



**TOUR REPORT
THE GAMBIA
24TH NOVEMBER – 1ST DECEMBER 2023**

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FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER – *Hazy sunshine, 34C*

Our rendezvous was at the Titan Airways check in desk at Gatwick South Terminal at 0600 this morning ready for our 0830 departure to Banjul. The flight was somewhat delayed by two passengers who were unable to travel after their bags had already been loaded, so we had to wait for the handlers to take their baggage off again before we could depart, eventually around 0930. The flight time down to Banjul was 5hrs30m where we were greeted by temperatures in the mid 30's, so something of a shock to the system! After negotiating our way through immigration and baggage reclaim, we were soon on our transfer coach and en route to our base for the next week at Senegambia Beach Hotel. The journey was somewhat more arduous than normal as the new road being built is only half-finished, meaning a tricky detour through the narrow sandy tracks of the townships. Of course it did bring the first opportunity to see some common West African birds and we noted **Hooded Vulture, Yellow-billed Kite, Little Swift, Laughing Dove, Speckled Pigeon, Pied Crow, Red-eyed Dove** and **Cattle Egrets** along the way – all species that would barely get a mention for the rest of our time here! Check in at Senegambia was fairly swift and so we had the last hour of light left to birdwatch around the extensive tropical gardens of the hotel, a haven for several exciting bird species! Top billing here are the normally elusive and difficult to see **White-crowned Robin-Chat** and **Yellow-crowned Gonolek**, and we had superb view of both – the latter being a real show-stopper and often one of the favourite birds of any birding trip to The Gambia. On top of those though we saw a mixed party of **Brown** and **Blackcap Babblers**, male **Beautiful Sunbird**, several **Broad-billed Rollers** and gaudy **Long-tailed Glossy Starlings**. Two **Senegal Parrots** even perched up for us on the very top of a tree, taking the last rays of the days sunshine, and the local **Red-billed Hornbills** bounded around the lawns. We just about had time to have a quick look at the sea, and note a roost movement of **Caspian Terns** and a couple of the White-breasted African race of **Great Cormorant**, before it was time to unpack, shower and get ready for a Julbrew!



Beautiful Sunbird

SATURDAY 24TH NOVEMBER – *Clear, sunny, still, 34C*

A great first full day today saw us take things relatively easy, to break the group into the heat and also to try and get good views of as many of the common birds as possible, and give ourselves a platform for the rest of the week. This saw us kick off at first light in the hotel grounds, where a productive 45 minute wander before breakfast gave, among other things, superb scope views of a **Pearl-spotted Owlet** right outside our rooms! We

saw further views of **White-crowned Robin-Chats**, **Broad-billed Roller**, **Western Grey Plantain-eater** and a pair of **African Grey Woodpeckers** at their nest hole. We breakfasted in the company of an inquisitive **Green Vervet Monkey** that came down and snatched a banana off someone's plate on an adjacent table – never leave your food unattended! At 0815 we met with our guide Modou, his assistant Fanta and our drive for the week, Suni. Negotiating the chaos of the roadworks it took around 15 minutes to reach the famous Kotu bridge, where we would kick things off in earnest. A barrage of new birds here included **Pied Kingfisher**, **Black-headed Heron**, **Senegal Thick-knee**, **Whimbrel**, **Common Sandpiper** and the delightful **Wire-tailed Swallows** perched on the wires.



Oriole Warbler

The tide was high though, so we set off for a walk along the casino cycle track where some cultivations and thorny acacia scrub offer a different habitat. Modou pulled fantastic spot out on a **Grey-headed Kingfisher** right away, and we got a good scope view – this is one of the two most difficult of the eight kingfisher species available so good to get it on the board. As we walked along the track we picked up lots of small birds in the bushes such as **Village Weavers**, **Bronze Mannikins** and **Tawny-flanked Prinias**. **Senegal Coucal** and **Blue-bellied Roller** both perched beautifully in the open for us and a flock of **White-faced Whistling Ducks** flew around calling. We used the mobbing recording of small birds harassing the Pearl-spotted Owlet to great effect to bring in lots of **Common Bulbuls** and **Beautiful Sunbirds**, and occasionally more different birds such as **Red-billed Firefinch**, **Western Olivaceous Warbler** and the delightful **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**. A secluded pool added a few waders, with **Spur-winged Plovers**, **Black-winged Stilts** and a **Wood Sandpiper** noted, while we also got three more nice birds in the form of an obliging **Hammerkop**, an **African Jacana** and scope views of **Malachite Kingfisher**. Back on the cycle track and there was another kingfisher for us, as a pair of **Woodland Kingfisher** showed at close quarters.

Back at the bridge, the dropping tide had brought in a **Giant Kingfisher** (our fifth species of the morning) which caught an enormous fish and proceeded to bash it on a branch. **Western Reef Egret** and **Greenshank** were added and there were some **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** calling high overhead. Just around where we had left the minibus there were more chances to gather small birds into the trees by playing the mobbing recording and this time we brought two **Oriole Warbler** in, a coastal forest thicket species which is more often heard than seen. A pair of Northern Puffback also responded and showed superbly and a **Brown-throated Wattle-eye** emerged from the undergrowth to see what all the fuss was about – again superb views in the open of a

bird often only seen inside dark forest. There were females of **Splendid Sunbird**, a **Grey-headed Sparrow**, **Little Weaver** and many other common species to see too, making for a superb and exciting mornings birding! We headed the short distance back to the hotel for a leisurely lunch, rest and swim, before heading back out again later in the afternoon.



