



ORIOLE BIRDING



TOUR REPORT
THE GAMBIA
16TH – 23RD NOVEMBER 2018

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FRIDAY 16TH NOVEMBER – *Overcast in light winds, 29C, dry*

We departed London Gatwick this morning on our Titan Airways flight to Banjul, which ended up taking off around fifty minutes late after two passengers decided they no longer wished to travel and the rest of us had to wait for their bags to be unloaded, which also meant of course we had missed our slot! Nevertheless we got underway and enjoyed a somewhat bumpy flight down to The Gambia, where we arrived around 4.30pm. A swift transition through the airport and onto the transfer coach meant we were soon spotting our first Afro-tropical birds as we made our way across to Kotu and our base for the next seven nights at Bakotu Hotel. Red-eyed and African Mourning Doves, Speckled Pigeon, Laughing Dove, Pied Crow, Hooded Vulture, Yellow-billed Kite and Cattle Egret were all numerous roadside birds, while a single Grey Kestrel and several overhead Little Swifts were also seen. It was getting dark as we arrived at the hotel, so there would be no more birding for us today. Tomorrow morning though we knew we would awake to plenty of bird song to tempt us out into the gardens at first light!

SATURDAY 17TH NOVEMBER – *Overcast, 27C*

We rose early before it was fully light, full of anticipation for our first taste of African birding! It turned out to be an excellent day, with a fantastic variety of species and several key targets too, all in beautiful temperatures – not too hot under the light cloud! We began our day on the observation deck at our hotel, overlooking Kotu Creek, one of the best known spots for birding in The Gambia. The aim was to familiarise ourselves with the very common species right away – Common Bulbul, Red-eyed Dove, Speckled Pigeon, Beautiful Sunbird, **Western Grey Plantain-eater** and African Palm Swift all easily noted. Two **Shikra** emerged from their roost, with one perching really close to us, and a trio of noisy **Wattled Plovers** flew in over the mangroves. A **Western Reef Heron** flew in and landed right in front of us, and on the mudflats we picked up Whimbrel, **Senegal Thick-knee** and both Common and Little-ringed Plovers. Great White, Little and **Intermediate Egrets**, **Squacco Heron**, **Sacred Ibis** and scores of Yellow-billed Kites and Hooded Vultures completed our quick forty minute watch – not a bad start!



Black Egret, Lamin Ricefields – great to see this iconic species doing its ‘umbrella’

After breakfast, we met our guide Modou and driver, and headed off towards Lamin village. In the cooler early part of the day, we would explore the Lamin Ricefields where a network of irrigated paddies and crop fields are bordered by saltmarsh, reeds and open woodland. This great mix of habitats brings a similarly great mix of birds, but none more eye-catching than the stunning **Violet Turaco** that greeted us as we entered the ricefields! Turaco's can often be shy and difficult to find, so to get great views so early on was a real bonus. Moving slowly along the track we noted **Yellow-billed Shrike**, **Long-tailed Glossy Starling**, **Piapiac** and African Mourning Dove before we entered the more open fields. Here we picked up birds thick and fast – a **Northern Black Flycatcher**, three **Little Bee-eaters**, **Northern Red Bishop**, **Bronze Mannakin**, **Spur-winged Plover**, Green Sandpiper and **Broad-billed Roller** all showed well. Edging along to the edge of the mangroves, we found a **Black Egret** – or 'Umbrellabird' – doing its thing in a small rice paddy directly ahead of us. We had some superb views of this sought-after heron, before it took flight and disappeared. Several Senegal Thick-knees were lurking under the bushes here too, giving amazing close views. **Fork-tailed Drongo**, four **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters**, **Striated Heron**, **African Jacana** and Intermediate Egret were all added as we navigated around the narrow paths between the paddies, and some of the group saw a **Malachite Kingfisher** zipping off. **Pied Kingfishers** were common too of course – often hovering just a few metres in front of us and providing some great photo opportunities. Working our way through to the semi-wooded fringe of the ricefields, Modou whistled for the Pearl-spotted Owlet – it didn't appear, but instead we ended up with a bushful of spectacular **Bearded Barbets**, **Splendid Sunbird**, **Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleu**, **Grey-headed Sparrow** and others – wow! Re-joining our driver, we made the very short hop across to Abuko Nature Reserve, where we would spend the rest of the morning.



Red-cheeked Cordonbleu, Lamin Ricefields. Part of a small flock attracted to the owlet call

Abuko is a small remnant of the coastal forest which once would have covered this part of The Gambia, and it forms an important refuge for many shy and tricky species. It was splendid today, and provided us with some outstanding sightings. By the footbridge, we saw both **Blue-breasted** and **Woodland Kingfishers** virtually side by side, and Broad-billed Rollers were sallying from the treetops by the observation hide. This vantage point overlooks the larger pool, and there were several **Fanti**

Saw-wing Swallows whizzing low over the water in front of us. A larger, 'white-rumped' swift appeared and zipped through quickly to drink – it was a **Mottled Spinetail**, a species normally highly mobile and difficult to view well. Two appeared together, and gave unrivalled views as they passed back and forth low to the water. Also from the hide, a **Hammerkop** posed beautifully, and three **Black-headed Herons** were roosting in a big tree at the back. One of the other local guides then spotted two **Palm-nut Vultures**, perched quietly up at the far side in a big emergent palm tree. A Pied Crow flushed one of them towards us, and it landed even closer – what a bird! Along the quiet, shaded forest trails, we found more good birds – **Red-bellied** and **African Paradise Flycatchers**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, **Common Wattle-eye** and two superb **Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters** which perched up for scope views. The highlight though was a well camouflaged **Green Turaco**, the shyest of the two turaco species, showing right out in the open for everyone to get superb views. A morning that was hard to top – and now it was time to continue to our lunch stop on the coast near Tanji. Modou had one last roadside stop for us though, for amazing views of a **Blue-bellied Roller** on the wires!



