

# First record of Pink-billed Lark *Spizocorys conirostris* for Angola

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Première mention de l'Alouette à bec rose *Spizocorys conirostris* pour l'Angola. Une Alouette à bec rose *Spizocorys conirostris* a été observée le 8 août 2005 au sud de l'Angola, le long de la route Ondjiva–Lubango à 16°44'S 15°08'E, 70 km au nord de la frontière namibienne. Quoique la présence de l'espèce dans le pays était suspectée, elle n'avait jamais été confirmée; ceci constitue donc la première donnée documentée pour l'Angola.

**P**ink-billed Lark *Spizocorys conirostris* is confined to southern Africa, from western Zambia south. It occurs from the eastern half of Namibia and western Botswana to central and eastern South Africa (Keith *et al.* 1992). Although it has been recorded very close to the Angolan border in north-central Namibia (Dean 1997) and is listed conditionally by Dowsett (1993) for southern Angola based on a single locality in Hall & Moreau (1970), its occurrence in Angola has not been confirmed. It was listed as likely to occur by Dean (2000).

On 8 August 2005, I observed two Pink-billed Larks along the main Ondjiva–Lubango road at 16°44'S 15°08'E, 70 km due north of the Namibian border. My attention was drawn to their presence by their characteristic musical trilled flight-call (Dean 2005). The birds landed at a pool near the road to drink, allowing me to confirm the identification visually: small, short-tailed larks with buff-brown underparts and short, conical, pink bills. The surrounding area consisted of short, heavily grazed grassland near a small rural village, in which habitat they are often found in northern Namibia (Dean 2005). This constitutes the first record for the country, although the species is probably regular in the area.

## Acknowledgements

My visit to Angola was part-funded by Conservation International, to whom I am very grateful. I thank Richard Dean for his constructive comments on the manuscript.

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Received 1 March 2006; revision accepted 20 April 2006



Mills, Michael Stuart Lyne. 2006. "First record of Pink-billed Lark *Spizocorys conirostris* for Angola." *Bulletin of the African Bird Club* 13(2), 212-212.  
<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.309792>.

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