

# 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

McKay HM 1966 – Who’s Who in South African Ornithology. Bokmakierie Vol 18 No 2. South African Ornithological Society.

McKay HM 1966 – Who’s Who in South African Ornithology. Bokmakierie Vol 18 No 3. South African Ornithological Society.

McLachlan GR 1948 – Nature in S.A. keeps his Name – Sir Andrew Smith M.D. K.C.B Naturalist and Explorer. African Wildlife.

Roberts EL 1982 – What’s in a Name (Letter to the Editor). Bokmakierie Vol 34 No 3. Southern African Ornithological Society.

The Illustrated Chambers Encyclopaedia 1906 – William & Robert Chambers Limited.

## **Trends in Namibian Waterbird Populations 5: Storks and Ibises**

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The fifth article in the series on trends in Namibian waterbird populations summarises count data for storks and ibises for the period 1977 to December 2008. For each species the Red Data Book (RDB) status, both global and Namibian, is given, the population trend as per Wetlands International, the number of times the species was counted, the number of times it has passed the 1% population criterion, the maximum count and the sites where it has passed the 1% population criterion.

The local trend is calculated for the period 1991 to 2008 only because continuous data is available for that time. The computer programme TRIM was used for these analyses (see an earlier publication for the selection criteria and methods) (*Lanioturdus* 43(2) – Ed). For each species the number of sites used in the analysis, the number of observed counts (this includes zero counts), and the sites containing more than 10% of the total number counted are given. A trend and slope are given. A slope value of 1 would indicate a

perfectly stable population, whereas any value above 1 means a positive trend and a value of less than 1 a negative trend. Population trends are graphically presented as indices relative to a base year (in this case 1991) and thus all have a value of 1 for 1991. An index value of 2 indicates a doubling of the population relative to 1991 and an index of 0.5 would mean half of the 1991 figure.

Trends for six species could be determined but only one is increasing, the remainder are uncertain. None of the species considered has ever passed the 1% population mark in any of the counts.

(Larger scale replications of the graphs in this article are attached to the end of this edition).

### **5.1 Yellow-billed Stork (*Mycteria ibis*)<sup>1</sup>**

IUCN RDB Status: Least Concern

Namibia RDB Status: ?

WI Trend: Stable



Photo: Eckart Demasius

This stork has been recorded at most inland sites in Namibia in moderate numbers.

No of times counted: 84

No of times past 1% population (=880): 0

Maximum count: 96 at Lake Oponono on 25 January 2000

Past 1% population at: Nowhere

#### *Trend analysis*

Number of sites: 8

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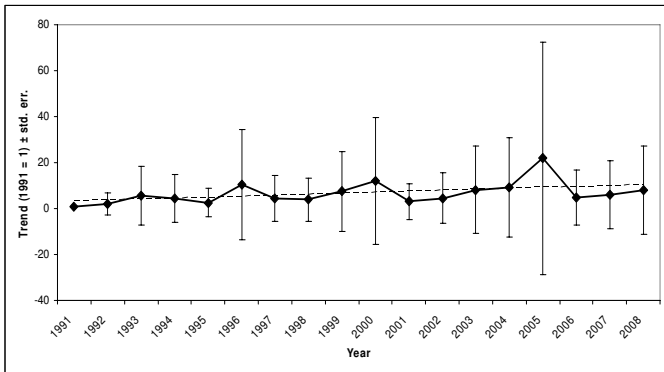
<sup>1</sup> Names follow Hockey, P.A.R., Dean, W.R.J. and Ryan, P.G. (eds) 2005. *Roberts – Birds of Southern Africa, VIIIth Edition*. The Trustees of the John Voelcker Bird Book Fund, Cape Town, South Africa.

Number of observed counts: 110  
 Number of missing counts: 34  
 Total number of counts: 144

Sites containing more than 10% of the total count:

Site	Number	%
Lake Oponono	460	47.2
Mahango Game Res.	198	20.3
Swakoppoort Dam	147	15.1

Overall slope: Uncertain  $1.0832 \pm 0.0610$



**Figure 1: Trend of Yellow-billed Stork population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.**

## 5.2 African Openbill (*Anastomus lamelligerus*)

IUCN RDB Status: Least concern  
 Namibia RDB Status: Endangered  
 WI Trend: Stable



Photo: Eckart Demasius

This bird has been counted mainly in north-eastern Namibia although the odd bird has been seen elsewhere.