Blue-bellied Roller, near Abuko – this roadside stunner was oblivious to our presence

At Haddies restaurant, we had another treat in store, as many small birds come to drink here from the carefully constructed pools, right by the lunch table! By sitting in the shade and patiently watching, we saw scores of Common Bulbuls, Village and **Black-necked Weavers**, and gorgeous **Blue-spotted Wood-doves**. **Red-billed Firefinch** and **Orange-cheeked Waxbill** were also popping in and out, and over the next hour we added amazing views of **Snowy-crowned Robin-chat**, **African Pygmy Kingfisher**, Red-bellied Flycatcher, Common Wattle-eye, **Black-capped Babbler**, **African Thrush** and the star of the show – a young male **Western Bluebill**. Less exciting but nonetheless a fairly uncommon migrant in The Gambia, was a lovely **Garden Warbler** coming down to drink among all the doves and weavers! Not a bad lunch stop, and one we would certainly return to later in the week.



Green Turaco, Abuko. Fantastic views out in the open for over fifteen minutes!

Heading back towards Kotu, we made a roadside stop at an innocuous looking spot where Modou said we might find African Silverbill. It was one of those spots that looked like 'nothing' but which held a mind-blowing load of birds! First three gorgeous **Black-headed Lapwing** were spotted among some melon fields, and then a male **Variable Sunbird**, perched up next to Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu and a female **Village Indigobird**. These were then joined by a party of **White-billed Buffalo Weavers**, and then five **African Silverbills**! It was hard to know what to look at first! A female **Subalpine Warbler** was picked up in a small acacia, a **Grey Kestrel** flew in and landed on a pole above us and **Tawny-flanked Prinia** was seen at very close range. As we walked back through the fields to the road to meet the van, a male **Northern Red Bishop** popped up by the path, and a family party of **Wattled Plovers** were standing among a cultivation of Wonjo.

Reaching Kotu Bridge just after 5pm [where had the day gone?], some of us opted for a short stop there for the last part of the day. Two **Giant Kingfishers** were on the wires, and the views of these and the numerous Pied Kingfishers were just ridiculous! We saw Whinbrels and Senegal Thick-knees twenty feet away, and scoped an **African Darter** up on the mangroves. Red-chested and **Wire-tailed Swallows**, Common Chiffchaff, Redshank, Common Sandpiper, Striated Heron and Black-winged Stilt were also seen – a very full notebook on our first full days birding in The Gambia!



Pied Kingfisher – one of six species of kingfisher seen today!

SUNDAY 18TH NOVEMBER – *Overcast with a few rain spots, 24C*

Today was perhaps the coolest we had ever experienced in The Gambia, with the persisting cloud cover making perfect pleasant conditions for birding – we didn't mind the few spots of rain, even if the hordes of sun-worshippers probably did! We set off at 8am and headed south towards Tujerang, where we would spend the morning birding in open savannah country looking for some very special birds. The half hour drive took one hour, because we had to stop for some birds along the way! First a pair of obliging **Grey Kestrels**, and another Blue-bellied Roller, and then a brilliant spot by Modou of a group of **African Green Pigeons** up in a big roadside tree. The pigeons were typically hidden among the canopy, but with a scope we had excellent views of them. **African Grey Hornbill**, **Lesser Blue-eared Glossy** and Long-tailed Glossy Starling and our first **Green Wood-hoopoes** all appeared at once too. All were beaten though by a superb **Violet Turaco**, perched in the same view as a **Pearl-spotted Owlet** which Modou whistled out into the open for us – madness! Before we reached the turning for Tujerang we had one more stop – a **Red-necked Falcon** flew up onto a mast and perched nicely for us to nip out of the bus for a quick scope view.

Reaching Tujerang we were pleased to find we had the place to ourselves, and we began working our way around the various sandy tracks through areas of cultivation, where local people were growing peanuts and other crops among occasional stands of acacia and larger trees. Birds came thick and fast – **Yellow-fronted Canary**, Willow Warbler, **Western Olivaceous Warbler**, **Black-crowned Tchagra**

and **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** all appearing within moments of getting out of the bus. Walking a bit through the bushy areas, we found both **Whistling** and **Singing Cisticolas**, **Veillot's Barbet**, **Variable Sunbird** and **Little Bee-eater**. One productive spot produced a super **Brown-backed Woodpecker**, a tricky species to connect with, and this was shortly followed up by two **Levalliant's Cuckoo's**, a **Eurasian Wryneck** posing in the open, and a **Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-weaver** – one of the key birds for this location. **Melodious Warbler** was also noted briefly, and overhead we picked up **Red-chested Swallow** and **Mottled Spinetail**. A great spot by Dave then ensured everyone would get some excellent views of a fine male **African Golden Oriole** in trees close to the track – what a bird!



