

# LANIOTURDUS

SWA/NAMIBIA VOGELKLUB  
eine Zweigstelle der  
SWA Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft  
und der  
Southern African Ornithological  
Society

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Beiträge bitte an den Redakteur des LANIOTURDUS p.A. SWA Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft, Postfach 67, Windhoek, 9000 senden.

Mitgliedsbeiträge für die S.A.O.S. und die Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für 1986 sind wie folgt:

Mitgliedschaft SWA Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft und  
SWA/Namibia Vogelklub R 25-00 pro Jahr  
Mitgliedschaft SWA Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft und  
der Southern African Ornithological Society R 26-00 pro Jahr

Als ein Ordentliches Mitglied von sowohl der S.A.O.S. als auch der SWA Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft, erhalten Sie die populärwissenschaftliche Zeitschrift BOKMAKIERIE, das wissenschaftlich ausgerichtete Journal OSTRICH und ebenfalls die lokalen Mitteilungen LANIOTURDUS, weiteres Informationsmaterial und die allgemeinen Publikationen der SWA Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft.

Als Ortsgruppen-Mitglied des SWA/Namibianischen Vogelklubs stehen Ihnen der LANIOTURDUS, sowie die Mitteilungen und zusätzliche Informationen der SWA Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft zu.

### Bemerkungen an Mitarbeiter:

Manuskripte sollten mit Schreibmaschine (oder in gut leserlicher Handschrift) geschrieben sein und zwar mit doppeltem Zeilenabstand auf A4 (30 x 21 cm) Format.

Skizzen, Karten und Tabellen sollten auf weissem Qualitätspapier mit schwarzer Tinte gezeichnet werden.

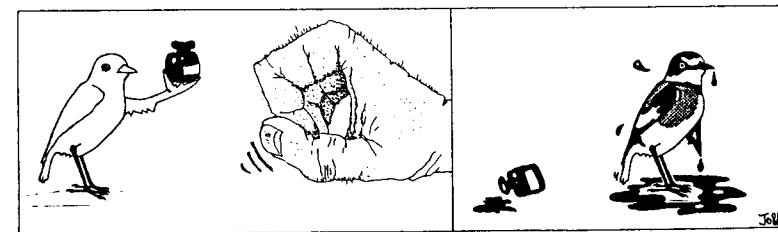
Klare Schwarz-weiss-Photographien (15 x 20 cm) können eingereicht werden, um die Arbeit zu illustrieren.

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### 1. "CREATIONISM"

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## YELLOWBILLED KITES FISHING IN THE OKAVANGO RIVER

In November 1982 a Yellowbilled Kite *Milvus migrans parasitus* was observed to catch a Brown Squeaker Barbel (*Synodontis zambezensis*) in the free-flowing Okavango River just below the town of Rundu in Kavango.

It was late afternoon (about 17h30) when the kite swooped down in a manner typical of a Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* and caught the ten centimetre barbel just below the surface of the water, some 15 metres away from where I was standing in the reeds. The kite circled and landed on the bank with the fish, but shortly thereafter it was disturbed by a group of local fisher-women, and left the bank to circle overhead. I picked up the dying fish and hurled it back into the river, where it floated on the surface. The kite circled above it for a while, but eventually left the site without attempting to retrieve the barbel.

During November before the summer rains, the river is at its lowest and flows much slower than during the following months. However, it was still about 1,5 metres deep where the kite took the barbel. Although the river was calm, it was far from stagnant and stationary.

Although Steyn (1982 *Birds of prey of southern Africa*. Cape Town: David Philip) mentions the occurrence of fishing by these birds, Maclean (1985 *Roberts' birds of southern Africa*. Cape Town: J. Voelcker Bird Book Fund) makes no mention of fish in the diet of kites. Perhaps fish form a noteworthy percentage of the diet of Yellowbilled Kites in the wetter areas of the country, judging by the skill and dexterity with which this kite fished.

JEANENE JESSNITZ, P.O. Box 22923, Windhoek.

### Noch eine kleine Episode vom Vormittag

Ein Rotbrauner Weber flog über einen auf dem Tränkenrand sitzenden, Wasser trinkenden Lappenstar (R760), "stand" einen Moment flatternd über ihm in der Luft und setzte sich auf dessen Rücken. Der Star drehte sich erschrocken um und duckte sich tief; dann flog er entsetzt zur anderen Tränke. Daraufhin nahm sich der Weber den nächsten Star vor und wiederholte seine Frechheit, im Ganzen noch vier oder fünf mal. An der anderen Tränke liess er die Lappenstare ungestört trinken.

Die Rotbrauner Weber sind die streitlustigsten Vögel an meinem Futterplatz und werden von allen anderen respektiert.

Mrs A. Krieg, Windhoek.

-----ooOoo-----

On 11 May 1986 an immature female Rock Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* was found in central Windhoek. The bird was bruised over one eye, and appeared to be semi-concussed and in a state of shock. She was kept in a quiet, dark room for two days and force-fed. On the third day she was able to feed herself, and was placed in an outside aviary. Three days later the bird was ringed and released.

E.J. MYER, P.O. Box 11232, Klein Windhoek.

## COASTAL BIRDS AT ELIZABETH BAY IN APRIL 1986

Surveys have now been carried out of the birds in most coastal areas along the southern African coast between Mozambique and Angola (A.J. Williams personal communication). However, due to severe restriction on public access, very few surveys have been done along the coast within the diamond concession areas of southern Namibia. Hence, little is known about the status of avifauna in these areas.

During the course of official duties in April 1986, I was able to visit the coast at Elizabeth Bay (26°55' S; 15°12' E), about 45 km south of Lüderitz. Six species of birds were recorded. On the old jetty there were four nests occupied by Bank Cormorants *Phalacrocorax neglectus*, ten Bank Cormorants with white rumps (indicating breeding condition), and a further 50 birds present. There were also nine Whitebreasted Cormorants *P. carbo* and 29 Cape Cormorants *P. capensis*. Neither of these cormorants was breeding. Along the beach near the jetty I counted 23 Hartlaub's Gulls *Larus hartlaubii*, three Keip Gulls *L. dominicanus* and nine Black Oystercatchers *Haematopus moquini*.

There have been two previous reports of coastal birds at Elizabeth Bay. In December 1976 a helicopter survey reported some 200 Cape Cormorant nests (possibly intermingled with other cormorant species) on the jetty (Frost & Johnson 1977 *Cormorant* 2:3-4). In December 1977 there were 35 pairs of Bank Cormorants, five pairs of Cape Cormorants and three pairs of Whitebreasted Cormorants (Siegfried & Johnson 1977 *Cormorant* 3:13).

The old jetty at Elizabeth Bay evidently provides safety from predation by Blackbacked Jackals *Canis mesomelas* which patrol the coastline and restrict breeding by seabirds. The numbers of cormorants reported breeding on the jetty fall well below one percent of each species' world population level, and this locality thus has a relatively low conservation value (A.J. Williams personal communication).

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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