NAMIBIA BIRD CLUB

A branch of
the Namibia Scientific Society
and
the Southern African Ornithological Society

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

LANIOTURDUS publishes articles and other material of broad birding interest to the membership of the Namibia Bird Club. Contributors should examine recent issues of LANIOTURDUS for guidance on suitability and presentation of material. Manuscripts in German or English, should be typed in double-spacing on A4 paper. Sketches, maps and figures should be submitted on quality white paper with black ink. High contrast black-and-white or colour photographs may be submitted to illustrate articles. The editor is allowed wide latitude in his choice of material, thus any views and opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the Namibia Bird Club. All material in LANIOTURDUS is copyright, and permission to reproduce any items must be negotiated with the Editor.

Authors using MS-DOS or Macintosh compatible word processing software are strongly encouraged to submit their manuscripts on double or high density diskettes/floppy disks. Please inform the Editor which word processing software was used. Disks will be returned to the authors in due course.

A single copy of the volume-issue in which your article appeared will be sent to the senior author. Additional reprints may be purchased at cost from the Secretary, Namibia Bird Club, P.O. Box 67, Windhoek, Namibia.

All contributions (including books for review) to LANIOTURDUS should be addressed to the Editor, LANIOTURDUS, Namibia Bird Club, P.O. Box 67, Windhoek, Namibia.

LANIOTURDUS

Newsletter of the Namibia Bird Club

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL .... 2

GALLAND, B. "Grusswort" .... 3

ARTICLES, REPORTS, NEWS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION:

BECKER, P. Blutschnabelweber (Quelea quelea) brutet im Zuckerrohr (Saccharum officinarum) .... 4


SIMMONS, R. Namibia's third national wetland bird survey, July 1992. .... 9

VAN DE REEP, J. & S. When in doubt, check again! .... 12

SCHOPPE, R. Die Ernährung der Eulen Namibias: eine übersicht. .... 13

GERSTLE, J. & P. From rags to riches. .... 31

SCHOLZ, C. Notes on captive Orange River Francolins. .... 35

WALTER, A. Unusual feeding behaviour of terns. .... 36

BROOKE, R. A five-toed European Nightjar. .... 37

WALTER, A. Kittlitz's Plovers in town. .... 37

WALTER, A. Some observations of humorous nature. .... 38

ROBITZSCH, G. Beobachtungen mit Witwen- und Melba-Finken im Karhibber Garten 1980 bis 1983 .... 38

ROBITZSCH, G. Vergeblicher Nestbau eines verliebten Cabanis Wobers. .... 39

BROWN, C.J. Birds of the upper Huab River catchment, Kunene province. .... 40

BAUER, W. Vogelbeobachtungen im Norden. .... 47

KOMEN, J. & E. MALULEKE. Bio-acoustic research at the State Museum of Namibia. .... 48

VAN DE REEP, J. & S. Cocky Bustard. .... 50

BRIDGEFORD, P.A. & M. South African Cliff Swallows in Namibia. .... 53

VAN DE REEP, S. ? Thorn bird ? .... 57

BECKER, P. & O.G. AMIR. Effects on non-target birds through spraying operations on quelea roost and colonies in Somalia (With a list of birds predatory on Red-billed Quelea and a list of palaearctic bird species observed in Somalia). .... 58

VAN DE REEP, J. & S. Flashing jewels in combat. .... 63

BRIDGEFORD, P.A. & M. More birds of the Naukluft Mountains. .... 64

SIMMONS, R. The Namibian nest record scheme: history, contributors and competitors. .... 66
im November jedoch verschwand sie von heute auf morgen, ohne auch nur einmal zurückzukehren.


Schließlich flog einer von ihnen in die Krone des Baumes und stellte wie eine Siegesfanfare einen recht melodischen Ruf aus, den ich aber nicht wiederzugeben imstande bin, da er nur einmal rief. Meine Helfer, die auch wieder zugeschlagen hatten, meinten, diese Vögel seien hier durchausheimisch. Sie sind mir, wahrscheinlich wegen ihrer Unauflässigkeit, bisher nicht bekannt, und ich habe vergeblich versucht, sie anhand Sinclair’s Buch zu identifizieren. Wer kann helfen?

