

# **Senegal/Gambia 09/11 – 08/12/2018**

## **Introduction**

This report is based on a 1 month trip to Senegal and Gambia on which I was joined by my friend Andreas Schoch in Senegal. Sites visited were Niokolo Koba, Wassadou and Djoudj in Senegal and Tendaba Camp, Sita Joyeh, Marakissa, Tanji, Tujering and Abuko in Gambia.

## **Climate**

When visiting the country the weather was generally fine, hot and sunny during the day with temperatures up to 40 degrees in northern Senegal. It only rained once for a couple of hours (in Richard Toll). In many places I found it difficult to sleep without AC or fan.

## **Visa**

For German citizens it was not necessary to obtain a visa for both countries. A stay for up to 90 days was granted without visa and entering both countries was extremely easy and without any problems. But better check with the embassies in your country.

## **How to get there**

We flew with Brussels Airlines from Frankfurt via Brussels to Dakar. On my way back I flew from Banjul via Dakar and Brussels to Frankfurt.

## **Getting around**

After our arrival at the new Blaise Diagne Airport in Dakar we got our prebooked rental car from Eurocars, where Andreas gave it back 16 days later. We paid 800 Euro for a Peugeot 301 plus, an additional 100 for expanding the mile limit. This Peugeot was OK for the good roads along the coast, from Podor to St. Louis and for driving around Djoudj. But especially the road from Tambacounda to Kidira and then onwards to Bakel and Podor was not really suitable for such a car. Those roads consisted mainly of huge potholes and as roadworks were going on we had to follow diversions for hundreds of kilometers. But we made it, it is possible (and it was fun!) with such a small saloon car, but we often did an average of 35 km/hour only.

In Gambia I used public transport and taxis, which was very easy!

## **Money**

In Senegal 1 Euro was worth about 665 CFA (West African CFA Franc). In Gambia the local currency was called Dalasi. The exchange rate was 58 Dalasi for 1 Euro. In all cities it was possible to withdraw cash from ATM's. In Gambia the only accepted credit cards were Visa and Mastercard.

## **Safety**

We always felt totally safe in both countries.

## **People**

We found the people to be friendly, helpful, relaxed and honest throughout and never had any problems with anybody.

## **Food**

In both countries meals usually consisted of variations of either fish, chicken or beef with rice. Couscous is also a widespread dish. In Senegal try Yassa or Thieboudienne, in Gambia Belachin or Domoda (with ground peanut sauce). If you like fish, you will not be disappointed. Butterfish was my favorite, but Ladyfish, Barracuda, Red Snapper, Captain or Thiof were also tasty.

For breakfast we sometimes went to street stalls, where they served fresh and delicious sandwiches filled with beef and onions or with beans.

Beer is usually available. Good local juices were Wonjo, Baobab and Ginger.

### **Accommodation**

In both countries we/I stayed in small hotels, wildlife camps or at beach hotels. We paid between 30 and 75 Euro in Senegal and between 12 and 25 Euro (65 at the beach) in Gambia. Sometimes this price included breakfast and/or aircon.

### **Books/Reports**

As a Field Guide I had Birds of Senegal and Gambia (Helm – Nik Borrow and Ron Demey) with me. Reports I used were from Hendriks (Northern Senegal 2016), Moning (Gambia and Senegal 2014) and Sjöstedt/Jansson (Gambia 2015). For both Senegal and Gambia I bought a Bradt Travel Guide.

### **Our Guides, Bookings**

From home we only booked our car and the first night at Somone. In Gambia I or Solomon sometimes called a day in advance to check availability.

Guides we had were:

**Wassadou:** Issa: He is working for the Campement and is a very nice and good bird guide. He tried very hard to find the birds I wanted to see.

**Niokolo Koba:** Isa: Not a true bird guide. But Issa arranged that he would accompany us inside the NP, as a guide is compulsory at Niokolo Koba. The daily rate for a guide at Niokolo Koba is 10.000 CFA

**Djoudj:** Idrissa: he is working for the Nature Reserve and is a very knowledgeable guide and a nice person. He knew where to find target species. Paid him 30.000 CFA for 2 days. Phone. +221 774054033. mail: [idrissawestafricaspoonbills@yahoo.fr](mailto:idrissawestafricaspoonbills@yahoo.fr)

**Tendaba Camp:** Omar: phone +220 3866952/7169606. very nice chap and good birder. Birded by boat, on motorbike and on foot.

**Baobab Island, Farasuto, Pirang Forest:** Solomon Jallow: phone +220 7958514. mail: [habitatafrica@hotmail.com](mailto:habitatafrica@hotmail.com). Maybe the best birder in Gambia. He has trained lots of young birdwatchers. He showed me around for free; in some places young guides like Kessuo accompanied us.

**Tujering/Abuko:** Went for a day to Tujering, Kotu Creek and Abuko with Abdullah. He charged me 75 Euro including transport with his car.