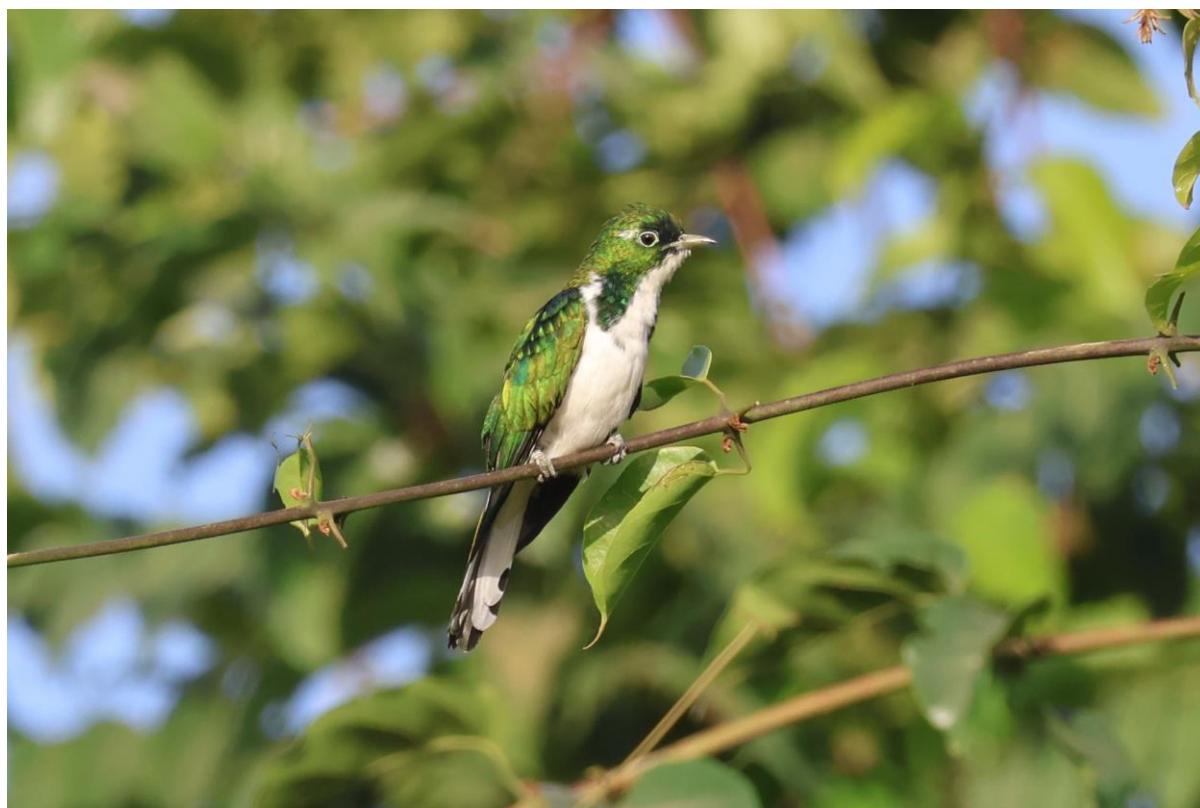
Woodland Kingfisher

We returned to the Kotu area, starting with a quick look from the bridge again now that the tide was down. **Wattled Lapwings** were now very much in evidence, and we also saw a couple of **Ringed Plovers**, **Redshank** and lots more of the common waterbirds we had seen earlier. We then took a trail out through the ricefields to a large baobab tree, which was bearing fruit and attracting lots of **Ring-necked Parakeets** and **Senegal Parrots**. In the same tree was a spectacular **Bearded Barbet** and also a flock of noisy **Green Wood-hoopoes**. Continuing out through the mangroves along a narrow wooden walkway, Modou heard a **Golden-tailed Woodpecker** call and we successfully managed to call the bird in, so it perched up on a dead mangrove stem and everyone got a decent view. This was a seriously good bird to find, being our first on a Gambia tour. On Fajara Golf Course, we found some more nice birds with a pair of **Yellow-crowned Gonoleks** showing well and then a couple of exquisite **Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters** flying in and landing in the treetops. **Vinaceous Dove**, **Northern Black Flycatcher** and a very brief **Abyssinian Roller** were added and then we ended the day with another bush full of birds responding to the owl mobbing tape. **Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher**, **African Thrush** and **Green-backed Camaroptera** all came in for close views. It was now dropping dark as we made our way back out of the mangroves to the bus and made the short ride back to Senegambia.

SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER – *Clear & sunny with a sea breeze, 34C*

A spectacular days birding in The Gambia today with 108 species recorded and some real highlights among them. We breakfasted at 0715 and then headed straight to Brufut woods, a classic birding site only twenty minutes from the hotel. As we disembarked the bus some **Yellow-throated Leafloves** were calling and showed themselves high in a big tree which also hosted a couple of skulking **Violet Turacos**. The **Klaas's Cuckoo** which we had only heard yesterday now showed itself beautifully, its emerald green plumage glinting in the sun as it swung on a thin branch just a few metres in front of us. The rather open track flanking the woods was exposed and hot, and even by 0900 it was well into the thirties, but the birding was still good – we added **Variable Sunbird**, **Singing Cisticola**, **Senegal Eremomela** and **Lavendar Waxbill** by stopping at various points and using

the owl mobbing calls. A **Mottled Spinetail** whizzed through and there were lots of **African Palm Swifts** flying low above the track nabbing various flying insects including some of the many butterflies. A **Green (or Guinea) Turaco** then showed well for us, in fact a pair came into some high trees and sat typically in shadow among the canopy, but allowing a scope view. **Whistling Cisticola** and **Black-winged Bishop** (a superb male) were seen by a half-built house and then a pair of **Lanner** appeared, mating on the top of a big tree before the male flew and left the female preening in the sunshine. There were lots of weavers about, lots of **Bronze Mannikins** and several **Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleus**, and a side track gave us splendid views of a pair of **Black-crowned Tchagras**. By now it was getting really hot and time to retire to the shade of the woodland bar.



