



ORIOLE BIRDING



TOUR REPORT

THE GAMBIA — BIRDING ON THE
SMILING COAST

15TH — 22TH NOVEMBER 2019

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FRIDAY 15TH NOVEMBER – TRAVEL DAY, SENEGAMBIA BEACH HOTEL

Sunny throughout, light winds, 31C

A travel day, making our way out to The Gambia beginning at Gatwick Airport, where we met 8 eager tour participants at the Titan Airways check-in desk in South Terminal. Making our way through bag-drop and security, we had breakfast before heading for the gate and boarding our flight. Departing at 10:10, we arrived in Banjul International Airport 30 minutes earlier than anticipated, landing at 16:10. Even from the aircraft we noted our first Cattle Egrets, Pied Crows and **Hooded Vultures**, with plenty of **Speckled Pigeons** flying around outside the terminal building. Going through security and bag-reclaim was pretty smooth, and we were soon on our transfer bus, bound for the Senegambia Hotel. There was plenty to see even from the bus, with many **Yellow-billed Kites** and Hooded Vultures soaring on the warm humid air, as well as a couple of hovering Common Kestrels, while Laughing and Mourning Doves were frequent. Also picked up were a couple of **Blue-bellied Rollers**, **Red-billed Hornbills** and a small group of **Long-tailed Glossy Starlings**; all rather exotic. After about 25 minutes we reached the Senegambia Hotel, where we unloaded and were shown to our rooms in the extensive and verdant grounds; what a place! After dropping our bags, we were all eager to get out and have a look around; we still had 30 minutes of daylight to play with! The birding was excellent from the off, with a group of about 10 **Green Wood-hoopoes** showing at point blank range outside the lodges! **Western Grey Plantain-eaters** were noisy and obvious above the pool, and several **Broad-billed Rollers** were prominent and obvious around the place, as was a single **African Grey Woodpecker** in high trees. **Common Bulbuls** were noisy and easily seen, as were a pair of beautiful **White-crowned Robin-chats** which perched above the paths with a newly fledged youngster in tow. High above us were a constant wheeling procession of **African Palm Swifts**, and we managed to pick out a couple of **Mottled Spinetails** amongst them (initially assuming they were Little Swifts, but soon noting the white waistband distinctive of the former), before light faded and we called time on our first piece of Gambian birding. We enjoyed a superb buffet dinner after doing our checklist with a cold bottle of very much appreciated local beer! We can't wait to see what tomorrow brings.

SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER – LAMIN RICEFIELDS, ABUKO WOODS, TANJI AND KOTU

Sunny spells with a light cloud cover, humid, light winds, 31C

Well what a day that was! It's always a full day on the first day in The Gambia, with so many birds to take in at the different habitats on offer. We began with a walk through the hotel grounds before breakfast, noting an adult **Shikra** perched up, while Broad-billed Rollers, White-crowned Robin Chats, **Brown Babbler**, Red-billed Hornbills and a few other bits were enjoyed, along with the constant presence of low-flying Hooded Vultures and Yellow-billed Kites! At breakfast the antics of Cattle Egrets were enjoyed; don't leave your bacon unattended! Also, from the breakfast table were Speckled Pigeons, **Spur-winged Plover** and Western Grey Plantain-eaters keeping us company, before we met at 08:30 with Ebrima our guide, and Abdul our driver for the week. Setting out, the drive produced Red-billed Firefinch and **Village Indigobird** on the deck whilst in slow traffic, 5 Blue-bellied Rollers, 3 Yellow-billed Shrikes and a number of White-billed Buffalo Weavers

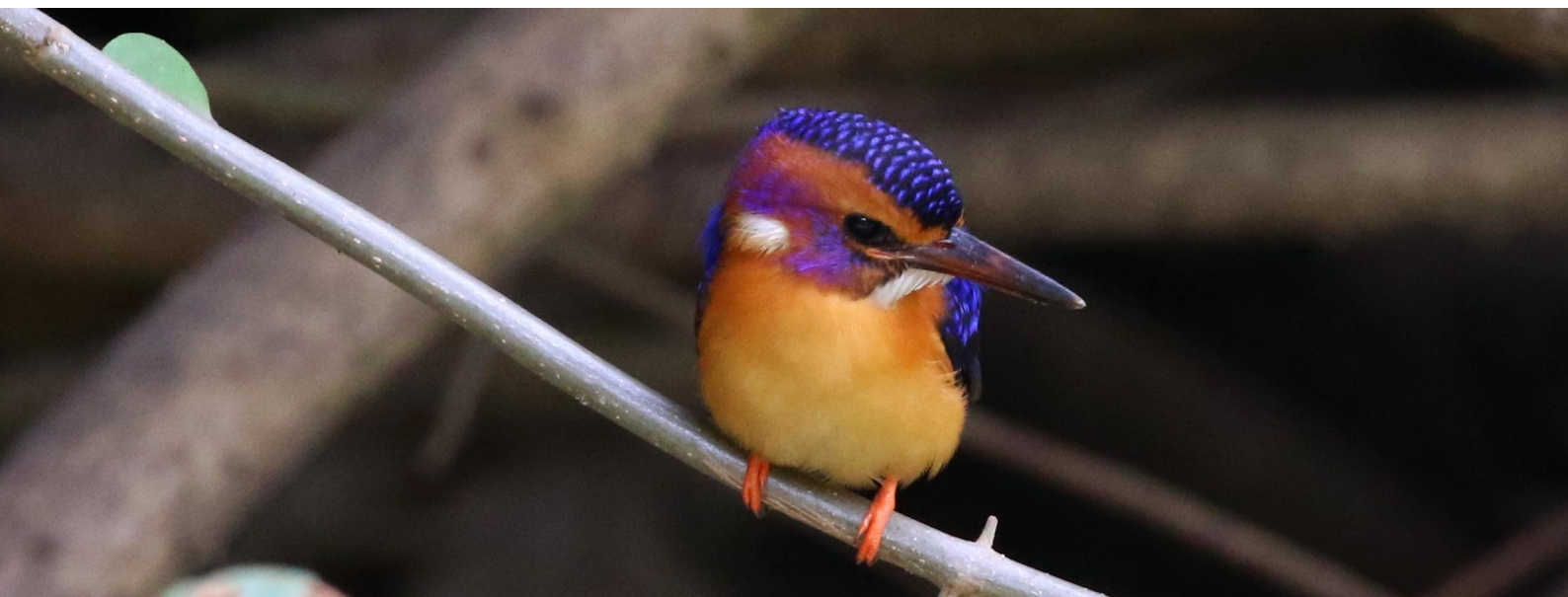
attending their nests. Our drive was to take us to the Lamin rice fields; a wet area of rice paddies and scrub, which proved impressively productive, giving us a mega introduction to Gambian birding, with many moments where we just didn't know where to look next! More Buffalo Weavers were seen well along with many Village Weavers. Herons were represented well by **Black Heron**, **Black-headed Heron**, **Great and Intermediate Egrets**, **Squacco Herons**, **Striated Heron**, in-flight **Little Bittern** and, later in the walk, a superb **Hamerkop**; an iconic African species. **African Jacana** was seen as well as a very brief **Black Crake**; not an easy bird to catch up with, as it proved, as unfortunately no one within the group saw it except the guides. **Senegal Thick-knees** were common and obliging amongst the mangroves at the wetter end of the area, while **Wattled Lapwing**, **Whimbrel** and **Common Sandpiper** were also noted. A **Lizard buzzard** showed extremely well in trees along the entrance track, and we also saw our first of many **Piapiacs**; a peculiar crow-like gregarious species. A **Senegal Coucal** showed really well and **Pied Kingfishers** even more so, but the **Little Bee-eaters** were arguably the real star; what a bird they are! **Woodland Kingfishers** were also seen well, with 3 in the area, and good numbers of **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** were vocal and mobile, but never seen perched. **African Grey** and **Red-billed Hornbill** were seen well, and a male **Northern Red Bishop** sat up in reeds, blowing a few peoples minds with its ridiculously bright plumage; really extravagant! Several **Bronze Manakins** were noted, and **Beautiful Sunbird** offered itself up to scope views for some, before we came full circle and reached the minibus; what a birding session that was! Boarding the van, we headed round to our next site; the Abuko forest reserve, still absorbing what we had just seen at the previous site!



