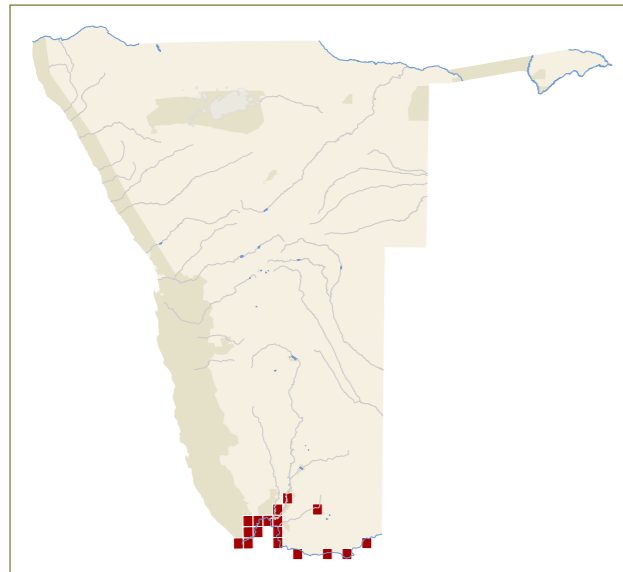


Cape Spurfwowl (Cape Francolin)
| *Pternistis capensis*
(*Francolinus capensis*)



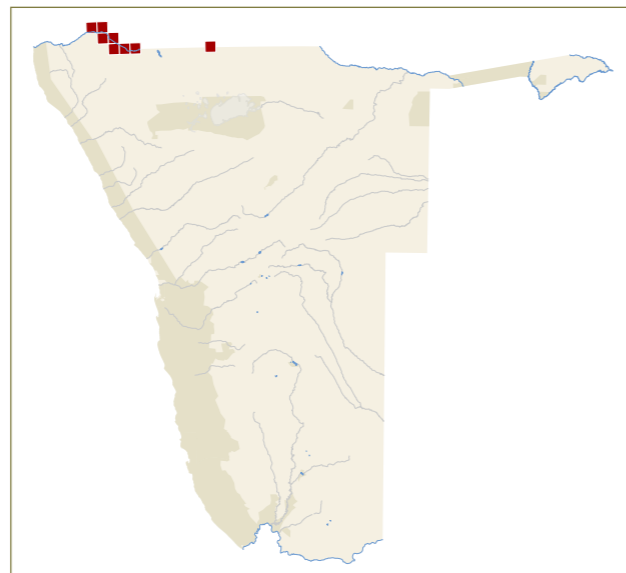
This is the largest spurfwowl in southern Africa. It is near-endemic to South Africa's Western Cape Province; small numbers occur in the Eastern- and Northern Cape provinces and a small linear population along Namibia's southern border is confined almost exclusively to the banks of the Orange River, where it is locally common among the alien trees (Little *et al.* 2000). Its area of occupancy in Namibia is 6,100 km² (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). This population is no longer connected to that in the Western Cape (Little *et al.* 2000). Elsewhere it occurs in scrubby heath areas, especially strandveld and along streams and rivers (Little 1997a). There is no indication of a population decline and birds were recorded along the Orange River in the 1700s (Little *et al.* 2000), indicating they are not merely present because of the alien trees that now dominate the river banks.

Red-necked Spurfwowl (Red-necked Francolin)
| *Pternistis afer* (*Francolinus afer*)

This large, colourful and highly variable spurfwowl has a fragmented distribution in southern Africa, with subspecies occurring in the southern Cape coast of South Africa, reaching northwards through the high rainfall areas of northern South Africa and into the woodlands of the eastern highlands of Zimbabwe and coastal Mozambique (Little *et al.* 2000, Little 2005). There is an 'isolated' population on the Kunene River in the Ruacana/Epupa Important Bird Area (Simmons *et al.* 2001b), which is in fact the southward extension of the smallest subspecies *P. a. afer* that extends into the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola (Little 1997b). The area of occupancy of the species in southern Africa is about 172,500 km² (Little 1997b); that in Namibia