Klaas's Cuckoo

Here some concrete seats under a sunshade made of palm overlooks some secluded drinking pots at the forest edge, where various birds come to drink. We added several new species alongside the common doves, finches and weavers, and these included **Village Indigobird**, **Vitelline Masked Weaver** and **Black-necked Weaver**. The highlight was a pair of **Green Turaco** which came in to bathe in the largest terracotta pot – quite a sight!! After this our local guide Mendy took us to see a day-roosting **Long-tailed Nightjar**, always a key target when visiting Brufut and a bird the locals have been staking out to show visitors for decades. On the walk in and out to view the bird (which was only ten feet away among the leaf litter) we also saw several **Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters**, two **Yellow-breasted Apalis** and a fine male **Copper Sunbird**.

It was now time to move on to nearby Tanji, where we would be having lunch at a favoured birders stop by the coast. Here an excellent custom-made drinking pond attracts an incredible variety of birds and after Modou and Fanta had swept the leaves away, filled the pool and scattered some rice around on the ground, we sat back in the provided comfy chairs and waited. It took a little while for the first Common Bulbuls and Laughing Doves to come down, but once they did the Red-eyed Doves and Red-billed Firefinches followed and then the floodgates opened! We added a dozen new species, with some more common ones such as **Snowy-crowned Robin-chat**, **Yellow-fronted Canary**, **Blue-spotted Wood-dove** and **African Paradise Flycatcher** jazzed up in style by some real show-stoppers – a **Western Bluebill**, **Green-headed Sunbird** and **African Pygmy Kingfisher**. There were also appearances by **Brown-throated Wattle-eye**, **Yellow-throated Leaflove**, **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**, **Garden Warbler**, **Blackcap** and a couple of elusive **Grey-headed Bristlebills**. Time flew by and after we had squeezed a superb buffet lunch in between two sessions of watching the pond, it was 1530!



Little Bee-eaters

The final two hours of the day were spent birding at Tujerang, an open area of cultivated savannah where peanuts are grown beneath a few acacia trees and a thick understorey of herbage by the track serves as a haven for many palearctic migrants. Indeed we saw **Woodchat Shrike**, **Yellow Wagtail** and **Squacco Heron** on the way in, as well as a great view of an **African Harrier-hawk**. One of the birds we really hoped to see here was a new kid on the block, the **Chestnut-bellied Starling**. Initially there was no sign of them in their usual area behind the beach but we had a great view of a **Dark Chanting Goshawk** tearing up prey on a stunted tree, watched by two Pied Crows. As we walked along things just got birdier and birdier – there were more **Yellow Wagtails**, **Whinchat**, **Melodious Warbler**, an **Abyssinian Roller** and a cracking **Striped Kingfisher** perched up at close range. A couple of goes with the mobbing tape brought in loads of sunbirds, with Variable and Splendid the most numerous in this habitat. A **Red-winged Warbler** appeared at one such showing, along with another cracking view of **Black-crowned Tchagra**, **Senegal Eremomela**, **Willow Warbler**, **Common Whitethroat** and a **Zitting Cisticola**. Modou had been whistling the **Veillot's Barbet** the whole time and now two appeared in a tree above us, right at the same time as three **Black-headed Lapwing** flew by, a **Palm-nut Vulture** came right overhead and an **Osprey** landed in perfect light right on the top of a nearby tree. We really didn't know where to look and the good birds kept coming! Now the **Chestnut-bellied Starling** appeared, perching in beautiful evening light, and a **Black-headed Heron** flew up and perched similarly in perfect pose. The **Abyssinian Roller** moved and was in better light too and a **Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-weaver** suddenly appeared among all the sunbirds and warblers, perched up in the open looking at us. The sun was getting closer to the horizon as we finished up in some peanut fields with two **Namaqua Doves** on the track in front of us and a **Levaillant's Cuckoo** perched up. We really did need to leave though, as we still had a forty minute drive back to the hotel. This turned into an hour as the minibus broke down about two kilometres from base. The fuel pump packed in and the driver had to keep manually pumping it to get it to go a few hundred yards before conking out again. We eventually limped back to Senegambia in the dark, with a quick turnaround before beer, checklist and dinner!

MONDAY 27TH NOVEMBER – *Clear, sunny, light winds, 35C*

We set out for Farasuto today,, making our way through the dust and fumes of the built up area between the hotel and the airport, negotiating the traffic and roadworks before eventually hitting the open road near Brikama and motoring on down towards Faraba banta. The minibus had been miraculously fixed overnight,

and we didn't have any problems with it today – though we suspected a calibrated tap had been applied, rather than any new parts! Before entering the forest, we planned to bird the open savannah with an undergrowth of herbage and some peanut cultivations, an excellent area generally for Palearctic migrants and Afro-Tropical species alike. In some large trees by the track, we saw some stunning **African Yellow White-eyes**, moving around with migrant **Willow Warblers** and **Chiffchaffs**. A **Woodchat Shrike** posed close by and there were lots of excellent views of **Western Olivaceous** and **Melodious Warblers**. We then got a call from Modou Taal who was birding nearby – he'd just found a 'Southern Grey Shrike' near where our bus was parked! We raced back there and had great views of the bird, perhaps most likely of the N.African race *leucopygos* which is evidently an occasional vagrant to The Gambia, though with the recent lumping of the complex it is technically 'just' a **Great Grey Shrike** now. In the same area we had our first **Scarlet-chested Sunbird**, **African Cuckoo** and **Diderick Cuckoo** all coming to the mobbing tape and overhead we added a **Bedouin's Snake-eagle** and a surprise flyover **African Spoonbill**. Our final good bird in this area before retreating to the shade of the trees was a **Wryneck** which flushed up into a tree and posed beautifully for scope views.