Black Scimitarbill, Tujerang – one of the most sought-after species seen today

Re-joining the main track, we tried a new area and had more good success with several sought-after species. **Abyssinian** and **Rufous-crowned Rollers** were both seen in quick succession, along with our first views of **Pied-winged Swallow** and a fine **Double-spurred Francolin** standing proud on a wall! Modou then whistled in one of the days highlights – a **Black Scimitarbill** which flew right in and landed above our heads, calling in the open for everyone to see. A **Red-winged Warbler** showed up in the same tree, and a **Dark Chanting Goshawk** flew right past us – we literally didn't know where to look next as top birds were just being called out one after the other! **Grey Woodpecker** and **Common Wattle-eye** were all noted in the same area of trees, before Modou called out that he had seen a **Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrike**! Surely we wouldn't bag up one of those as well?! A tense fifteen minutes followed with no further sign, and then a bulbul sized bird with olive green upperparts flew

across the track ahead of us. It was the **Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrike**, and by standing quietly and waiting we managed some really good views of it feeding low down, always a bit hidden, but just occasionally popping briefly into the open and drawing gasps as its stunning 'sulphur breast' could be seen. A really top drawer session here today! Returning to the van, we were now ready to return to the same lunch stop as yesterday, about half an hours drive back to the north.



Abyssinian Roller – look at that tail!

For the first hour or so, the drinking pools at the lunch stop were very quiet indeed. It was very overcast and spitting with rain, and the birds obviously didn't feel the need to come down. After lunch though, the sun broke through and instantly things began to happen, with first the bulbuls and doves eventually drawing many of yesterdays species back into view – Snowy-crowned Robin-chat, Red-bellied and African Paradise Flycatchers, African Thrush, both wood-doves, Common Wattle-eye, African Pygmy Kingfisher, **Little Greenbul**, Blackcap Babbler and **Green-backed Camaroptera**. Best bird was an adult male **Western Bluebill**, different to the immature seen yesterday. After lunch, we drove back along to Tanji beach to look for gulls and terns. Lots of Grey-headed Gulls were seen, along with great views of Caspian, Common Sandwich and **African Royal Terns**, Osprey, **Pink-backed and White Pelicans**. As we left, we picked up Western Reef Heron, Spur-winged Plover, Greenshank and Redshank n the creek, and a **Senegal Coucal** perched up in the open.

Returning to Kotu for the end of the day, we took a walk along the cycle track which passes through cultivations of rice and sorghum, palm trees and grassland with marshy pools. Cracking views of Blue-bellied Roller and Senegal Coucal were had among the palms, and then a bird Modou had never seen here before and one of the days highlights – a stunning **Long-crested Eagle**! The bird was quite obliging, and allowed us to approach closer for some pictures before it was sent packing by a horde of Yellow-billed Kites. Other species seen well along the track included adult and young Tawny-flanked Prinia, Wattled Plover and Long-tailed Glossy Starlings, which were feeding on the path right in front of us. The small pond behind the old Badala Park Hotel proved a bit of a masterstroke, as we picked up two cracking **Greater Painted Snipe** feeding at the back of the pool in the open – always hit

and miss here in the dry season. **Haded** Ibis, Green Sandpiper, Black-winged Stilt, **Black Egret** and **Malachite Kingfisher** were also seen well at this hotspot. We re-joined the cycle track and wandered along the last section towards Kotu, picking up a Woodland Kingfisher, Brown Babbler, more Black Egrets, Senegal Coucal and Fork-tailed Drongo. This left us fifteen minutes or so at last knockings to enjoy Kotu Bridge with the setting sun behind us. Pied and Blue-breasted Kingfishers were on show, **Wire-tailed Swallows** were whizzing past our heads and the usual selection of palearctic waders among the hordes of Senegal Thick-knees, iced the cake of a brilliant days birding.



Western Bluebill taking a bath at Tanji today

MONDAY 19TH NOVEMBER – *Sunny and hot, 30C*

Today we had a longer day in the field, as we headed east to the forest areas around Pirang and Farasuto. First stop though was the huge area of pans just beyond Pirang known as the shrimp farm, and here we would enjoy a veritable feast of waterbirds to bolster our burgeoning checklist! As we took the main track out onto the pans, we saw our first **West African Swallows** [Red-rumped Swallow of the distinct African race *domicella*], Wood Sandpiper and a distant snake-eagle perched on a bare tree which turned out to be a subadult **Short-toed Eagle** after better views were obtained. At the first wet areas we found groups of migrant Yellow Wagtails, flocks of White-faced Whistling Ducks and a single **Spur-winged Goose**. Subalpine and Western Olivaceous Warblers and a pair of **Northern Crombec** were noted in the spiny acacias by the waterside, and careful checking through the hordes of hirundines yielded two lovely **Rufous-chested Swallows** among the many Wire-tailed and West African Swallows present. **Crested Lark** could be seen and heard around the drier pans, and there were a couple of **Gull-billed Terns** cruising around, occasionally passing really close to us. The farthest pans were the most productive today, and here we found big flocks of Pink-backed and

