This species differs from the other glossy starlings by its orange or red eyes and wedge-shaped tail (Underhill & Brown 1997b). Its southern African range only encompasses the Kavango and Caprivi sandveld region of Namibia and adjacent areas of Botswana (Underhill & Brown 1997b). Elsewhere it is found in Angola, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is rarely reported, with an average reporting rate of 12% and a maximum reporting rate of 36% at Khaudum camp. It occupies an area of 9,400 km², of which 48% occurs in the protected area of Mahango in the Bwabwata National Park and in the Khudum National Park (Jarvis et al. 2001). There, it is resident in the mature deciduous broad-leaved woodland, especially the Burkea-Pterocarpus habitat (Brown 1990). A small population was found in 2011 in Mopane woodlands some 40 km south-west of Katima Mulilo at a density of about 20 birds per 10 km² (Brown 2012b). Another population has been found in the vicinity of Shamvura in the Kavango East region (Paxton 2014). Population size could be gleaned from flocks that form after breeding, which takes place from November to March (Underhill & Brown 1997b). Little is known about its breeding biology (Craig 2005). Seven breeding records for Namibia have egg-laying in October (one) and November (three) and December (three) (Brown et al. 2015). One nest containing chicks was monitored during December 2011 (Paxton 2014). The nest was located in a sheltered nest hole in the dead branch of a Guibourtia cololepis tree growing in a mahangu field. There were sub-adult cooperative helpers at the nest and the birds were not disturbed by nearby plowing activities. Brood size and breeding success could not be ascertained.

**Sharp-tailed Starling**
**Lamproptornis acuticaudus**

A difficult species to distinguish from the Greater Blue-eared Starling. This bird is found mainly in Zimbabwe, but with scattered records from the Zambezi region (Tree 1997). It is found in the mixed arid (broad-leaved) and Mopane woodlands adjacent to the rivers, and it is more likely to form large flocks than the other two glossy starlings here, the Cape Glossy Starling and the Greater Blue-eared Starling (Tree 1997). Its reporting rate is 5% in these areas and its area of occupancy is 2,800 km², of which only 4% occurs in protected areas of Mudumu National Park (Jarvis et al. 2001). Because of its widespread distribution in sub-Saharan Africa’s woodlands it is not a conservation priority in Namibia.

**Red-billed Oxpecker**
**Buphagus erythrorhynchus**

Accurate population figures for this species were derived from two sets of counts undertaken on the two oxpecker species found in the Caprivi Strip, the only area of Namibia in which they both occur (Mundy 1997). An increase in numbers was recorded over a 15-year period, with an estimated 3,627 to 4,902 birds recorded in 1997 and 1998 (Robertson & Jarvis 2000), compared with 2,285 to 3,780 birds recorded in 1983 and 1984 (Sutterheim & Ponagis 1985, Brown & Brown 1987). They are most numerous around the Okavango River and the river systems of the Zambezi region, where their main modern-day host, domestic cattle, increased at least three-fold in the same time period (Mendelssohn & Roberts 1997, Robertson & Jarvis 2000). They appear to be unaffected by reduced rainfall and increasing frequency of fire, factors that may have caused the decline in the red-listed Yellow-billed Oxpecker and the Greater African populations in the same areas (Robertson & Jarvis 2000). Red-billed Oxpeckers occupy an area of 18,000 km² in Namibia, of which 65% falls into conservation areas. Many locations are well away from the riverine systems favoured by the Yellow-billed Oxpecker (Robertson & Jarvis 2000). The species was listed as Near Threatened in South Africa due to the historical decline in range size induced by arsensic-based cattle dips that killed ticks as well as oxpeckers (Barnes 2000a). This may have occurred in Namibia, but the more traditional farming methods in the rural north-east make this less likely. Populations have rebounded in South Africa and the species was recently downgraded there to Least Concern (Taylor et al. in press). Red-billed Oxpeckers are not threatened in Namibia, but any population assessment of the Endangered Yellow-billed Oxpecker should include this species.

**Malachite Sunbird**
**Nectarinia famosa**

This common species is found from the Ethiopian highlands southwards to South Africa, where reporting rates are above 35% over much of its large range (Fraser 1997a). It just touches the Namibian border along the Orange River from the mouth (where it is common in gardens in Oranjemund) east to about 20°E. It occupies an area of 1,800 km², of which 25% occurs within the
Southern Double-collared Sunbird (Lesser Double-collared Sunbird) | Cinnyris chalybeus (Nectarinia chalybea)

One of the smallest of the sunbird tribe, this species is virtually endemic to South Africa, with a tiny distribution extending into Namibia. The Copper Sunbird has a virtually identical pattern of occurrence to the Purple-banded Sunbird Cinnyris bifasciatus (Nectarinia bifasciata) (Treer 1997e). Its area of occupancy in Namibia is 2,700 km², smaller than that of the Purple-banded Sunbird, of which 3% occurs within protected areas; reporting rate was 4% (Jarvis et al. 2000). Copper Sunbirds inhabit riverine woodland, forest edge and clearings, similar but more diverse habitat to that occupied by Purple-banded Sunbirds. There are two breeding records from Namibia, from the Kwando River bridge near Suswee, where a nest with three eggs was found in January 1996 and from Katima Mulilo, also with eggs in January (Brown et al. 2015). Both species may suffer local degradation of habitat as riparian woodland, particularly on the Okavango River, is heavily utilised by the dense populations of local people.

Purple-banded Sunbird | Cinnyris bifasciatus (Nectarinia bifasciata)

This species occurs mainly in East Africa, south to the eastern coastal regions of Mozambique and into Swaziland and Durban in South Africa. It is rare inland, but it is found in the northern and eastern highveld of Zimbabwe, and continues westward through north-east Namibia as far as 19°E on the Okavango River (Treer 1997f). There, it occurs in riparian broad-leaved woodland wherever nectar-bearing flowers occur. Records indicate it is a very rare visitor (5% reporting rate), occurring only between November and June and disappearing in winter (Treer 1997f). Its area of occupancy covers 7,100 km², of which 28% falls within the protected areas of the Nkasa Rupara (Mamili) National Park and the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park (Jarvis et al. 2000). It is not considered threatened, although it may be locally impacted by wood clearing activities (Treer 1997f).

Cape Weaver | Ploceus capensis

This well-known species is virtually endemic to South Africa and an uncommon resident in Namibia, found only along the Orange River. In Oranjemund, it occurs regularly in some gardens and breeds at the Oranjemund Golf Club (Anderson 2006); females with brood patches have been ringed next to the golf course (HD Oschadleus pers. comm.). Birds have been recorded at Vellorsdrif, 250 km east of Oranjemund. It also roosts and nests in reeds that are frequent along the river, but Simmons & Allan (2002) did not find it in 50 km surveys east of Noordoewer. The population along the lower Orange River is disjunct from that found in Little Namaqualand, South Africa (Anderson 2006). It occupies an area of 1,800 km², of which 8% occurs within the protected areas of the /Ai-/Ais and Tsau/Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) national parks (Jarvis et al. 2001, Frazee et al. 2005). It seems likely that the bird is more common than the small distribution suggests, given its propensity for agricultural areas in South Africa and the increase in farming along the Orange River. Its commonness elsewhere precludes it from being a conservation priority in Namibia.