### **Itinerary**

- 09/11/2018 Flight with Brussels Airlines from Frankfurt to Dakar (750 Euro). Night in Somone at good and friendly Hotel African Queen right on the beach (75 Euro).
- 10/11/2018 Lazy day.
- 11/11/2018 Drive via Kaolack to Campement de Wassadou (Hut 2 pax 40.000 CFA incl. breakfast and dinner). Wonderful setting at the River Gambia.
- 12/11/2018 2 boat excursions (morning and evening) on River Gambia with good guide Issa. Excellent birding with Finfoot and Egyptian Plover. Looking for nightjars with Issa's motorbike and short visit of his village after dinner. Drumming and dancing at the Camp.
- 13/11/2018 Drive together with guide Isa to Niokolo Koba NP at Dar Salaam entrance (entrance fee 5.000 CFA p.p. /day plus 10.000 CFA for our car plus 10.000 CFA per day for necessary guide). 30 km drive through nice forest and savanna to rundown Hotel Simenti (29.000 CFA for 2 pax with breakfast) with birding stops. Game drive to Camp du Lion.
- 14/11/2018 At 8:00 am we drive back. We drop Isa in Badi and continue to Kidira via Tambacounda. Terrible road. We reach simple but friendly Hotel Boundou (15.000 CFA p.p./room) at 8 pm.
- 15/11/2018 Scenic 67 km drive to Bakel. Nice campement La Tour on a hill overlooking town and river Senegal (15.000 CFA 2 pax). Visit of small market and the riverside. Dinner at nice foodstall.
- 16/11/2018 Long drive to Podor on bad roads. At Ngioum we reach a brand new tarmac road. Check in after dark at historical and stylish Hotel Auberge du Tekrou (30.000 CFA 2 pax). Dinner at hotel.
- 17/11/2018 Stroll through the city. Wonderful and very interesting market and guided tour at the old Fort. Very nice city, friendly, people with colorful traditional dresses, peaceful atmosphere. At noon we continue to Richard Toll. Good Hotel Le Gite D'Etape (42.000 CFA 2 pax). We have to buy a new battery for our car. Birding 6 km east of the city. Few birds.
- 18/11/2018 Morning birding west of R. Toll. Disappointing! Drive to Djoudi NP via Ross Bethio. Nice Hotel du Djoudj with simple room (25.000 CFA for 2 pax. incl. breakfast). Bird watching in the NP with sympathetic and knowledgeable guide Idrissa (30.000 CFA for 2 days). Boat trip to the impressive Pelican Colony. Tasty fish in the hotel at night.
- 19/11/2018 All day birdwatching in the NP with Idrissa. Arabian Bustard, Painted Snipe, Long-tailed Nightjar and River Prinia. We meet birdwatcher Solomon Jallow from Gambia by chance at the hotel.
- 20/11/2018 Back to the N2 on another road via Diama. Short visit to the Trois Marigot Lakes without success. To St. Louis – Hydrobase, Hotel Marmoz (42.000 CFA 2 pax). Beach covered with plastics! Stroll through historical St. Louis. Not too much to see.

- 21/11/2018 St. Louis colonial center. Some nice cafes and restaurants, food stalls. Dinner at nice Restaurant Saigon.
- 22/11/2018 After breakfast in town we drive to the Sand Dunes of Lompoul. Night in a cozy Bedouin tent at the Ecocamp (29.000 p.p. incl. breakfast and delicious dinner). Walk around the dunes.
- 23/11/2018 For one night to Dakar. Hotel Faidherbe (45.000 CFA 2 pax. incl. breakfast) right in the historical center. Walk through the city, sightseeing and dinner at the excellent Lebanese restaurant Farid.
- 24/11/2018 Farewell. Andreas gives back the car and flies back home and I take a taxi (3.500 CFA) to the gare routiere and then a 7 seat vehicle to Farafenni in Gambia (6.000 CFA ?, 8 hours incl. 2 hours waiting for the car to be full – easy and quick border crossing!) via Kaolack. Simple Hotel Eddy's (800 D).
- 25/11/2018 Public transport to the ferry, then on to Soma and another car to Kvitalle where bird guide Omar already awaits me with his motorbike. Drive to Tendaba camp. Nights in simple bungalow (750 D incl. breakfast). First birding nearby. Nice buffet with fish for dinner in the camp.
- 26/11/2018 Frustrating 4 hours long boat trip on River Gambia with noisy and talkative photographers and bird guides. Afternoon birding Batiling Road with Omar until dark.
- 27/11/2018 After breakfast lift from 2 Belgian tourists to Mandinaba, where Solomon is already waiting for me. Short drive to Sita Joyeh (Baobab Island), a wonderful place to stay. Bungalow for 1.500 D incl. breakfast. Excellent restaurant serves fish or chicken. Afternoon birding with Solomon and a local guide nearby – at Farasuto. White-backed Night-Heron, Greyish Eagle Owl and Spotted Honeyguide
- 28/11/2018 Fantastic birding at Pirang Forest with Solomon and guide Kessuo – White-spotted Flufftail, Green Hylia, Leaflove a.o. Afternoon bird tour through the wonderful mangroves around Baobab Island.
- 29/11/2018 Solomon is leaving. Lazy day on the Island.
- 30/11/2018 Taxi (350 D) to Marakissa River Camp (800 D). Birding nearby.
- 01/12/2018 After bird watching and breakfast taxi (700 D) to lovely and friendly Tanji Eco Lodge. Nice and quiet bungalow (1.500 D). Western Bluebill.
- 02/12/2018 Very good birding in the morning. Solomon picks me up and drives me to the nice and comfortable Lemon Creek Resort, built in Spanish colonial style (65 Euro incl. breakfast) at Bijilo Beach.
- 03/12/2018 Lazy day at the beach
- 04/12/2018 Lazy day at the beach. Kololi Craft Market for gifts. Dinner at a restaurant at Senegambia/Seaview Boulevard.
- 05/12/2018 Lazy day at the beach.
- 06/12/2018 All day bird watching with guide Abdullah (75 Euro incl. car). In the morning at Tujering, in the afternoon/evening at Kotu Creek (for 20 minutes) and at Abuko NP.

07/12/2018 Lazy day at the beach.  
08/12/2018 5pm taxi to the airport. 8:30 flight to Frankfurt via Brussels.  
09/12/2018 8:30am arrival at Frankfurt. Train home.



[view from Campement de Wassadou](#)

## Sites

### Campement de Wassadou

Accessible by a good road via Kaolack, Campement du Wassadou; it is a pleasant place to stay.

Simple bungalows in a garden setting right at the River Gambia.

(Hut for 2 pax 40.000 CFA incl. breakfast and tasty dinner). Most birding is done on the river. We did two boat trips, walked around the camp and drove around with a motorbike at night in search of nightjars. Our guide Issa was a nice and knowledgeable guy.