BIO-ACOUSTIC RESEARCH AT THE STATE MUSEUM OF NAMIBIA

JORIS KOMEN & ERIC MALULEKE

State Museum of Namibia, P.O. Box 1203, Windhoek

Nearly two-thirds (about 100 species) of the southern African endemc avifauna has its focus of distribution in the southwestern African arid region, and many of these species are very poorly known. One avenue of research into evolutionary relationships is the fine-scale analysis of animal communication, within behavioural and ecological contexts, to identify the specific and (often) subtle cues used by species to identify conspecifics and sexual partners.

Audio-visual material, represented primarily by recorded vocalizations of more than 1000 bird species on magnetic and video tape in the Bird Department are available for research, education and publicity purposes. From as early as 1983, the Bird Department has collaborated with, and provided sound recordings of many of Namibia’s endemic birds to, institutions such as the Fitzpatrick Bird Communication Library (South Africa), to be rendered into sonograms for inclusion in a host of scientific and popular publications, as well as books such as Roberts’ Birds of southern Africa. Sonograms are visual representations of bird calls and provide one of the few ways for measuring, analyzing and visually displaying sounds (see Figure 1).

Sound analysis equipment became computerised in the early eighties, initially with specially dedicated equipment that cost in excess of R 120 000. As with so much computer-related equipment, prices dropped and quality rose all the time. By the beginning of 1992, when we approached Douglas Reissner, Director of the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF), to help us raise funds for computer-based sonographic equipment, the price of such sonographic equipment had dropped to under R 20 000. Negotiations for material assistance were soon under way, and thanks to the enthusiastic support of local businessman Theo Schoeman of Schoemans Office Systems, the end result was a three-way assistance package with contributions from Hewlett Packard International (an HP Laserjet Printer), Schoemans Office Systems and NNF (Ariel DSP 16-plus adaptor board and Hypersignal-Workstation software) valued at R 16 000. This sonographic equipment is housed in the Bird Department with the understanding that it will be made available to all Namibian and visiting scientists who may have use for this sound-analysing facility. The equipment will also serve as an excellent educational tool for extramural under- and post-graduate zoological studies at the University of Namibia.
"That bird with the bonnet, in the grass!!"

The excitement rose as everyone realised what we were looking for. The Redcrested korhaan is not aptly named as the crest is only displayed during actual courtship. The perfect camouflage created by the exquisite batik-like chevron markings makes it a difficult bird to find at the best of times. The most easily observed display of this korhaan is the rocket-like shot into the air - about 20 yards straight up - and the subsequent tumble and fall. It is quite spectacular and for the uninitiated can cause some eye-rubbing as to whether one had seen it at all. The marked piping whistle is also easy to detect (when you know the call!!) but the male bird we were watching was doing neither of these displays.

The female was crouched nearby, almost impossible to see, except for the light catching her eye when she cautiously turned her head. The male was “limping” towards her, loudly clacking his beak on every downward motion of the “limp” and he began circling her rapidly, as best as the surrounding bush would allow. His crest sometimes partially, sometimes totally erected. Three time he went around her and she remained motionless in her crouched position.

His personality had changed from the secretive, slowly moving bird that relies so much upon its camouflage, to a flamboyant show-off with only this “Chick” on his mind. Our proximity did not interest him in the least - indeed, I doubt if he knew we were there.

His “shoulders” rose (giving the impression that had he claws on them, he would have clutched her to him!!), his head went low on stretched neck, his cheeks puffed out, his eye was beady and under his beak the fluffed feathers showed a broad black line, while the raised crest gave him a decidedly cocky appearance as he clacked and limped about in circles. He was quite unrecognisable by now and if we hadn’t seen the transition we would have been hard-pushed to identify him by the depiction in the book.