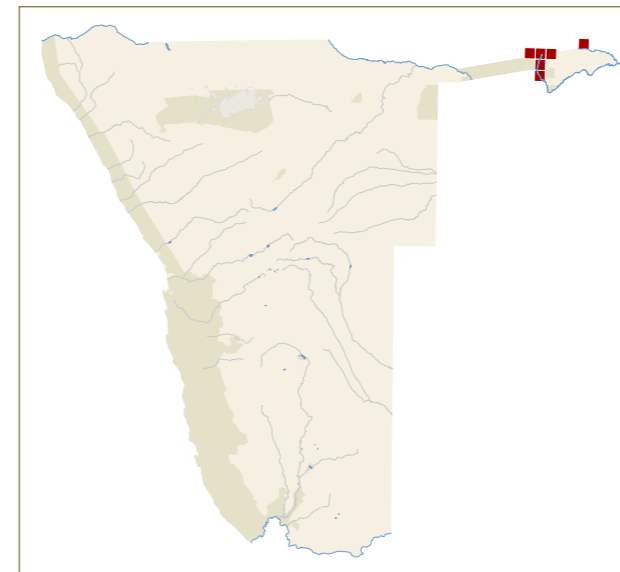


© Wessel Swanepoel



is only 2,700 km² (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). This white-faced subspecies is found in the *Acacia* and broad-leaved woodland along the Kunene River banks where it can be locally common (RE Simmons pers. obs.). There is just one breeding record for Namibia, with eggs laid in May (Brown *et al.* 2015). In less arid areas they breed earlier, mainly November to January (Tarboton 2011). Population size is unknown, but probably stable, given that there is little anthropogenic influence in the habitats occupied by the Himba people who live in this region. While it is not threatened globally or in southern Africa, numbers in Namibia will almost certainly decrease if the planned Epupa hydro-electric dam floods 65 km of river through this species' prime habitat (see Cinderella Waxbill *Estrilda thomensis* for details).

Crested Guineafwowl |
Guttera edouardi
(*Guttera pucherani*)



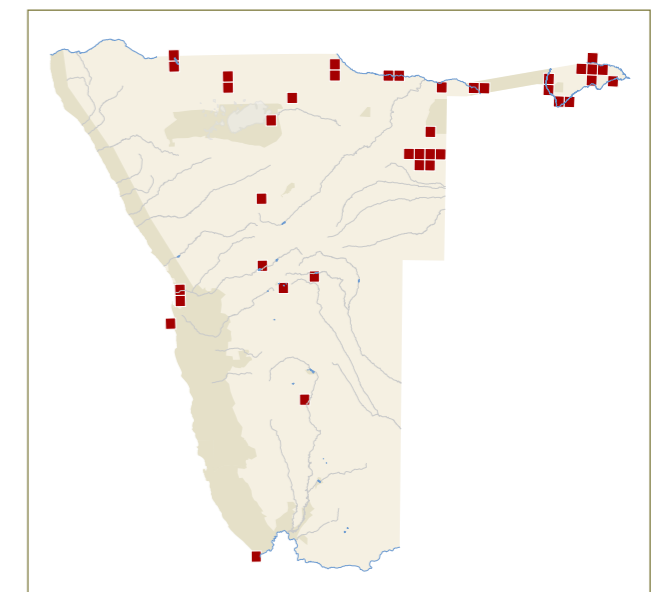
This gamebird occurs patchily from West Africa through the moister forests, especially forest edges, to a few areas in north-eastern South Africa, north-west Zimbabwe; in Namibia it is known from a few records in the eastern Zambezi region (Little 1997d), most recently (2014) caught on a camera trap in the State Forestry on the Zambian border (L Hanssen pers. com.). It occupies a tiny area of 1,600 km² in Namibia, of which 31% occurs in protected areas of Mudumu National Park (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Its secretive behaviour may mean that more birds occur in Namibia than the number of records suggest. Population size cannot be calculated because there are no density estimates. Its conservation needs are unknown, but are thought to be minimal (Little *et al.* 2000). The lack of knowledge of this species warrants further research effort in Namibia.