Little Bee-eater and Pied Kingfisher at the Lamin rice-fields

Setting out into Abuko, the high canopy and dense understory of this remnant piece of gallery forest meant we had to work hard for our sightings, and with sultry and humid heat, it was certainly a challenge to keep up the energy levels. Fortunately, the birding was similarly good here, with some great species, which kept is going! From the hide overlooking the pools, the star of the show was by far and away the **Pygmy Kingfisher** which was fishing below the hide, offering superb views of this delightful tiny kingfisher. **Fanti Saw-wings** were darting over the water, along with a single **Wire-tailed Swallow**, while around 10 **Black-headed Herons** were also here roosting in the treetops. **African Paradise Flycatcher** and **Red-bellied Paradise Flycatchers** were frequently seen together here, though were surprisingly elusive amongst the foliage. Some great local species were noted here including the **Common Wattle-eye**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, **Western Bluebill** (a smart male feeding along the track), 3 **Senegal Eremomelas**, and the elusive and plain **Little Greenbul** skulking amongst the understory. We saw our first **African Thrush** of the trip here, as well as a single brief **Snowy-crowned Robin Chat**, while **Lavender Waxbills** and **Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** were also noted. Sunbirds were represented by a single **Collared** and **Splendid Sunbird**, as well as plenty of **Beautiful Sunbirds**, plus a fantastic party of **Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters**, while some of the group managed to lay eyes on a couple of **Violet Turacos** before they disappeared into cover. Other wildlife was represented by a **West African Crocodile** in the pool overlooked by the tower hide, and both **Red Colobus** and **Vervet Monkeys**; the latter in a small troop including youngsters; always nice to see. A cracking site, which felt like it was filled with promise, and took us through to lunchtime easily. This was spent at the fantastic **Tanji Bird Reserve and Eco-lodge**, where we enjoyed an outside lunch at **Haddies**; overlooking the well-known drinking pool! The food was wonderful, but was inevitably interrupted frequently by birds coming to drink constantly! Highlights of the watch were a brilliant **Oriole Warbler** which came down several times; usually a really difficult species to see well. Both **Black-billed** and **Blue-spotted Wood Doves**, a single **Pygmy Kingfisher** dashing in to bathe, several **Little Bee-eaters**, **Bronze Manakin**, **Orange-cheeked Waxbills**, **Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu**, **Little Greenbul** and **Black-necked Weavers** also visited, to name a few! Also here were tonnes of **Village Weavers**, **Common Bulbuls**, **Long-tailed Glossy Starling** and **African Thrush**; a real hive of activity and a superb spot to spend time. We did hear a **Yellow-crowned Gonolek** but didn't see it, before we took a look at the coastal dunes and beach. A **Sand Partridge** was flushed from the track but only seen by a few, while a **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** was a delightful bird that showed really well. A female **Variable Sunbird** was also observed here as well as a female **Cardinal Woodpecker**, while a couple of **Ospreys**, **Grey-hooded Gulls**, **Royal**, **Caspian**, **Sandwich** and **Common Terns** were seen along the shore, plus a single **Whimbrel**; another very rich area!

Leaving our long lunch-stop, we headed now to the **Kotu bridge**; one of **The Gambia's** most famous birdwatching sites. Again, the birding was action packed, with lots to mention! A pair of **Giant Kingfishers** were utterly stunning, sharing wires with 6 **Pied Kingfishers**, while a single **Malachite Kingfisher** also shared the water course. Waders were represented by **Wattled** and **Spur-winged Lapwings**, **Black-winged Stilts**, a single **Greenshank**, 2 **Redshank**, **Common Sandpipers**, A single **Grey Plover** and a flock of fly-over **Wood Sandpipers**. A **Striated Heron** was noted as well as **Grey Herons**, **Great Egret** and a **Western Reef Heron**, while **Long-tailed Cormorants** were also seen well. The wires hosted a flock of **Red-chested Swallows** and a single **Wire-tailed Swallow** amongst them, while the dense greenery surrounding the watercourse provided us with our first proper view of a bird we had heard a lot of today; a **Yellow-crowned Gonolek**. And what a bird, well worth the wait!



Some of the days highlights; Hamerkop, Pygmy Kingfisher and Yellow-crowned Gonolek

From here we walked to the Kotu ponds; a quartet of old sewage settling pools and a route walking through mangrove forest and grassland; again a great birding walk! Many **Ring-necked Parakeets** were seen, as were a small party of **Green Wood-hoopoes** in the trees. A **Grey-headed Sparrow** was seen at the entrance track, while many of the commoner doves (**Mourning**, **Laughing**, **Vinaceous** and **Red-eyed Doves**), **Village Weavers** and a sky full of **Hooded Vultures** and **Yellow-billed Kites** and **African Palm Swifts** meant there were always birds to be seen. However, reaching the pools, a real surprise was in store, which easily made it bird of the day, if not the trip; a stunning **EGYPTIAN PLOVER**! An outrageous bird to see here in the west of The Gambia, this bird had been discovered 3 weeks ago here; possibly a first for the river mouth area of Kotu ever! We weren't sure it was still present, so what a treat to have it here, showing incredibly well amongst **Black-winged Stilts** and **Common Sandpipers**. Also here were a single **Blue-breasted Kingfisher** (making it 6 species of kingfisher today; outrageous!), another **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**, 2 elusive **Fine-spotted Woodpeckers** in the mangroves, 2 **Bronze-tailed Starlings**, **Senegal Coucal** and a single elusive **Western Olivaceous Warbler**, as we reached the bridge again, greeted by a surprise adult **Palm-nut Vulture** as it floated overhead, to wrap up the days fantastic birding. The Egyptian Plover was a hell of a way to finish up, it has to be said, but the general volume and variety of birds has been truly superb today, with more to come tomorrow; we can't wait!



Contender for bird of the trip, this Egyptian Plover doesn't usually feature on our Gambia tour!

SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER – TUJERANG SAVANNAH AND SANYANG

Sunny most of the day, humid, light winds, 31C

Our second day in The Gambia saw us visit the open savannah habitat at Tujerang; a site about 30 minutes-drive from the Senegambia Hotel, but in reality it took us more like an hour and a half to reach it, as we kept stopping for great birds! **Blue-bellied Rollers** posed on overhead wires and allowed us great views, while a **Double-spurred Francolin** posed on the top of a wall and allowed views from the vehicle. A **Black-winged Red Bishop** was vocal in long grasses, as were **Zitting Cisticola** and **Tawny-flanked Prinia**. Our first **African Harrier-hawk** was seen well overhead, while a brilliant spot from Ebrima got us all out of the bus for a couple of **African Green Pigeons** in mango trees, giving decent unobscured views; now that's a colourful pigeon! The birds continued to come thick and fast, with good views of **Violet Turacos** emerging from the large mature trees, a single **Fork-tailed Drongo**, 2 **Senegal Parrots** feeding on red flowers, a very showy **Variable Sunbird**, both **Red-billed** and **African Grey Hornbills**, **Lizard Buzzard**, **Shikra**, a couple of **Yellow-billed Shrikes** and a party of **Greater Blue-eared Starlings** all keeping us very entertained. We soon entered the savannah at Tujerang, where a walk around the sandy tracks and long grasses yielded a number of great birds. Another **Tawny-flanked Prinia** greeted us at the entrance, while **Whistling Cisticolas** were vocal, and eventually gave themselves up nicely in the long grasses. **Yellow-fronted Canaries** were common and **Little Bee-eater** were seen really well as we walked the first trail, which opened up into a field of ground-nut plantation; of which the surrounding savannah produced some brilliant birds. Time spent observing this area, with Ebrima whistling birds out of the undergrowth, proved really productive, with a **Klaas's Cuckoo** sitting up for us and flycatching from exposed perches, a **Brubru** sharing the same trees, two brilliant **White-fronted Black Chats** (not a species we see every year here), **Scarlet-chested Sunbird**, **Vitelline Masked Weaver** visiting its nest, two fly-by **Namaqua Doves** (one of which showed well in nearby trees) and a few more familiar migrants, including 3 **Whinchats**, **Yellow Wagtail**, **Chiffchaff** and 3 **Willow Warblers**. We walked back onto the sandy track from here, and picked up some more good birds, including both **Vieillot's Barbet** and **Bearded Barbet** in the same trees, a **Black-crowned Tchagra** giving its surprisingly beautiful song, **Singing Cisticola** and a rather elusive **Red-winged Warbler**. A dramatic highlight came in the form of a really close fly-by **Black-shouldered Kite** which came overhead, before perching up in an acacia, disturbing a second bird and proceeding to display, pumping its tail up and down whilst standing hunched over on the tree-top; a brilliant bird. A cracking **Rufous-crowned Roller** gave a fine ending to the great birding here, as the sun beat down and the day started to get rather warm! We walked back to the awaiting minibus from here, with **Mottled Spinetails** flying overhead, and made our way to our lunch-stop, in Sanyang.