Interesting birds we discovered were:

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | African Finfoot                 |
| 1 | African Hawk Eagle              |
| 5 | Egyptian Plover                 |
| 6 | <b>White-headed Lapwing</b>     |
| 2 | <b>Adamawa Turtle Dove</b>      |
| 1 | Levaillant's Cuckoo             |
| 1 | <b>Standard-winged Nightjar</b> |
| 1 | <b>Shining-blue Kingfisher</b>  |
| f | Grey-headed Kingfisher          |



2	Blue-breasted Kingfisher
2	Giant Kingfisher
c	Red-throated Bee-eater
c	<b>Western Red-billed Hornbill</b>
2	Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark
1	<b>White-crowned Robin Chat</b>
f	Swamp Flycatcher
f	<b>Blackcap Babbler</b>
1	Pygmy Sunbird
1	Variable Sunbird
1	Bush Petronia
f	<b>Purple Glossy Starling</b>
f	Little Weaver

## Parc National Niokolo Koba

From Wassadou we drove to Dar-Salaam, the entrance to Niokolo Koba NP. On the way we picked up our guide Isa. You need to hire a guide to enter the National Park. We birded mainly on the way to Simenti Lodge which is about 30km from the entrance. We did a game drive to Camp du Lion and birded again on our way out. Niokolo Koba is home for a good selection of interesting species of which we only managed to see some - due to limited time. But I was pleased with what we saw in such a short period. We also observed some mammals. Simenti Lodge is very run down but still a good spot to stay. The restaurant serves meals on request. A simple bungalow at Simenti was 29.000 CFA incl. breakfast.



driving through Niokolo Koba

some birds:

<b>2</b>	<b>Yellow-throated Francolin</b>
fc	Stone Partridge
f	Spur-winged Goose
f	African Fish Eagle
1	Bataleur
2	African Harrier Hawk
1	Dark Chanting Goshawk
1	Egyptian Plover
2	White-headed Lapwing
<b>4</b>	<b>Four-banded Sandgrouse</b>
f	African Green Pigeon
<b>2</b>	<b>Violet Turaco</b>
5	Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill
<b>1</b>	<b>Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike</b>
fc	Blackcap Babbler
<b>1</b>	<b>Yellow Penduline-Tit</b>
<b>fc</b>	<b>Black-headed Weaver</b>







[on our way to Podor and Bakel](#)

### **Richard Toll**

As we had problems with our rented car (did not start several times; had to find a new battery, which turned out to be not that easy) we did not have much time to go birding around Richard Toll. I birded one afternoon at acacia forest and scrub about 6km east of the town. I tried some tracks on the left coming from R. Toll. Next morning I did a quick birding



some km west of the town. Unfortunately I did not have enough time to really search for the birds I wanted to see and missed most key species.

In Richard Toll we stayed at the pleasant Hotel Le Gite D'Etape (42.000 CFA 2 pax). They kindly helped us find a new battery.

1	Black-shouldered Kite
1	Black Crake
1	Spotted Thick-knee
2	Levaillant's Cuckoo
1	Didric Cuckoo
1	African Hoopoe
<b>1</b>	<b>Black Scrub Robin</b>
f	Desert Cisticola
c	Chestnut-bellied Starling
<b>c</b>	<b>Sudan Golden Sparrow</b>
<b>f</b>	<b>Speckle-fronted Weaver</b>
f	Zebra Waxbill
<b>1</b>	<b>Brown-rumped Bunting</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Gosling's Bunting</b>







wetland, Pelican colony and semi-desert at Djoudj

### **Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj**

Coming from Richard Toll we turned west at Ross-Bethio and drove 18km on a good gravel road until PN Djoudj and checked in at Hotel Djoudj (25.000, simple room but nice setting,

pool and good restaurant). Afternoon birding with our guide Idrissa. Boat trip to the impressive Pelican colony with about 1000 breeding pairs. The following day we spent looking for birds by car. Idrissa showed us some Long-tailed Nightjars, Arabian Bustard, Black Crowned Cranes, Greater Painted Snipe and River Prinia etc. A truly beautiful wetland, situated in semi desert, with lots of special birds and thousands of Waders and Herons. After dinner we met Gambian bird guide Solomon Jallow, who invited me to bird with him in Gambia. He gave me advice where to go and later organized some places to stay for me in his country.

2000	Great White Pelican
2	Purple Swampphen
1	Allen`s Gallinule
1	Black Heron
f	Black-crowned Night Heron
1	White Stork
f	Glossy Ibis
f	Sacred Ibis
f	Eurasian Spoonbill
f	Greater Flamingo
f	Lesser Flamingo
1	Short-toed Eagle
f	White-faced Whistling Duck
2	Spur-winged Goose
1	Greater Painted Snipe
<b>7</b>	<b>Black Crowned Crane</b>
1	Arabian Bustard
<b>5</b>	<b>Long-tailed Nightjar</b>
1	Grey-headed Kingfisher
fc	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater
f	Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark
f	Black-crowned Sparrow Lark
<b>2</b>	<b>River Prinia</b>
1	Southern Grey Shrike
2	Woodchat Shrike
f	Brubru

## Tendaba Camp

After an easy border crossing and a night in Farafenni I traveled by public transport to Kvitalle, where bird guide Omar was already waiting for me (organized by Solomon). From Kvitalle it was only a short drive with his motorbike to Tendaba Camp. Stayed in a simple bungalow (R750 D incl. breakfast) and enjoyed the friendly atmosphere and the tasty food at the Camp`s restaurant (buffet at night).

