This small wetland species is found throughout Africa in suitable wetland margins. In Namibia, it occurs mainly along the Okavango and Zambezi rivers and their associated backwaters and floodplains. Birds are also recorded from the Tsumkwe Pans and as a vagrant (once) from the Klaarstroom (Dean 2005b). It occupied 9,500 km² in SABAP1 atlas data, of which an area of 1,200 km² is protected (Jarvis et al. 2001). Present atlas data from SABAP2 (December 2014) show a similar pattern of occurrence with an additional record east of Etosha. It is almost certainly overlooked and under-recorded. Fourteen nests are known from the Tsumkwe Pans with clutches laid in January (four), February (five) and March (five) (Brown et al. 2015).

**Allen’s Gallinule (Lesser Gallinule) | Porphyrula alleni (Porphyroidea alleni)**

This common circumpolar species spends the non-breeding season off Peru, China and the Arabian peninsula (Hockey 2005b). It is known to have declined in southern Africa (Barnes 2000a, Taylor et al. 2001). It is distinguished from the Red Phalarope (Grey Phalarope) P. fulicaria by its longer, thinner bill and darker grey back and rump. In Africa, it is found in the Rift Valley lakes of East Africa, in southern Africa it is most common in Walvis Bay, where up to 56 birds have been recorded in January (Wearne & Underhill 2005). There is one record from the Omatako Dam. Some birds over-winter in Namibia and up to nine birds have been recorded from Walvis Bay in July (Wearne & Underhill 2005). There has been a steady increase in birds seen at Walvis Bay in recent times from an average of about five (1991, 1992, 1995) to 56 (1999, 2000, 2002) and over 70 (2014) more recently (Jarvis et al. 2001, Wearne & Underhill 2005, H Kolberg unpubl. data). There are few conservation concerns for this species either worldwide or in Namibia and it may have benefited from coastal salt works that provide habitats where there were none previously. There is no evidence in Namibia for the assertion that it has decreased in southern Africa since 1980 (Hockey 2005b).

**Red-necked Phalarope | Phalaropus lobatus**

This species has a more restricted African range than the White-crowned Lapwing (White-crowned Plover) V. albiceps, occurring mainly in the central and eastern sections from southern Sudan to KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. Its world population is estimated at 25,000 to 50,000 birds and like the White-crowned Lapwing, it prefers recently burned, open grasslands, fallow fields and other open areas on black clays near open water (Maclean 1999f). It is recorded sparsely from Etosha National Park (reporting rate of about 1%) and in grassland areas around the Kunene and Chobe rivers. Its area of occupancy is 11,900 km² (Jarvis et al. 2001). It is known to have declined in South Africa in historic times (Maclean 1999f), and populations there number about 500 birds (Tarboton et al. 1987). Population size is unknown elsewhere in southern Africa. It breeds from March to August in Botswana (Skinner 1987), while the only breeding record for Namibia has it laying in September (Brown et al. 2015). It is classified as Near Threatened in South Africa (Barnes 2000a, Taylor et al. in press) because of the small fluctuating population and its reliance on farming practices. It is, however, not globally threatened (IUCN 2012).

**Yellow-throated Sandgrouse | Pterocles gutturalis**

A nomadic species that, like other sandgrouse, is found in drier regions of the continent. It occurs patchily from Ethiopia to the northern parts of Botswana and Namibia, north-western South Africa and Zimbabwe. It prefers recently burned, open grasslands, fallow fields and other open areas on black clays near open water (Maclean 1999f). It is recorded sparsely from Etosha National Park (reporting rate of about 1%) and in grassland areas around the Kunene and Chobe rivers. Its area of occupancy is 11,900 km² (Jarvis et al. 2001). It is known to have declined in South Africa in historic times (Maclean 1999f), and populations there number about 500 birds (Tarboton et al. 1987). Population size is unknown elsewhere in southern Africa. It breeds from March to August in Botswana (Skinner 1956), while the only breeding record for Namibia has it laying in September (Brown et al. 2015). It is classified as Near Threatened in South Africa (Barnes 2000a, Taylor et al. in press) because of the small fluctuating population and its reliance on farming practices. It is, however, not globally threatened (IUCN 2012).

**Long-toed Lapwing (Long-toed Plover) | Vanellus crassirostris**

This common circumpolar species spends the non-breeding season off Peru, China and the Arabian peninsula (Hockey 2005b). It is recorded sparsely from the Tsumkwe Pans and as a vagrant (once) from the Kao River (Dean 2005b). It occupied 9,500 km² in SABAP1 atlas data, of which an area of 1,200 km² is protected (Jarvis et al. 2001). Present atlas data from SABAP2 (December 2014) show a similar pattern of occurrence with an additional record east of Etosha. It is almost certainly overlooked and under-recorded. Fourteen nests are known from the Tsumkwe Pans with clutches laid in January (four), February (five) and March (five) (Brown et al. 2015).