Great White Pelicans, Yellow-billed Storks and both Eurasian and **African Spoonbills**. Waders included many **Little Stint**, **Curlew Sandpiper** and Dunlin among a scattering of other common species, and a party of wintering **Little Terns** was lovely to see. A nice bonus and a great spot by Modou, was our first ever **Black-faced Quailfinch** on a Gambia tour – eventually everyone managed a good view through the scope, as this tiny bird skulked under some small shrubs by the side of the path. Walking back we had fantastic views of a party of **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters**, sallying out from the tops of the mangroves. Four **White-throated Bee-eaters** were among them, and we ended up having both species side by side in the scope – a brilliant morning!



Namaqua Dove – this delightful and diminutive dove landed right in front of us at Pirang

Now it was time to head into nearby Pirang Forest, and have a try for some of the elusive residents there that would be extremely difficult to find elsewhere. In truth, the forest was quiet today and we had to put a lot of effort in for what we saw, but it was still worth it. A troop of **Guniea Baboons** was a surprise – another tour first – roving around on the forest floor by the entrance. Once we entered deeper into the dark tangled forest, birds were harder to find – we saw Common Wattle-eye, Yellow-breasted Apalis and Red-bellied Flycatcher, while the localised **Green Crombec** also showed well in the high canopy. In the more open area, we found mixed flocks of **Orange-cheeked Waxbill** and Bronze Mannakin, a few Little Bee-eaters, Lesser Honeyguide and our first **Whalberg's Eagle** drifting overhead. The White-spotted Flufftail is one of the main target birds that encourages birders to Pirang, but it is in truth becoming increasingly difficult to find here and we didn't get close to a sighting – though we did instead have excellent views of a roosting **Verraux's Eagle Owl**, which provided more than a bit of compensation! On to lunch, which we were all ready for by now as it was much hotter today, and we had done a lot of walking!



Verraux's Eagle Owl – the first of four species of owl seen today!

Our lunch stop near Bonto village provided a welcome rest in the shade, and even from the lunch table we could hear our next target bird calling – the localised **Brown-hooded Parrot**. First though we got to see the roosting **Barn Owl** in the massive capoc tree in the garden of the restaurant! The parrots were located a little further down the track after lunch, and we had good scope views of one feeding quietly among the high branches in the same tree as an **African Pied Hornbill**. As always the day had gone far too quickly and it was already past 4pm by the time we reached nearby Farasuto Forest reserve and met our local guide there for a quick whip round some of the specialities on offer! Just by the entrance, we saw a **Dark Chanting Goshawk** having a tussle with a Marsh Harrier and flushed a **Woodchat Shrike** up off the track ahead of us. **Yellow-crowned Gonolek** was a species we had heard many times but only really glimpsed so far, so it was great to see two perched up in the open here, even if they were hard to photograph! A Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird appeared in the same dead tree as a party of Brown Babblers, before we headed in the depths of the forest for the first of a duo of roosting owls. **African Wood Owl** was yet another new species in a decade of Gambia trips, and we had excellent views of it too, gazing down at us from its daytime roost. By the small ponds, we found two **White-backed Night Herons** in their 'usual' mangrove tree, and we ended up with a party of **Black-rumped Waxbills** which joined Little Greenbul and others at the drinking troughs by the entrance. With the sun beginning to set on another full day, we ended with amazing views of a roosting **Greyish Eagle Owl**, our fourth owl of the day and perhaps the best of the lot!



African Wood and Greyish Eagle Owls – completing our quartet for the day!

TUESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER – *Hot and sunny, 30C*

After a long day yesterday, we took it a bit easier today with a relaxed birding session at Brufut in the morning and a bit of a chill out after lunch in the heat of the day. Brufut always provides excellent birding, especially with local guide Abba who always joins our group there for the walk round, as he knows all the best local spots for up to the minute sightings! Just around the junction of the sand roads beyond the village, we began birding, seeing many common species such as Red-billed and African Grey Hornbills, Ring-necked Parakeets and flyover Senegal Parrots. In the bushes, a male Splendid Sunbird showed well and a Black-billed Wood-dove was piping out its mournful, descending song, always ab backdrop soundtrack to West African birding! Then things started to get busy, and with Modou and Abba both whistling the owlet calls, we ended up with quite a bush full – **Vitelline Masked** and **Little Weavers**, a smart male **Copper Sunbird**, **Melodious Warbler**, **Northern Puffback**, two each of Fork-tailed Drongo and **Northern Black Flycatcher**, and numerous little finches! Abba dragged us away, as he wanted to show us a roosting **White-faced Scops Owl** – the bird was looking most unimpressed, glowering down at us from its partly hidden daytime perch – goodness knows how the locals find them! In the same area, we had great views of **Fine-spotted Woodpecker**, and a **Red-necked Falcon** swooped in and landed on the top of a big mango tree. There were some good views of a couple of species which we had seen earlier in the week, too – notably a cracking **African Harrier-hawk**, **Bearded Barbet** and parties of Brown Babblers, while two White-crowned Robin-chats were surprisingly our first of the trip. Heading back onto the main track, we drove a short distance to the 'Woodland Bar', where the local bird guides gather and offer both birds and people a refreshing drink! We enjoyed sitting in the shade, watching all manner of birds coming to within a few metres of us – **Lavendar Waxbill**, **Yellow-throated Leaflove**, **Vitelline Masked Weaver**, **Yellow-crowned Gonolek**, **Orange-cheeked Waxbill**, **African Pygmy Kingfisher** and many, many others. A **Green Turaco** even appeared, but was just too shy to come right down, and overhead two **Lanner Falcons** circled over.