Did a 4 hour boat trip, mainly in search for White-backed Night Heron. Was very



disappointing because we did not see many interesting species and because 2 other tourists and several guides who joined me on this excursion were extremely talkative! Birded around the Camp and at Batiling Road with Omar, but did not find my target species. White-rumped Seedeater and good looks at a Standard-winged Nightjar were probably the best birds.

f	Great White Pelican
f	Pink-backed Pelican
1	Black-crowned Night Heron
f	Hadada Ibis
f	Sacred Ibis
f	African Spoonbill
f	Spur-winged Goose
1	Montague`s Harrier
2	Grasshopper Buzzard
f	Dark-chanting Goshawk
1	Peregrine Falcon
1	Lanner Falcon
fc	Senegal Parrot
1	Standard-winged Nightjar
1	Temminck`s Courser
c	Blue-breasted Kingfisher
1	Grey-headed Kingfisher
1	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater
f	White-throated Bee-eater
f	Eurasian Bee-eater
1	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird
c	Bearded Barbet
1	Fine-spotted Woodpecker
1	African Reed Warbler
<b>1</b>	<b>Senegal Eremomela</b>
2	Yellow White-eye
<b>c</b>	<b>Brown Sunbird</b>
1	Pygmy Sunbird
2	Scarlet-chested Sunbird
f	Brown Babbler
3	African Oriole
<b>c</b>	<b>Bronze-tailed Starling</b>
f	Yellow-fronted Canary
<b>f</b>	<b>White-rumped Seedeater</b>
1	Brown-rumped Bunting

### **Sita Joyeh (Baobab Island) incl. Farasuto and Pirang Forest Park**

**1: Farasuto                      2: Pirang Forest                      3: Boat trip Mangroves                      4: Baobab Island**

My favorite place in Gambia! Bungalow (1500 D incl. breakfast) on a small peaceful island, covered with huge Baobab trees, good food and very friendly staff, combined with excellent birding opportunities! Together with Solomon and local guides I birded Farasuto (White-backed Night Heron, Greyish Eagle Owl, African Wood Owl, Spotted Honeyguide), Pirang Forest (White-spotted Flufftail, Brown-necked Parrot, Verreaux's Eagle Owl, Northern White-faced Owl, Green Turaco, African Pied Hornbill, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, Leaflove, Green Hylia) and did a boat excursion through the mangroves starting from Sita Joyeh (Goliath Heron).

For bookings at Sita Joyeh/Baobab Island: phone +220 3323579 or mail: [sitajoyeh1@gmail.com](mailto:sitajoyeh1@gmail.com) homepage: [www.sitajoyeh.com](http://www.sitajoyeh.com)







Bungalows on Baobab Island, tour through mangroves and Farasuto forest



	Ahanta Francolin	2	heard
<b>1</b>	<b>White-spotted Flufftail</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>White-backed Night Heron</b>	<b>1</b>	
1	Goliath Heron	3	
1	Ovambo Sparrowhawk	1	
f	Bruce`s Green Pigeon	2	
<b>2</b>	<b>Brown-necked Parrot</b>	<b>2</b>	
1	Didric Cuckoo	4	
1	Klaas`s Cuckoo		
f	Violet Turaco	1 2	
<b>f</b>	<b>Green Turaco</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Greyish Eagle Owl</b>	<b>1</b>	
1	African Wood Owl	1	
1	Verreaux`s Eagle Owl	2	
2	Northern White-faced Owl	2	
1	African Pygmy Kingfisher		
1	White-throated Bee-eater	1	
<b>3</b>	<b>African Pied Hornbill</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Buff-spotted Woodpecker</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>f</b>	<b>Fanti Saw-wing</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Spotted Honeyguide</b>	<b>1</b>	
1	Greater Honeyguide		
1	Pied-winged Swallow	1	
f	Wire-tailed Swallow	1	
2	Little Greenbul	2	
<b>2</b>	<b>Leaflove</b>	<b>2</b>	
2	White-crowned Robin Chat		
1	Singing Cisticola		
<b>1</b>	<b>Green Hylia</b>	<b>2</b>	
f	Yellow-breasted Apalis	2	
2	Northern Black Flycatcher	1	
<b>fc</b>	<b>Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher</b>		
2	Common Wattle-eye	2	
f	Brown Babbler		
2	Copper Sunbird	2	
f	Collared Sunbird	2	
f	Splendid Sunbird	2	
2	Variable Sunbird	2	
2	Green-headed Sunbird	2	
1	Northern Puffback		

## Marakissa

From Sita Joyeh I took a taxi (350 D) to Marakissa River Camp (800 D, OK, good food). Birded one afternoon and one morning near the accommodation. Only few interesting birds, so I decided to stay just one night. Nice observation of a group of Yellow-throated Leaflove. Also Giant Kingfisher and some water birds. For bookings you can call Adama +220 9905852

f	White-faced Whistling Duck
f	Fulvous Whistling Duck
1	African Green Pigeon
	Senegal Parrot
	Violet Turaco
1	Giant Kingfisher
	Bearded Barbet
2	African Pied Hornbill
<b>f</b>	<b>Yellow-throated Leaflove</b>
f	Brown Babbler
f	Blackcap Babbler

### Tanji Bird Reserve

Taxi (700 D) to Tanji Eco Lodge (Nice and quiet bungalow for 1.500 D). Pleasant place to stay. Excellent fish is served at the Lodge's restaurant. I birded on foot around the lodge, mainly in front of the lodge towards the ocean which was quite successful. Saw African Hobby, Vieillot's Barbet, Senegal Batis and Grey-headed Bristlebill there. At a small waterhole it is possible to observe Western Bluebill. Bookings can be made by +220 9924160

f	African Spoonbill
<b>1</b>	<b>African Hobby</b>
f	Violet Turaco
1	Bearded Barbet
<b>1</b>	<b>Vieillot's Barbet</b>
1	Yellow-throated Tinkerbird
	Blackcap Babbler
	Brown Babbler
<b>1</b>	<b>Grey-headed Bristlebill</b>
1	Northern Crombec
1	White-crowned Robin Chat
f	Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher
<b>1</b>	<b>Senegal Batis</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Western Bluebill</b>

### Tujering

When I was staying at Lemon Creek Hotel I did a half day birdwatching trip to Tujering and an afternoon visit to Abuko Forest with guide Abdullah. I paid him 75 Euro which included transport with his car. At Tujering we easily encountered several Red-winged Warblers and some Whistling Cisticolas.

