



LANIOTURDUS

VOL. 44 (3) 2011

www.namibiabirdclub.org

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Editorial

English common names of bird species occurring in southern Africa : this topic seems to be the subject of a never ending debate. Recently *The Hornbill*, the journal of BirdLife Lowveld, published letters fuelling this debate over the ever changing English common names of our birds. My article in the last issue of *Lanioturdus* shows however that "new" bird names are nothing new at all and that the common names of species have been changing and evolving for many years.

The question does arise, however, as to which names a journal such as *Lanioturdus* should use. It is my policy as editor to use the common names used in Roberts VII and I shall continue to do so until another definitive publication is issued. I believe it is necessary to choose a standard and stick to it in order that most readers will be able to determine which species are being discussed. The common names used in Roberts VII are also for the most part used in all the newer publications such as Roberts Bird Guide, Sasol 3, Sinclair and Ryan, Oberprieler and Cillié and the new revised edition of Newman's. I am sure that most readers have access to at least one of these publications. Thus I shall stick to the names Comb Duck, Osprey, Barn Owl, Cattle Egret and Great Egret as per Roberts VII in spite of the fact that I understand that these are now Knob-billed Duck, Western Osprey, Western Barn Owl, Western Cattle Egret and Western Great Egret. I shall also continue to use the name Black-headed Canary and not the split Black-headed Canary/Damara Canary as it occurs in Sasol 3 – it seems that the authors of Sasol

wooded rivers in central Namibia; a youngster could have easily followed the Kuiseb westwards.

- The bird's toes are very thin, which is characteristic of a Little Sparrowhawk; African Goshawks have slightly heavier toes and feet.

Any more offers, confirmations, comments? Please send them as contributions to Lanioturdus so that the discussions are shared widely.

Who were the People after whom some of our Bird Species are named? (Part 3 : Fülleborn's Longclaw to Northern Giant Petrel)

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Fülleborn's Longclaw *Macronyx fuelleborni* (Reichenow 1900) Named after Friederich Fülleborn (1866-1933) who was a military doctor in the German colonies in east Africa from 1896-1900. After returning to Germany he became staff surgeon at the Institute of Tropical Diseases in Hamburg and became internationally renowned in the field of tropical medicine. (It is not certain whether Fülleborn's Longclaw actually occurs in Namibia as there seem to be only unconfirmed reports from the far north of the country).

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni* (Smith 1836) This species is thought to be named after the 5th Earl of Abingdon (1784-1854) but the spelling is different. It is also thought that Abingon (spelling as in the scientific name) may have been someone who was on a "central" African expedition with Andrew Smith in 1834 when the type specimen was collected.

Gray's Lark *Ammomanopsis grayi* (Wahlberg 1855) According to most sources it was named after John Edward Gray (1800-1875) who

started as an assistant at the British museum in 1824. He became keeper of the zoological department in 1840 and held this post for 34 years. Gray published a great number of books, papers and memoirs and was a fellow of the Linnean Society and of the Royal Society. He was also president of the Zoological Society of London and was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of München in 1852. However, according to Craig, the species was named after John Gray's brother, George Robert Gray (1808-1872) who was curator of birds at the British Museum for some 40 years and who published a well known taxonomic reference book "Genera of Birds".

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* (Lesson 1826) Named after the French botanist and collector Jean Baptiste Leschenault (1773-1826). He collected largely in Java, India, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and later in South America.

Grey-headed Bush-Shrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* (Stephens 1826) Named after M Blanchot who was reputedly a French governor of Senegal in the late 1700's and who first discovered the species.

Grey Penduline-Tit *Anthoscopus caroli* (Sharpe 1871) Named after the Swede Charles John Andersson (1827-1867) who hunted, explored and collected specimens in south west Africa. (*Caroli* is derived from the Latinized form (Carolus) of Andersson's first name, Charles). Andersson, who was trying to get to Africa, met Sir Francis Galton while in England when he (Galton) was preparing an expedition to Lake Ngami and Andersson accompanied him to Walvis Bay. Andersson undertook four major expeditions in south west Africa. After being wounded in the knee in a skirmish between local tribesmen he went to the Cape to write his "Avifauna of South-West Africa" for which the artist, Thomas Baines, did the illustrations. This work was edited by John Gurney after Andersson's death and was published, without the illustrations, as "Notes on the Birds of Damaraland and the Adjacent Territories of South West Africa".

Harlequin Quail *Coturnix delegorguei* (Delegorgue 1847) Named after Adolphe (sometimes given as Adulphe) Delegorgue (1814-1850) a French hunter, naturalist and collector who travelled in west Africa before he came to the Cape in 1834. He arrived in Natal in 1839 and collected with Wahlberg. He later travelled as far as the Pilanesberg. After his return to France he published a record of his travels, "Voyage dans l'Afrique du Sud", in 1847.