Great Grey Shrike

On the approach track to Farasuto Forest, we tried a couple more spots for various sunbirds and warblers, adding **Rufous Cisticola** and getting more views of the spectacular **Scarlet-chested Sunbird**. Fanta came up with a couple of cracking spots, adding us **White-throated Bee-eater** and **Cardinal Woodpecker**, while a **Nightingale** croaked unseen from dense cover and reminded us that Palearctic migrants were never far away. Entering the wood, we started with a session watching the drinking pots and quickly added a couple of nice new birds in **Black-rumped Waxbill** and **Spotted Honeyguide**, the latter now a staple appearance maker at these type of set-ups having previously been an almost enigmatic item on the list of birds one might see on a trip. Into the woods and there was a sighting of **African Goshawk** for some of the group, though it frustratingly flushed before everyone got to the scope. The **White-backed Night-heron** at the ponds at the back was more obliging though, and sat up nicely for everyone to scope it. **Striated Heron** was also seen here, and a rare **Bar-breasted Firefinch** flew in and landed in a bush next to us, getting our guide Modou and local guide 'Bob' very excited. Time was ticking on now and we still had to look for the roosting **Greyish Eagle Owls** before lunch – thankfully they weren't difficult and Bob showed them to us, glaring down from the canopy of a teak plantation.



Cardinal Woodpecker

To reach our lunch place on Boabab Island, we first had to cross the river by boat. In typical Gambian style this proved to be something of a palaver, with the boat engine conking out after they'd already squeezed us all on board and so the short journey was made using a single paddle instead – thankfully it wasn't far! **Pied Kingfisher** and **Senegal Thick-knee** were seen in the process too. The lunch was superb and well worth the trip though (and it was a beautiful spot too), and it was all made even more worthwhile by the fact there was an **African Scop's Owl** in the tree above the restaurant which gave just stunning views. A **Gull-billed Tern** greeted us back at the jetty, and after another paddle back across the river we were soon ashore and heading for the last stop of the day.



African Scop's Owl

This would be to a viewing screen overlooking yet more well crafted drinking ponds, a theme which now seems to be cropping up and all the main birding sites in The Gambia. It was very quiet to start with, but then we got great views of a **Greater Honeyguide** dropping in, a male **Common Redstart**, lots of mixed finches and some other species such as **Yellow-crowned Gonolek**, **African Thrush** and **Black-billed Wood-dove**. As we drove out of the area back to the main road in Farasuto, an **Abyssinian Roller** perched in stunning light right beside the road – a great way to end the day! We battled our way back through the chaos of the roadworks, traffic and dust and had a more relaxed evening with time for a shower!



Abyssinian Roller

TUESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER – *Clear, sunny, light winds, 38C*

A very hot day today down on the Senegal border at Sohmi, where we would be birding mainly open savannah woodland and old ricefields with a few scattered watering holes. We arrived about 0830 after an hours drive, and began birding along the track and among the low bushes and herbage either side. Things were rather slow to begin with, though we had some great views of **Dark Chanting Goshawks**, and had another **Wryneck** perched up nicely. The main small birds coming in to the mobbing tape were **Senegal Eremomelas**, **Willow Warbler**, **Western Olivaceous** and **Melodious Warblers**, **Beautiful** and **Variable Sunbirds**. With perseverance at a couple of different spots, we also pulled in a male **Northern Red Bishop**, **Vitelline Masked Weaver** and a superb male **Western Violet-backed Sunbird**. We rejoined the bus and moved a bit further, taking a more shady side track where a **Pearl-spotted Owlet** responded to the recording and we managed to spot it perched high up in the open for a great scope view. Better still was a party of the rather crazy-looking **White-crested Helmet-Shrikes** which piled in, and there were some superb views of **Northern Puffback** too.

Our next stop further on towards Sohmi village along a track below a line of big power lines, was more open and now very, very hot! Raptors were getting really active though and the sky was full of Yellow-billed Kites and Hooded Vultures. A **Beadouin's Snake-Eagle** was picked up distantly but thankfully it went into a glide and came straight at us, eventually hovering almost overhead. A **Long-crested Eagle** flew by and perched nicely too, and there seemed to be **Dark Chanting Goshawks** all over the place! **Whalberg's Eagle** and **Tawny Eagle** were then seen circling together, so we were really picking up a good selection. Despite the baking heat, there was lots of small bird activity too and we began to get really stuck into the top quality stuff here. We added

Brubru and **Yellow Penduline Tit** in quick succession, and a pulse of hirundines brought both **Rufous-chested** and **Mosque Swallows**. **European Bee-eaters** were here too, and perching high up on the wires, and the area was generally full of other common palearctic migrants such as Willow Warblers. A watering hole was attracting two **Mottled Spinetails** down to drink, and we had stonking close views of them for several minutes rather than the usual whizz through and gone looks!



Bedouin's Snake-Eagle

A small group of **Orange-cheeked Waxbills** appeared and perched long enough for everyone to see them in the scope, and then just as we were heading back to the bus, we picked up a **White-shouldered Black Tit** and **Senegal Batis** in the same tree! Two more top targets and after a slow start, the day had really burst into life. **Cardinal Woodpecker**, **Pin-tailed Whydah**, **Rufous-crowned Roller**, **Purple Glossy Starling** and **Diderick Cuckoo** were some of the other species seen here before we rejoined the bus and made the half hour journey to our lunch stop. All the places we had visited for lunch so far had been excellent and this was another really top venue, despite looking like we were just driving into someone's compound. They put on a fabulous buffet, and of course there were birds around too such as **Piapiac**, **African Mourning Dove** and **Long-tailed Glossy Starling**. Around 4pm, we took a short walk down through the adjoining ricefields and saw a superb male **African Golden Oriole**, **Bearded Barbet** and **Bronze-tailed Glossy Starling**, but we decided to cut this area short and head back towards base, calling in at Bonto forest to see if we could see two more owls, to save us a bit of time tomorrow.

