

## CONTENTS

VOLUME 30(4), December 1997

Editorial .....	1
KAESTNER, PG. Cyber-Cindy .....	2
BROWN, CJ. Early Record of a Yellowbilled Kite .....	6
HINES, C, <i>et al.</i> A Rash of Rarities .....	8
BOIX HINZEN, C. Beware! Gin Traps at the Sewage Works .	17
BROWN, CJ. "Stanley's Bustard" in Etosha National Park ...	19
McGIVERN, D. Von Bach Dam Bird List .....	21
MENDELSON, J. Namibian Hornbills in Nest Boxes .....	22
BOIX HINZEN, C. Notes on Misdirected Feeding Behaviour .	26
BROWN, CJ. Ospreys at Friedenau Dam .....	29
HINES, C. Grey-headed Sparrow Complex in Namibia .....	30
THE BROWN FAMILY. The Pavlovian Phenomenon .....	32
SHORT NOTES .....	38
McGIVERN, D. Western Etosha and Hobatere .....	40
LUDWIG, DE. Birdwatch 97 .....	41
PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	
Co-sponsored Bird Race: Members Welcome! .....	43
Update on the Namibian Tree Atlas Project .....	44

## EDITORIAL

This is the final edition of *Lanioturdus* for 1997 — the fourth of the year and an achievement for all those people who contributed to the journal over the past year. Although we have seldom exceeded 40 pages in any one edition we feel that the value of the magazine has increased in that we are keeping our members informed and hopefully fostering more interest in birding in Namibia as a whole. Many thanks to all the authors and artists who submitted material for the year and I hope that the articles will keep on rolling in to make 1998 as successful as 1997.

The summer heat is upon us and with the first migrants having already arrived, you should all be looking forward to some excellent birding over the coming holiday period. This may be a particularly interesting year — the predictions of the weather boffins is that *El Nino* is likely to negatively influence the rainfall patterns in the country. This in turn will have a major effect on the distribution and breeding of birds over the next couple of months. I encourage all of you to get out there and look at what's going on — keep field notes on your observations and make some comparisons with what you know of previous years. This applies equally to common as well as rarer species. How much do we really know about doves in this country? I have noticed that in Bushmanland and at Aris, near Windhoek, that the numbers of Namaqua Doves is highly variable both within and between years. I suspect the same thing of Laughing Doves which seem to disappear at certain times of the year. Keeping basic notes and records can tell us so much about the birds we take for granted (many of which are surprisingly poorly studied). Your notes and records do not have to take the form of detailed scientific observations — casual and incidental observations are also valuable. Collect information, put it together in the form of an article and send it to *Lanioturdus*. Anyone can do it and I encourage of all of you to try!!!

On behalf of the Namibia Bird Club Committee, I would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Good birding in 1998 and let's hear from you.

Etosha National Park (1816Db). The birds were about 50 m from me, loafing in the early morning sun, then walking off slowly hunting across the grasslands. The birds were noticeably larger than Ludwig's Bustards *Neotis ludwigi* and had extensive white and black markings on the wings and prominent barring on the tail. The crown was black and the throat of one of the birds was grey.

This is the first record of Stanley's/Jackson's Bustard in Etosha, and the first record for the north-central region of Namibia in 80 years. The presence of the birds follows a good rainy season in early 1997 and well-developed grasslands on the Andoni Plains. To the north, in the Ondangwa to Namakunde areas where the species had previously been recorded, the human population and their livestock have increased manifold, to the extent that there is unlikely to be both suitable habitat and undisturbed conditions for survival by these large bustards.

Park staff and visitors to Etosha should monitor the grassy plains to the north of Etosha Pan to determine whether this is a once-off record, or whether the area supports a small number of non-breeding visitors each year.

#### References

- Brown, CJ. 1993. The birds of Owambo, Namibia. *Madoqua* 18(2):147-161.
- Clancey, PA. (Ed). 1980. *SAOS checklist of southern African birds*. Pretoria: Southern African Ornithological Society.
- Finch-Davies, CG. 1918. The birds of Tsumeb and Ovamboland. *The Bulletin of the South African Biological Society* 1(2):25-40.
- Harrison, JA, Allan, DG, Underhill, LG, Herremans, M, Tree, AJ, Parker, V & Brown, CJ. (Eds). 1997. *The atlas of southern African birds. Vol. 1: Non-passerines*. Johannesburg: Birdlife South Africa.
- Maclean, GL. 1992. Eastern Caprivi revisited. *Birding in southern Africa* 44(1): 8-10.
- Maclean, GL. 1993. *Roberts' birds of southern Africa*. Cape Town: Trustees of the John Voelcker bird book fund.
- Snow, DW. (Ed). 1978. *An atlas of speciation in African non-passerine birds*. London: Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History).

## VON BACH DAM BIRD LIST

Daphne McGivern  
PO Box 110, Windhoek

Being enthusiastic water-skiers we spend many weekends at the Von Bach Dam just outside Okahandja. We have started casually making a list of the birds that we have seen in the vicinity of our site at the ski club there and so far have a list of 59 birds.

This summer, for the first time, we have noticed Blackcheeked Waxbills, African Jacana, Short-toed Rock Thrush and Melba Finch. Birds that we seem to see on every outing are: Crimsonbreasted Shrike, Brubru, Marico Flycatcher, Marico Sunbird, Blackchested Prinia and Cape Wagtail (who dangerously walk on the fine aquatic weed in the bays and have nested in the tyres that are attached to the mooring jetty). African Fish Eagles are often present but seemed to have disappeared when the dam was filling up (perhaps because at that time the water was also very murky). White Pelican, Reed Cormorant, White-breasted Cormorant, Darter and Grey Heron are fairly common. This year we saw the first Knobbilled Ducks and Squacco Herons in the far bays where there is less human activity.

We will be posting a "bird list" in our club house as we know of other enthusiastic "birders" in the club and we hope that, with their help, the list will grow quickly.

