

LANIOTURDUS

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Editorial

Although I am the editor of Lanioturdus, Lanioturdus is not my journal. Lanioturdus is your journal (i.e. the members’ journal). However, for it to be truly the members’ journal it needs contributions from the members.

I have been fortunate in having been able to obtain sufficient articles to have allowed me to produce four editions for three consecutive years (actually this year there will be a special fifth edition) but it is somewhat disconcerting how few people actually contribute articles. Without the contributions of the likes of Eckart Demasius and Holger Kolberg I would have been very hard pressed to find sufficient material and I would then probably have found myself in another of those editor’s nightmare situations of having to write the bulk of the articles myself. A big thank you to all who have contributed especially those who contribute regularly - to the rest of you out there - why not try your hand at writing - if something interests you it will most probably interest other birders as well.

And it is not only articles for which I am looking. Your observations of rare birds, off range species, birds new to an area etc. are all worthy of a mention in Lanioturdus. We are not yet atlasing in Namibia and records of these sightings form valuable contributions to Namibian ornithology. I have mentioned it before - Lanioturdus is sent to the Niven Library of the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology and the librarian, Margaret Koopman, has assured me that bird club journals are indeed used by researchers

Overall slope: Uncertain
 0.8906 ± 0.2004

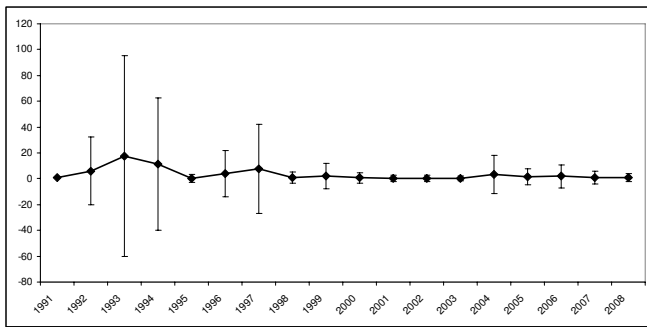


Figure 6: Trend of Glossy Ibis population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.

References:

IUCN 2009. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2009.1 www.iucnredlist.org
 Wetlands International. 2006. *Waterbird Population Estimates – Fourth Edition*. S. Delany and D. Scott (Eds.), Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

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Summary of the 2010 Ringing Season in Namibia

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The 2010 ringing season once again turned out to be a good one for the Namibian ringers - just more than 16,000 birds of 230 species were handled by the ringers at 585 different localities.

A total of 12,019 birds were newly ringed (code 1), with two ringers, Mark Boorman and Dirk Heinrich, each ringing well over 2,500 birds. The new emphasis on recording re-traps, seriously bolstered those totals (4,134 birds)

and Neil Thomson managed to beat the three islanders to the top of that log. Dirk Heinrich once again proved that he is the master when it comes to ringing different species, clocking up just over 20% of the species ever recorded for Namibia.

African Penguins head the list of all birds handled due to the many re-sightings reported by the MFMR island staff but Mark Boorman's gargantuan efforts at the Mile 4 Saltworks are manifest in the fact that two tern species (Black and Common) top the list of all birds newly ringed and these two species then also head the list of wetland/seabird species. The hard work of the vulture ringers is reflected in the fact that Lappet-faced Vultures head the list of birds of prey, with White-backed Vultures being third. The sterling work of Sigi Braby at the coast is documented in the list of endemic species where Damara Terns by far outnumber all the other ones.

I hereby want to express my gratitude to all the Namibian ringers and, of course, those foreign ringers that travel to our country to help us make Namibia one of the leading bird ringing countries in Africa. Your efforts are most appreciated!

Table 1: Number of code 1 birds per ringer.

