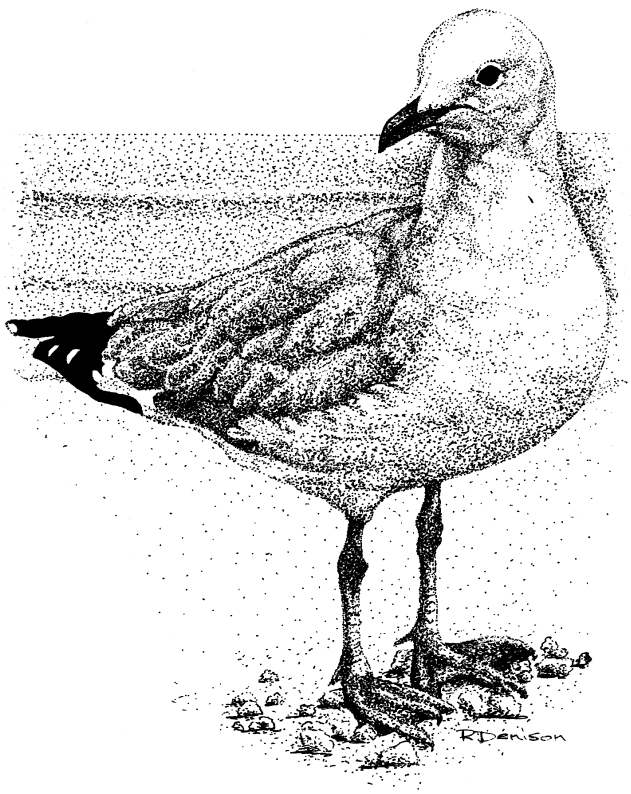


Hartlaub's Gull

Hartlaubse Meeu

Larus hartlaubii

Hartlaub's Gull is endemic to South Africa and Namibia. It breeds on the west coast between Swakopmund (2214DA) and Dyer Island (3419CA), with a small, isolated colony at the Heuningnes River mouth (3420CA); there are *c.* 12 000 breeding pairs at 50 localities (Williams *et al.* 1990; Crawford *et al.* 1994; Uys *et al.* 1995). The overall population is thought to exceed 30 000 individuals (Williams *et al.* 1990). It has a regular coastal distribution between Cape Cross (2113DD) in the north and Quoin Point (3419DC) in the east (Williams *et al.* 1990). Prior to the atlas period, the most northerly definite record was from the Ugab River mouth (2113BA) (Maclean 1985c; Williams *et al.* 1990) with a literature record at 19°S (Lambert 1971); the atlas data show the range extending north to 20°S. There is a gap between Walvis Bay (2214DC) and Sandwich Harbour (2314AD); similarly, none were seen in this section in a survey in midsummer 1976–77 (Whitelaw *et al.* 1978). It becomes progressively sparser eastwards of Cape Agulhas (3420CC) to Algoa Bay (3325D). Farther east it is a vagrant as far as Lake St Lucia (2832CB) (Cyrus & Robson 1980), but it was not recorded east of Algoa Bay during the atlas period.

Habitat: It nests in a variety of natural and artificial habitats, including offshore islands and rocks, coastal pans, rivers, desert, sewage works, salt works, harbour and urban areas, including on buildings (Williams *et al.* 1990). The most inland breeding records are from the Namib Desert and Paarl Sewage Works (3318DB), respectively 20 and 48 km from the coast. It seldom occurs more than *c.* 20 km from the shore. It obtains much of its natural diet from invertebrates associated with stranded kelp *Ecklonia maxima*; the distribution is closely correlated with that of kelp (Ryan 1987b). It also feeds at rubbish dumps and takes food waste in urban and suburban areas. At sports fields and other areas of mown grass, it takes earthworms and other invertebrates that come to the surface during periods of rain. It has also been recorded feeding aerially at night on insects attracted to artificial lights (e.g. Simons 1977).

Movements: It moves between breeding areas at islands and foraging grounds on the adjacent mainland. Breeding birds are nomadic between islands, and change breeding sites within a particular locality (Crawford *et al.* 1994b).