Thankfully both the owls we hoped to see were fairly close to the parking spot at Bonto. The first was the spectacular **Verraux's Eagle Owl**, which required a few minutes walk through the dark shady forest (which was welcome!) to stare up into a massive tree. As always, the local guide that accompanied us knew where to look and we were soon watching the most impressive of owls, staring down at us and occasionally flashing its pink eyelids! An **African Pied Hornbill** came in above us too, and was the first one we had seen. Walking back to the reception building, they had the **Northern White-faced Owl** lined up for us too, in the trees just behind. We went in with the guide one at a time and had great views of our fifth owl species of the trip, before boarding the bus for the long and dusty ride back to Senegambia.



Verraux's Eagle Owl

WEDNESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER – *Hot and sunny, 35C*

Another very hot day but an action-packed one, as we headed to the brilliant Pirang shrimp farm which is essentially a series of saline pans accessed by a criss-cross of raised mud banks. It is quite simply brilliant for waders but there is plenty of other birds to see too, and as we wound our way through the dust roads through the village of Pirang, we paused for our first male **Village Indigobird** of the trip. Reaching the pans, a freshwater pool fringed by reeds by the parking spot was attracting lots of hirundines, and we had **West African Swallow**, **House Martin** and **Rufous-chested Swallow** here. **Pied Kingfishers** and **Senegal Thick-knees** were to be common throughout the site, and there were lots of egrets too, including our first **Intermediate Egret**. The first pans were fairly quiet but still held **Black-winged Stilts**, a pair of **Gull-billed Terns**, **Grey Plover** and two nice **Little-ringed Plovers**. A **Long-crested Eagle** flew by and perched nicely on a dead tree with its crest waving in the very welcome breeze – being close to the river here, it was not quite as hot as yesterday despite being so open. **Yellow Wagtails** were common around the site and we saw examples of both *flava* and *flavissima*, plus a totally grey bird which would have required closer inspection, but it sadly vanished. **Little Terns** were flying around and it was great to see this species in its non-breeding plumage, which we essentially never see in the UK.

Things got birdier as we reached the more distal pans that were less disturbed and held more water. A large mixed flock of **Eurasian** and **African Spoonbills** were seen, and mixed among them were **Little** and **Western Reed Egrets**, two **Black Herons**, four **Pintail** and a flock of **Shoveler**. There were lots of **Black-tailed Godwits** (*limosa* most likely here) and **Ruff**, and we picked up our first flocks of smaller waders which were mainly **Curlew Sandpipers**, with the odd **Little Stint**, **Dunlin**, **Sanderling** and **Turnstone**. Next we found a partly dried out pan with a plover standing in the middle, at distance and in the increasing heat haze – but what was it? We went round the houses, considering Greater Sand but eventually realising it was a **White-fronted Plover**, and

that it also had a mate hiding at the edge of the pan with two small chicks. This species was found here last year by one of our groups, and again last week when it was found to be breeding at the site for the first time. Once we'd sorted the plovers out, we reached some more water-filled pans which held a lot of gulls and terns – **Slender-billed Gull**, **Caspian Tern**, **Royal Tern** and a few **Avocets** were here. The furthest pans were perhaps the most productive of all, with large flocks of **Curlew Sandpipers**, a few **Wood Sandpipers**, and lots of superb close views of the delicate **Marsh Sandpiper**. We eventually found three **Kittlitz's Plovers**, and flushed a couple of **Double-spurred Francolins**. By the time we eventually rejoined Numo and the bus, it was gone midday!



Wire-tailed Swallow

Bonto forest was only a short drive away, where we had seen the owls yesterday. We returned there to bird in the shade of the trees and it was comparatively nice and cool, but birding was hard. We did manage some sketchy glimpses of the super-elusive **Yellowbill**, a troop of **Chacma Baboons**, and the skulky **Little Greenbul**. A **Buff-spotted Woodpecker** was seen briefly too, plus a few other common bits we had seen previously. We had a bit of a drive now to the lunch spot at Marakissa river camp, and this was drawn out somewhat by another fuel blockage and subsequent limping along with the driver having to keep stopping to manually pump the fuel. We eventually made it and were greeted with another superb lunch spread, plus great views of **Nile Crocodiles** including 'Crocky' who comes when called by the owner to be fed!! We kept our distance despite his endearing name (what's that about never smile at the crocodile?!) but it was impressive to see. After lunch we walked to the bridge, where a series of marshy pools added **African Darter** and more importantly our last kingfisher for the set – a beautiful **Blue-breasted Kingfisher** which Modou spotted at distance. Walking down through the ricefields to overlook a larger flooded area we now added two more top birds in the form of two **Greater Painted Snipe** skulking at the edge of the pool, and a **Black Crake** which wandered into the same field of view! There was a **Black Heron** here doing its 'umbrella' thing, and lots of **Senegal Thick-knees**, **Wattled Plovers** and others. Wandering back through the rice fields, a **Blue-bellied Roller** perched really close for us, and **Glossy-backed Drongo** was noted. It was unbelievably 5pm by this point, and we still had an hour to drive home – though sadly this was even more drawn out as the bus finally gave up the ghost not far from Bijillo and we had to arrange another vehicle to take us the rest of the way. We got back in the end about 1845.