Hartlaub's Babbler *Turdoides hartlaubii* (Bocage 1868), **Hartlaub's Gull** *Larus hartlaubii* (Bruch 1853), **Hartlaub's Spurfowl** *Pternistis hartlaubi* (Bocage 1869) Named after Karel (variously Karl, Carl) Johan Gustav Hartlaub (1814-1900) who was born in Bremen and who studied medicine and biology. His hobby was exotic ornithology and he became a specialist in African birds and later professor of zoology in Bremen. Hartlaub collected in east Africa in 1857 and wrote "Die Vögel Ost-Afrikas". He described more than 30 southern African species but his collection, which was housed in Hamburg Museum, was destroyed in a bombing raid in 1943.

Jameson's Firefinch *Lagonosticta rhodopareia* (Heuglin 1868) Most sources maintain that this species was named after James Sligo Jameson (1856-1888), an Irishman who had visited Borneo before coming to South Africa in 1878 to hunt. He met up with Selous in Mashonaland before returning to England with a collection of trophies and specimens. He hunted in north America and toured Spain and Algeria before he died of fever in the Congo while on an expedition with Stanley to rescue Emin Pasha, a German explorer. According to McKay however it was named after Robert Jameson (1774-1854) who was regius professor of natural history and keeper of the Edinburgh Museum.

Karoo Chat *Cercomela schlegelii* (Wahlberg 1855) Named after Hermann Schlegel (1804-1884) who was born in Germany but went to Leiden to work for Temminck. He attended university in Leiden and was awarded an

honorary doctorate by the University of Jena in 1832. Schlegel became the director of the Rijksmuseum at Leiden after Temminck's death and held this post for the rest of his life.

Karoo Korhaan *Eupodotis vigorsii* (Smith 1831) Named after the Irish born and Oxford educated Nicholas Aylwood Vigors (1785-1840) who was a founder member of the Zoological Society of London and editor of the Zoological Journal at the time Smith named the species. He later became a member of the British parliament.

Karoo Thrush *Turdus smithi* (Bonaparte 1850) Named after Sir Andrew Smith (1797-1872). See above under African Broadbill.

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* (Temminck 1823) Named after Friedrich Heinrich Freiherr von Kittlitz (1799-1874) who was a Polish born German artist, naval officer, explorer and ornithologist who joined Rüppell on his second expedition to north Africa in 1831 but had to return to Germany because of ill health.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* (Stephens 1815) Named after Le Vaillant's faithful Khoikhoi servant, Klaas.

Layard's Titbabbler *Parisoma layardi* (Hartlaub 1862) Named after Edgar Leopold Layard (1824-1900) who was born in Florence. His father was in the British diplomatic corps and Layard joined the colonial service in Ceylon in 1844. He came to the Cape in 1854 and was appointed curator of the South African Museum in 1855. In those days the curator was expected to give his services "during the hours which he could spare from his official duties in the Colonial Secretary's office". In 1859 a concession was made whereby he was allowed to spend one day per week on services to the museum – provided that he did his Colonial Service work that night! Layard studied earlier works and compiled a catalogue mentioning 702 species which was printed in 1867. This was the first ornithological work published in Africa (Juta – Cape Town). He himself did little field col-

lecting but he did make a trip to Mauritius, other Indian Ocean islands and east Africa in 1856-57. He left the Cape Colony in 1870.

Leach's Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* (Vieillot 1817) Named after William Elford Leach (1790-1836) who became keeper of the natural history department of the British Museum in 1821. Vieillot named the bird after Leach who found the specimen in a collection he purchased at an auction from the estate of William Bullock (see below under White-fronted Bee-eater).

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* (Fleischer 1818) Named after Johann Friedrich Naumann (1780-1857), the son of a German farmer who produced a definitive work on the birds of Germany. The younger Naumann started out as an artist illustrating his father's work and later edited a revised edition of "Naturgeschichte der Vögel Deutschlands". His pictures are regarded as amongst some of the best European bird illustrations. Carnaby however gives his nationality as Swedish.

Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii* (Swainson 1829) Named after Francois Le Vaillant (1753-1824). See above under Crested Barbet.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* (Temminck 1824) Named after Johann Jakob Kaup (1803-1873) who was director of the Natural History Museum in Darmstadt, Germany. He published "Classification der Säugethiere und Vögel" in 1844 and a monograph on diurnal raptors circa 1840.

