Once considered a subspecies of the Karoo Lark C. albescens (Mirafra albescens), this taxon was recently given full species status following genetic analysis revealing a 4.9% divergence between it and the Karoo Lark and a 2% difference with the Dune Lark C. erythrochlamys (Mirafra erythrochlamys) (Ryan et al. 1998). The flanks are unstreaked and the bill and neck are heavier than in the Karoo Lark, with which it was lumped before 1998 (Dean & Ryan 1997), but plumage differs little otherwise. Bills are longer and songs are lower pitched than in sister species. It inhabits the Succulent Karoo region north and south of the Orange River, as far north as the Koigab River valley, and as far east as Aus and the sandy plains to the east of the Fish River Canyon. About 92% of its range occurs north of the Orange River, qualifying it as a Namibian near-endemic. With a maximum range of only 18,000 km² (Ryan et al. 1998), it has the smallest distribution of any near-endemic in Namibia. Neither population size nor density estimates are known, but birds are most commonly found in Euphorbia dune hummocks and sandy plain vegetation inland and in coastal dune vegetation elsewhere (Ryan et al. 1998). It lays a two-egg clutch in August to November, with a peak in September and October (n=13). This differs from all other larks in Namibia, presumably because of its winter rainfall distribution (Brown et al. 2015). Clutches of two eggs are laid in nests built at the base of plants on small hummocks, always on sandy substrate. In a study area near Gobabeb, nest success was reasonably high at 0.38 nestlings per nesting attempt, and pairs did not require rainfall to initiate breeding (Boyer 1988). However, birds further east and outside of the coastal fog belt may be more dependent on rainfall. Birds are known to be long-lived, with two ringed birds recaptured seven years after they were first ringed as adults (M Boorman unpubl. data). The Dune Lark forms a species complex of closely related larks of the genus Calendulauda, with the Karoo Lark C. albescens, Barlow’s Lark C. barlowi and Red Lark C. burra all adapted to different soil types and with small distributions in the arid regions of south-western Africa (Ryan et al. 1998). The Dune Lark is probably the least threatened, given that its dune habitat is devoid of human impact. Although the effects of climate change are unknown, as the species is conined to dune habitat, it is unlikely to be able to shift elsewhere in response to increased aridity (Midgley et al. 2001, Simmons et al. 2004).