No of times counted: 66  
 No of times past 1% population (=4 000): 0

Maximum count: 1954 at Shamvura, Okavango River, on 12 February 2005  
 Past 1% population at: Nowhere

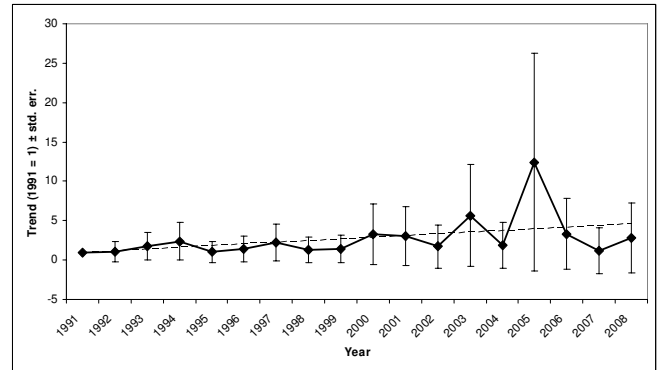
### Trend analysis

Number of sites: 4  
 Number of observed counts: 56  
 Number of missing counts: 16  
 Total number of counts: 72

Sites containing more than 10% of the total count:

Site	Number	%
Mahango Game Res.	1368	18.8
Shamvura	4101	56.3
Tsumkwe Pans	1261	17.3

Overall slope: Uncertain  
 $1.0664 \pm 0.0783$



**Figure 2: Trend of African Openbill population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.**

## 5.3 Saddle-billed Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*)

IUCN RDB Status: Least concern  
 Namibia RDB Status: Endangered  
 WI Trend: Decreasing



Photo: Eckart Demasius

An uncommon stork found mainly in the Caprivi but also seems to occur in larger numbers at ephemeral wetlands such as Lake Oponono and the Tsumkwe Pans.

No of times counted: 43  
 No of times past 1% population (=250): 0  
 Maximum count: 17 at Lake Oponono on 25 January 2000  
 Past 1% population at: Nowhere

*Trend analysis*

Number of sites: 4  
 Number of observed counts: 56  
 Number of missing counts: 16  
 Total number of counts: 72

Sites containing more than 10% of the total count:

Site	Number	%
Lake Oponono	26	26.5
Mahango Game Res.	35	35.7
Tsumkwe Pans	29	29.6

Overall slope: Uncertain  
 0.9723 ±0.0561



Photo: Eckart Demasius

sporadically appears in large numbers at various sites.

No of times counted: 75  
 No of times past 1% population (=3500): 0  
 Maximum count: 149 at Hardap Dam on 6 February 2008  
 Past 1% population at: Nowhere

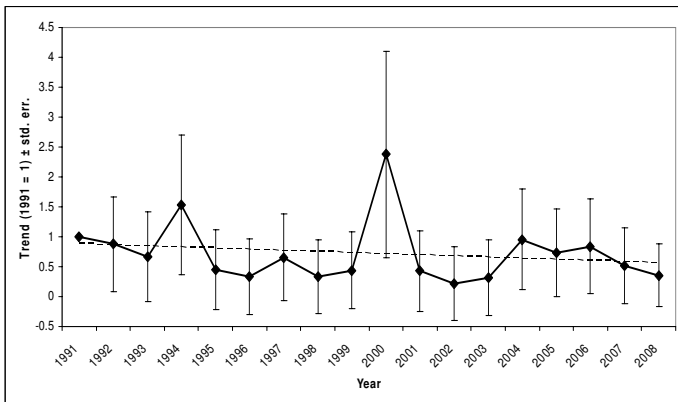
*Trend analysis*

Number of sites: 6  
 Number of observed counts: 92  
 Number of missing counts: 16  
 Total number of counts: 108

Sites containing more than 10% of the total count:

Site	Number	%
Hardap Dam	374	43.0
Lake Oponono	211	24.3
Tsumkwe Pans	181	20.8

Overall slope: Uncertain  
 1.0061 ±0.0595



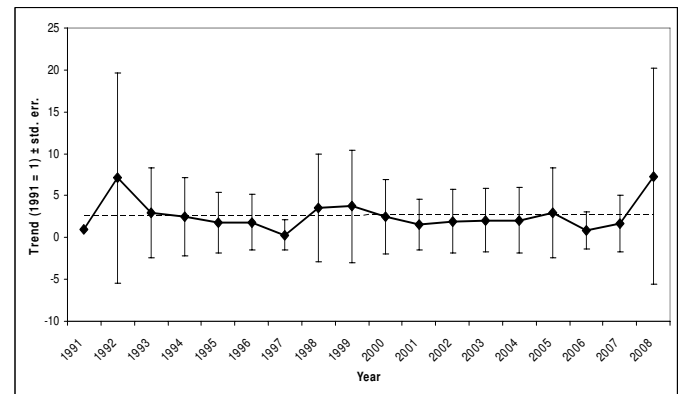
**Figure 3: Trend of Saddle-billed Stork population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.**

