


LANIOTURDUS

S.W.A. SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY - S.W.A. WETENSKAPLIKE VERENIGING

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S.W.A. WISSENSCHAFTLICHE GESELLSCHAFT



ELETSVÜRGER
LANGSTERTLAKKIMAN
LONG-TAILED SHRIKE

Die Federzeichnung eines Urolestes melanococcus von Jochen Voegts wurde entnommen dem Buch von W. Hoesch: Die Vogelwelt Südwesafrikas

MITTEILUNGEN
der ORNITHOLOGISCHEN ARBEITSGRUPPE
No. 1/2 Jg. 1. Apr./Mai 1965

Ueber die Aufzucht zweier Cabanisweber.
(*Ploceus intermedius cabanisii*)
Eva Maria Arnold, Farm Heliodor.

Seit einigen Jahren schon halten sich Maskenweber (*Ploceus velatus*) in der Nahe unseres Hauses auf und nisten vereinzelt da. Die Wasserstelle bei den Vogelkaefigen wird gern aufgesucht, und in der kalten Zeit sind die Weber am Hundefutter zu sehen. Am 10.10.1964 wurde der erste vollausgefärbte Maskenweber am Haus beobachtet (während z.B. in Otavi schon Wochen vorher Voegel im Brutkleid gesehen worden waren).

Im Dezember siedelten sich Maskenweber in den Pfefferbaeumen hinter dem Haus an und bauten ihre Nester aus Rietfasern. In heruntergewehten Nestern fanden wir die typischen rot- und gruenweiss gesprenkelten Eier. Ende des Monats hingen ploetzlich Nester mit Eingangsroehren in den Baeumen, in wenigen Tagen wurden die Maskenweber durch Cabanisweber verdraengt. Deren Nester waren, wie schon von W. von Maltzahn geschildert, aus Blatt- rispen des Pfefferbaumes gebaut (siehe "Mitteilungen" No. V/1-2, Ornith. Beilage).

Aus grosserer Entfernung sind die beiden Weberarten schwer zu unterscheiden. Die Nester sind leicht auseinanderzuhalten, auch sind die Eier verschieden, die der Cabanisweber sind rein weiss. Hat man den Vogel in der Hand, kann man einen kleinen Unterschied in der Schwarzzeichnung erkennen. Der Maskenweber zeigt auch einen rost- raunen Schimmer am Kopf. Ich selbst erkenne die maennlichen Tiere im Brutkleid am leichtesten an der Augenfarbe. Die Augen von *Ploceus velatus* sind rot, die von *Ploceus intermedius cabanisii* gelb. Waehrend der erstere roetliche Beine hat, sind die des Cabaniswebers blaeuulich. Die weiblichen Tiere sind, wie an den Zeichnungen im Roberts zu erkennen ist, leicht zu unterscheiden.

Wie bei W. von Maltzahn geschildert, so kamen auch zu unserer Nester- kolonie bald Angehoerige der verschiedenen Kuckucksfamilien. Besonders der Diderik- oder Goldkuckuck, R 352, *Chrysococcyx caprius*, interessierte sich sehr fuer die Nester.

Bald hoerte man schon die ersten Jungen piepsen. Aus einem Nest ertoente besonders lautes Geschrei, sodass ich an einen jungen Kuckuck dachte. Am 13.1.65 holten wir das Nest herunter.

Es sasssen zwei junge Weber darin, etwa eine Woche alt, die ersten Kiele waren zu sehen. Leider konnten wir das Nest nicht wieder in den Baum praktizieren, so musste ich also die Jungen grosspaepeln.

Weber fuettern ihre Jungen fast ausschliesslich mit Insekten. Man konnte beobachten, wie die Altvoegel Raeupchen brachten, wir aber konnten beim besten Willen keine finden.

o versuchte ich es erst einmal mit gekochtem Ei und Weispapp. Die Kleinen sperren ohne weiteres ihre Schnaebel auf, aber ganz richtig schien diese Nahrung doch nicht. Dann versuchten wir es mit ganz kleinen Engerlingen, die gern genommen wurden.

Leider musste ich am 15.1.65 fuer 12 Stunden von der Farm weg. Der Kuechenjunge uebernahm das Fuettern. Bei meiner Rueckkehr befanden sich die Voegel in sehr schlechter Verfassung und wollten auch nicht mehr fressen. Etwas "Auramin" (Antibiotikum) von der Fa. Kessner in

About the Namibia Bird Club

The Namibia Bird Club was founded in 1962 and has been active since then. The club's mission is to contribute to Namibian ornithology by, amongst other things, arranging regular birding outings, conducting bird ringing and atlasing excursions and educating the public about the value of birds. To achieve this, we organize monthly visits to interesting birding sites around Windhoek as well as regular visits to Avis Dam and the Gammams Sewage Works and occasional weekend trips further afield. Bird club members also participate in the African Waterbird Census twice a year.

