

# Namibia Bird News



No 17, June 2016





came and sat next to his front paw and continued chattering. Nobody harms anyone. Of course, I am there and the dogs know that this *Miesies* is *kwaai*. But I don't even need to warn; Rackie has her place, is respected and belongs. She has earned the respect herself. She doesn't move or flap excitedly if a dog gets reeeal close to her. That is how it is and we must all accept that and should one get too close it zap! gets pecked on the nose. Rackie is the boss and really warms our hearts.

Warm regards

Iris

## Wild Bird Rescue

Sonja Bartlewski

Just so that I don't get bored, I received seven guineafowl chicks with a surrogate hen from a riding stable. The employees of the stable had found a guinea-fowl nest with eggs while cutting grass and took the eggs. My friend put the eggs under a tame hen and she hatched them and is the coolest mum in the world. If I get too close to her "children" she charges at me and kicks my shins! We want to release the guinea-fowl again at the stables so we are not taming them and only will keep them until they are big enough.



I also have an injured Rosy-faced Lovebird that is recovering from a bite by a Dachshund. When it was brought to me I got a fright because there was blood on the bird's bill. "No, no", said the man, "that is blood from the Dachshund, it is now missing a part of its lip!"



Last week I released a nightjar. It was brought to me with a broken leg a day before we were going on holiday and travelled through the country with us for ten days. The leg healed well and it put on six grams while on holiday. Last Friday it was released at dusk back into its territory at Brakwater.

At the beginning of February someone brought Gudrun a tree trunk with a hole in it. Whilst cutting down a tree the people had noticed that it contained a bird. Shaking and

knocking didn't help so I carefully cut open the trunk and a young honeyguide appeared. It was really cute and affectionate and immediately took food. After two weeks it was grown up and didn't want to know me anymore. It was released on farm Aris where it hopefully is helping the badger to keep the hornbill nestboxes free of bees.



In February this Familiar Chat still appeared every morning to collect its portion of meal worms, long after it had been released.

## SABAP2



### Bird Atlas Update

Namibians enjoyed a plethora of public holidays in March and May and the effects of these were certainly reflected in the atlas coverage.

With a bird club outing to the "far east" (Buitepos) in March and then a joint excursion between the bird club and the bird ringers to the area around Maltahöhe in May, many virgin pentads were atlased (with the expected ORF overload to yours truly!). We managed to sneak past the 10% coverage mark during that period—well done team!

However, probably the best news regarding the atlas comes from the **Namibia Bird Club**. At its last committee meeting it was decided to donate

# N\$10 000

to SABAP 2 in order to support this vital project. The donation comes with a challenge to all other southern African bird clubs to equal or better this gesture. If a club with less than 200 members can come up with a donation of this size, just imagine what some of the bigger clubs can do...

Keep atlassing!

Holger Kolberg

Regional Atlas Coordinator for Namibia

### As it stands...

**1081 pentads atlased**

**10.19% coverage**

**183 active observers**

**3917 cards submitted**



# Calendar of Events

**26 June 2016:** Namibia Bird Club day outing.

**9 and 10 July 2016:** Wetland bird count at Walvis Bay.

**16 and 17 July 2016:** Wetland bird counts inland.

**24 July 2016:** Namibia Bird Club day outing.

**14 August 2016:** Namibia Bird Club morning walk at Avis Dam.

**26 to 28 August 2016:** Namibia Bird Club excursion.

**3 September 2016:** International Vulture Awareness Day celebration in Swakopmund.

**11 September 2016:** Namibia Bird Club morning walk at Gammams water works.

**25 September 2016:** Namibia Bird Club day outing.

**9 October 2016:** Namibia Bird Club morning walk at Avis Dam.

**23 October 2016:** Namibia Bird Club day outing.

**13 November 2016:** Namibia Bird Club morning walk at Gammams water works.

**27 November 2016:** Namibia Bird Club big birding day.

**11 December 2016:** Namibia Bird Club morning walk at Avis Dam.