A fantastic show from a Black-shouldered Kite

A delicious buffet lunch of fresh butterfish and meat with veg and rice was much enjoyed in the shade, overlooking the sea, where **Pink-backed Pelicans** and **Caspian Terns** could be seen. Of course, after eating we went over to investigate! The sea hosted a number of pelicans and large numbers of fishing **Caspian Terns**, as well as several **Royal Terns** and a few **Sandwich Terns**, while **Grey-headed Gull** was common. Ospreys were floating around and fishing offshore, and a party of **Turnstones** were busy on the shoreline. Finishing up, we headed back along the sand track leading to the restaurant, which was lined by a few interesting areas of marsh and estuary. An impressive roost of 1000's of **Grey-headed Gulls**, hundreds of **Caspian Terns** and 10's of **Royal Terns** were enjoyed, while **Osprey**, another **Dark-chanting Goshawk** and 2 **African Harrier-hawks** were seen really well, along with **Beautiful** and **Variable Sunbirds**, 2 **Greenshank** and a good number of **Spur-winged Plovers**. **Western Reef Heron** was fishing in the last pools as we made to depart. From here we made our way along to the **Tanji fish market**, where another **Black-shouldered Kite** was enjoyed, along with **Osprey**, a party of **Bar-tailed Godwits**, **Caspian** and **Royal Terns**, **Common Sandpiper** and **Long-tailed Cormorant**, while the next lagoon hosted a **Whimbrel** but relatively little else. It had been a pretty hot day in full sun and little shade offered by the habitat we had visited, so we headed back to the **Senegambia Hotel**, where while some opted to enjoy some chill time by the pool with a beer, others of us enjoyed the birding here, noting **Green Wood-Hoopoes**, plenty of **Broad-billed Rollers**, **Long-tailed Glossy Starlings**, **Hornbills**, **White-crowned Robin Chats** and **African Palm Swifts**; an idyllic end to another good day.



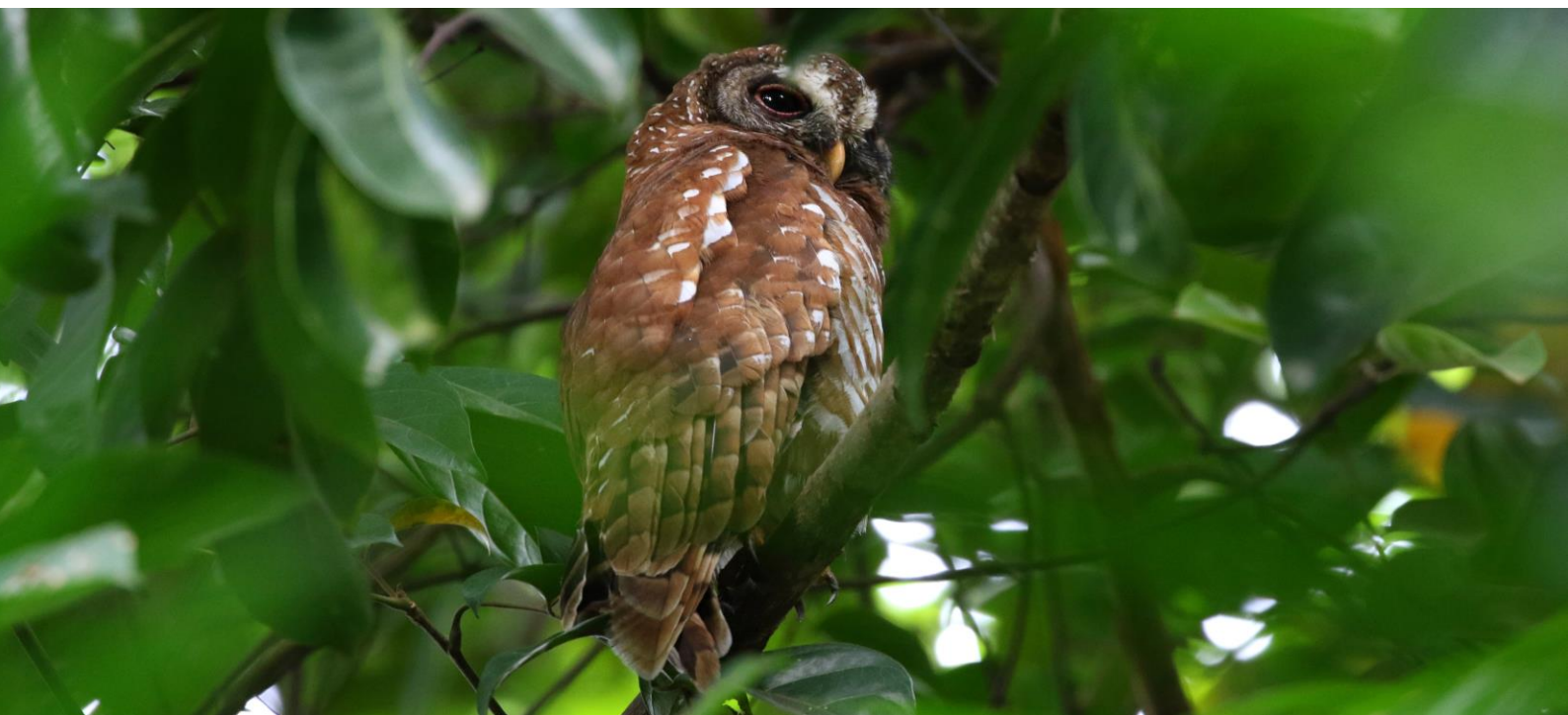
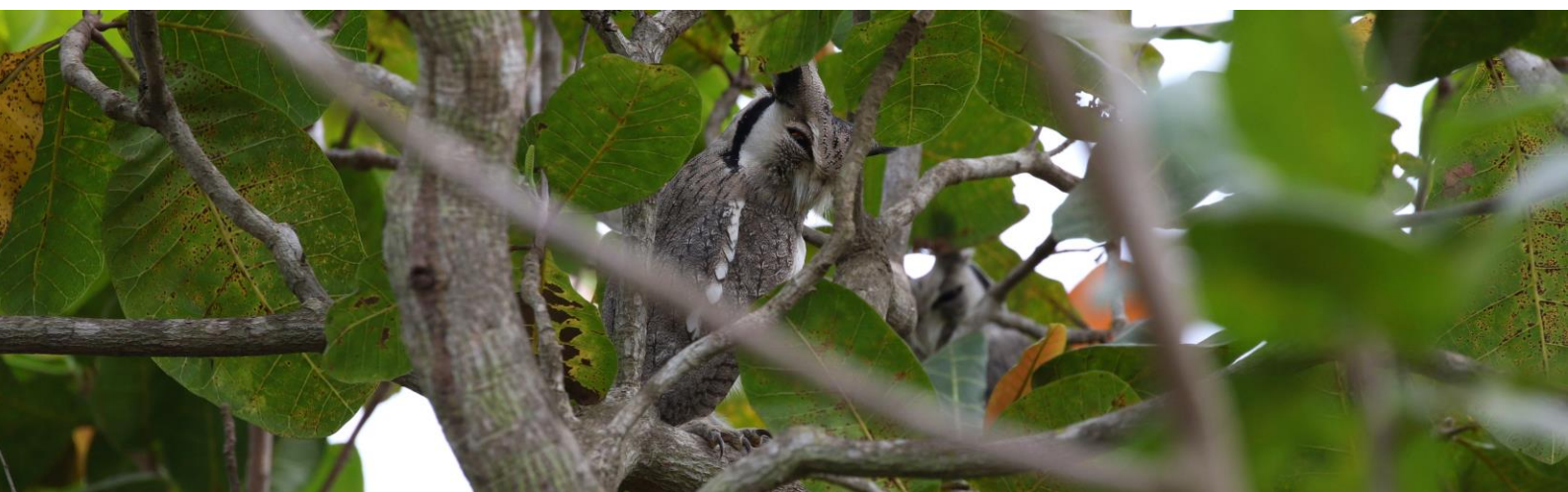
Whistling Cisticola, Broad-billed Roller and Grey-hooded Gull