Breeding: Breeding occurs throughout the year, but egglaying is mostly in late summer and autumn, February–April, and breeding is often completed by June (Williams *et al*. 1990). A second laying peak occurs in August (Ryan 1987b). Mainland breeding colonies have a low fledging success, probably owing to predation by terrestrial predators (Hockey *et al.* 1989). Productivity has been shown to be positively correlated to autumn storminess in the south-western Cape Province, and it has been suggested that the autumn breeding season is timed to coincide with increased availability of food after early winter storms (Underhill & Underhill 1986).

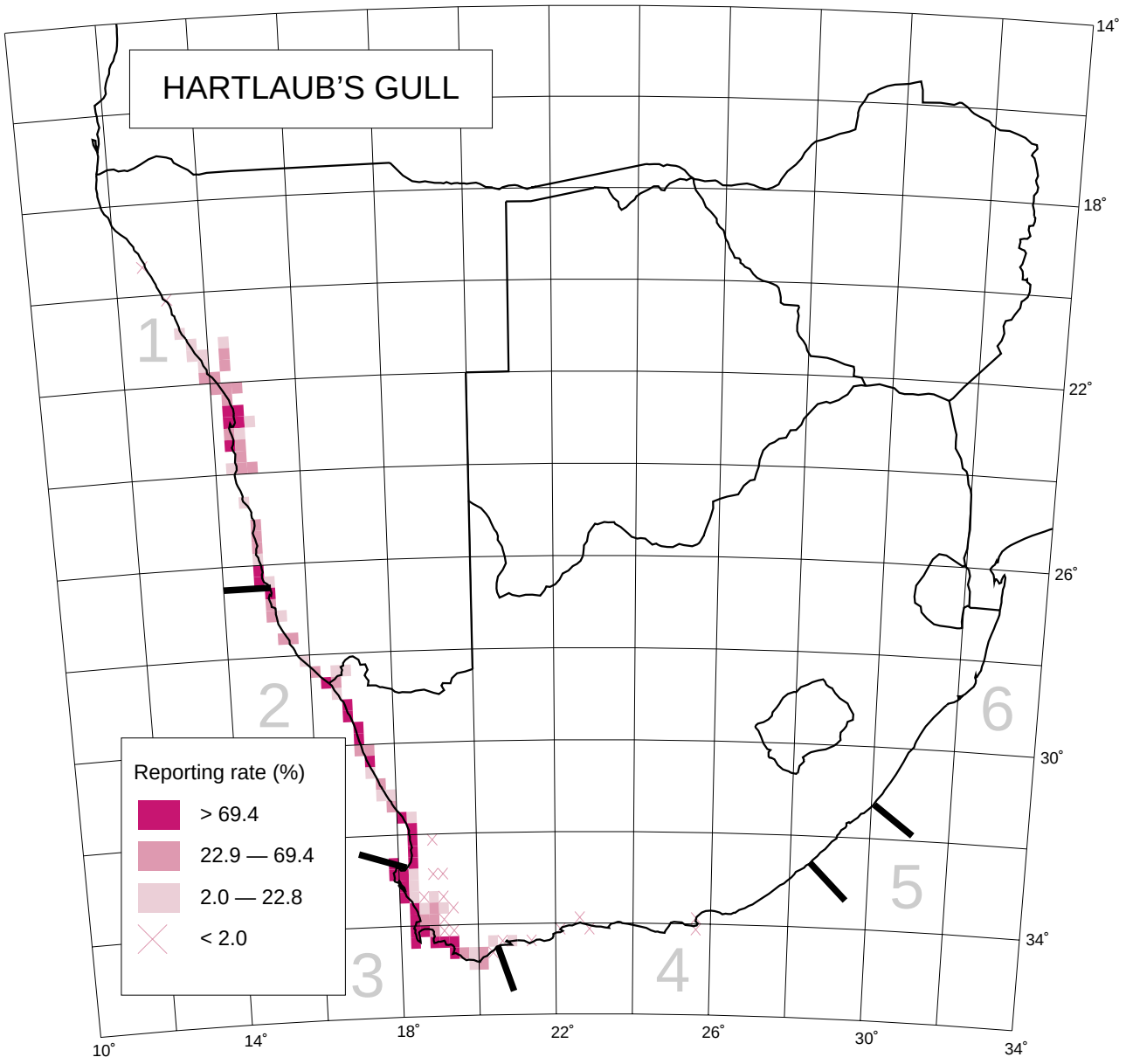
Interspecific relationships: It often nests in association with the Swift Tern *Sterna bergii* (Williams, A.J. 1990) and Crowned Cormorant *Phalacrocorax coronatus* (pers. obs.), and may be displaced from clutches by Swift Terns (Williams *et al.* 1990). It is also known to occur in mixed colonies with small numbers of Greyheaded Gulls *L. cirrocephalus*, with which it occasionally interbreeds (Zoutendyk & Feely 1953; Sinclair 1977b; Williams 1989). Eggs and chicks are eaten by Kelp Gull *L. dominicanus*, Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* and other predators (Williams, A.J. 1990).