**5.4 Marabou Stork**

**(*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*)**

IUCN RDB Status: Least concern  
 Namibia RDB Status: ?  
 WI Trend: Increasing

This stork is locally abundant in Namibia and



**Figure 4: Trend of Marabou Stork population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.**



## 5.5 African Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*)

IUCN RDB Status: Least concern  
 Namibia RDB Status: ?  
 WI Trend: Stable



Photo: Neil Thomson

This ibis has been recorded in small numbers from several sites throughout Namibia. The population may be increasing because of increased availability of suitable habitat such as dams and irrigated fields.

No of times counted: 90  
 No of times past 1% population (=3300): 0  
 Maximum count: 131 at Hardap Dam on 3 February 2005  
 Past 1% population at: Nowhere

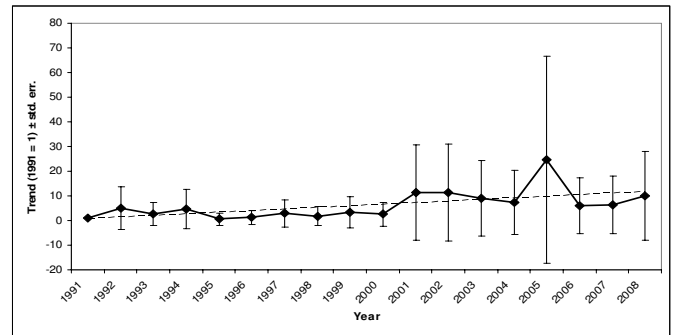
### Trend analysis

Number of sites:	9
Number of observed counts:	121
Number of missing counts:	41
Total number of counts:	162

Sites containing more than 10% of the total count:

Site	Number	%
Hardap Dam	215	20.1
Mahango Game Res.538	50.4	

Overall slope: Moderate increase ( $p < 0.05$ )  
 $1.1312 \pm 0.0652$



**Figure 5: Trend of African Sacred Ibis population in Namibia from 1991 to 2008.**

## 5.6 Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

IUCN RDB Status: Least concern  
 Namibia RDB Status: ?  
 WI Trend: Unknown



Photo: Eckart Demasius

This ibis is common in north-eastern Namibia and occasionally visits Etosha Pan and the Tsumkwe Pans, mostly after good rains.

No of times counted: 47  
 No of times past 1% population (=15000): 0  
 Maximum count: 569 at Tsumkwe Pans on 19 April 1993  
 Past 1% population at: Nowhere

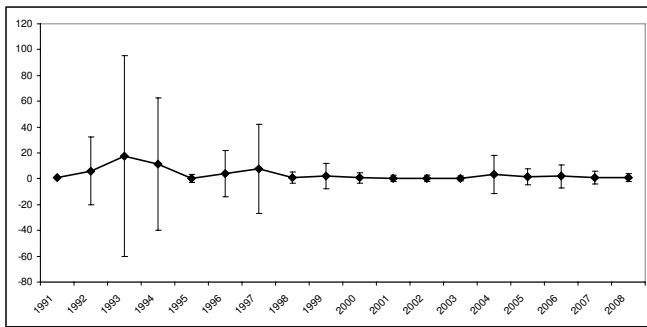
### Trend analysis

Number of sites:	4
Number of observed counts:	56
Number of missing counts:	16
Total number of counts:	72

Sites containing more than 10% of the total count:

Site	Number	%
Tsumkwe Pans	1513	83.3

Overall slope: Uncertain  
 $0.8906 \pm 0.2004$



**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](http://www.iucnredlist.org)  
 Wetlands International. 2006. *Waterbird Population Estimates – Fourth Edition*. S. Delany and D. Scott (Eds.), Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

Simmons, R.E. and Brown, C.J. In press. *Birds to watch in Namibia: red, rare and endemic species*. Ministry of Environment and Tourism and Namibia Nature Foundation, Windhoek.

### 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