MONDAY 18TH NOVEMBER – PIRANG SHRIMP-FARM, FARASUTO FOREST

Sunny with a layer of cloud, humid, light winds, 31C

An absolutely cracking day today, with a great array of highlights, both by way of quality and variety, mixing both wetland and woodland birding to great effect. We began the day by heading to the Pirang shrimp farms, though the journey there was interrupted twice, and in spectacular style! The first stop was due to Ebrima calling 'stop' as we passed some wooded savannah, with an eagle in a distant tree. Unloading, the bird transpired to not be an African Hawk-eagle as we first suspected, but the much rarer **AYRES'S HAWK EAGLE**! A real turn-up, and a spectacular bird to boot. Back in the vehicle, it wasn't long before we were stopped again by Ebrima's hawk-eyes, as a dark shape in another distant acacia tree proved to be a superb **LONG-CRESTED EAGLE**; what a beast! This pause also yielded a **Northern Puffback** in nearby trees; a tricky bird to catch up with, and also a **Fork-tailed Drongo** and an array of commoner finches. Pressing on, we arrived at the impressive Pirang shrimp farms, where a great array of species were enjoyed on the shallow lagoons. **Crested Lark** was vocal here, while a **Sacred Ibis** distant in a palm then gave a fly-past. Three **Gull-billed Terns** were floating around giving their raucous calls and a single **Little Tern** was interesting to see in its winter plumage. We noted our first **Red-rumped Swallows** (known as the distinct race **West African Swallow**) along with plenty of **Red-chested** and **Wire-tailed Swallows**. A **Malachite Kingfisher** was fishing in the lagoon, and our first **Yellow-backed Weavers** were noted at their nest sites; some of which were being raided by an **African Harrier Hawk**. Roosting along a bank were about 10 **Senegal Thick-knees** and our first **African Darter**; a bizarre snake-necked heron so classic of the region, and a single **Namaqua Dove** dashed past. A small number of **Pink-backed Pelicans** were seen in flight, as were a flock of about 15 **African Spoonbills**, though we unfortunately didn't see these closer. The lagoons were littered with waders in pretty good number, with the highlight certainly being a single adult **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER**, still in some summer plumage and illustrating its long-winged profile and slim build, long legs, bold super and black mottling across the belly even reaching the under-tail coverts. In addition to this, we saw **Wood** and **Common Sandpipers**, around 50 **Curlew Sandpipers**, 100 **Little Stints**, 10 **Marsh Sandpipers**, 70 **Black-tailed Godwits**, 40 **Common Ringed Plovers**, 2 **Sanderling**, 15 **Ruff**, 15 **Avocets** and a single **Curlew**; its incredibly long bill and pallid plumage making it likely of the eastern race *orientalis*. Much of the above was new for the trip, adding to our burgeoning trip list! **Greater Flamingos** were also present on the pools, while a small number of **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** were floating around above. A number of palearctic migrants were noted in the track-side bushes, including a couple of **Subalpine Warblers**, **Northern Wheatear** and both **Willow** and **Chiffchaff**. **Osprey**, **Marsh Harrier** and **Striated Heron** were also noted; all in all, a brilliant session of birding, and taking us nicely into lunchtime!

Lunch was enjoyed at Bonto, in a wonderfully authentic setting, sat outside under the shade of the most enormous kapok tree we had ever seen! We were fed and watered wonderfully by a local family, in the company of **African Palm Swifts** and a **Violet Turaco**, and also a pair of **Levaillant's Cuckoos**, though sadly these were only seen briefly by the guides. Finishing up here our afternoon involved some outrageous quality birding, being shown some of the best that Bonto Forest and Farasuto had to offer. First to Bonto Forest, we met with the local rangers here who led us around the winding forest trails, amongst vines and huge trees, noting some great stuff as we went including 2 **African Pied Hornbills**, 3 **Grey Hooded Parrots** taking fruit in the canopy and singing **Common Wattle-eyes**. However, the stars of the show here were certainly the owls, with a beast of a **VEREAUX'S EAGLE OWL** glowering down on us through its bright pink eyelids, and a pair of cruel-looking **WHITE-FACED SCOPS OWLS** glowering down upon us in similarly nonchalant fashion. Great work by the local guides, and some memorable sightings. We weren't done yet though, as we then headed around to Farasuto, noting **Dark-chanting Goshawk** along the drive. Arriving and meeting our new guide, we walked into the forest and enjoyed views of an array of good birds, including a fly-past **Palm-nut vulture** over open grass and wetland, around 25 **Senegal Thick-knees**, **Pied-winged Swallows** amongst the **Red-breasted** and **Wire-tailed Swallows**, two **Senegal Coucals** and a **Violet Turaco**, while the crème de la crème here was a wonderful **AFRICAN WOOD OWL** which was



Everyone loves owls! Verreaux's Eagle, White-faced Scops and African Wood Owls

shown to us in its regular roost; a really rare bird here! We weren't done by any means, driving along to a final spot, which was punctuated by an immature **Red-necked Falcon** at the back of open fields, before strolling through thinner forest to be shown our fourth owl species of a crazy day; a pair of **GREYISH EAGLE OWLS** again in their usual roost; just bonkers! Walking quietly away from here, we headed to the van to begin our journey home. We were stopped pretty early by a flock of at least 40 **African Green Pigeons** which showed superbly in a fruit tree, and also our first **Abyssinian Roller** of the trip, eating a locust in the low evening sun. A beautiful finale, and following a drive through town at the busiest time of the evening, we eventually arrived back at base, tired but very happy, and ready for dinner.



The beautiful African Green Pigeon, and an Abyssinian Roller with locust

TUESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER – BRUFUT AND KOTU CYCLE TRACK