1	Tawny Eagle
1	Lizard Buzzard
1	Four-banded Sandgrouse
2	African Green Pigeon
2	Mottled Spinetail
f	Snowy-crowned Robin Chat
1	Senegal Eremomela
1	Grey-backed Camaroptera
<b>3</b>	<b>Whistling Cisticola</b>
<b>c</b>	<b>Red-winged Warbler</b>
f	Brown Babbler
f	Variable Sunbird
1	Black-crowned Tchagra
1	Chestnut-crowned Sparrow Weaver

## Kotu Creek

On our way to Abuko we made a short stopover at Koto Creek where we spotted our first Oriole Warbler.

<b>2</b>	<b>Oriole Warbler</b>
	Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher

## Abuko Nature Reserve

In the afternoon we drove to Abuko Forest where we had excellent observations of Oriole Warbler and Grey-headed Bristlebill. We also glimpsed a Western Bluebill. Unfortunately we did not find Ahanta Francolin.

1	Lesser Honeyguide
1	Little Greenbul
4	Grey-headed Bristlebill
f	Snowy-crowned Robin Chat
3	Oriole Warbler
	Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher
f	Collared Sunbird
1	Western Bluebill
2	Orange-cheeked Waxbill

## Birdlist

Great White Pelican

a huge breeding colony (1000 pairs) seen at Djoudj; also found at Tendaba Camp

Pink-backed Pelican

few were seen at Tendaba Camp during a boat trip

Long-tailed Cormorant



small numbers at Djoudj, Tendaba Camp

### Great Cormorant

common

### African Darter

fairly common; seen at Wassadou, Djoudj, Tendaba Camp and Sita Joyeh

### African Finfoot

wonderful observation of a Finfoot walking on a sandy river island during a boat trip at Wassadou

### Black-crowned Night Heron

found at Wassadou, Djoudj, Tendaba Camp

### **White-backed Night Heron**

a single bird was finally found at Farasuto, after I missed seeing it on a boat trip at Tendaba Camp

### Green-backed (Striated) Heron

seen at Wassadou, Tendaba Camp

### Squacco Heron

seen at Wassadou, Djoudj, Tendaba Camp

### Cattle Egret

### Black Heron

1 seen at Djoudj

### Western Reef Egret

fairly common at Tendaba Camp and near Sita Joyeh (Boat trip)

### Little Egret

### Intermediate Egret

### Great Egret

### Grey Heron

### Black-headed Heron

seen during a boat trip at Wassadou and at Tujering

### Purple Heron

several found during boat trip from Sita Joyeh

### Goliath Heron

one sighting in the mangroves near Sita Joyeh

### Hamerkop

found at Wassadou, Tendaba Camp, Marakissa

### White Stork

1 individual at Djoudj NP

### Woolly-necked Stork

2 seen flying at Wassadou during a boat trip

### Yellow-billed Stork

few spotted at Djoudj

### Glossy Ibis

found at Djoudj

### Hadada Ibis

few seen at Wassadou, at Tendaba Camp

### Sacred Ibis

seen at Djoudj, Tendaba Camp

### African Spoonbill

few specimen seen during a boat trip on river Gambia at Tendaba Camp and at Tanji

### Eurasian Spoonbill at Djoudj

few seen

### Greater Flamingo

found at Djoudj

### Lesser Flamingo

few seen at Djoudj

### Egyptian Goose

4 seen at Djoudj NP

### Spur-winged Goose

3 were found at Niokolo Koba NP, 2 at Djoudj, few at Tendaba Camp

### Fulvous Whistling Duck

a flock was seen flying over at Marakissa

### White-faced Whistling Duck

seen at Djoudj NP and at Marakissa.

### Northern Shoveller

common at Djoudj

### Garganey

common at Djoudj

### Osprey

1 seen at Wassadou, 1 at Djoudj, 1 at Tujering

### African Fish Eagle

one at Wassadou, few at Niokolo Koba NP,

### Palm-nut Vulture

small numbers at Wassadou, Farasuto

### Hooded Vulture

frequently seen at different sites

### Black-shouldered Kite

1 bird was seen near Richard Toll

### Black Kite

common

## Yellow-billed Kite

common

## Montagu`s Harrier

1 sighting at Tendaba Camp

## Western Marsh Harrier

few were spotted at Djoudj

## Short-toed Eagle

one sighting at Djoudj NP

## Bataleur

1 was discovered at Niokolo Koba NP

## African Harrier Hawk

1 at Wassadou, 2 at Niokolo Koba NP

## Grasshopper Buzzard

2 spotted at Tendaba Camp

## Lizard Buzzard

1 found at Tujering

## Dark Chanting Goshawk

1 was seen at Niokolo Koba NP, few at Tendaba

## Ovambo Sparrowhawk

one observation at Farasuto

## Shikra

a fairly common appearance throughout, especially frequent at Niokola Koba NP.

## African Goshawk

1 sighting

## African Hawk Eagle

1 sighting at Wassadou

## Tawny Eagle

1 sighting at Tujering

## Common Kestrel

few were seen around Richard Toll, at Djoudj

## Grey Kestrel

one Falcon briefly seen at Niokolo Koba NP was probably this species. 2 observed around our Hotel in Bakel.

## **African Hobby**

seen flying over at Tanji

## Peregrine Falcon

1 seen at Tendaba Camp

## Lanner Falcon

1 was seen flying during a boat trip at Tendaba Camp, 1 around Sita Joyeh.

### **White-throated Francolin**

2 birds were seen on the track when we drove back from Hotel Simenti at Niokolo Koba NP

### **Ahanta Francolin**

heard at Pirang Forest

### **Double-spurred Francolin**

fairly common at Niokolo Koba NP, Tendaba Camp, Marakissa and Tujering

### **Helmeted Guineafowl**

found at Wassadou, Niokolo Koba NP, Tendaba Camp

### **Stone Partridge**

fairly common at Niokolo Koba NP, heard at Tujering

### **White-spotted Flufftail**

outstanding observation at Pirang Forest!!