Fulvous Whistling Duck (Fulvous Duck) |
Dendrocygna bico

Widespread across large parts of the world in tropical wetlands, this species is estimated to number over 300,000 birds in sub-Saharan Africa (Rose & Scott 1997). In southern Africa it is sparsely distributed through highveld pans in Zimbabwe and South Africa (Maclean 1997a). It can be very abundant, with thousands of birds moving into the Chobe and Okavango swamps and rivers in wet seasons (Tyler 2001). It is usually rare in Namibia, with birds only found in wet years in the Tsumkwe Pans (maximum of 90 birds at Nyae Nyae Pan), the Mahango area of Bwabwata National Park (maximum of 120 birds), the Chobe River (maximum of 377 birds at Salambala Conservancy) and the Cuvelai drainage system (data in Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Over 2,000 birds were recorded at Lake Liambezi in 1983 (CJ Brown pers.



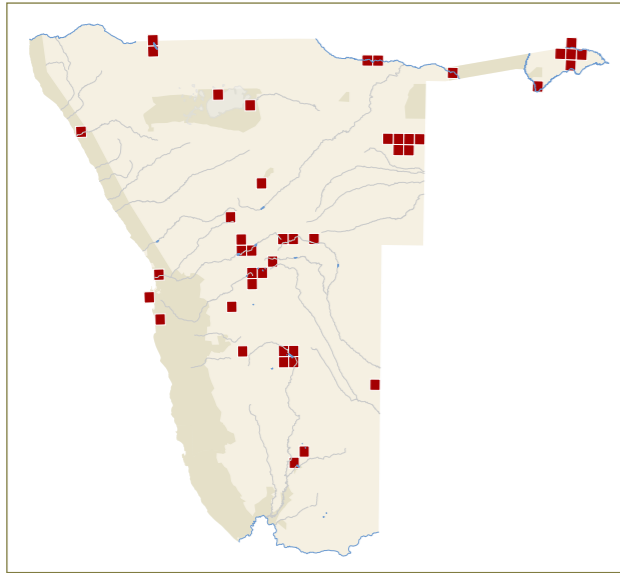
© Alick Rennie



obs.). Birds regularly occur at Sandwich Harbour (Kolberg 2012b) and have been recorded at the Orange River mouth. The Namibian population probably typically numbers fewer than 1,000 birds (less than 1% of the African population), but may increase when conditions are favourable. Population trends are unknown. Five breeding records have laying dates in February (one) and March (four) (Brown *et al.* 2015).

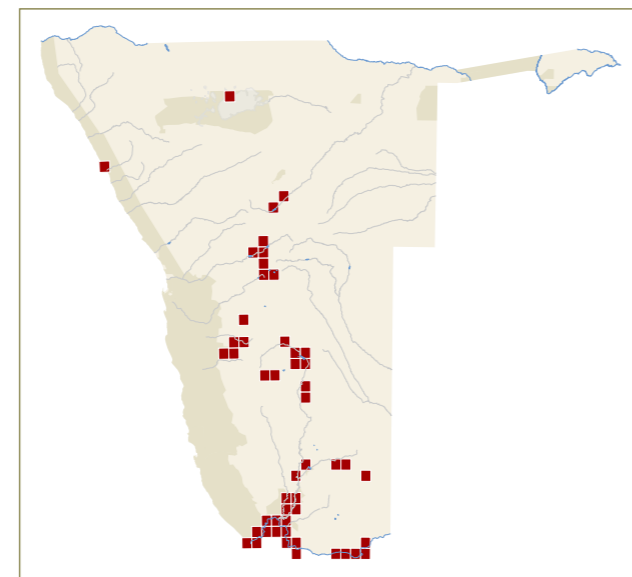
White-backed Duck |
Thalassornis leuconotus

This species occurs sporadically in central, coastal and north-eastern Namibian wetlands, including brackish lagoons, dams and tropical swamps. There are no records of large concentrations anywhere in Namibia, with the largest flock reported as 40 birds from the ephemeral Lake Oponono north of Etosha Pan (W Versfeld in Jarvis *et al.* 2001); scattered birds are found on large inland dams throughout Namibia. World population size is estimated at 10,000 to 20,000 individuals and is stable (Wetlands International 2002). It occupies an area of 21,400 km² in Namibia, of which 16% lies within protected



