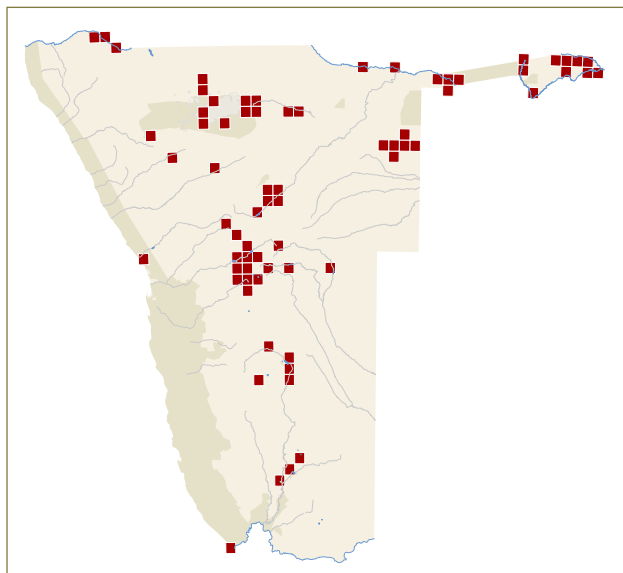




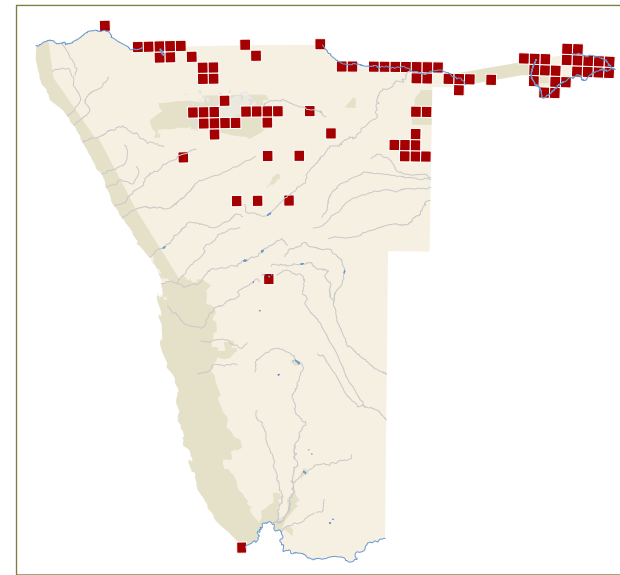
and Lake Liambezi. On rare occasions it is recorded as a vagrant to dams and coastal wetlands among the more common Great White Pelican *P. onocrotalus*. Only four breeding colonies are known: one in the Salambala Conservancy on the Chobe River floodplain, where about 25 birds were recorded in August 1998 (RE Simmons, M Paxton pers. obs.) and 125 birds in September 2001 (Ward 2001), and two from the Linyanti Swamps. The average number of nests per colony was 26 (22 to 34) and eggs were laid in July and August (Brown *et al.* 2015). The global population, spread across sub-Saharan Africa and the southern Red Sea, is estimated at 50,000 to 100,000 birds (Dodman 2002). The Namibian population is less than 1% of the African population. This species is classified as *Vulnerable* in South Africa (Taylor *et al.* in press) because of its small population, which has declined. It is common and stable elsewhere (Dodman 2002) and is not globally threatened. The population should be monitored, especially breeding colonies to ensure that there is no disturbance.

Yellow-billed Stork | *Mycteria ibis*



Widespread in Africa south of the Sahara, this species occurs mainly in the Okavango Delta in Botswana and on rivers and large protected areas in Zimbabwe and north-eastern South Africa (Anderson 1997b). In Namibia it is rare and occurs on the northern rivers, including (in decreasing order of abundance) the Chobe, Okavango, Kunene and Kwando rivers. Congregations of up to 91 birds occur in summer at Lake Oponono (W Versfeld in Jarvis *et al.* 2001). A total of 64 adult birds were recorded at the Impalila-Kasane rapids on the Chobe River in September 2011 (Brown 2012a) and small numbers are recorded from shallow inland dams such as the Omatako and those around Windhoek (Namibia Bird Club in Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Some birds occur as far south as the Fish River and Orange River mouth, reflecting the somewhat nomadic movements of this otherwise resident species (Hancock *et al.* 1992). Reporting rate averaged 2% to 15% (Anderson 1997b). Forty eight active nests were recorded at the Impalila-Kasane rapids in September 2011, with 118 young birds ranging from downy nestlings to recently fledged young (Brown 2012a). Based on only three breeding records for Namibia, the average colony size is 43 nests (38 to 48), and eggs were laid in August and September (Brown *et al.* 2015). World populations are estimated at 75,000 to 100,000 birds (Nagy *et al.* 2012). It is not globally threatened, but was classified as *Near Threatened* in South Africa and Swaziland (Barnes 2000a, Monadjem *et al.* 2003), based on an inferred decline of 10%. A recent assessment in South Africa has elevated its threat status to *Endangered* (Taylor *et al.* in press). There is no evidence of a decline in Namibia or globally (Wetlands International 2002, Nagy *et al.* 2012).