Long-tailed Nightjar – roosting at Brufut Woods

Next Abba took us along one of the trails into more open scrubby woodland, with **Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters** and **Green-backed Camaroptera** for company. The target here though was a day roosting **Long-tailed Nightjar** – if we thought the owl was a good spot, then this was ridiculous! Exactly the same colour as the brown leaves it was resting amongst, some of the group could only see it when the laser light was pointed on its tail! Great views of a superb bird!



African Pygmy Kingfisher having just taken a bath at the 'Woodland Bar' drinking spot

A quick walk round the edge of the forest didn't produce much else in the hot sun – Splendid Sunbird and Yellow-fronted Canary being about the best of it. Finally, back at the Woodland Bar, we had a brief but good sighting of a **Greater Honeyguide**, our first one of the tour.



Giant Kingfisher – seen regularly at Kotu Bridge throughout the week

The morning had passed in a flash, and now it was time to drive the short way to Haddie's place for lunch. We loved this place, with its productive drinking pools for birds and the best lunch in The Gambia! We had all the usual suspects coming to the water pots again, plus a **Levaillant's Cuckoo** and Little Bee-eater! **Grey Woodpecker** and Garden Warbler were seen around the grounds, and along the shoreline some of us saw a large raptor drift by briefly that was most likely a Booted Eagle. Now we returned to Kotu and had a couple of hours chilling out at the hotel – after a couple of pretty long days folk needed a bit of a break from the sun and a chance to edit photos, catch up with notes and just rest by the pool. Afterwards, we met up again and took a short walk up to Kotu bridge for the last hour of the day. It was certainly a bonus to have this great birding spot within walking distance, and as well as all the usuals such as Pied Kingfisher, Senegal Thick-knee and various herons and waders, we also had excellent close views of a pair of **Giant Kingfishers**. Totally out of the blue though, was a male **Black-bellied Bustard** flying high overhead! It appeared to drift down onto Fajara Golf Course – another Gambian first for our tours here!

WEDNESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER – *Hot and sunny, 32C*

Today we headed inland and spent the morning birding in the Marakissa area. It was already getting pretty hot in the open areas under the clear blue skies, and we were thankful that we could dip in and out of the shade at the forest fringe from time to time. Our birding in this area was actually pretty slow, but punctuated by one or two excellent sightings. The first was a beautiful **African Green Pigeon**, perched out in the open in perfect light. As we continued on, Modou was constantly whistling various species, trying to bring things out for us to see – he stopped quickly in his tracks though when a pair of **Leaflove** began to call from the undergrowth close by. Apparently this species

has become very scarce in recent years and he did not know of anyone who had seen it for some time – we were lucky then to get some good views of the two birds, and even managed some sketchy photos as proof of our sighting!



African Green Pigeon – a shy bird not often seen out in the open

Right afterwards, Modou's persistent whistling of **Klaas's Cuckoo** finally paid off as a pair appeared in a tree right in front of us and began courting. The metallic emerald green of their plumage just looked outrageous in the morning sunshine – what beautiful birds! **Collared Sunbird** was another good bird seen here, and our first of the tour – two Lizard Buzzards, **Violet Turaco** and **Wahlberg's Eagle** were also seen, before we returned to the coach. Next stop was the nearby bridge, overlooking some marshy pools. African Darter and Woodland Kingfisher were seen, and some of the group saw a **Hammerkop** too. Into the shade of the nearby restaurant then, and while we couldn't eat here today [the owner was attending a funeral] we could still enjoy a drink in the shade and watch the drinking pots for a bit to see what would come down. It was fairly quiet – just a lot of Piapiac's and Long-tailed Glossy Starlings – but great views of Crocodile in the river here was some compensation!