Experienced birders are more than happy to help beginners and novices on these outings. If you have a transport problem or would like to share transport please contact a committee member. Depending on the availability of speakers and suitable material we present occasional lecture or video evenings at the Namibia Scientific Society premises. Members receive a digital newsletter, *Namibia Bird News*, which includes a programme of forthcoming events and the Bird Club journal, *Lanioturdus*.

The Namibia Bird Club is not affiliated to any global or regional organization and relies entirely on members' subscriptions and donations to fund its activities.

The opinions expressed in this journal are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Namibia Bird Club or its committee.

Instructions to Authors

Lanioturdus is a journal dedicated to birds and birding. Although the journal's primary focus is on Namibia, articles from other geographical parts of the globe will also be considered for publication. Authors should use common and scientific names of southern African birds as published in *Roberts' VII*. For other regions, English and scientific names following BirdLife International's species list (<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species>) should be used. Text should be submitted as a MS Word document. Photos, maps and figures should be sent as separate jpeg images, graphs as MS Excel charts or jpeg images and tables as MS Word or Excel documents. Please indicate in the article text where these should be placed.



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Editorial

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Fifty and counting! Indeed, your journal is into its 50th volume and as you will have noticed, we have decided to celebrate by giving it a new look.

This issue's cover page is the front page of the first ever *Lanioturdus*, then, of course, still known as the *Mitteilungen*. It was roneoed on foolscap paper and posted to members – how things have changed since!

I am hoping to continue to provide our members with a high quality publication throughout this anniversary year and beyond. This, of course, depends on you sending me contributions and I am very grateful to the two stalwarts Eckart and Neil for providing me with enough material to keep going. You do not need to be a Shakespeare, Goethe or Pierneef to contribute. A simple photographic essay, like Tony's in this issue (admittedly with wow! photographs), will do.

There are so many interesting things going on that not many people know about. Like the nest box study mentioned by Jessica in her article. Never mind the scientific part of it (which has been reported in this journal), but so many other interesting things have been observed during that study which should be recorded and published.

How many people have observed Village Indigobirds in their Windhoek gardens? What about Okahandja or Otjiwarongo? Remember, if you talk about it, it is a story, if you write it down, its history!

Your contributions will not only keep this journal going but also contribute to the knowledge base of ornithology in Namibia and southern Africa and ultimately that is what it's all about. Or not?

Keep birding!

Weaver longevity records from Namibia

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At least 11 southern African weavers have longevity records of over ten years old in the SAFRING database (see these weaver longevity records at http://weavers.adu.org.za/wow_age.php). Two species records are from Namibia and the details of these records will be highlighted here.

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver

Jim Mcluskie visited Auab Lodge on 13-14 July 2011 and on the 14th he caught seven White-browed Sparrow-Weavers, including one recapture. This bird (ring BC96612), probably a female, had been ringed by Bernd Brell on 26 March 2000, i.e. 11 years 3 months 22 days earlier, when he ringed five White-browed Sparrow-Weavers at the same site.

The previous longevity record for the White-browed Sparrow-Weaver came from South Africa. Large volumes of ringing at Barberspan in the 1960s and 1970s resulted in a longevity record for this weaver of 10 years (ring 50205781, Milstein 1975). Even though it is relatively easy to catch this species, and these weavers do not move much, it took many decades before this long-standing Barberspan longevity record was broken. Interestingly, the new record came from a remote area in Namibia.

Chestnut Weaver

On 25 January 2004 Dirk Heinrich ringed Chestnut Weavers at two colonies north of Windhoek. At Okapuka farm, he ringed 36 Chestnut Weavers, of which 9 were males and 27 were females. One of these adult males (ring BH15335) was shot, while the bird was raiding or visiting a pearl-millet field, on 26 April 2007 at Onesi village, Ongandjera district. The elapsed time was a mere 3 years 3 months 2 days. Chestnut Weavers should easily reach 10 years in age and more, but because they are so nomadic it will be difficult to obtain a longevity record of over 10 years. In this particular recovery record (BH15335), the minimum distance moved was 580 km (Oschadleus 2011), being the greatest distance for this species based on ringing records. Thus weaver BH15335 currently provides the greatest longevity (small as it is) and the greatest distance moved!

References

- Milstein P le S. 1975. The biology of Barberspan, with special reference to the avifauna. Ostrich Supplement 10: 1-74.
- Oschadleus HD. 2011. Chestnut Weaver movements in southern Africa. Afring News 40: 1-3 [pdf at http://safring.adu.org.za/downloads/afrn_40_1.pdf].