as a preliminary to the Walvis Bay Lagoon planning meeting which is to be held on August 18th, the media took particular interest in this bird count. SWABC filmed general shots of the Wetland and broadcast a five minute interview about the previous findings of bird counts at the Wetland. Sharon Montgomery, now a freelance radio interviewer, participated in the counts on both days and also taped five interviews including one of the reactions of Round Tablers' wives and children to the bird count. All in all we can look forward to a lot more public knowledge of our bird count activities and, more importantly, an increased public awareness of the importance of the Walvis Bay Wetland for birds.

This was the last of the mid winter season counts.

Again I would like to thank all who helped with the count including boatman, caterers, and drivers as well as counters and I would like to congratulate all on a count well carried out.

Tony Williams, 12 August 1987

==Diese Seite wurde ermöglicht durch eine Spende==
von Peter W. Borsutzky

WALVIS BAY WETLAND MID WINTER COUNT AUGUST 1987

	Lagoon	Shore	Salt pans	Total
Intra-African Migrants				
Blacknecked Grebe	250	145	825	1 220
Greater Flamingo	6 661	4853	7005	18 519
Lesser Flamingo	7 643	0	19233	26 876
"Flamingoes"	0	0	2200	2 200
Cape Teal	0	0	319	319
Chestnutbanded Plover	463	38	2991	3 492
Avocet	950	2	718	1 670
Subtotal	15 967	5 038	33 291	54 296
Palaeartic Waders				
Ringed Plover	0	0	2	2
Grey Plover	71	207	8	286
Turnstone	4	168	56	228
Terek Sandpiper	2	0	0	2
Common Sandpiper	1	0	0	1
Marsh Sandpiper	0	0	4	4
Curlew Sandpiper	355	618	4012	4985
Red Knot	0	98	35	133
Little Stint	7	0	15	22
Sanderling	24	240	250	514
Ruff	0	0	6	6
Greenshank	1	0	5	6
Whimbrel	0	2	0	2
Bartailed Godwit	34	76	6	116
Unidentified waders	0	65	27	92
Subtotal	499	1409	4399	6307

Palaeartic Seabirds

Sandwich Tern	0	1	21	22
Comic Tern	569	3167	2958	6694
Unidentified Terns	0	2500	955	3355
Black Tern	13	0	0	13
Arctic Akua	1	4	1	6
Subtotal	583	5672	3935	10 190
Subtotal ALL Palaeartics	1082	7081	8334	16 497

Resident Species

Great White Pelican	13	191	105	309
Whitebreasted Cormorant	3	13	74	90
Grey Heron	6	0	39	45
Little Egret	9	25	154	188
Black Oystercatcher	0	41	0	41
Whitefronted Plover	153	142	436	731
Kittlitz's Plover	1	1	1	3
Threebanded Plover	0	0	2	2
Blackwinged Stilt	1	0	74	75
Kelp Gull	248	1742	207	2197
Hartlaub's Gull	28	54	207	289
Greyheaded Gull	0	1	10	11
Caspian Tern	0	8	47	55
Swift Tern	136	42	12	190
Damara Tern	2	8	12	22
Subtotal	598	2268	1380	4246
GRAND TOTAL	17 647	14 387	43 005	75 039

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