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This tropical-riverine species is found in sub-Saharan Africa from western to central Africa, with a break in distribution before it re-appears on the eastern side of southern Africa (Ward 1997, Wetlands International 2002). In Namibia, its distribution is restricted to sandy or muddy banks of the north-eastern rivers, including the Okavango and Kunene rivers. It occupies an area of about 10,000 km² in Namibia, of which 16% occurs in protected areas such as Mahango area of the Kwando National Park, and the Mudumu and Nkasa Rupara (Mamili) national parks. Breeding takes place between September and November (Ward 1997). Namibian wetland surveys indicate a mean of 11 birds per 10 km on the Zambezi River, giving a possible total of 170 birds for the 155 km section in Namibia (R Sparg, V Sparg in Jarvis et al. 2001). Assuming similar densities on the 185 km stretch of the Chobe River, the 170 km Kwando River and the latter sections of the Okavango River (approximately 125 km), Namibian population is estimated at fewer than 550 birds. If the apparently isolated population in south-eastern Namibia is considered to be two populations, it may occur each year, but is overlooked and passed off as an out-of-range Kelp Gull L dominicanus. All large dark-backed gulls inland of the coast need to be carefully scrutinised. The first ever ringing recovery for this species in southern Africa came from Torra Bay (Skeleton Coast) in December 2001. This record originated from southern Sweden, 9,000 km away (Oschadleus 2002). The bird was an immature and would be difficult to distinguish from the resident Kelp Gulls. The world population size of the Eurasian nominate race of this gull is estimated at 156,000 to 228,000 birds (Wetlands International 2002). It is a curiosity rather than a conservation priority in Namibia.

Lesser Black-backed Gull | Larus fuscus

This common northern hemisphere gull migrates into Africa in a long distributional tail through Tanzania south to South Africa’s KwaZulu-Natal coast, with a few birds each year reaching Etosha National Park and occasionally Hardap Dam. They are most commonly recorded in eastern Etosha, with five records of birds from Namutoni, an immature from Lake Oponono, and birds from Windhoek, Hardap Dam, Swakopmund and two from the Kunene River mouth (Nebel 1999, Jarvis et al 2001, Paterson et al. 2009). This species may occur each year, but is overlooked and passed off as an out-of-range Kelp Gull L dominicanus. All large dark-backed gulls inland of the coast need to be carefully scrutinised. The first ever ringing recovery for this species in southern Africa came from Torra Bay (Skeleton Coast) in December 2001. This record originated from southern Sweden, 9,000 km away (Oschadleus 2002). The bird was an immature and would be difficult to distinguish from the resident Kelp Gulls. The world population size of the Eurasian nominate race of this gull is estimated at 156,000 to 228,000 birds (Wetlands International 2002). It is a curiosity rather than a conservation priority in Namibia.

Royal Tern | Thalasseus maximus (Sterna maxima)

This species has a very wide distribution, breeding in the Americas as well as West Africa from Mauritania to Senegal (see Hoyt et al. 1996). It is the non-breeding migrants that populate the Angolan coast from September to January and densities along the Baia dos Tigres coast immediately north of the Kunene River mouth were reported as 349 birds in 17.5 km of sandy beach (20 birds per 10 km of coastline: Simmons et al. 2006b). The Kunene River mouth is the only locality where they are recorded regularly in the southern African sub-region (Paterson et al. 2009) and from where the first specimens...

Three-banded Courser | Rhinoptilus cinctus

A nocturnal and rarely recorded species in Namibia, this species extends in a very narrow band northwards to Somalia and Sudan (Urban et al. 1986). The southern African subspecies R. c. seebohmi is found almost entirely in Zimbabwe (Tree 1997g). Namibia’s records are confined to the Etosha National Park, the northern border and patches in the north-east. A population of resident breeders is suspected to occur about 70 km north-west of Tsumeb (N Thomson pers. comm.). It occupies an area of 3,600 km² in Namibia, of which 48% occurs in the protected areas of Etosha National Park and the Mahango area in the Bwabwata National Park (Jarvis et al. 2009). It favours Acacia and Mopane woodlands on alluvial soils and is generally noted on dirt roads at night or by its distinctive call (Tree 1997g).

Population size of the subspecies R. c. seebohmi is estimated at 10,000 to 25,000 birds (Wetlands International 2002); its population size in Namibia is very small, although it may be more widespread than currently recorded. It is not currently considered to be a conservation priority anywhere.

White-crowned Lapwing (White-crowned Plover) | Vanellus albiceps

A white-necked and rare bird in Namibia, it is found on tropical rivers and swamps (Ward & Herremans 1997, Wetlands International 2002), but has been recorded near Windhoek and Walvis Bay. It occupies an area of 10,000 km² in Namibia, of which 22% occurs in protected areas, including the Mahango area of the Kwando National Park, and the Mudumu and Nkasa Rupara (Mamili) national parks. Breeding takes place between September and November (Ward 1997). Namibian wetland surveys indicate a mean of 11 birds per 10 km on the Zambezi River, giving a possible total of 170 birds for the 155 km section in Namibia (R Sparg, V Sparg in Jarvis et al. 2001). Assuming similar densities on the 185 km stretch of the Chobe River, the 170 km Kwando River and the latter sections of the Okavango River (approximately 125 km), Namibian population is estimated at fewer than 550 birds. If the apparently isolated population in south-eastern Namibia is considered to be two populations, it may occur each year, but is overlooked and passed off as an out-of-range Kelp Gull L dominicanus. All large dark-backed gulls inland of the coast need to be carefully scrutinised. The first ever ringing recovery for this species in southern Africa came from Torra Bay (Skeleton Coast) in December 2001. This record originated from southern Sweden, 9,000 km away (Oschadleus 2002). The bird was an immature and would be difficult to distinguish from...