Sunny with scattered cloud, humid, light winds, 31C

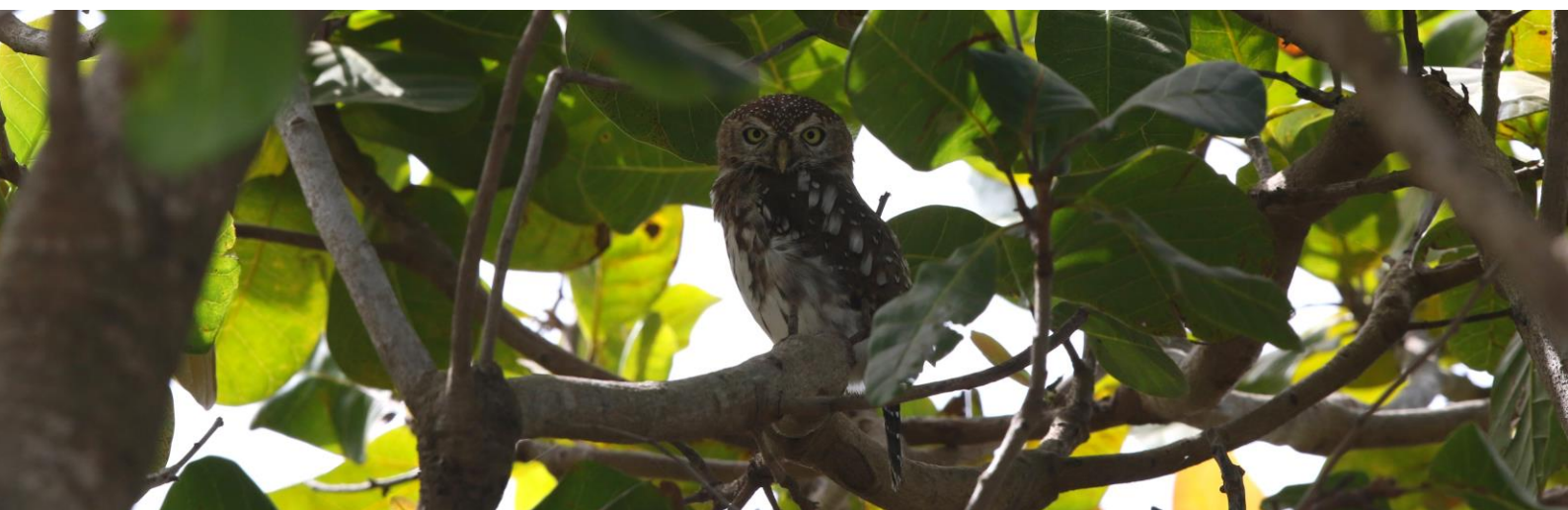
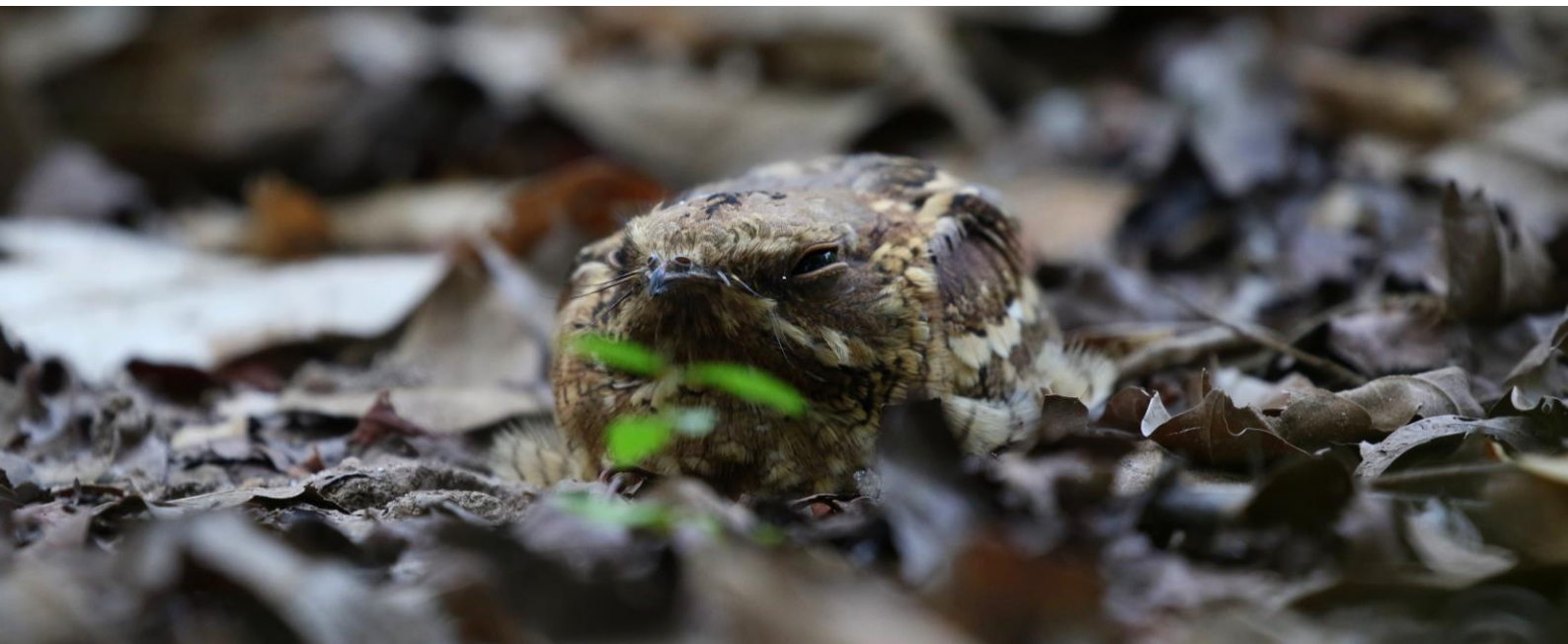
Another scorcher in The Gambia, but yet again another day filled with brilliant birds. We started by heading to Brufut Forest, but actually began the productive day by walking some mixed areas of rough ground, grassland and scattered mature trees including Baobab; an area in the process of being developed sadly, but still a very productive mixed habitat. The highlight was probably a couple of very showy **Yellow-throated Leaf-loves** which after initially playing hard-to-get, showed

beautifully. Another highlight was a pair of stonking **Bearded Barbets** which gave themselves up fabulously. Shikra and Lizard Buzzard were noted soaring, as was a **Grey Kestrel** and several **Little Swifts**. A **Blue-breasted Kingfisher** was a great bird but difficult to get onto properly, unlike a **Pygmy Kingfisher** which was oddly feeding amongst a crop field! Our first **Little Weaver** of the trip was picked up here also, while **Purple**, **Bronze-tailed** and **Greater Blue-eared Glossy Starlings** were all watched in the same tree; a handy comparison of these sometimes tricky to identify birds. **Senegal Parrots** were common with at least 15 seen and 2 **Black-shouldered Kites** were perched in a distant tree, while a flock of 20 **Wattled Plover** were also noted in a weedy field, along with 2 **Double-spurred Francolins**. Leaving this area, we headed over to Brufut Forest reserve, noting **Melodious Warbler** and **Western Olivaceous Warbler** on the way.



Bearded Barbets giving themselves up in style!

At the entrance to the reserve, a nice setup involved a combination of drinking pool for avian bathing and refreshments, and also benches and a small kiosk selling birdwatcher refreshments also! A cold drink much appreciated by all. The drinking pools were action-filled, with both a **Green Turaco** and **Violet Turaco** showing up above the station, but sadly not coming in to drink. Other brilliant birds noted in a couple of sessions here included a male **Greater Honeyguide** which had a drink, a **Grey-headed Kingfisher** expertly picked out by Chris while he was pointing out a **Fanti Sawwing** in the same tree, a **Pygmy Kingfisher**, both **Black-necked** and **Vitelline Masked Weavers** and a female **Splendid Sunbird**. All this amongst a great array of various estrildid finches, **Village Weavers**, both species of **Babbler** and much more. Dragging ourselves away, one of the park staff had something special to show us; a pair of day-roosting **Long-tailed Nightjars** which had been found in thick cover, and allowed us all a look; fantastic birds! On the walk there we enjoyed sightings of **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** and **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, all this taking us well on towards lunchtime! However another short stop was in store, for a **PEARL-SPOTTED OWLET** which was found by another group roosting in an acacia tree, and was a real treat to see! From here we headed to the nearby Tanji Forest Reserve, where we had lunch again at the superb Haddie's.