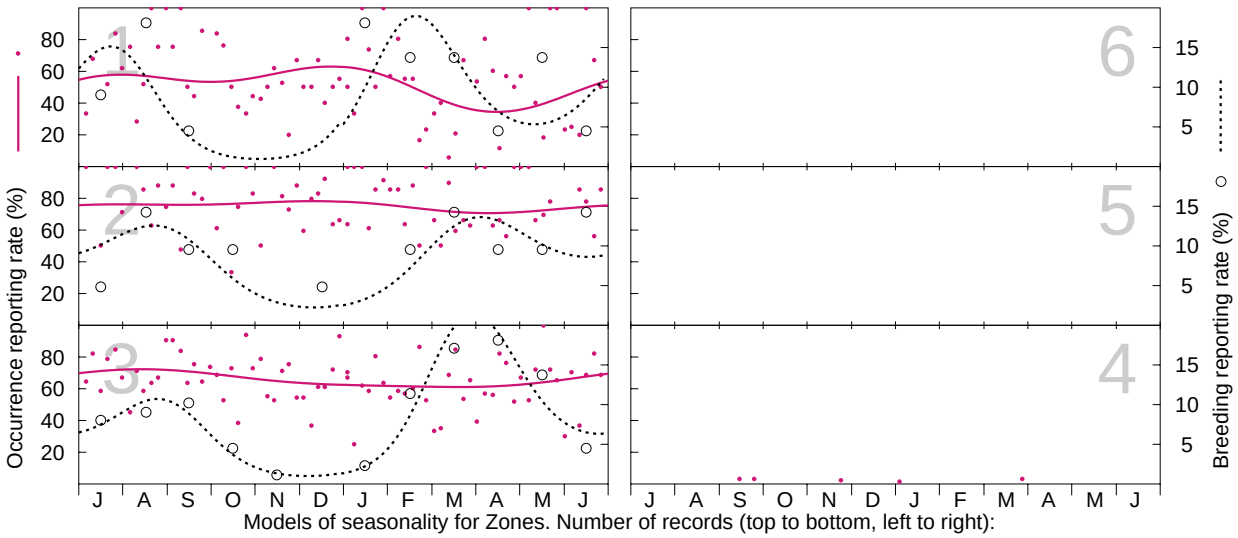
Historical distribution and conservation: On account of its association with kelp, the historical distribution is likely to have been similar to the present range. However, it probably breeds and occurs farther inland than formerly. Of the known breeding sites 44% are in habitats made or altered by humans (Williams *et al.* 1990).

The global population is small relative to most other larids (Rose & Scott 1994), and it has been proposed as a candidate species for the Red Data list of Namibia where 12% of the world population occurs (Williams *et al.* 1990). It was not included in the South African Red Data book (Brooke 1984b). The population has been increasing around the urbanized Cape Peninsula (3418A) where almost half the population is located (Williams *et al.* 1990). In 1987 a colony of about 4000 Hartlaub's Gulls established itself near the air-force base at Ysterplaat (3318DC). To reduce the threat of airstrikes, it was dispersed by the breaking of eggs, collection of chicks and shooting of *c.* 300 birds (Williams *et al.* 1990).

R.J.M. Crawford

Recorded in 109 grid cells, 2.4%
Total number of records: 8129
Mean reporting rate for range: 48.1%





Models of seasonality for Zones. Number of records (top to bottom, left to right):
Occurrence: 354, 426, 887, 5, 0, 0; Breeding: 22, 21, 88, 0, 0, 0.