### **Black Crake**

a single Black Crake was spotted near Richard Toll

### **Common Moorhen**

found at Djoudj

### **Allen`s Gallinule**

1 spotted at Djoudj

### **Purple Swamphen**

2 at Djoudj NP

### **Black-crowned Crane**

7 were observed from a distance at Djoudj NP

### **African Jacana**

seen at Niokolo Koba NP, at Djoudj NP, at Marakissa

### **Arabian Bustard**

one of those impressive Bustards was found at Djoudj NP

### **Black-winged Stilt**

several spotted at Djoudj

### **Pied Avocet**

some were found at Djoudj

### **Senegal Thick-knee**

a common bird at various sites, especially at Sita Joyeh.

### **Spotted Thick-knee**

1 individual seen near Richard Toll

### **Egyptian Plover**

5 birds observed during two excursions by boat at Wassadou, 1 seen at Niokolo Koba

### **Temminck`s Courser**

1 sighting on a harvested groundnut field near Batiling Trek at Tendaba Camp



Collared Pratincole

2 individuals were seen on the way to Kidira

Common Ringed Plover

few seen at Djoudj

Kittlitz's Plover

few seen at Djoudj NP

African Wattled Lapwing

few at Farasutung, 2 at Tujering

**White-headed Lapwing**

6 individuals found at the river bank at Wassadou, 2 at Niokolo Koba NP

Black-headed Lapwing

singles seen at Wassadou and at Niokolo Koba NP

Spur-winged Lapwing

a fairly common bird; seen at Wassadou, Djoudj, Tendaba Camp and several times along roadside

Black-tailed Godwit

several seen at Djoudj

Whimbrel

some during a boat trip at Tendaba Camp, 1 at Kotu Creek

Ruff

several spotted at Djoudj NP

Common Greenshank

1 was seen at Tendaba Camp

Green Sandpiper

seen at Djoudj

Wood Sandpiper

several seen at Djoudj

Common Sandpiper

small numbers seen at different sites

Curlew Sandpiper

found at Djoudj NP

Little Stint

seen at Djoudj

Greater Painted Snipe

good looks at one male at Djoudj NP

Kelp Gull

seen at Tanji

Caspian Tern

found at Djoudj and on the river Gambia (boat trip from Sita Joyeh).

### Gull-billed Tern

some were found at Tendaba Camp

### Whiskered Tern

seen at Djoudj NP

### White-winged Tern

few at Djoudj

### **Four-banded Sandgrouse**

4 birds seen on the road to Simenti Hotel at Niokolo Koba NP, 1 at Tujering

### Blue-spotted Wood Dove

### Black-billed Wood Dove

### Namaqua Dove

seen at various sites like at Tendaba Camp

### Laughing Dove

seen at Niokola Koba NP, Tendaba Camp

### African Green Pigeon

few seen at Niokolo Koba NP, 1 at Marakissa ???? , 2 at Tujering

### Bruce`s Green Pigeon

1 sighting at Wassadou, several at Pirang Forest

### Speckled Pigeon

a rather common bird. Seen at Wassadou

### Red-eyed Dove

seen at Niokolo Koba NP

### African Mourning Dove

Tujering

### Vinaceous Dove

seen at Niokolo Koba NP

### European Turtle Dove

### **Adamawa Turtle Dove**

2 individuals seen in flight during a boat trip at Wassadou

### Rose-ringed Parakeet

seen at Niokolo Koba NP, Tendaba, Farasuto, Marakissa

### Senegal Parrot

2 seen at Wassadou, fairly common at Tendaba Camp, several at Marakissa

### **Brown-necked Parrot**

first seen flying, then 2 individuals were sitting up in a tree at Pirang Forest

### **Green Turaco**

several of those beautiful Turacos were spotted at Pirang Forest

### **Violet Turaco**

first seen at Niokolo Koba NP. Wonderful observations at Farasuto and Pirang Forest.  
Also found at Marakissa and at Tanji.

### **Western Grey Plantain-eater**

a fairly common and widespread Turaco, seen at Wassadou, Tendaba, Farasuto, Marakissa and Tujering.

### **Levaillant`s Cuckoo**

1 seen at Wassadou, 2 near Richard Toll

### **Klaas`s Cuckoo**

1 observed on Baobab Island.

### **Didric Cuckoo**

1 found near Richard Toll, 1 on Sita Joyeh (Baobab Island)

### **Senegal Coucal**

3 spotted near Richard Toll, few at Tendaba, 2 at Pirang Forest, 2 at Marakissa, 2 at Tujering

### **African Wood Owl**

one was found during the day at Farasuto

### **Greyish Eagle Owl**

2 roosting birds were spotted at Farasuto

### **Verreaux`s Eagle Owl**

1 found during the day at Pirang Forest

### **Northern White-faced Owl**

2 individuals were roosting at Pirang Forest

### **Long-tailed Nightjar**

5 individuals were observed at their day time roost at Djoudj NP

### **Standard-winged Nightjar**

first one seen swiftly at Wassadou during a night drive with a motorbike. Then excellent looks on Batiling Trek near Tendaba Camp

### **Mottled Spinetail**

2 seen at Tujering

### **Little Swift**

### **African Palm Swift**

### **African Pygmy Kingfisher**

1 at Farasuto

### **Malachite Kingfisher**

3 of these beautiful Kingfishers were observed at Wassadou, 2 at Djoudj, 2 at Tendaba, 1 at Marakissa

### **Shining-blue Kingfisher**

one observation of this rather shy Kingfisher during a boat trip at Wassadou

### **Grey-headed Kingfisher**

few at Wassadou, 1 at Djoudj, 1 at Tendaba Camp

### Blue-breasted Kingfisher

2 found at Wassadou, several at Tendaba Camp

### Pied Kingfisher

a rather common appearance throughout

### Giant Kingfisher

2 individuals seen at Wassadou, 1 at Marakissa

### Little Bee-eater

seen at Djoudj, Wassadou, Tanji, Tujering

### Swallow-tailed Bee-eater

only one sighting at Tendaba Camp

### Red-throated Bee-eater

this lovely bird was common at Wassadou. Few were also found at Niokolo Koba

### White-throated Bee-eater

few found at Tendaba Camp, 1 at Farasuto.

