National Park. There are several additional records from the Solomons Conservancy that offers it further protection from possible overgrazing by the large number of cattle present in the Zambezi region. It is not a conservation priority in Namibia because birds occur well beyond Namibia's borders in Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola (Tree 1997b).

Village Indigobird (Steelblue Widowfinch) *Vidua chalybeata*

This species and the Purple Indigobird (Purple Widowfinch) *V. purpurascens* show great similarity in their distributions which, in southern Africa, are predominantly in the savannahs and broad-leaved woodlands of Zimbabwe, northern South Africa, and eastern and northern Botswana. In Namibia, both occur very rarely along the Okavango River, with only this species occurring in the thorn savannahs and edges of broad-leaved woodland in the Zambezi region (Barnard 1997b, 1997c). Here, they are found only in the wetter months, from October to April (M Paxton pers. obs.). Both species have also been recorded in the woodland associated with the Kunene River near Ruacana, and occasionally into the Cuvueli drainage system in northern Namibia (Barnard 1997c). The more common Village Indigobird occupies 8,400 km² in Namibia (4% of which is in protected areas), with a reporting rate of 7%, and is a brood parasite of the Red-billed Firefinch. These two populations are isolated from their nearest conspecifics by about 700 km (Schubert et al. 2001). It is much rarer than the similar Village Indigobird (Steelblue Widowfinch) *V. chalybeata*. Purple Indigobirds parasitise Jameson’s Firefinch *Lagonosticta rhodopareia*. Both species of indigobird are probably under-recorded because females and non-breeding birds are difficult to identify (Barnard 1997b, 1997c). The two species only differ in their response to human habitat alteration, with riverine forest degradation probably affecting numbers of the Purple Indigobird more than the Village Indigobird. These species occur throughout large parts of Africa and as such do not warrant special conservation attention in Namibia.

Purple Indigobird (Purple Widowfinch) *Vidua purpurascens*

This species occupies a small area of 1,300 km² (38% of which is in protected areas) in the broad-leaved woodland savannahs associated with the Okavango River in Namibia, and the Kunene River near Ruacana (Barnard 1997b). It is seasonal in its appearance, occurring there only in the wetter months (M Paxton pers. obs.). Elsewhere in southern Africa, it is found in northern Botswana, Zimbabwe and northern South Africa, with a reporting rate in Namibia of less than 4% (Jarvis et al. 2001). It is much rarer than the similar Village Indigobird (Steelblue Widowfinch) *V. chalybeata*. Purple Indigobirds parasitise Jameson’s Firefinch *Lagonosticta rhodopareia*. Both species of indigobird are probably under-recorded because females and non-breeding birds are difficult to identify (Barnard 1997b, 1997c). The two species only differ in their response to human habitat alteration, with riverine forest degradation probably affecting numbers of the Purple Indigobird more than the Village Indigobird. These species occur throughout large parts of Africa and as such do not warrant special conservation attention in Namibia.

Cuckoo Finch *Anomalospiza imberbis*

Common in suitable habitat throughout sub-Saharan Africa, this broad parasitic species is confined to Zimbabwe, northern South Africa and the north-eastern region of Namibia; it is rarely seen on the Okavango River (Tree 1997), but it is much rarer than the similar Village Indigobird (Steelblue Widowfinch) *V. chalybeata*. Purple Indigobirds parasitise Jameson’s Firefinch *Lagonosticta rhodopareia*. Both species of indigobird are probably under-recorded because females and non-breeding birds are difficult to identify (Barnard 1997b, 1997c). The two species only differ in their response to human habitat alteration, with riverine forest degradation probably affecting numbers of the Purple Indigobird more than the Village Indigobird. These species occur throughout large parts of Africa and as such do not warrant special conservation attention in Namibia.

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

This species can be distinguished from the ubiquitous Southern Grey-headed Sparrow *P. griseus* by its larger size and more robust appearance with longer tail and larger bill. The plumage is darker and has a less distinct white wing bar (Dean 2005g). It is found in a wide range of habitats, from desert oases to forest clearings. Two records from Namibia are from Ruacana and from the Zambesi region (Dean 2005g). It has also been recently recorded from Impalila Island on the eastern tip of the Caprivi Strip and from the Kavango. Its abundance elsewhere precludes it from entering any threat category.