

Hartlaub's Francolin

Klipfisant

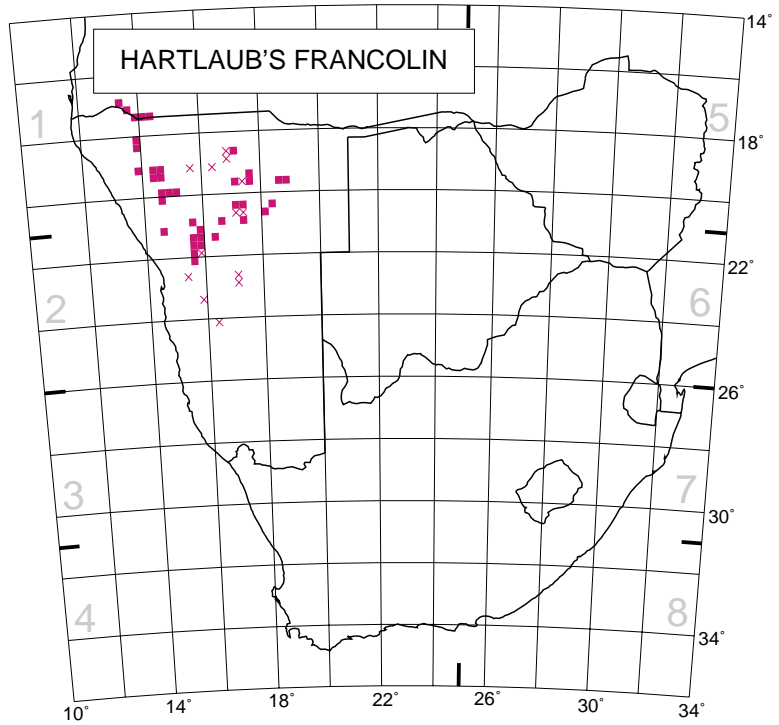
Francolinus hartlaubi

Hartlaub's Francolin is near-endemic to southern Africa and has a small world range extending from southwestern Angola into northwestern and north-central Namibia. The Namibian population is estimated to be *c.* 26 000 birds (Jarvis & Robertson 1997). Its marked sexual dimorphism is a character shared with the Coqui Francolin *F. coqui*, and with Hildebrandt's Francolin *F. hildebrandti* of East Africa, but its evolutionary affinities are not immediately determinable (Clancey 1986a). Crowe *et al.* (1992) suggested that the genetic, morphometric and behavioural data indicate that, if it is a francolin, Hartlaub's Francolin is a product of an early divergence within the *Francolinus* lineage.

It occurs in pairs or small family parties of 3–4 birds. It is inconspicuous unless calling and it inhabits relatively inaccessible terrain; thus it is easily overlooked. It is found on the Namibian escarpment, and farther inland, typically on rocky granitic and sandstone outcrops, surrounded by sub-desert steppe. It is resident, with individuals found regularly at the same localities (Komen 1987b). It is perennially territorial with a complex, antiphonal advertisement call (Komen & Myer 1984; Komen 1987b). However, some localized dispersal movements by juveniles occurs (Komen & Myer 1984). Namibian breeding records are for early winter, May–June (Clancey 1967c; Komen 1990b), but the few atlas breeding data span June–January.

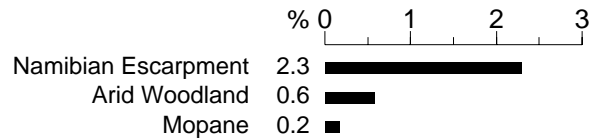
It occurs alongside the Redbilled *F. adspersus* and Orange River *F. levaillantoides* Francolins, but with strict habitat segregation: Redbilled Francolin occurring in bush along watercourses, Hartlaub's Francolin on rocky outcrops, and Orange River Francolin in the intervening grassland.

Although Hall (1963) suggested that it was historically 'forced' into its present habitat by the Redbilled Francolin, these species are now separated by habitat selection (Komen 1987b). Hartlaub's Francolin might fluctuate locally in population size and distribution according to changes in habitat quality, but there is no evidence of any extensive distributional change (J. Komen *in litt.*). Natural predation has also been claimed as important in the demography of this species and its density is naturally low (Komen & Meyer 1984).



Recorded in 51 grid cells, 1.1%
 Total number of records: 193
 Mean reporting rate for range: 6.6%

Reporting rates for vegetation types



R.M. Little