A selection of great birds; Long-tailed Nightjar, Greater Honeyguide and Pearl-spotted Owlet

Driving along the track to Haddie's, we stopped to watch a party of 5 **Stone Partridges** walking down the track ahead of us; a species not often seen this well! Parking up and walking to the dining area, the bird drinking pools here were again alive with weavers and finches. Before we tucked into our delicious lunch, we enjoyed another skulking **Green Turaco** working its way through the vegetation but again sadly not coming to drink (they really are shy), and a single **Garden Warbler** which was new for the trip, as well as an **Oriole Warbler**, African Thrushes and various other more typical species. Nearby, a **Green-backed Camaroptera** was found skulking amongst the ornamental vegetation, and showed nicely eventually. Also, a couple of **Common Wattle-eyes** were visiting another small pool nearby; all great birds to see, and a superb accompaniment to a superb lunch! Leaving here, we made to spend the rest of the afternoon back at Kotu, walking the famous Cycle Track. The track passes through a nice area of marshland with small-scale rice paddies, and large stands of rhum and oil palm trees, and produced a good diversity of birds. **Purple Heron** was noted along with the usual Western Reef Herons and Cattle Egrets. A huge highlight here was a **Palm-nut Vulture** which put on an outrageous show, coming down presumably to drink and then flying up into the palms, at one point flying within 30 meters of us! Truly spectacular, as it was mobbed by the many Yellow-billed Kites. The cycle track pool yielded a single **Hadada Ibis** sat up in a eucalyptus tree, as well as a roost of around 40 Cattle Egrets and a single **Common Moorhen**. Back onto the track, a **Woodland Kingfisher** was picked up out in the marshy scrub, and another **Pearl-spotted Owlet** was also found and kindly shown to us by other birders in the area. The trail here finished at the Kotu Bridge, where 30 minutes of watching gave one of the days highlights; a **Black Egret** in full fishing swing, performing its wonderful umbrella-fishing strategy at full pelt; much to the delight of many of us who had hoped to see this in the flesh. A real trip highlight. Also here were **Malachite Kingfisher**, a single **Blue-breasted Kingfisher** and many Pied Kingfishers, 2 **Little Ringed Plovers**, Greenshank, Grey Plover, plenty of Spur-winged Lapwings and a couple of Wattled Lapwings and, as we went back to the van, a male **Northern Puffback**, giving our best views yet. A great way to end the day, heading back to the Senegambia Hotel after a quality-packed days birding.



This Palm-nut Vulture put on a crazy display along the Kotu cycle track

WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER – MARAKISSA REGION AND KOTO BRIDGE

Sunny with scattered cloud, humid, light winds, 31C

Another scorching day (same as everyday really!) but another good one, with several new top-quality species for our trip, though perhaps quieter than the previous day, if only by a small margin. We started as usual by meeting Ebrima and Abdul outside the hotel, setting off today for the mixed grasslands and wetlands of Marakissa, about 40-minutes drive from base. We stopped on the way in a couple of locations close to Manduar and Dimbaya, with scrubby grassland producing our first **Collared Sunbird** and 2 **Northern Black Flycatcher** of the tour, the latter being particularly showy. A **Pallid Swift** was also new, sharing airspace with 2 Little Swifts, 2 Mottled Spinetails and a number of Palm Swifts. A **Black-crowned Tchagra** was good to see well after a difficult-to-see bird earlier in the week, while Black-winged Bishop, Variable Sunbird, Double-spurred Francolin and a singing but not showing Red-winged Warbler were also noted. Moving on, we reached the large pools at the edge of Marakissa Eco-lodge. Disembarking the vehicle, the wetlands produced a stunning adult **African Darter**, an elusive **Black Crake** which only a couple of the group saw, a fly-over **Tawny Eagle**, Intermediate Egret, several **Hamerkop**, Intermediate Egret, several Striated Herons, a family party of White-faced Whistling Ducks, African Jacanas and an immature Dark-chanting Goshawk; a great haul! From here we walked the short distance to the Marakissa lodge, where we spent the hot middle part of the day wandering the river-side lodges grounds and keeping an eye on the drinking pools. These were quiet with only Long-tailed Glossy Starlings, Western Grey Plantain-eaters, Piapiacs and some Purple Glossy Starlings visiting. The riverside was great value however, with a pair of **Giant Kingfishers**, Malachite Kingfisher, a **Bedouin's Snake Eagle** sitting in the wind (a great addition to the trip list!), a distant **Grey Kestrel** and Western Crocodiles and Yellow-billed Kites fighting for scraps from the kitchen being thrown into the river! Before lunch we took a walk upriver, which produced what would have been the highlight of the visit if everyone had seen them, and those that had had seen them better, but a sighting of the near-mythical **Shining Blue Kingfisher** is better than no sighting! The two birds flew into low mangrove, entering in typical fashion (low and entering the vegetation deep), completely out of view. About 10 minutes later the two kingfishers shot down-river like lightning, lost from view and only giving this briefest of encounters. The riverbank was alive with Senegal Thick-knees as we walked back, ready for lunch.



Giant Kingfisher 'anting' at Marakissa eco-lodge



African Darter, Beautiful Sunbird admiring its reflection (who can blame it!) and a Crocodile

After eating a nice home-cooked traditional lunch, we watched the **Giant Kingfishers** for a short while more, enjoying their sunbathing and 'anting' antics on the ground, before loading up the vehicle and heading up the road. A stop by the lagoons produced the **Black Crake** again, and also a flyover **Wahlberg's Eagle**, before we continued on to a large area of wetland habitat. Here provided us with a few raptors, **Lanner Falcon**, a single **Western Banded Snake Eagle** (another new raptor of a great day for this group) and 2 African Harrier Hawks. Additionally, we saw a **Palm Nut Vulture**, **Giant Kingfisher** and, best of all, 3 **Yellow-billed Oxpeckers** on cattle by the van! Brilliant birds which we enjoyed scope views of before they flew. From here we headed homewards, dropping off at the Senagambia Beach Hotel for a few who fancied a bit of chill-time, while the rest of us spent the last bit of the evening at the Kotu Bridge, enjoying **Giant Kingfisher** (a good day for this species), 2 **Malachite Kingfishers**, a brief **Blue-breasted Kingfisher**, **Western Reef Heron**, many **Senegal Thick-knees**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Grey Plover**, a number of **Broad-billed Rollers** high overhead, a **Splendid Sunbird** and a single elusive **Reed Warbler**. With light fading, it was time to head back to the hotel, after yet another superb day's birding in The Gambia.

THURSDAY 21ST NOVEMBER – KARTONG BIRD OBSERVATORY AND STALA LODGE

Sunny all day, hot and humid, light winds, 31C

An early start and packed breakfast got us underway for our final full day here in The Gambia (where has this week gone?!), setting off at 6am in the dark, to arrive in Kartong for sunrise. The weary journey was well worth it as we were greeted by Colin Cross at the Kartong Bird Observatory. We were welcomed with coffee and tea, taking it up to the observation tower to overlook the nearby marshes, where some good birds were enjoyed over breakfast. A family of **Black Crakes** were a highlight, featuring 3 juveniles with 2 adults, while a showy **African Swampphen**, **Woodland Kingfisher**, **Bearded Barbet**, a close flyby by a **Grey Kestrel**, juvenile **African Harrier Hawk**, several **Striated Herons**, good numbers of **White-faced Whistling Ducks**, a flock of about 15 **African Spoonbills**, **Sacred Ibis**, **Western Reef** and **Black-headed Heron** and various other wetland species were seen. Finishing up, we drove up to the mound and walked from there, covering a mixture of routes past lagoons, through grassland and into thorny scrub, starting a bit slowly but ending up picking up some really nice species. The lagoons revealed a few **Common Snipe** (but no hoped-for **Painted Snipe** sadly, despite having a scout round some suitable sites in search for them), and more **Striated Herons**, while the scrub was steady with commoner *estrildid* finches. Things livened up at a small watering hole, where the water and surrounding area was attracting some good birds. A family group of **Pin-tailed Whydahs** were here, the male in great nick with its long tail streamers and pied plumage. Also visiting the pool was a single female **Bush Petronia** (now called **Sahel Bush Sparrow**), coming to drink; a subtle little species. Close by produced a good view of **Grey-headed Kingfisher** and also a juvenile **Levaillant's Cuckoo**, plus several **Subalpine Warblers** and a **Reed Warbler**, and one of several flyby **Namaqua Doves** which we would encounter today. A little further on, we came across the Kartong BO ringing team, staying here for a few of weeks to conduct the observatory's important fieldwork. They had a **Grey-backed Camaroptera** to show us, and as we waited chatting about their fascinating research projects into the migration of **Common Nightingale**, more came. These included a treat in the form of a **Quailfinch**; not an easy bird to find here so a real bonus! They also showed us a lovely **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** in the hand before release, before we continued on our way, walking through to the coast. A **Eurasian Griffon Vulture** circling with **Hooded Vultures** was a highlight, while a singing **Black-crowned Tchagra** showed well, though **Yellow-crowned Gonoleks** in similarly good voice failed to oblige as well! **Senegal Thick-knees** were common in the mangrove-lined creeks and a **Ruff** was also noted. Reaching the beach, waders included several **Eurasian Oystercatchers** as well as **Knot**, **Bar-tailed Godwits**, **Turnstones**, **Grey Plover**, **Whimbrel** and many **Sanderling**. However, the main attraction was a small mixed party of both **White-fronted Plovers** and **Kentish Plovers**; the former being a real treat, and both groups hosting at least one fine male amongst them (the female-types are pretty tricky to identify at the best of times, even without heat haze and 30-degree heat!). By now it was getting pretty hot, so we made our way back to the van (stopping to enjoy the antics of a **Hooded Vulture** hunting **West African Fiddler Crabs** on the mud!), and setting off to our lunch stop at Stala.