In Namibia, it is most common in the Linyanti Swamps (at a density of about 10 birds per 10 km: M Herremans in Maclean 1997c), the Okavango River (five birds per 10 km), Kwando River (30 birds per 10 km), and the Zambezi River (6.5 birds per 10 km: Jarvis *et al.* 2001). The largest populations (30 birds) have been recorded from the Okavango floodplains in the Mahango area of Bwabwata National Park (M Paxton in Jarvis *et al.* 2001). The population estimate from these areas and from birds at the Tsumkwe Pans and large dams is 1,236 birds. Given that it is probably under-recorded, the Namibian population is estimated at about 2,000 birds (1.7% of the global population). It has recently been assessed as *Vulnerable* in South Africa (Taylor *et al.* in press).

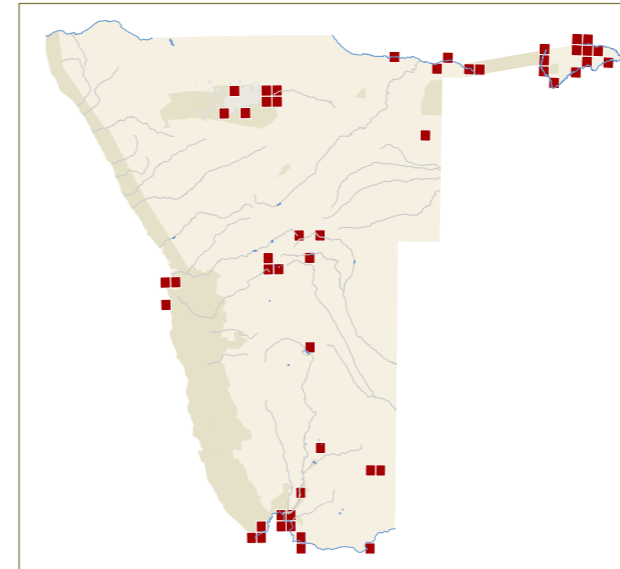
African Black Duck | *Anas sparsa*



This species is fond of fast-flowing rivers and is very common in South Africa where 10,000 to 25,000 birds are estimated (Wetlands International 2002). In Namibia, it is virtually confined to the Orange River, where an average of four birds are counted each time at the Orange River Mouth (H Kolberg unpubl. data); a maximum count of 234 birds was recorded at the Orange River mouth in February 2005 during a count that yielded an exceptional number of birds and species. Densities of 2.7 birds per 10 km of river occur further upstream (RE Simmons in Jarvis *et al.* 2001) and suggest a population of about 160 birds for the river. Equal numbers on the Fish River give an estimate for Namibia of about 500 birds occupying an area of 22,400 km² (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is regularly encountered in small numbers (up to two individuals, H Kolberg unpubl. data) on inland dams and sewage works, explaining its presence in the central and southern regions of Namibia, and is sporadically

encountered at the Omadhiya lakes, numbering fewer than 20 individuals (H Kolberg unpubl. data). Surprisingly, it is not found on the tropical north-east rivers.

