

CONTENTS

VOLUME 37 (2) 2004

OSBORNE, T.O. Editorial.....	1
LUDWIG, D. Chairman's Report 2002 / 2003	2
LUDWIG, D. Chairman's Report 2003 / 2004	3
WHITE, R. & C. HASSELL. American Golden Plover near Etosha NP, Namibia	6
CUNNINGHAM, P. Hadedda Ibis, <i>Bostrychia hagedash</i> , sighting in the lower Orange River	10
BOIX-HINZEN, C. Nest boxes for Namibia.	11
DÜRR, M. Sociable Weavers nesting on a cliff-face	19
BOIX-HINZEN, C. Undercover larks	19
STOLS, T. & M. FOERSTER. Nest rescue	21
DEMASIUS, E. African Crake found at Swakopmund	23
SPOTTISWOODE, C. Sociable-lising in Namibia	25
SIMMONS, R. Red Data Book draft	27
LUDWIG, T. Namibia Big Birding Day 2003	33
LUDWIG, T. Tagesausflug auf die Farm Seeis / Day outing to Farm Seeis	34
BIRD OBSERVATIONS AND NOTES	34
OSBORNE, L. The amazing, one-winged flying Quelea	39

Editorial

Tim Osborne

I must apologize to the members for the delay in Vol. 37 (1). It was at the printers in late January but due to unforeseen circumstances it was delayed until April. It also had a distortion error and a double entry of the map accompanying Holger Kolberg's ringing report, which was my fault. Not having a printer, I only work on my laptop and sometimes I cannot see what the final page will look like.

The rains are past and those birds dependent on insects have bred. The seed-eaters are enjoying the harvest and the large raptors are prospecting their nests as they also have lots of prey in the form of young birds. The Monotonous Larks are still singing their hearts out day and night on our farm. The African Scops Owls are also calling throughout the night. From our place we can hear 5 pairs, one of which is right outside our window. Funny how one gets used to natural sounds in the bush. When we come to Windhoek we cannot sleep with the car alarms, dogs barking and traffic, but here with a Scops calling all night we sleep right through.

From the Chairman's Report you will be able to see that the club membership is declining. If you want to keep the club viable you must also do your part and try and get new members to join.

There are a lot more sightings reported in this issue, which is a welcome change. Keep sending those in. So far this year we have added three new species to the Namibian list: Gull-billed Tern, Streaky-breasted Flufftail and European Blackcap (more on this species in the next volume).

Conclusion

We believe this is the first record of American Golden Plover for inland Namibia, given the discussion above. American Golden Plover has, very rarely, been recorded on the Namibian coast with records at Walvis Bay and Swakopmund. According to Hockey (1997) all the accepted Southern African records are from the coast. This would thus be the first inland record of this species in Namibia and possibly Southern Africa.

References

- Hayman, P. Marchant, J. and Prater, T. (1986). Shorebirds: An identification guide to the waders of the world. Helm, A and C Black. London.
- Hockey, P. 1997. American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*. In The atlas of southern African birds. Vol 1. Non-passerines. Harrison, J.A., Allan, D.G., Underhill, L.G., Herremans, M. Trec, A.J., Parker, V., & Brown, C.J. (eds), pp 767. BirdLife South Africa, Johannesburg.
- Marchant, S., Higgins, P.J. (eds) (1993). Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds. Vol. 2: Raptors to Lapwings. Oxford University Press, Melbourne
- Pizzey, G. & Knight, F. (1997). The Field Guide to the Birds of Australia. Angus and Robertson.
- Rosair, D. and Cottridge, D. (1995). Photographic Guide to the Waders of the World. Hamlyn.
- Simpson, K. and Day, N. (1999). The Field Guide to the Birds of Australia, sixth edition. Penguin Books, Australia.
- Sinclair, I., Hockey, P. & Tarboton, W. (2002). Birds of Southern Africa, Third Edition. Struik, Cape Town.

Hadedda Ibis, *Bostrychia hagedash*, sighting in the lower Orange River

Peter Cunningham

Department of Nature Conservation, Polytechnic of Namibia, Windhoek
pcunningham@polytechnic.edu.na

Hadedda Ibis, *Bostrychia hagedash*, are common throughout southwestern, eastern and northern South Africa, although generally absent from the dry, western regions. Records from the dry, western region include Clanwilliam, Nieuwoudtville and Augrabies Falls (Maclean 1985 & 1993). *Bostrychia hagedash* is a species known to be increasing its range with its Southern African range known to have doubled during the last century (Tarboton 2001).

On 6 February 2004 at approximately 19h00, two Hadedda Ibis were observed in flight whilst uttering their distinctive and unmistakable “ha..ha...hadedda” call at farm Beenbreek bordering the Orange River to the west of Onseepkans on the Namibian side of the river. This site is approximately 200 km west (or down river) from Augrabies Falls and approximately 15 km east of the Onseepkans border checkpoint. According to Strauss (pers. comm.), the owner of the farm, they have been sighted in this area only recently – i.e. “last few years”. Simmons & Allen (2002) conducted a survey of the lower Orange River during the late 1990s and did not record Hadedda Ibis from Haibmond (east of Noordoewer) westwards. The last-mentioned authors note that the overall bird diversity in the Orange River, albeit relatively low, increases from east to west and ascribe this to the slower flow and warmer water downriver.

It would thus seem that the Hadedda Ibis is moving westwards, by following the Orange River and thus subsequently increasing their range. Irrigation of lucerne and vines along the Orange River undoubtedly results in preferred habitat frequented by this ibis. It will be interesting to note when they reach the Orange River mouth and habitats around Oranjemund.

References

- Maclean, G.L. 1985. Roberts' birds of Southern Africa. John Voelcker Bird Book Fund.
- Maclean, G.L. 1993. Roberts' birds of Southern Africa. John Voelcker Bird Book Fund.
- Simmons, R.E. & Allen, D.G. 2002. The Orange River avifauna: abundance, richness and comparisons. Ostrich 73(1&2): 1-8.
- Tarboton, W. 2001. A guide to the nests and eggs of Southern Africa. Struik Publishers, Cape Town.

Nest boxes for Namibia

Christian Boix-Hinzen
christian@tropicalbirding.com

Over the last couple of weeks a number of people have obviously sensed a slight increase in humidity and may even have felt a drop of water or two... I assume this explains the sudden barrage of calls to find out how to build a nest box. Well...it may be a bit late by the time this article is published but nonetheless its about time I make public the magic nest box formula... hence here is the Hornbill Nest Box patent...happy building and many happy hours watching!!