Provisional atlas of breeding birds of Swakopmund in the coastal Namib Desert

Article - July 2018

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The Namibia Bird Club was founded in 1962 and has been active since then. The club’s mission is to contribute to Namibian ornithology by, amongst other things, arranging regular birding outings, conducting bird ringing and atlasing excursions and educating the public about the value of birds. To achieve this, we organise monthly visits to interesting birding sites around Windhoek as well as regular visits to Avis Dam and the Gammams Sewage Works and occasional weekend trips further afield. Bird club members also participate in the African Waterbird Census twice a year.

Experienced birders are more than happy to help beginners and novices on these outings. If you have a transport problem or would like to share transport please contact a committee member. Depending on the availability of speakers and suitable material we present occasional lecture or video evenings at the Namibia Scientific Society premises. Members receive the bird club’s journal, Lanioturdus and outings and events are advertised on the club’s website www.namibiabirdclub.org.

The Namibia Bird Club is not affiliated to any global or regional organisation and relies entirely on members’ subscriptions and donations to fund its activities.

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Cover photo © Holger Kolberg
Winter is usually a time of dormancy and hibernation but this issue of Lanioturdus certainly has somewhat of a breeding flavour to it.

How many of us have birds breeding in our gardens? The only time we take notice is when the birds destroy our plants in their quest to gather nesting material or when we find a little chick that has dropped out of a nest before fledging.

We probably also notice the nests but how many of us have taken note of when the bird started building the nest, when were the eggs laid, hatching date etc.

Although a good summary of breeding data for the birds of Namibia has been published, it still contains many gaps and even when paging through ‘The Bible’ i.e. Roberts, it is amazing how little information is available about the breeding habits of some species.

In fact, I remember when Roberts VII was published, there was a list of ‘missing information’ published on the book’s website and a lot of it pertained to breeding. I still have that list somewhere; perhaps it is time to dig it out...

Keep birding!
**Bird Atlas Update**

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1 545 pentads covered  
256 observers  
6 857 cards submitted  

14.5508% covered  
268 659 species records  
167 maximum species per card

Coverage map of Namibia; White dots represent ad hoc records, coloured squares full protocol cards – the colour indicates the number of times a pentad has been atlased.