Ringer	Birds
Mark Boorman	2957
Dirk Heinrich	2609
Neil Thomson	1946
Ursula Franke	1748
Gudrun Middendorff	638
Holger Kolberg	444
Wilferd Versfeld	390
Steve Braine	283
Hartmut Kolb	170
Peter Bridgeford	115
Rian Jones	112
Maren Thomson	86
Dieter Oschadleus	84
Sigi Braby	73
Sandra Dantu	70
Bernd Brell	68

Ringer	Birds
Kobus Bekker	64
Liz Komen	48
Tim Osborne	41
Tony Delpont	24
Otto von Kaschke	20
Marc Dürr	14
Mike Yates	11
Jessica Kemper	4
	12019

Table 2: Number of re-traps, controls etc per ringer.

Ringer	Birds
Neil Thomson	992
Rian Jones	882
Tony Delpont	570
Pete Bartlett	529
Dirk Heinrich	476
Jessica Kemper	394
Sandra Dantu	73
Ursula Franke	72
Gudrun Middendorff	45
Maren Thomson	39
Holger Kolberg	16
Steve Braine	14
Wilferd Versfeld	11
Tim Osborne	8
Bernd Brell	4
Dieter Oschadleus	4
Hartmut Kolb	2
Sigi Braby	2
Kobus Bekker	1
	4134

Table 3: Number of species handled per ringer.

Ringer	Code 1	Code 2²	Total
Dirk Heinrich	130	27	133
Ursula Franke	99	18	99
Neil Thomson	83	21	83

² Note: Code 2 refers to all birds that have been re-trapped, re-sighted, found dead etc.

Ringer	Code 1	Code 2	Total
Gudrun Middendorff	61	13	62
Hartmut Kolb	60	2	60
Wilferd Versfeld	55	7	56
Steve Braine	54	9	55
Holger Kolberg	48	6	48
Liz Komen	26		26
Kobus Bekker	19	1	19
Bernd Brell	18	3	18
Tim Osborne	16	4	17
Maren Thomson	12	9	13
Sandra Dantu	12	6	13
Mark Boorman	8		8
Dieter Oschadleus	7	2	7
Otto von Kaschke	7		7
Rian Jones	3	7	7
Marc Dürr	6		6
Mike Yates	4		4
Peter Bridgeford	4		4
Jessica Kemper	1	3	3
Pete Bartlett		3	3
Sigi Braby	2	1	2
Tony Delpont	1	2	2
	225	64	230

Table 4: Top twenty species handled.

Species	Total	Code 1	Code 2
African Penguin	2079	35	2043
Black Tern	1664	1663	1
Common Tern	1609	1603	6
Black-throated Canary	1171	634	536
Common Waxbill	924	640	284
Red-headed Finch	839	704	135
Cape Sparrow	618	570	48
Southern Masked-Weaver	603	522	81
Laughing Dove	539	439	99
Southern Red Bishop	410	324	86
Blue Waxbill	402	266	136

Species	Total	Code 1	Code 2
Red-billed Quelea	397	383	14
Bank Cormorant	319	95	224
Lark-like Bunting	298	292	6
House Sparrow	279	198	81
African Red-eyed Bulbul	220	215	5
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	218	214	4
White-backed Mousebird	187	163	24
Scaly-feathered Finch	181	134	47
Black-faced Waxbill	144	144	

Table 5: Totals of birds of prey handled.

Species	Total	Code 1	Code 2
Lappet-faced Vulture	120	120	
Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk	90	85	5
White-backed Vulture	87	87	
Pearl-spotted Owllet	21	19	2
Rock Kestrel	19	18	1
Steppe Buzzard	16	16	
Augur Buzzard	12	9	3
Black-shouldered Kite	10	10	
Greater Kestrel	8	8	
African Scops-Owl	7	6	1
Spotted Eagle-Owl	6	6	
Lanner Falcon	5	5	
African Hawk-Eagle	3	3	
Black-chested Snake-Eagle	3	3	
Dark Chanting-Goshawk	3	3	
Jackal Buzzard	3	3	
Barn Owl	2	2	
Gabar Goshawk	2	2	

Species	Total	Code 1	Code 2
Little Sparrowhawk	2	2	
Red-necked Falcon	2	2	
Yellow-billed Kite	2	2	
African Barred Owllet	1	1	
Brown Snake-Eagle	1	1	
Peregrine Falcon	1	1	
Pygmy Falcon	1	1	

Table 6: Top ten wetland/seabirds handled.