Yellow-billed Duck | *Anas undulata*



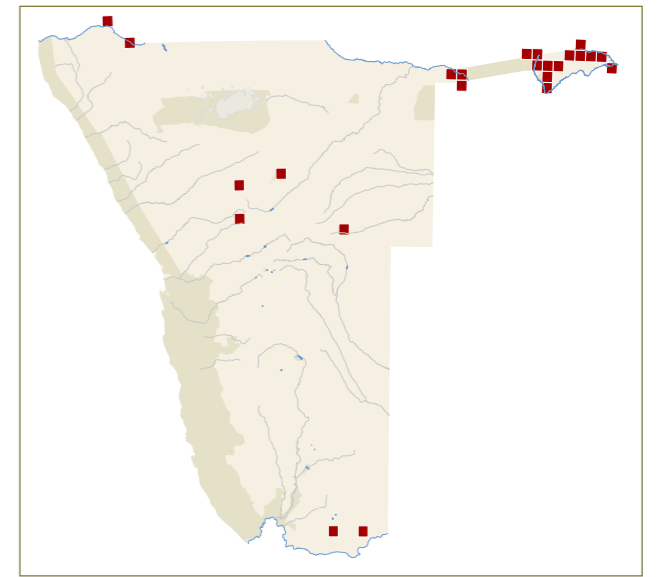
This nomadic and migratory species occurs in the eastern half of Africa and is very common in South Africa but rare in Namibia (Maclean 1997b). It is found in small numbers along slow-flowing rivers, including the Orange, Okavango, Kwando, Zambezi and Chobe rivers, and at lagoons, estuaries, permanent or seasonal lakes, pans and pools. It has adapted well to man-made waterways, such as farm or mining dams (Maclean 1997b, Vernon & Dean 2005a). The largest known concentration in Namibia has been recorded at the Orange River mouth, where up to 182 birds have been counted in summer (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). The population size of the southern African subspecies *A. u. undulata* is estimated at 100,000 birds (Nagy *et al.* 2012), putting Namibia's population of fewer than 1,000 birds – less than 1% of the southern African population.

Greater Honeyguide | *Indicator indicator*

This widespread African species occurs in more mesic parts of Africa with a nearby stronghold in the Okavango Swamps in Botswana. It spills over into Namibia along the Okavango, Kwando and Zambezi river systems, where there is suitable riparian vegetation. It occupies an area of 13,100 km² in Namibia, including a few scattered sightings of vagrants on the Kunene River, in central Namibia and two from the south near the Orange River (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is a brood parasite of barbets, woodpecker,



© Dr. Ursula Franke-Bryson

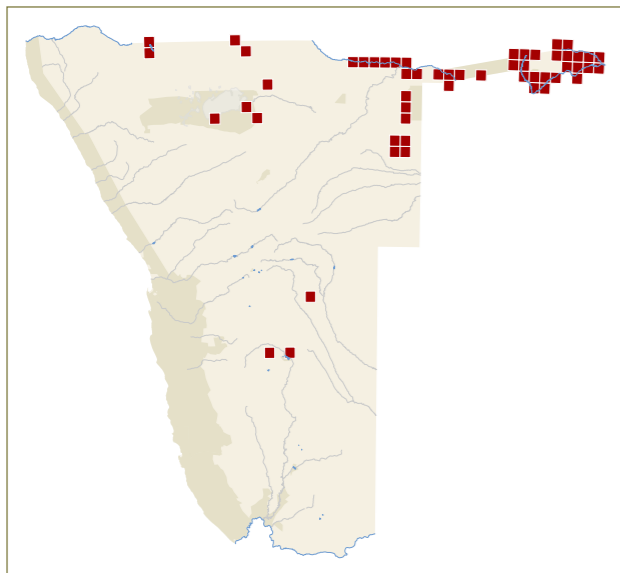


kingfishers and other hole-nesting species. It has not yet been recorded breeding in Namibia. In other parts of southern Africa, it lays mainly in October and November (Tarboton 2011). It guides humans and other animals to bee nests, but it is not known if this still occurs in Namibia (Vernon & Dean 2005b). Although it is not threatened it is offered protection within the Bwabwata, Mudumu and Nkasa-Rupala (Mamili) national parks.

Green-backed Honeybird (Slender-billed Honeyguide) | *Prodotiscus zambesiae*

This overlooked and drab species parasitises the African Yellow White-Eye *Zosterops senegalensis* (Vernon & Dean 1997c). Outside southern Africa, it has a fragmented distribution from Angola to south-east Kenya and isolated populations in Ethiopia (Fry *et al.* 1988). In southern Africa, it is most widespread in Zimbabwe, but is not common

African Pygmy-Goose (Pygmy Goose) | *Nettapus auritus*



This sedentary species is confined to sub-Saharan wetlands, especially in tropical regions, with a minimum population of about 120,000 birds (Rose & Scott 1997). It is very sparsely distributed in southern Africa with the only concentration occurring in the Okavango Swamps, and is widely scattered in Zimbabwe (Maclean 1997c).