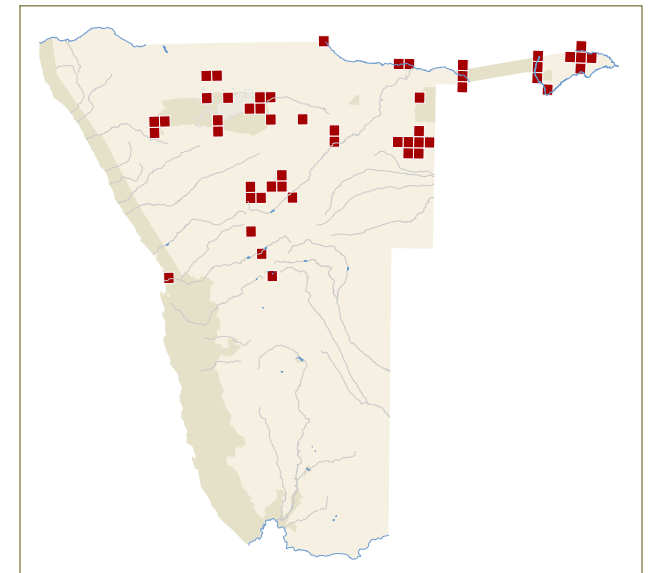
African Openbill (Openbilled Stork) | *Anastomus lamelligerus*



Endemic to sub-Saharan wetlands, avoiding forests (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992), this species is found in northern Namibia, mainly along perennial rivers and floodplains, as well as in the Cuvelai drainage system, sometimes in large flocks when pans such as Etosha are flooded. During the good rains of 2000 and 2001, flocks of 460 birds were recorded on flooded Nyae Nyae Pan and 385 birds in the Mahango area of Bwabwata National Park (RE Simmons, M Paxton in Jarvis *et al.* 2001). There is one recorded sighting from the Orange River mouth. In 2001, the sum of all known flocks was 1,460 birds (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). However, 1,600 birds were counted along short sections of the Okavango River in 2005 (CJ Brown, M Paxton pers. obs.) and over 4,500 birds were counted over three days in March 2008 on the Zambezi and Chobe floodplains when high flooding inundated the Zambezi-Chobe floodplains (CJ Brown pers. obs.). In September 2011, a minimum of 485 nests were recorded near the Impalila-Kasane Rapids on the Chobe River and 3,435 birds were counted in this one locality. This represents the minimum number, as birds were coming and going and presumably a large part of this flock was out on the floodplains foraging (Brown 2012a). This refutes the assertion of the estimated southern African population numbering "fewer than 100 pairs" (Barnes 2000a). The maximum Namibian population is probably in the region of 8,000 birds, although populations are highly variable, depending on environmental conditions. Core areas in the Okavango Delta where it is resident (Navarro 1997b) sometimes support flocks of up to 3,000 birds (Tyler 2001). The African population is estimated at 300,000 to 500,000 birds (Dodman 2002). The Namibian population is thus about 2% of the African population. It is not globally threatened, and has been down-listed from

Near Threatened to *Least Concern* in South Africa (Taylor *et al.* in press), where it breeds only sporadically.

Woolly-necked Stork | *Ciconia episcopus*

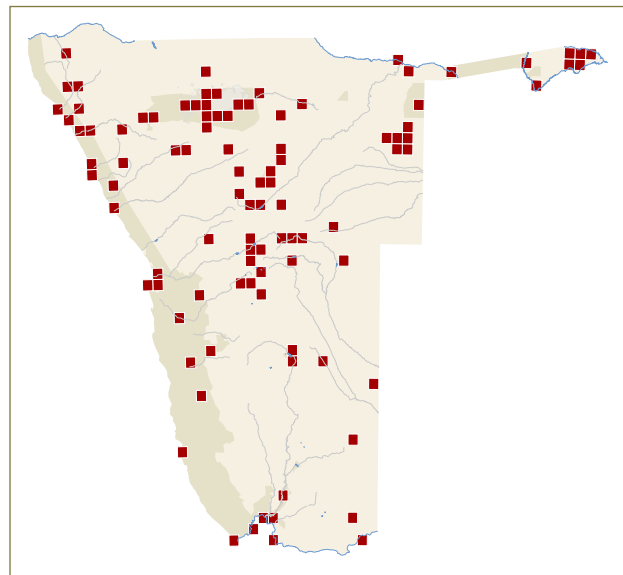


This is a widespread species throughout sub-Saharan Africa and India, through to the Philippines (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992). It is very rare in southern Africa; the breeding population in South Africa is estimated to comprise fewer than 30 pairs (Berruti 1997a). It is largely vagrant to Namibia, with a maximum of 31 birds seen at Lake Oponono in March 1999 and 58 birds at Middelbult Dam, near the Waterberg Plateau National Park, in April 1993. Other similar concentrations are known from Namibia's