### Blue-cheeked Bee-eater

fairly common at Djoudj

### European Bee-eater

some seen at Tendaba Camp

### Blue-naped Mousebird

few Niokolo Koba NP

### Abyssinian Roller

a fairly common appearance in Senegal and Gambia. Seen for example at Niokolo Koba NP, Tendaba Camp,

### Broad-billed Roller

common at Wassadou, few at Tendaba Camp and at Tujering

### Green Wood-hoopoe

seen at Niokolo Koba NP, near Richard Toll, at Tendaba Camp, at Pirang Forest, at Marakissa

### African Hoopoe

1 seen near Richard Toll

### **Western Red-billed Hornbill**

fairly common at Wassadou, at Niokolo Koba NP, on the road from Tamba to Podor, near Richard Toll, at Tendaba Camp, at Marakissa, at Tanji and at Abuko

### African Grey Hornbill

rather common at Wassadou, at Niokolo Koba NP, Tendaba, Farasuto

### **African Pied Hornbill**

3 were spotted at Pirang Forest together with some Violet and Green Turacos!  
Another 2 were found at Marakissa.



### Abyssinian Ground Hornbill

5 individuals observed at Niokolo Koba NP

### Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird

1 at Tendaba Camp, some at Marakissa, 1 at Tanji

### **Vieillot's Barbet**

excellent looks at an individual at Tanji

### Bearded Barbet

rather common at Tendaba Camp. Also seen at Marakissa, Tanji

### Lesser Honeyguide

1 sighting at Abuko NP

### Greater Honeyguide

one seen at Farasuto

### **Spotted Honeyguide**

a single bird was watched at Farasuto

### Cardinal Woodpecker

seen at Wassadou

### Fine-spotted Woodpecker

1 at Wassadou, 1 at Tendaba Camp

### African Grey Woodpecker

1 found at Niokolo Koba NP, 1 at Tendaba Camp, 2 at Marakissa, 2 at Tanji

### **Buff-spotted Woodpecker**

3 birds watched at Pirang Forest

### Crested Lark

common near Richard Toll and at Djoudj

### Singing Bush Lark

few at Djoudj

### Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark

2 at Wassadou, some roadside between Bakel and Podor, several at Djoudj

### Black-crowned Sparrow Lark

few sightings on the road from Bakel to Podor and at Djoudj NP

### **Fanti Saw-wing**

only seen at Pirang Forest

### Red-rumped Swallow

### Common Sand Martin

### Pied-winged Swallow

one at Farasuto

### Wire-tailed Swallow

some at Farasuto

### African Pied Wagtail

few seen at Wassadou

### White Wagtail

seen at Djoudj

### Yellow Wagtail

common, esp. at Djoudj

### Tree Pipit

few on Batiling Trek at Tendaba Camp

### **Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike**

only one sighting at Niokolo Koba NP on the road towards Simenti Hotel

### Little Greenbul

2 seen at Farasuto, 1 at Abuko

### Common Bulbul

### **Grey-headed Bristlebill**

1 sighting at Tanji, 4 seen at Abuko NP

### **Yellow-throated Leaflove**

some were observed on two occasions at Marakissa

### **Leaflove**

2 watched briefly at Pirang Forest. They were seen flying several times but could not been found sitting.

### Snowy-crowned Robin Chat

few sightings at Tujering and Abuko NP

### **White-crowned Robin Chat**

one was found at Wassadou, 2 at Farasuto, 1 at Tanji

### African Thrush

2 at Pirang Forest, fairly common at Tanji

### Common Redstart

one was observed on Batiling Trek near Tendaba

### African Stonechat

few seen at Djoudj NP

### Northern Wheatear

small numbers seen at Djoudj and near Richard Toll

### **Black Scrub Robin**

1 individual was spotted near Richard Toll

### African Reed Warbler

1 spotted at Tendaba Camp

### Greater Swamp Warbler

heard at Djoudj

### Western Olivaceous Warbler

1 seen at Tujering

### **Melodious Warbler**

this migrant was seen at Wassadou and at Pirang Forest

### **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**

this bird was fairly common around Richard Toll.

### **Senegal Eremomela**

seen at Tendaba Camp and 2 at Tujering.

### **Willow Warbler**

seen at Tendaba Camp

### **Common Chiffchaff**

found at Tujering

### **Subalpine Warbler**

few were spotted near Richard Toll

### **Common Whitethroat**

few near Richard Toll

### **Northern Crombec**

1 individual at Tanji

### **Grey-backed Camaroptera**

1 was watched at Tujering

### **Singing Cisticola**

one individual was found at Pirang Forest

### **Whistling Cisticola**

3 individuals were found at Tujering

### **Winding Cisticola**

1 sighting

### **Zitting Cisticola**

### **Desert Cisticola**

few Cisticolas spotted near Richard Toll were probably this species. Also one sighting at Tendaba Camp

### **Tawny-flanked Prinia**

found at Tendaba, Marakissa and Tujering

### **River Prinia**

2 were spotted at Djoudj

### **Red-winged Warbler**

good looks at several Red-winged Warblers/Prinias at Tujering where this species was rather common.

### **Yellow-breasted Apalis**

some at Pirang Forest

### **Green Hylia**

1 observation of a Green Hylia joining a mixed flock at Pirang Forest



**Oriole Warbler**

excellent observations at Kotu Creek and at Abuko NP. In total 5 birds were seen.

**Northern Black Flycatcher**

2 seen at Farasuto

**Swamp Flycatcher**

few were seen during a boat trip at Wassadou

**Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher**

fairly common in Gambia. Seen at Farasuto, Tanji, Kotu Creek and Abuko.

**African Blue Flycatcher**

1 glimpsed at Tendaba during a boat trip

**Common Wattle-eye**

2 watched at Pirang Forest. Heard at other sites too.