A trio of fine birds at Kartong; Quailfinch, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird and Pin-tailed Whydah



Busy skies at Kartong, with Bedouin's Snake Eagle, Griffon Vulture and Osprey all noted

Reaching Stala Lodge, this quiet wooded location bordering the Alahen River (The Gambia's southern border with Senegal) and surrounded by mangroves, this was an idyllic spot to have lunch. Striated Herons were noted along the far shore and a single **Mouse-brown Sunbird** was noted in the trees nearby. After lunch we enjoyed a boat trip, boarding a traditional West African Pirogue (a carved-out wooden boat traditionally used for fishing) and setting off south towards the river mouth, with hope of locating a couple of main target species; **African Fish Eagle** and Goliath Heron. Sadly our luck wasn't in for the latter species, perhaps due to a high tide covering most muddy areas lining the mangrove creeks. However, we did strike gold with a superb **African Fish Eagle**; a regal adult with beautiful black, white and rusty plumage, sitting majestically beside the river and giving a brief flight (crossing to Senegal) before perching again. This wasn't the only good bird noted on the trip though, with a **White-throated Bee Eater** being the highlight for some of us; its peppermint facial pattern being really distinctive and a new species for those of us who had previously visited Africa. A couple of high-flying **Mosque Swallows** were also new for the trip, while **Blue-cheeked Bee Eaters**, **Giant Kingfisher**, about 10 Ospreys (making 16 total across Kartong; an outrageous figure!) and a

male Marsh Harrier also noted during the cruise. This is not forgetting the fantastic roost of gulls and terns on the small sand bars as we left Stala, giving us beautiful water-level views of many Caspian, Royal, Sandwich and Common Terns and Grey-hooded and Slender-billed Gulls, plus a flock of **Pink-backed Pelicans** and a single **Great White Pelican** in flight (our first of the tour). Of interest, a colour ringed Slender-billed Gull noted on the cruise was ringed in Senegal on 26th May 2015 as a chick on Ile aux oiseaux. Finishing the trip, we returned to the Stala Lodge, disembarked and, before heading for home, enjoyed great views of a family of 5 **Mouse-brown Sunbirds** and a **Little Weaver** feeding young, as well as a couple of Beautiful Sunbirds and a **Splendid Sunbird** buzzing around. The drive home included a couple of Greenshank and a Wood Sandpiper on mudflats, and a **Senegal Coucal** on the roadside, before we took our last evening at the Senegambia Hotel, saying farewell to our fantastic guide and driver, Ebrima and Abdul, before meeting for dinner and retiring to bed.



More great birds; African Fish Eagle, White-throated Bee-eater and Mouse-brown Sunbird

FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER – SENEGAMBIA HOTEL CHECKOUT, FLIGHT HOME

Sunny all day, light winds, 30C

Today was one of the most chilled-out travel days we have experienced on an Oriole Birding holiday! It was spent in the grounds of the Senegambia Hotel on the most part, as our transfer bus to the airport would collect us at 14:00, giving time for breakfast, a bit of hotel birding, a walk up the strip for souvenir shopping, lunch by the pool (in the company of pool-side Cattle Egrets!) and packing. Birding the grounds produced some great birds, including the usual **Green Wood-hoopoes**, **White-crowned Robin Chats**, **Red-billed Hornbills**, **Broad-billed Rollers**, **Piapiaks**, **Bronze Manakins**, **Red-billed Firefinches**, **Beautiful Sunbirds**, various glossy starlings and particularly good sightings of **Oriole Warbler**, **Bearded Barbet**, 2 adult **Levaillant's Cuckoos**, **Senegal Parrots**, **Grey Kestrel**, **Yellow-crowned Gonoleks**, an **African Grey Woodpecker** and an adult **Shikra**. A great haul, showing why we love this place! Once the transfer bus arrived, we loaded up, made our way to Banjul International and headed through check-in and security, before boarding our on-time flight, arriving in London Gatwick at just before midnight, and saying farewell to our great tour participants. We look forward to returning here in 2020 with 2 tours of the region.





ORIOLE BIRDING

THE GAMBIA - BIRDING ON THE SMILING COAST

NOVEMBER 2019

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		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		Comments
Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)													
1	White-faced Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>			10		x	x	x	x			
Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)													
2	Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>			1			5					
3	Double-spurred Francolin	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>				5	x	2	x	1			
Phoenicuridae (Flamingos)													
4	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>					40						
Podicipedidae (Grebes)													
5	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			2					1			
Pelecanidae, Scopidae and Ardeide (Pelicans, Hamercop and Herons, Egrets and Bitterns)													
6	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>								1			
7	Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>				x	x		1	x			
8	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>			2		1	1	7	2			
9	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			1	x	x	x	x	x			
10	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>			x	x		2	2	4			
11	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>						1	1				
12	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x			
13	Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>			1				1				
14	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			x	x	x		x	1			
15	Western Reef-Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x			
16	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>			1			1					
17	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
18	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>			6			1	2	x			
19	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>			x		1		3	7			
20	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>							1				
21	White-backed Night-Heron	<i>Gorsachius leuconotus</i>					2						

#	Common Name	Scientific name		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		Comments
	<i>Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)</i>												
22	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>					x			15			
	<i>Anhingidae and Phalacrocoracidae (Anhingas, Cormorants and Shags)</i>												
23	African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>					2		x				
24	Long-tailed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x			
	<i>Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)</i>												
25	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			x	x	2	x	1	17			
26	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>				3		2					
27	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
28	African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>				4	3	x	3	6			
29	Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>			1		1	1	1	1			
30	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
31	Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>					1						
32	Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>							1				
33	Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>			1	1		1	1				
34	Dark Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>				1	2		1				
35	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>					1			6			
36	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>			x	x		x		1	1		
	<i>Rallidae (Rails and Crakes)</i>												
37	Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						1					
38	Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>							1	5			
	<i>Burhinidae (Thick-knees)</i>												
39	Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>			10		30	x	x	x			
	<i>Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)</i>												
40	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					x						
41	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x			
	<i>Haematopodidae and Charadriidae (Oystercatchers, Plovers and Lapwings)</i>												
42	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>								x			
43	Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			1		2	1	x	1			
44	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
45	Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>			3		2	20	x	x			

#	Common Name	Scientific name		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		Comments
46	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>								2			
47	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>					x	1		2			
48	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>						2	2				
49	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>								2			
	<i>Rostratulidae and Jacanidae (Painted-Snipes and Jacanas)</i>												
50	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>			x			1	1	x			
	<i>Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)</i>												
51	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>					x						Ssp. <i>orientalis</i>
52	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x			
53	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>					70			1			
54	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>				15				2			
55	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>				x	x			x			
56	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>					x			1			
57	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>					2			100			
58	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>					100						
59	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					50						
60	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>					15			1			
61	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>								1			
62	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x			
63	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			1	2	x	1	x	x			
64	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>					10						
65	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			10		x		1	2			
66	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			2	1	x	1	x	x			
	<i>Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)</i>												
67	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>					100			x			
68	Grey-hooded Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>			x	x	x		x	x			
69	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			x	x		x		1			
70	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>					2						
71	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>					6		1	x			
72	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>			x	x	x		2	x			
73	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			x					x			