We had arranged to have lunch over at Sanyang on the coast, a journey of about forty five minutes. What a fantastic lunch it was too – a hearty buffet of traditional Gambian dishes, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Afterwards, we all felt as if we needed a good walk, so headed off down the beach where the local fisherman were busy bringing their boats ashore. There were lots of Grey-headed Gulls here, but not much else, so we continued down the beach to an area of acacia scrub to check for palearctic migrants. Whistling the owlet calls, we soon had a tree full of small birds just above us – **Western Bonelli's Warbler**, Subalpine Warbler, Common Chiffchaff, Western Olivaceous Warbler and Melodious Warbler all appeared instantly! Modou suggested we walk a bit further in, as there seemed to be lots of birds here – this was a great move, as a **Pearl-spotted Owlet** responded to our

calls and came in, bringing with it an entourage of small birds! After enjoying the owl itself, we began working through the flocks – more warblers of many species, including a Willow Warbler for the day list. Variable and **Scarlet-chested Sunbirds**, a moulting male **Pin-tailed Whydah**, Northern Crombec, Senegal Coucal, two **Black-crowned Tchagra's**, a Yellow-crowned Gonolek and a pair of **Fine-spotted Woodpeckers** all appeared in the same tree – absolute madness! Once we were satisfied we had identified everything, we headed back out onto the beach and walked back up to the restaurant. Here we met the driver again, and made the short hop to the nearby lagoon to check for waterbirds. Two **African Spoonbills** could be seen, along with great views of Squacco Heron, Sacred Ibis, Striated Heron, African Jacana and Malachite Kingfisher. After a slow start, the day had exploded into life!



Displaying Klaas's Cuckoos, Marakissa

Feeling as if we were on a bit of a roll, we made one more short stop on the way back, in open cultivated savannah habitat close to the coastal highway. Modou whistled the owl call again, and in came the birds – Northern Crombec, Melodious Warbler, **Scarlet-chested Sunbird**, Variable Sunbird, Black-crowned Tchagra and a new bird for the trip, the delightful **Senegal Eremomela**. From here it was back to the hotel, ready for a busy final day tomorrow.

THURSDAY 22ND NOVEMBER – *Hazy sunshine, 34C*

For the finale to our tour, we headed south to the border with Senegal and spent the day birding around the fantastic Kartong Bird Observatory. After a twenty minute delay sorting out the [pre-arranged!] packed breakfast which never appeared, we eventually got on our way and arrived at our friend Colin Cross's compound around 8am, overlooking the main lagoon at Kartong Bird Observatory. Tea, coffee and breakfast made us all feel more awake and ready to start birding, which we did from the top deck of the 'viewing gallery'. Squacco Heron, **Purple Swamp-hen**, Bronze-tailed Glossy Starling, Malachite Kingfisher and big flocks of White-faced Whistling Ducks were just some

of the species enjoyed here, before we set off on foot along the main road through the site, birding the various reed beds and open freshwater pools as we went. There were many hundreds of whistling ducks, concentrated in big flocks in each of the pools, and egrets and herons were everywhere. Among the trees and bushes along the side of the track we saw a family of Tawny-flanked Prinias, Zitting Cisticole, **Black-rumped Waxbill**, Blue-bellied Roller, Yellow-crowned Gonolek, Red-billed Hornbill and heard a **Great Reed Warbler** singing. One of the features of Kartong are the Ospreys, a constant feature throughout the day – at one point we had three perched in one tree! Grey Kestrel, African Harrier-hawk, Black Kite of the European race, Lanner and Lizard Buzzard were some of the other frequently seen raptors along the walk. Carefully checking the various pools, we found two **Black-tailed Godwits** [most likely *limosa* here], two **Wood Sandpipers**, Black-winged Stilt, six Black-headed Herons and a small colony of **Yellow-backed Weavers**. We met Ebrima here who has guided our groups in the past, and he had just seen some Four-banded Sandgrouse nearby so we went to look for them. An **Abyssinian Roller** side-tracked us though, hunting from the scattered acacias and giving exceptional close up views.



A very obliging Abyssinian Roller at Kartong

We couldn't find the sandgrouse, so continued on towards the coastal scrub, picking up a **Plain-backed Pipit** on the way. The mature acacia near the coast here is an excellent refuge for palearctic migrants, and we were not disappointed – good views of **Western Orphean Warbler**, several

Subalpine and Western Olivaceous Warblers and a **Common Nightingale** were seen, along with local birds such as Northern Crombec and **Rufous-crowned Roller**. Two of the group hung back to 'use the facilities', and flushed two **Four-banded Sandgrouse**! Thankfully these well camouflaged birds are not normally shy, and don't flush very far – we soon relocated them, and had some good views – just stunning birds! Reaching the mangroves at the back of the beach, we enjoyed Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters up close and a **Bedouin's Snake Eagle** hovering right above us, before heading out onto the beach to look for waders. Oystercatcher, Grey Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit were new for the trip list, and we also found a small wintering flock of **Kentish Plovers**, including the same leg flagged bird we saw last year – ringed in Brittany in Northern France! The resident and very localised **White-fronted Plover** is a big target bird here though, and is very similar to Kentish in appearance. We located three in the end, including two photogenic birds at the top of the beach. A great morning, and now it was time for a cold drink in the shade, before heading off to Stala for lunch.



The massive Goliath Heron seen from our boat trip at Stala

After yet another excellent buffet lunch followed, and we could sit and watch the river as we ate, looking across into Senegal on the other side. Afterwards, we took a leisurely boat trip on the river for an hour or so, which was superb. We enjoyed mega close views of massed ranks of roosting Caspian and Royal Terns, **Slender-billed Gulls** and Pink-backed Pelicans, with a scattering of Greenshank, Whimbrel, Grey and Common Ringed Plovers and Common Sandpipers. We continued down towards the river mouth, and here we found one of the days highlights – a massive **Goliath Heron** fishing from the river bank. We were able to get really close to it in the boat, perhaps the best views we have ever had of one here. Trundling back upstream, we watched Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters over

the mangroves, and had more superb views of **Gull-billed Tern** and pink flushed **Slender-billed Gulls**. Back at Stala, we met up with our driver again for the one hour trip back to Kotu – it had been a long, hot day, but well worth the effort.