north-eastern rivers. The maximum (non-resident) number of birds in Namibia is estimated at fewer than 200 birds, with birds generally present after summer rains and absent by winter (Berruti 1997a). Namibia's population contributes less than 1% to the world population, which is estimated at 25,000 birds (Dodman 2002). It is not globally threatened, and its listing as *Near Threatened* in South Africa (Barnes 2000a) has been down-graded recently to that of *Least Concern* (Taylor *et al.* in press).

White Stork | *Ciconia ciconia*



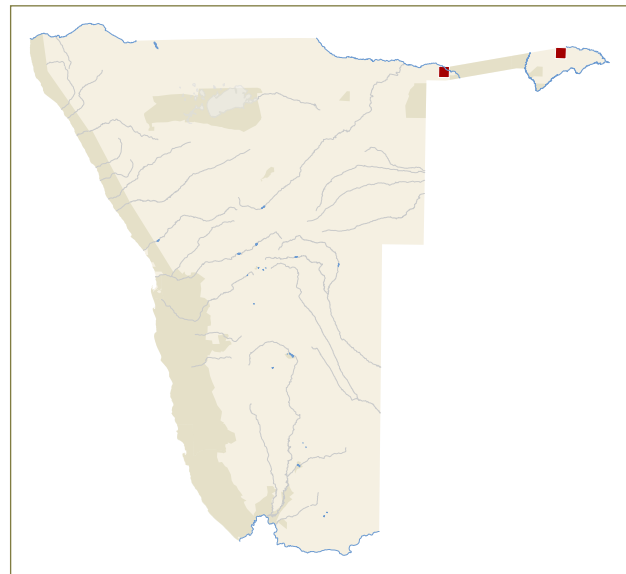
This species is a rare palaeartic migrant to Namibia, but large numbers may occur in the eastern parts of southern Africa (Allan 1997c). It breeds in increasing numbers, estimated at 170,000 pairs in Europe in the mid 1990s (Schultz 1999). Up to 25,000 birds are estimated to visit South Africa in summer (Allan 1997c). A small breeding population occurs in South Africa (Brooke 1984). Birds are found unpredictably across Namibia, with concentrations known at Nyae Nyae Pan (64 birds), Etosha Pan (50 birds), Omatako Dam (50 birds) and Tsumkwe Pans (fewer than 20 birds); birds also concentrate at some of the northern rivers, including the floodplains of the Zambezi-Chobe system (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Numbers probably do not exceed 500 birds in Namibia, about 0.1% of global populations.

African Broadbill | *Smithornis capensis*

This species occurs from west Africa, through central Africa, to the south-eastern regions of southern Africa. It is often localised in its distribution in suitable deciduous thickets and the understorey of riparian forests (Keith *et al.*



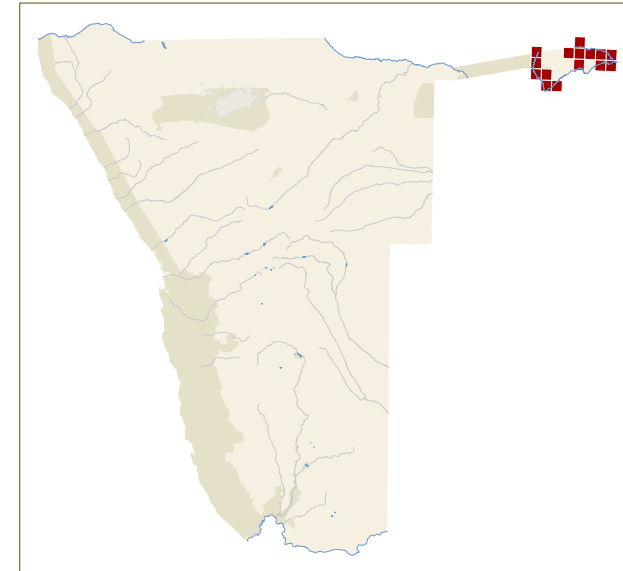
© Dayne Braine, Batis Birding Safaris



1992). There are only two Namibian records from SABAP1, both from Katima Mulilo and occupy an area of 720 km². A more recent record is from dense riparian woodland on the Okavango River near Divundu (CJ Brown pers. obs.). Although it may be overlooked, its occurrence in north-east Namibia may be limited by woodland cutting and burning (Mendelsohn & Roberts 1997), as has been recorded elsewhere in southern Africa (Allan 2000c). Population size and occurrence in Namibia requires further examination, but its small numbers preclude the inclusion of the African Broadbill as a conservation priority. Its designation as *Near Threatened* in South Africa (Allan 2000c) has recently been elevated to *Vulnerable* (Taylor *et al.* in press), based on a declining population due to habitat destruction.

