The few records from north-east Namibia, including the Okavango River, comprise the southern tail of the distribution of the subspecies A. s. niethammeri, which is abundant in tropical central and western Africa (Clancey 1980). It differs therefore from the subspecies common in central Zimbabwe and northern and eastern South Africa (Colahan 1997). Reporting rates for this subspecies were low, averaging just below 5% (Jarvis et al. 2001). It may be overlooked in the moist grasslands in which it occurs because it is a ground-feeder. It breeds in previously used bishop and widow nests, so breeding is also rarely recorded. It occupies an area of 2,300 km², of which 53% lies within protected areas. It could be argued that this species may be a conservation priority because of its rare subspecific status and potential targeting as a cage bird. However, there is no current evidence to support this (Goodwin 1982).

**Orange-breasted Waxbill**

*Amandava subflava*

This sister species to the Green-winged Pytilia (*Melba Finch*) *P. melba* was not recorded in Namibia during the 24-year SABAP atlas period (Tree 1997). However, its irruptive nature explains the sightings made by Koen (1988) and potential targeting as a cage bird. However, there is no current evidence to support this (Goodwin 1982).

**Brown Firefinch**

*Lagonosticta nitidula*

A relatively widespread species in north-east Namibia, this bird occupies 14,800 km² of dense thickets adjacent to perennial rivers (Nuttall 1997a). It enters the Breé and Peripheral category because in southern Africa it is restricted to the Okavango Delta of Botswana, the Okavanga, Kwando, Chobe and Zambezi river systems of Namibia and extreme western Zimbabwe. It is a poorly known species whose density, population size and conservation needs are virtually unknown. It breeds from October to April in Zimbabwe (Dean & Payne 2005); only two nests are known from Namibia, with eggs being laid in February (Brown et al. 2015). It is the host of the Village Indigobird (*Steelblue Widowfinch*) *Vidua chalybeata* (Dean & Payne 2005). Some conservation concern for this resident finch is expressed because of the high pressure on wetland margins by local people and their livestock. In the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park, where it occurs in the thickest undergrowth about 500 m from the Okavango River (P Paxton pers. obs.), thickets are impacted in areas where large numbers of elephants are resident (P Lane pers. obs.). Surveys of this diminutive species would greatly assist in providing population estimates for different areas in Namibia.

**Bronze Mannikin**

*Lonchura cucullata*

This small species, widespread throughout sub-Saharan Africa, just touches the Zambezi and eastern Kavango regions. While it is inconsiderable, it occurs in flocks and is unlikely to be mistaken for any other species. It occupies edge habitat often near water over an area of 3,700 km², of which 40% occurs within conservation areas of the Nkasa Rupara (Mamili) National Park and the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park (Jarvis et al. 2001). This explains its presence along the Okavango, Zambezi and Kwando rivers in Namibia (Nuttall 1997b). It has low reporting rate in Namibia of 6%, despite probably being resident here. This species may be spreading as water points become more common. It is not considered a conservation priority because of its wide range and large abundance, as well as its past status in parts of West Africa (Nuttall 1997d).