'Crocky' at Marakissa

THURSDAY 30TH NOVEMBER – *Hot and sunny, 38C*

Today was our full day visit to Kartong Bird Observatory and surrounds, in the far south of The Gambia on the border with Senegal. The coast road was a much better route than the inland road,, with no roadworks to deal with and very little traffic, so after departing a little after 6am, we arrived at Colin Cross's place around 0720. With the sun just getting up we started the day on Colin's 'viewing platform' (actually a half built house belonging to his son!) from where we had a commanding view across the main pool. We saw **Malachite Kingfisher, Purple Heron, Black Crane, Yellow-crowned Bishop, Sedge Warbler, Purple Glossy Starling** and **African Sacred Ibis** from here, with **Great Reed Warbler** constantly chuntering away in the reedbed. Colin's wife Binta had prepared tea and coffee for us, and we had our breakfast on their verandah with still more birds to see, such as the fantastic 'cat calling' **Splendid Glossy Starling** which came down. After breakfast we set off on foot through the reserve, actually a series of old flooded sandmines which were excavated by the Americans to build Banjul airport runway, one of the longest in Africa and used for Space shuttle landings. The lily-filled ponds held masses of **White-faced Whistling ducks** and we were on the lookout for a rare **Fulvous Whistling Duck** which had been found by our group the previous week. We had good views of **Red-necked Falcon, Bearded Barbet** and **Intermediate Egret** (among a mass of other egrets and herons) and the air above us was thick with **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters**. The farthest pool had a couple of **Shoveler** and six **Snipe**, but then we spotted the **Fulvous Whistling Duck**, sitting motionless among the weed with about six White-faced. A smart bird and we got to see it close and in good light too – this was the first record for Kartong.

Now we branched off into the savannah scrub, a great area for Palearctic migrants and in particular an important wintering site for UK-breeding Nightingales, which are studied by the Obs. We didn't see any of these, but there were just masses of **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** here, flying all around us calling and perching above our heads. **Western Olivaceous Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Western Subalpine Warbler** and beautiful **Western Bonelli's Warbler** were all seen in the scrub, while 'Afro-Trops' included great views of both **Brubru** and **Senegal Batis**. We added our first **Fine-spotted Woodpeckers** too, and had **Yellow-billed Storks** and **Marsh Harriers** overhead. There were also a lot of swifts and hirundines about and the new birds kept coming for us with **Red-chested Swallow** and **Pallid Swift** both seen. A large, lanky pipit perched up on a bush turned out to be our only **Plain-backed Pipit** of the tour, and there were superb views too of both Abyssinian and **Rufous-crowned Rollers**. Predictably it was very hot by now, so we retired to the shelter of the small

beach bar where a local man squeezes orange juice and provides benches for a sit in the shade. A couple of us were hardy enough to take a beach walk after, to see the **White-fronted Plovers**. We got good views, and saw a selection of other waders, gulls and terns too.



Blue-cheeked Bee-eater

Now it was time to rejoin Numo and the bus, and make the short drive right to the border at Stala. Before we'd all even got out of the bus Modou had our target bird here, the **Mouse-brown Sunbird** – a mangrove specialist which lacks the gaudy colours of the other sunbirds. We had a welcome long lunch break here, and then hopped onto a boat for an hour or so on the river. We first went upstream, to look for the main target which was the **Goliath Heron**. Fortunately we spotted one in the far distance and went for a closer look, getting really superb views – what a monster! Tracking back downstream, we then wanted to look for roosting terns and waders on the exposed muddy islands. There were lots of **Caspian Terns**, a single **Royal Tern** but then also two smaller terns with thin yellow bills, sat among Sandwich Terns and clearly a similar size. They were **Lesser Crested Terns**, known to winter at Kartong in small numbers and shown from ringing studies to be from a Libyan breeding population. **Gull-billed Tern**, **Bar-tailed Godwit** and a few other waders were also seen, before we returned to Stala.

As always with Modou at the helm there was 'one more quick stop' to make on the way back, at some scrubby woodland near the coast. We only had half an hour here but managed to find another really good bird, the thinly-distributed **White-fronted Black Chat**. A pair showed well, along with a bush full of other birds that included **Orange-cheeked Waxbill**, **Northern Puffback**, **Northern Crombec**, **Tawny-flanked Prinia**, **Red-winged Warbler** and **Rufous Cisticola**! Our final drive back to Senegambia was thankfully completely hassle free (with some top-class people watching thrown in!) and we arrived back well before dark! It was now time to say thankyou and goodbye to Modou, Numo and Fanta who had looked after us so well during the week, as we wouldn't see them on our last day tomorrow.

FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER – *Light cloud and sunshine, 35C*

Our last morning was spent just around the hotel grounds, before a departure to the airport just after noon. We had a fairly leisurely breakfast and then a short seawatch, as the light was good for scanning off the beach. There were a few terns moving offshore though most birds were distant – we did have one or two nice close

Royal Terns and a **Caspian Tern** right along the beach. Several **Arctic Skuas** were harassing the terns further out and we saw a single **Pomarine Skua** too. **Osprey**, **Gannet** and a small party of **Slender-billed Gulls** completed our watch. In the gardens, we had perhaps our best views of the week of **Yellow-crowned Gonolek** with two popping out at close quarters, and there were final chances to photograph the **Bronze-tailed Glossy Starlings**, **Green Woodhoopoes** and **White-crowned Robin-chats**. We had an early lunch at the beach bar, and then met the transfer coach at 1230 for the journey back to the airport. We were in for a temperature shock, with a near 40 degree drop to the minus two Celsius expected back at Gatwick!