Tropical Boubou | *Laniarius aethiopicus*

This boubou occurs widely throughout the Afrotropics; in southern Africa it is found commonly in Zimbabwe and eastern Botswana. It just enters Namibia in the eastern



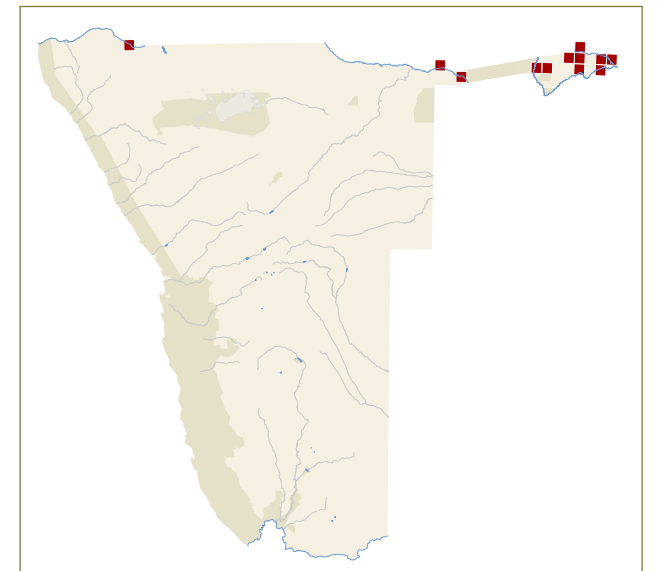
Zambezi region where it occurs on the Zambezi floodplain and the Kwando River (Bowie 2005). It occupies an area of 6,900 km², of which 1,100 km² occurs within protected areas. Recent SABAP2 records (December 2014) indicate a greater presence along the Chobe River than that recorded in the 1980s. It may be under-recorded, given that it is a skulking species, foraging low in dense undergrowth. Its call gives it away, although it may be confused with the Swamp Boubou *L. ferrugineus* with which it overlaps in range and appearance. However, the Tropical Boubou is a bird of woodland, not swamp. There is only one nest record for this species in Namibia, a two-egg clutch laid in December in riparian vegetation upstream of Katima Mulilo (Brown *et al.* 2015).

Grey-headed Bush-Shrike | *Malaconotus blanchoti*

This, the largest shrike in southern Africa, is one of a handful of species that occurs in both the Zambezi and Kavango East mesic woodlands, as well as in riverine bush near the Kunene River in north-west Namibia (Parker 1997). On the Kunene River it is very rare, whereas it is more common in the Chobe, Zambezi and Okavango river woodlands. It occupies an area of 6,100 km² of which 12% occurs in protected areas (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Elsewhere, it occurs commonly through Zimbabwe, eastern Botswana and northern and south-eastern South Africa. It is recorded all year in Namibia but at a low rate of 7%. It is not found in areas with rainfall below 500 mm or at altitudes above 1,500 m. It is a summer breeder elsewhere (Tarboton 2011), but there are no nest records for Namibia (Brown *et al.* 2015). It is not a conservation priority in Namibia because it is a common and widespread resident in other tropical areas of southern Africa.



© Dr Ursula Franke-Bryson



Souza's Shrike | *Lanius souzae*

This extremely rare true shrike is endemic to the miombo woodlands of Angola and Tanzania (Harris & Arnott 1988) and only touches southern Africa in the north-eastern region's Kalahari sandveld *Baikiaea* woodlands and sporadically in Zambezi woodlands (Spottiswoode 1997b). Birds may be resident, but are easily overlooked for a variety of reasons (Paxton 2008); they also resemble pale-brown Red-Backed Shrikes *L. collurio*, and may be mistaken for juveniles of this species. Individuals have been recorded at Mpacha, near Katima Mulilo, at Nkasa Island on the Kwando River, in the Kavango woodlands at the neck of West Caprivi, and on the Chobe River. In addition, two birds have been reported from the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park (Harris & Arnott 1988, Spottiswoode 1997b, Jarvis *et al.* 2001). More