#	Common Name	Scientific name		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		Comments
74	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>			x	x	x	x		x			
75	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>			x	x		x		x			
	Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)												
76	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x		x		
77	Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
78	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
79	Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
80	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
81	Black-billed Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>			2	1	x	x	x	1			
82	Blue-spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>			x		x	x	x				
83	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>				2	1		1	6			
84	African Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>				1	40						
	Musophagidae (Turacos)												
85	Guinea (Green) Turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>						2					
86	Violet Turaco	<i>Musophaga violacea</i>			x	2	2	1					
87	Western Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
	Cuculidae (Cuckoos)												
88	Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>			3	x	2	x		1			
89	Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>								1	2		
90	Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>				1							
	Tytonidae and Strigidae (Owls)												
91	Northern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>					2						
92	Verreaux's Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>					1						
93	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>						2					
	Caprimulgidae and Apodidae (Nightjars and Swifts)												
94	Long-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i>						2					
95	Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>		3	2	x	x		2				
96	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>							1				
97	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>						x	2				
98	African Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		

#	Common Name	Scientific name		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		Comments
	Phoeniculidae, Upupidae, Bucerotidae and Alcedinidae (Woodhoopoes, Scimitarbills, Hornbills and Kingfishers)												
99	Green Woodhoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>		x	x	6	x			x	7		
100	African Pied Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros fasciatus</i>					2		1				
101	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>			x	x	x	x					
102	Western Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus kemp</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
103	Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>			1		1	1	3	2			
104	African Pygmy-Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>			2		1	1					
105	Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>						1		1			
106	Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>			3			2		1			
107	Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>			1			1	1				
108	Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>			2				4	1			
109	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>			10	x	x	x	x	x			
	Meropidae and Coraciidae (Bee-eaters and Rollers)												
110	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>			x	x	x	x	1	x			
111	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>			3			1		1			
112	White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>								1			
113	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>			x		x			x			
114	Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>					1						
115	Rufous-crowned Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>				1							
116	Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
117	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
	Lybiidae and Indicatoridae (African Barbets and Honeyguides)												
118	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>			2			1		1			
119	Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieilloti</i>				1							
120	Bearded Barbet	<i>Lybius dubius</i>				3		2		1	1		
121	Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>						1					
	Picidae (Woodpeckers)												
122	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus fuscescens</i>			1								
123	African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus goertae</i>		1	2			1			1		
124	Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>			2								

#	Common Name	Scientific name		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		Comments
	Falconidae (Falcons)												
125	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		x							1		
126	Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>					1	1	1	1	1		
127	Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>					1						
128	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>					2		1				
	Psittaculidae (Old World Parrots)												
129	Ring-necked Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>			x	x		x	x	x			
130	Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>				4	x	x	x	x	2		
	Platysteiridae (Wattle-eyes and Batises)												
131	Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>			1		x	x					
	Malaconotidae (Bushshrikes and Allies)												
132	Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>				1							
133	Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>					1	1					
134	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>				1			1	1			
135	Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>			3	H	x		H	1	2		
	Laniidae and Oriolidae (Shrikes and Orioles)												
136	Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>			x	x	x	x	x	2			
	Dicruridae (Drongos)												
137	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>				1	3	x					
	Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)												
138	Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>			x			x	1				
139	African Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>			x		x	x					
	Laniidae and Corvidae (Shrikes, Crows, Jays and Magpies)												
140	Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
141	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
	Alaudidae (Larks)												
142	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>					2			2			
	Hirundinidae (Swallows)												
143	Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>			20	x	x		x	x			
144	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>			3		x		x	x			
145	Pied-winged Swallow	<i>Hirundo leucosoma</i>					x						

#	Common Name	Scientific name		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		Comments
146	Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>								2			
147	Red-rumped (West African) Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>					x						<i>Ssp. domicella</i>
148	Fanti Sawwing	<i>Psalidoprocne obscura</i>			3			1	x				
	<i>Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)</i>												
149	Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>			5								
150	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
	<i>Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)</i>												
151	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				2	x	x		1			
152	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			1	1	x	x					
	<i>Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers and Allies)</i>												
153	Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna opaca</i>			1			1					
154	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>						1					
155	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					1		1	1			
	<i>Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)</i>												
156	Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>			3								
157	Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>						1		1			
158	Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>			1			1					
159	Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>				2	1	x	1				
160	Oriole Warbler	<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>			2			1			1		
161	Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>				1							
162	Whistling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lateralis</i>				1							
163	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>				3							
	<i>Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers, Parrotbills, and Allies)</i>												
164	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>						1					
165	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>					3		2	2			
	<i>Leiothrichidae (Laughingthrushes and Allies)</i>												
166	Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>			x	x		x					
167	Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>			x	x	x	x	x		x		
	<i>Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)</i>												
168	Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>			1		x						
169	White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapillus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		

#	Common Name	Scientific name		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		Comments
170	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>								H			
171	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				5							
172	White-fronted Black-Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla albifrons</i>				3							
173	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>					2						
	<i>Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)</i>												
174	African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>			x			x					
	<i>Sturnidae (Starlings)</i>												
175	Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
176	Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>				x		x	x				
177	Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>						x	x				
178	Bronze-tailed Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalcurus</i>			2			x		x	x		
	<i>Buphagidae (Oxpeckers)</i>												
179	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>							3				
	<i>Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)</i>												
180	Mouse-brown Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>								5			
181	Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>			x								
182	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>				x							
183	Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
184	Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastrus</i>			1			2	1	1			
185	Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>			1	x	1	x	1	x			
186	Copper Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>							1				
	<i>Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)</i>												
187	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				x	x			x			
188	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>				1				1			
	<i>Fringillidae (Finches, Euphonias, and Allies)</i>												
189	Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>				x	x	x					
190	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		x	x								
191	Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>			2	x	x	x	x	x			
	<i>Ploceidae (Weavers and Allies)</i>												
192	White-billed Buffalo-Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>			x			x	x				
193	Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>						1		1			

#	Common Name	Scientific name		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		Comments
194	Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
195	Vitelline Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>				x		x					
196	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
197	Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>			1	x	x	x		x	x		
198	Black-winged Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>				x			x				
	<i>Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)</i>												
199	Lavender Waxbill	<i>Estrilda caerulescens</i>			x	x		x		1			
200	Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>			x	x		x					
201	Western Bluebill	<i>Spermophaga haematina</i>			2								
202	Red-cheeked Cordonbleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x			
203	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
204	Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>			x			x	x		x		
	<i>Viduidae (Indigobirds)</i>												
205	Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>			1			x	x	x			
	Additional species	Scientific name		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		Comments
206	Egyptian Plover	<i>Pluvianus aegyptius</i>			1								
207	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus minutus</i>			1								
208	American Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>					1						
209	Brown-headed Parrot	<i>Poicephalus cryptoxanthus</i>					3						
210	Ayre's Hawk Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus ayresii</i>					1						
211	Black-headed (Yellow-backed) Weaver	<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>					x						
212	Greyish Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>					1						
213	African Wood Owl	<i>Strix woodfordii</i>					1						
214	African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>					1			1			
215	African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>					1						
216	Red-winged Warbler (Prinia)	<i>Prinia erythroptera</i>				x			H				
217	Yellow-throated Leaf-love (Greenbul)	<i>Atimastillas flavicollis</i>						2					
218	Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>						1					
219	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>							1				
220	Bedouins Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>							1	2			

	Additional species	Scientific name		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		Comments
221	Western Banded Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinerascens</i>							1				
222	Shining-blue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo quadribrachys</i>							2				
223	Northern Black-Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edoloides</i>							1				
224	African Fish-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>							1	1			
225	Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>							1	1			
226	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>								1			
227	Eurasian Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>								1			
228	Sahel Bush Sparrow (Bush Petronia)	<i>Gymnoris dentata</i>								1			
229	African Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>								1			
#	Other wildlife	Scientific name		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		Comments
1	West African Nile Monitor	<i>Varanus stellatus</i>				x							
2	Western Red Colobus	<i>Piliocolobus badius</i>				x							
3	Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerrhus</i>				x							
4	Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>				1							
5	West African Fiddler Crab	<i>Afruca tangeri</i>				x							
6	West African Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus suchus</i>			x				x				
7	Atlantic Mudskipper	<i>Periophthalmus barbarus</i>											