Blue-cheeked Bee-eater – several flocks seen at Kartong today

FRIDAY 23RD NOVEMBER – *Hot and sunny, 32C*

Our final morning was a relaxed affair, as our early afternoon departure to the airport meant we were unable to travel too far in the morning. Some of us met at Kotu bridge before breakfast, enjoying excellent views of a pair of **Oriole Warblers**, a **Northern Puffback** and single overhead **Little Swift** among all the 'usuals'. A short seawatch off the beach also added a distant Northern Gannet. After a leisurely breakfast and check out, we were able to store our luggage and meet Modou and our driver for the last time and make the short trip along to Senegambia Beach Hotel. Our aim here was to spend an hour or so birding the extensive gardens, watch the vulture feeding and enjoy a beach bar lunch before our departure. The hotel is undergoing an overhaul at the moment, with the reduced capacity meaning we were unable to stay here this year. The grounds are the best place around for getting

close views and photos of **White-crowned Robin-chat** and **Yellow-crowned Gonolek**, and we saw both these species with ease.



The spectacular Bearded Barbet is always a highlight of any trip to The Gambia!

Senegal Parrots and **Grey Woodpecker** were another example of species which we had not seen particularly well, but which we were now able to get great views of. Long-tailed Glossy and Bronze-tailed Glossy Starlings, Shikra, Broad-billed Roller, Red-billed and African Grey Hornbills and **Bearded Barbet** were some of the other highlights, making for a really nice final birding session. We watched the vulture feeding over a welcome coffee – hordes of Hooded Vultures arrive to take advantage of the free kitchen scraps, and Yellow-billed Kites swoop down en masse to snatch tit bits thrown into the air. At the beach bar, we had our final lunch with Modou and El Hajj, thanking them for an excellent weeks birding in The Gambia. Our flight back to London departed on time around 1800, and we reached London at midnight.

Gambia - Birding the Smiling Coast - November 2018

*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	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1	White-faced Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>			•	•	•		•	
2	Double-spurred Francolin	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>			•					
3	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>				•				
4	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>			•	•				
5	Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>			•	•			•	
6	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		•				•		•
7	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	
8	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>		•	•			•	•	
9	Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>							•	
10	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				•				
11	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		•	•	•		•	•	
12	Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>		•		•				
13	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		•	•			•	•	
14	Western Reef-Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
15	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>		•	•					
16	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
17	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		•	•			•	•	
18	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>		•			•	•		
19	White-backed Night-Heron	<i>Gorsachius leuconotus</i>				•				
20	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>				•		•		
21	African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>		•			•	•	•	
22	Long-tailed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>		•	•	•	•		•	•
23	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		•				•	•	
24	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			•			•	•	
25	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>			•				•	
26	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
27	African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>		•		•	•	•	•	

#	Common Name	Scientific name		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
28	Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>			•		•	•				
29	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
30	Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>				•						
31	Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraetus wahlbergi</i>					•		•			
32	Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>			•				•	•		
33	Dark Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>				•	•					
34	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>					•			•		
35	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>			•	•		•	•	•	•	
36	Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>						•				
37	Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
38	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			•	•	•	•		•		
39	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>								•		
40	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
41	Black-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus tectus</i>			•							
42	Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•		
43	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>								•		
44	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			•	•	•			•		
45	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			•							
46	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>								•		
47	Greater Painted-Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>				•						
48	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>			•	•			•	•		
49	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
50	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>								•		
51	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>				•				•		
52	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>					•					
53	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•		
54	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			•	•	•					
55	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•		
56	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>					•			•		
57	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			•	•	•		•	•		
58	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>					•			•		

#	Common Name	Scientific name		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
59	Grey-hooded Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>			•	•		•	•	•		
60	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			•	•		•	•	•	•	
61	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>					•					
62	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>					•			•		
63	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•		
64	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				•						
65	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>				•			•	•	•	
66	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>				•				•		
67	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>							•			
68	Four-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles quadricinctus</i>								•		
69	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
70	Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>		•	•				•			
71	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
72	Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•		
73	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
74	Black-billed Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•		
75	Blue-spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>			•	•		•				
76	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>					•					
77	African Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>				•			•	•		
78	Guinea Turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>			•			•				
79	Violet Turaco	<i>Musophaga violacea</i>			•	•	•		•			
80	Western Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
81	Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>				•	•	•	•	•		
82	Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>				•		•				
83	Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>							•			
84	Northern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>						•				
85	Verreaux's Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>					•					
86	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>				•			•			
87	Long-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i>						•				
88	Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>			•	•						
89	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>		•						•	•	