Caspian Tern

THE GAMBIA - Birding the Smiling Coast - November 2023											
Species order, names and taxonomy follows - Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2018. IOC World Bird List (v 8.1). http://www.worldbirdnames.org/											
#	Common Name	Scientific name		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
1	White-faced Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>			■				■	■	
2	Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>								■	
3	Double-spurred Francolin	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>				H	■	■	■	H	
4	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>								■	
5	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>									■
6	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>								■	
7	Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>						■	■	■	■
8	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea luecorodia</i>							■	■	
9	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>			■			■	■	■	
10	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			■				■	■	
11	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>			■	■	■	■		■	
12	Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>								■	
13	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>								■	

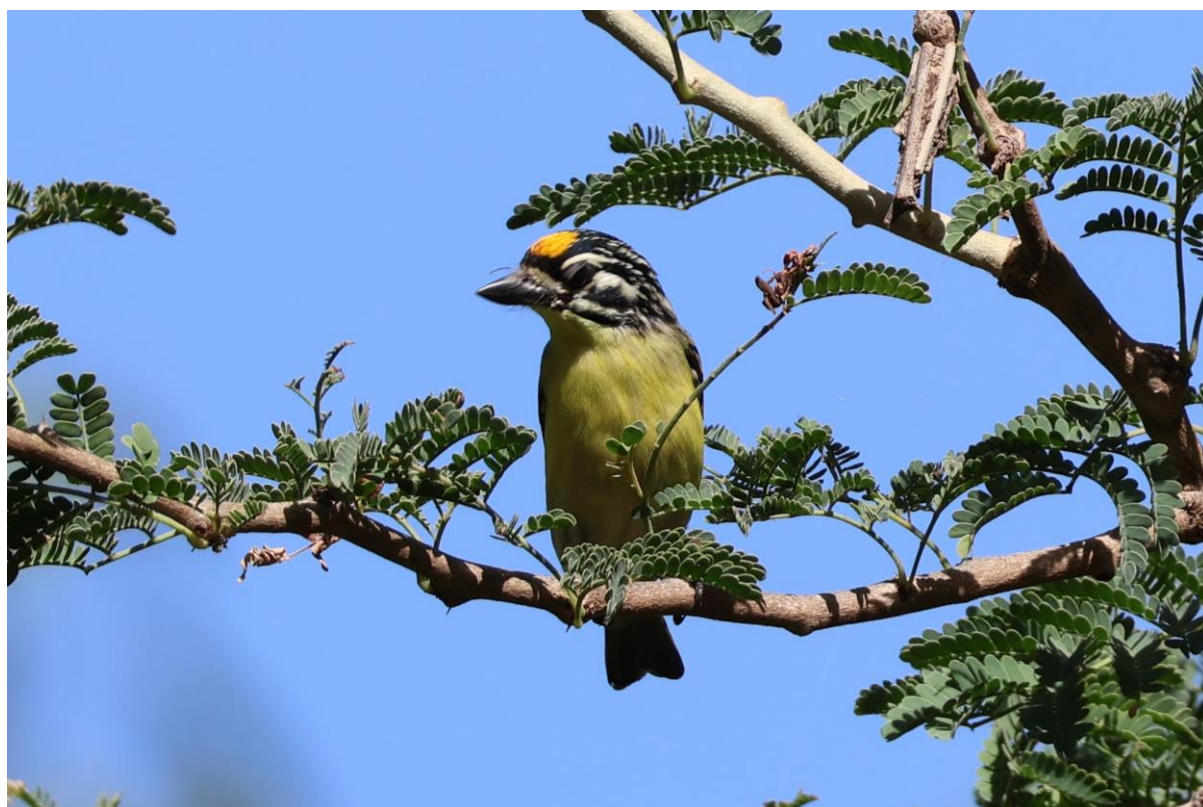
#	Common Name	Scientific name		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	
14	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			■		■		■	■		
15	Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>							■	■		
16	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>							■	■		
17	Western Reef-Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>			■		■		■	■		
18	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>							■	■		
19	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
20	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				■			■	■		
21	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>					■		■			
22	White-backed Night-Heron	<i>Gorsachius leuconotus</i>					■					
23	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>					■		■	■		
24	African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>							■	■		
25	Long-tailed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>			■	■			■	■		
26	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		■	■	■				■	■	
27	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>				■			■	■	■	
28	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
29	African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>				■		■	■	■		
30	Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>				■		■		■		
31	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
32	Beaudouin's Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>					■	■		■		
33	Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaelus occipitalis</i>						■	■			
34	Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>						■				
35	Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>					■	■		■		
36	Dark Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>				■	■	■				
37	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>								■		
38	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>		■	■			■	■			
39	Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>			H				■	■		
40	Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>			■		■		■	■		
41	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			■				■	■		
42	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>								■		
43	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>			■	■	■	■	■	■		
44	Black-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus tectus</i>				■						
45	Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>			■	■		■	■			
46	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>							■	■		
47	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			■				■	■		
48	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>							■			
49	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>							■	■		
50	Greater Painted-Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>							■			
51	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>								■		
52	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>			■				■	■		
53	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			■		■		■	■		
54	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>								■		
55	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>							■			
56	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>							■	■		
57	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>							■	■		
58	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>							■			
59	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>							■			
60	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>							■			
61	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			■				■	■		

#	Common Name	Scientific name		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	
62	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			■					■		
63	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			■		■		■	■		
64	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			■				■	■		
65	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			■				■	■		
66	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>							■			
67	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>									■	
68	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>									■	
69	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>							■	■	■	
70	Grey-hooded Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>				■			■	■		
71	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>				■				■	■	
72	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>							■			
73	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>					■		■	■		
74	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		■					■	■	■	
75	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>		■					■	■	■	
76	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>				■			■	■		
77	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>								■		
78	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
79	Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>			■			■	■	■		
80	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
81	Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
82	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
83	Black-billed Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>			■	■	■	■	■	■		
84	Blue-spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>				■	■					
85	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>			■	■		■	■	■		
86	Guinea Turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>				■						
87	Violet Turaco	<i>Musophaga violacea</i>				■	■					
88	Western Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
89	Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>			■	■	■	■	■	■		
90	Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>				■				■		
91	Dideric Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>					■	■				
92	Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>			H	■						
93	African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>					■	■				
94	Northern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>						■				
95	Verreaux's Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>						■				
96	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>			■			■				
97	Greyish Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>					■					
98	Long-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i>				■						
99	Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>				■		■				
100	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>								■		
101	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>		■	■				■	■		
102	African Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
103	Green Woodhoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>			■	■			■	■	■	
104	African Pied Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros fasciatus</i>						■				
105	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>		■		■	■	■	■			
106	Western Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus kemp</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
107	Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>			■					■		
108	African Pygmy-Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>				■						
109	Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>			■							