Ludwig's Bustard *Neotis ludwigii* (Rüppell 1837) Named after Baron Carl Ferdinand Heinrich von Ludwig (1784-1847) who went to Cape Town as a pharmacist in 1805. He was a keen collector of birds and plants and established his own botanical garden and a small zoo at the Cape. He sent many specimens back to Germany and was granted the title and received an honorary doctorate from his native Württemberg.

Meyer's Parrot *Poicephalus meyeri*

(Cretzschmar 1827) Most sources agree that the bird was named after Georg FW Meyer who published "Catalogus Avium", the catalogue of his father's collection (gathered during Bruce's travels in Ethiopia) in Leipzig in 1858. Craig and others however maintain that the species was named after Bernhard Meyer (1767-1836), a medical doctor noted for his contributions to botany and ornithology in Germany but who is not known to have travelled to Africa.

Meves's Starling *Lamprotornis mevesii* (Wahlberg 1856) Named after Friederich Wilhelm Meves (1814-1891) who was born in Germany but became the curator of the Royal Museum in Stockholm.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* (Linnaeus 1758) Named after Colonel George Montagu (1751-1815) a British soldier and natural history author whose large collection of bird skins went to the British Museum after his death. Montagu served in the American Revolution but was court martialled and cashiered for "provocative marital skirmishing". Thereafter he pursued a life in natural science and was one of the first members of the Linnean Society. He died of lockjaw after treading on a rusty nail.

Monteiro's Hornbill *Tockus monteiri* (Hartlaub 1865) Named after Joachim John (Joao) Monteiro (1833-1878) who was a Portuguese mining engineer and naturalist who collected specimens in Angola between 1860 and 1878.

Mountain Pipit *Anthus hoeschi* (Stresemann 1938) Named after Walter Hoesch (1896-1961) who was born in Neukirchen, Altmark, Germany and who came to the then South West Africa in 1930. He farmed for a while in the Erongo Mountains but abandoned farming to take up zoological research. He collaborated with Professor Niethammer of Bonn in the publication of "Die Vogelwelt Deutsch-Südwestafrikas". His own work "Die Vogelwelt Südwestafrikas" was published in 1955. (The Mountain Pipit is an intra African migrant and is thought to pass through northern Namibia

on its migration between the Lesotho highlands and its central African wintering grounds).

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina* (Stephens 1815) Narina is variously described as a Khoikhoi beauty, Le Vaillant's servant and Le Vaillant's mistress. Le Vaillant had apparently found her given name "difficult to pronounce, disagreeable to the ear and very insignificant to my ideas" and therefore gave her a new name, Narina, which in the Khoikhoi language signifies a flower.

Northern Giant Petrel *Macronectes halli* (Mathews 1912) Named after the Australian Robert Hall (1867-1949) who went to Kerguelen Island with a Norwegian expedition in 1897 and who travelled in Siberia in 1903 collecting birds for the Rothschild Museum. He later became curator of the Tasmanian Museum and was a founder member of the Royal Australian Ornithologists Union.

The final article in this series will begin with Orange River Francolin and end with Wire-tailed Swallow.

Trends in Namibian Waterbird Populations 4: Herons and Egrets Part 2

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This article continues the series on trends in Namibian waterbird populations and summarises count data for herons and egrets for the period 1977 to December 2008. For each species the Red Data Book (RDB) status, both global and Namibian, is given, the population trend as per Wetlands International, the number of times the species was counted, the number of times it has passed the 1% population criterion, the maximum count and the sites where it has passed the 1% population criterion.

The local trend is calculated for the period 1991 to 2008 only because continuous data is available for that time. The computer programme TRIM was used for these analyses (see an earlier publication for the selection criteria and methods). (*Lanioturdus 43-2 Ed*). For each species the number of sites used in the analysis, the number of observed counts (this includes zero counts), and the sites containing more than 10% of the total number counted are given. A trend and slope are given. A slope value of 1 would indicate a perfectly stable population, whereas any value above 1 means a positive trend and a value of less than 1 a negative trend. Population trends are graphically presented as indices relative to a base year (in this case 1991) and thus all have a value of 1 for 1991. An index value of 2 indicates a doubling of the population relative to 1991 and an index of 0.5 would mean half of the 1991 figure.

Trends for thirteen species of heron and egrets could be determined. Out of these, two are increasing, two are stable, one is decreasing and the remainder are uncertain. None of the species considered has ever passed the 1% population mark in any of the counts, in fact, figures for all the species are well below the 1% figure.

(Larger scale replications of the graphs in this article are attached to the end of this edition).

4.7 Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

IUCN RDB Status: Least concern
Namibia RDB Status: ?
WI Trend: Unknown



Photo: Eckart Demasius