Species	Total	Code 1	Code 2
African Penguin	2079	35	2043
Black Tern	1664	1663	1
Common Tern	1609	1603	6
Bank Cormorant	319	95	224
Sandwich Tern	113	113	
Cape Gannet	79		79
Damara Tern	75	73	2
Crowned Lapwing	17	16	1
Arctic Tern	14	14	
Kelp Gull	14	1	13

Table 7: Totals of endemic birds handled.

Species	Total	Code 1	Code 2
Damara Tern	75	73	2
Rosy-faced Lovebird	15	13	2
Damara Hornbill	10	6	4
Carp's Tit	8	8	
White-tailed Shrike	7	7	
Monteiro's Hornbill	5	5	
Bare-cheeked Babbler	4	4	
Rockrunner	3	3	
Herero Chat	2	2	
Rüppell's Parrot	2	2	
Hartlaub's Spurfowl	1	1	

Table 8: Top twenty ringing localities.

Coordinates	Locality	Total
2235S 1432E	Mile 4 Salt Works	3143
2234S 1705E	Rykvoet St Klein Windhoek	2467
2234S 1706E	Klein Windhoek	2017
2543S 1450E	Mercury	994
2617S 1456E	Ichaboe	594
2701S 1512E	Possession	531
2637S 1504E	Halifax	397
2225S 1524E	Nelsville Farmhouse	361
2239S 1432E	Swakopmund Kramersdorf	319
2236S 1705E	Olympus Vill. Wdk	286
1919S 1422E	Hobatere, Kunene Reg.	233
2229S 1527E	Vredelus House	231
2724S 1757E	Hologog	208
2236S 1431E	Swakopmund Saltworks	192
1910S 1555E	Okaukuejo Rest Camp, Etosha Nat Park	166
2319S 1804E	Carolahof Haus	150
2239S 1432E	Kramersdorf, Swakopmund	136
2227S 1520E	Nelsville Pferdeposten	125
2227S 1530E	Köcherbaumposten	125
2233S 1704E	Kolberg Home	115

African Harrier-Hawk hunting in Palm Tree in Windhoek

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The African Harrier-Hawk or *Gymnogene Polyboroides typus* is a rare species in Namibia south of Etosha National Park. Over the past 28 years living in Windhoek I have had only three sightings in the Windhoek district.

On 31 March 2011 at about 09h00 a subadult African Harrier-Hawk flew into the top of our neighbour's old, very tall Washingtonia palm tree in Windhoek West (notice small patch of brown plumage on neck in photo below). This tree provides roosting and breeding sites for

Bradfield's Swifts, Palm Swifts, Red-headed Finches and House Sparrows.



The African Harrier-Hawk clambered around the top of the palm tree first exploring the base of the live fronds then moved down to explore the mass of dead fronds into which the Bradfield's Swifts, finches and sparrows make deep tunnels to nest and roost. The raptor would stop and listen intently, then move forward and occasionally thrust its small head into crevices between the fronds, but more often it would dart a leg deep amongst the dead fronds while holding on with the other leg and flapping to maintain position and balance. This process was repeated at least 18 times as the bird worked its way in a corkscrew pattern around and down the dead fronds.



While this was happening, some 20 Bradfield's Swifts were swooping past the African Harrier-Hawk with high-pitched squeals. The raptor took no notice of the swifts. After about 20 minutes, not having caught anything, the African Harrier-Hawk took off heading north-east towards the Okahandja Valley.