#	Common Name	Scientific name		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	
110	Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>			■							
111	Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>							■			
112	Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>				■	■					
113	Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>			■				■			
114	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>			■	■	■		■	■		
115	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>			■	■	■	■	■	■		
116	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>			■	■						
117	White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>					■					
118	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>			■	■	H	■	■	■		
119	Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>			■	■	■			■		
120	Rufous-crowned Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>						■		■		
121	Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>			■			■	■	■	■	
122	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>		■	■	■					■	
123	Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>			■	■	H	■				
124	Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieilloti</i>				■				■		
125	Bearded Barbet	<i>Indicator minor</i>			■			■		■		
126	Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>				■			■			
127	Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicatoridae sp.</i>					■					
128	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus fuscescens</i>					■	■				
129	African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus goertae</i>			■	■	■	■			■	
130	Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>								■		
131	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>					■	■				
132	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		■								
133	Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>			■	■	■	■	■	■		
134	Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>							■	■		
135	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>				■		■				
136	Ring-necked Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>			■	■				■		
137	Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>		■	■	■	■		■	■		
138	Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>			■	■	■		■			
139	Senegal Batis	<i>Batis senegalensis</i>						■		■		
140	White Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>						■				
141	Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>						■		■		
142	Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>			■		■	■		■		
143	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>				■	■	■				
144	Yellow-throated Leaflove	<i>Atimastillas flavicollis</i>				■						
145	Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
146	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>				■	■		■	■		
147	Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>				■	■	■	■			
148	African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>						■		■		
149	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>			■			■	■			
150	African Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>			■	■						
151	Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>			■							
152	Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>			■			■		■	■	
153	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
154	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>							■			
155	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>						■	■	■		
156	Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>								■		
157	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>			■				■	■		

#	Common Name	Scientific name		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	
158	Pied-winged Swallow	<i>Hirundo leucosoma</i>					■					
159	Rufous-chested Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>						■	■	■		
160	West African Swallow	<i>Cecropis domicella</i>							■			
161	Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>						■				
162	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>							■			
163	Fanti Sawwing	<i>Psalidoprocne obscura</i>				■		■				
164	Grey-headed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda canicapillus</i>				■						
165	Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>							■			
166	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
167	Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>			■	■	■	■		■		
168	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>								■		
169	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				■	■	■	■			
170	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>					■					
171	Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna opaca</i>			■	■	■	■		■		
172	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>				■	■	■		■		
173	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>							■			
174	Red-winged Warbler	<i>Prinia erythroptera</i>				■		■		■		
175	Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>				■	■	■	■	■		
176	Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>			■	■	■	■				
177	Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>				■	■		■			
178	Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>			■	■	■	■		■		
179	Oriole Warbler	<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>			■	■		H				
180	Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>				■						
181	Whistling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lateralis</i>				■		■				
182	Rufous Cisticola	<i>Cisticola rufus</i>					■			■		
183	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>				■	■	■	■			
184	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				■						
185	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>				■						
186	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>			■			■	■	■		
187	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				■	■	■		■		
188	African Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>					■					
190	Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>		■		■						
191	Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>		■	■	■	■	■				
192	Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>				■		■	■			
193	White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapillus</i>		■	■	■					■	
194	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>					H	H				
195	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					■					
196	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				■						
197	White-fronted Black-Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla albifrons</i>								■		
198	African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>			■	■	■		■			
199	Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
200	Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>						■	■	■		
201	Bronze-tailed Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalcurus</i>			■			■		■	■	
202	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>						■		■		
203	Mouse-brown Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>								■		
204	Western Violet-backed Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes longuemarei</i>						■				
205	Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>				■						
206	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>					■	■				

#	Common Name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	
207	Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
208	Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastrus</i>		■	■	■	■		■		
209	Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>			■	■	■		■		
210	Copper Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>			■						
211	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			■			■	■		
212	Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>							■		
213	Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>			■	■	■		■		
214	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	■								
215	Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>		■	■		■	■	■		
216	White-billed Buffalo-Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>		■	■		■				
217	Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser superciliosus</i>			■						
218	Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>		■	■	■	■		■		
219	Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>			■			■			
220	Vitelline Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>			■	■	■				
221	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■		
222	Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>					■				
223	Black-winged Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>			■						
224	Yellow-crowned Bishop	<i>Euplectes afer</i>							■		
225	Lavender Waxbill	<i>Estrilda caerulescens</i>			■	■	■				
226	Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>					■		■		
227	Western Bluebill	<i>Spermophaga haematina</i>			■			■			
228	Red-cheeked Cordonbleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■		
229	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>		■	■	■		■	■		
230	Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>		■	■	■	■	■			
231	Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>			■	■		■			
232	Black-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>				■					
233	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>					■				
	Checklist Additions		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	
234	Golden-tailed Woodpecker			■							
235	African Scops Owl					■					
236	Spotted Honeyguide					■		■			
237	Southern Grey Shrike					■					
238	Bar-breasted Firefinch					■					
239	European Bee-eater						■				
240	Barn Swallow						■				
241	Tawny Eagle						■				
242	Buff-spotted Woodpecker							■			
243	Shoveler							■			
244	Pintail							■			
245	Kittlitz's Plover							■			
246	Avocet							■			
247	Yellowbill							■			
248	Sedge Warbler								■		
249	Splendid Glossy Starling								■		
250	Fulvous Whistling Duck								■		
251	Sacred Ibis								■		
252	Great Reed Warbler								H		



Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird



Giant Kingfisher