#	Common Name	Scientific name		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
90	African Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
91	Green Woodhoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>				•		•		•		
92	Black Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>				•						
93	African Pied Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros fasciatus</i>					•		•			
94	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
95	Western Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus kemp</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
96	Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>			•	•	•		•	•		
97	African Pygmy-Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>			•	•		•				
98	Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>			•	•			•			
99	Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>			•	•		•				
100	Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>			•			•	•			
101	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
102	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>			•	•	•	•	•			
103	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>			•			•				
104	White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>					•					
105	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>			•		•			•		
106	Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>				•	•			•		
107	Rufous-crowned Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>				•				•		
108	Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
109	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>			•		•	•		•	•	
110	Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>				•	•	•				
111	Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieilloti</i>				•				•		
112	Bearded Barbet	<i>Indicator minor</i>			•			•			•	
113	Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>			•		•		•		•	
114	Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicatoridae sp.</i>						•				
115	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus fuscescens</i>						•				
116	Brown-backed Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus obsoletus</i>				•						
117	African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus goertae</i>				•		•			•	
118	Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>						•	•			
119	Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
120	Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>				•		•				

#	Common Name	Scientific name		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
121	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>					•	•	•	•		
122	Ring-necked Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>			•	•		•		•		
123	Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>				•	•	•			•	
124	Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>			•	•	•	•				
125	Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>						•			•	
126	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>				•			•	•		
127	Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>				•	•	•	•	•	•	
128	Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus sulfureopectus</i>				•						
129	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>					•					
130	Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•		
131	African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>				•						
132	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>			•	•	•	•	•			
133	African Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>			•	•	•	•	•			
134	Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
135	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
136	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>					•			•		
137	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>					•					
138	Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
139	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
140	Pied-winged Swallow	<i>Hirundo leucosoma</i>				•						
141	Fanti Sawwing	<i>Psalidoprocne obscura</i>			•		•	•	•			
142	Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>				•	•					
143	Leaf-love	<i>Phyllastrephus scandens</i>							•			
144	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
145	Green Crombec	<i>Sylvietta virens</i>					•					
146	Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>					•		•	•		
147	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>							•	•		
148	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				•		•	•			
149	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			•				•			
150	Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna opaca</i>				•	•		•	•		
151	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>				•		•	•			

#	Common Name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
152	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			H						
153	Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>						•	•		
154	Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>			•		•				
155	Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>		•		•					
156	Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>		•	•	•			•		
157	Oriole Warbler	<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>		•						•	
158	Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>			•			•			
159	Whistling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lateralis</i>			•						
160	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>			H	•			•		
161	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		•			•				
162	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>		•		•		•	•	•	
163	Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>		•	•			•			
164	Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>		•	•	•	•	•			
165	Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>		•	•						
166	White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapillus</i>					•			•	
167	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>							•		
168	African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>		•	•	•	•				
169	Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
170	Lesser Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>			•						
171	Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>				•					
172	Bronze-tailed Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalcurus</i>		•					•	•	
173	Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>						•			
174	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>						•			
175	Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
176	Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastrus</i>		•	•		•	•	•		
177	Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>		•	•			•	•		
178	Copper Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>					•				
179	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				•			•		
180	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			•						
181	Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>							•		
182	Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>			•		•	•	•		

#	Common Name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
183	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		•	•						
184	Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
185	White-billed Buffalo-Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•		
186	Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser superciliosus</i>			•						
187	Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>					•				
188	Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
189	Vitelline Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>			•		•				
190	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
191	Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>		•		•	•				
192	Black-winged Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>					•				
193	Lavender Waxbill	<i>Estrilda caerulescens</i>					•	•			
194	Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>		•		•	•	•			
195	Western Bluebill	<i>Spermophaga haematina</i>		•	•						
196	Red-cheeked Cordonbleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•		
197	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
198	Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>		•		•	•	•		•	
199	Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>		•	•	•		•			
#	Checklist additions		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
200	African Silverbill			•							
201	Eurasian Wryneck				•						
202	Red-winged Warbler				•						
203	Spur-winged Goose					•					
204	Eurasian Spoonbill					•					
205	Short-toed Eagle					•					
206	Curlew Sandpiper					•					
207	Little Stint					•					
208	Ruff					•					
209	Greyish Eagle Owl					•					
210	African Wood Owl					•					
211	Barn Owl					•					

#	Checklist additions		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
212	Rufous-chested Swallow					•					
213	West African Swallow					•					
214	Black-rumped Waxbill					•			•		
215	Black-faced Quailfinch					•					
216	Northern Black Flycatcher			•			•	•			
217	Brown-necked Parrot					•					
218	Yellow-throated Leaflove							•			
219	Grey Plover								•		
220	Black-tailed Godwit								•		
221	Bedouin's Snake Eagle								•		
222	Northern Gannet									•	
223	Common Snipe								•		
224	Great Reed Warbler								H		
225	Pin-tailed Whydah							•			
#	Other wildlife		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1	Gambian Sun Squirrel										
2	Green Vervet Monkey										
3	Guinea Baboon										
4	Western Crocodile										
5	Nile Monitor										
#	Sites visited		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1	Lamin Ricefields			•							
2	Abuko			•							
3	Kotu Bridge			•			•			•	
4	Casino Cycle Track				•						
5	Tujerang				•						
6	Tanji			•	•		•				
7	Pirang					•					

#	Sites visited		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
8	Farasuto					•					
9	Marakissa							•			
10	Sanyang Beach							•			
11	Brufut						•				
12	Kartong								•		
13	Stala								•		
14	Senegambia									•	

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