**Senegal Batis**

a male was briefly seen at Tanji

**Brown Babbler**

seen at Tendaba Camp, Pirang Forest, Marakissa, Tanji

**Blackcap Babbler**

first seen at Wassadou. Later at Marakisa, Tujering and at Tanji

**Yellow Penduline Tit**

1 observation at Niokolo Koba NP

**Yellow White-eye**

2 seen at Tendaba Camp

**Brown Sunbird**

this Sunbird was commonly spotted during a boat trip at Tendaba Camp

**Green-headed Sunbird**

2 at Farasutung

**Collared Sunbird**

some watched at Pirang Forest and at Abuko NP.

**Pygmy Sunbird**

a specimen was observed at Wassadou, few at Tendaba Camp

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird**

2 at Tendaba Camp

**Beautiful Sunbird**

a fairly common Sunbird. Found at Wassadou, Tendaba, Farasuto and Tujering.

**Variable Sunbird**

one seen at Wassadou, 2 at Pirang Forest and several at Tujering.

**Splendid Sunbird**

few seen at Pirang Forest

**Copper Sunbird**

2 wonderful observations at Pirang Forest. Seen in best light!

**Southern Grey Shrike**

1 sighting at Djoudj NP

**Woodchat Shrike**

3 seen at Djoudj NP

**Yellow-billed Shrike**

few seen at Niokolo Koba NP and at Marakissa

**Yellow-crowned Gonolek**

seen at Wassadou, at Niokolo Koba NP, Tendaba Camp, Tanji and Tujering.

**Northern Puffbird**

one watched at Pirang Forest

**Black-crowned Tchagra**

1 sighting at Tujering

**Brubru**

few seen at Djoudj NP

**African Golden Oriole**

one seen at Wassadou, 3 at Tendaba Camp

**Fork-tailed Drongo**

found at Djoudj

**Pied Crow**

common

**Piapiac**

several seen at Niokolo Koba NP, at Farasuto

**Purple Glossy Starling**

several were seen at Wassadou, common at Niokola Koba NP. Also found at Marakissa

**Bronze-tailed Starling**

common at Tendaba Camp

**Greater Blue-eared Starling**

few seen at Niokolo Koba NP and

**Lesser Blue-eared Starling**

seen near Richard Toll, at Tendaba Camp and at Tanji

**Long-tailed Glossy Starling**

a common appearance

**Chestnut-bellied Starling**

common around Richard Toll

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker**

2 at Niokolo Koba

**Northern Grey-headed Sparrow**

common

**Sudan Golden Sparrow**

common around Richard Toll

**Bush Petronia**

the only observation of this species was at Wassadou

**Chestnut-crowned Sparrow Weaver**

1 individual was watched at Tujering

**Speckle-fronted Weaver**

few found near Richard Toll

**Vitelline Masked Weaver****Black-necked Weaver**

seen at Pirang Forest, Tanji and Tujering

**Village Weaver**

seen at Wassadou, Tanji and Farasuto

**Little Weaver**

few were found at Wassadou

**Black-headed Weaver**

this species was fairly common at Niokolo Koba NP and at Djoudj NP

**Red-billed Quelea**

common near Richard Toll, at Djoudj

**Northern Red Bishop**

seen at Farasuto and other sites

**Red-winged Red Bishop****Yellow-crowned Bishop**

one male was found near Richard Toll

**Western Bluebill**

one very beautiful observation at Tanji when a bird came to drink in a pool at Tanji Eco Lodge. Another one was briefly seen at Abuko NP.

**Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu**

seen at various sites

**Lavender Waxbill**

some were found at Tendaba Camp, Farasuto and Tanji

**Orange-cheeked Waxbill**

few were spotted at Abuko NP.

**Black-rumped Waxbill**

common at Tendaba Camp, Farasuto, Tanji a.o.

**Red-billed Firefinch**

fairly common at most sites

**Zebra Waxbill**

few birds were seen near Richard Toll

**Bronze Mannikin**

seen at several sites

**African Silverbill**

**Village Indigobird**

1 seen at Niokolo Koba NP, some near Richard Toll and at Tendaba Camp

**White-rumped Seedeater**

few sightings on/near Batiling Trek at Tendaba

**Yellow-fronted Canary**

few seen at Tendaba Camp

**Brown-rumped Bunting**

1 individual near Richard Toll, 1 on/near Batiling Trek at Tendaba

**Gosling's /Grey-throated Bunting**

1 sighting near Richard Toll. Split from Cinnamon-breasted Bunting.

**48 lifer**

**other animals:**

**Western Red Colobus Monkey/Piliocolobus badius**

some were observed at Abuko NP

**Patas Monkey/Erythrocebus patas**

3 seen at Niokolo Koba, several at Djoudj and some on the road from Tamba to Kidira.

Also seen in Gambia.

**Guinea Baboon/Papio papio**

groups of those Baboons were observed at Wassadou and at Niokolo Koba

**Green Vervet Monkey/Chlorocebus pygerythrus**

fairly common at different sites

**African Golden Jackal/Wolf/Canis anthus)**

4 were observed at Djoudj

**Marsh Mongoose/Herpestes paludinosus**

1 observation during a boat trip at Tendaba Camp

**Whytes Hare/Lepus whytei**

few sightings

**Red-flanked Duiker/Cephalophus rufilatus**

3 were observed at Niokolo Koba NP

**Oribi/Ourebia ourebi**

1 sighting at Niokolo Koba NP

**Cape Bushbuck/Tragelaphus sylvaticus**

6 individuals found at Niokolo Koba NP on the way to Camp de Lion



Roan Antelope/Hippotragus equines/Pferdeantilope

4 were crossing the track at Niokolo Koba NP

Warthog/Phacochoerus africanus

5 seen at Niokolo Koba NP

Striped Ground Squirrel/Xerus erythropus

seen at various sites, for example at Niokolo Koba NP and Tendaba

Gambian Sun Squirrel/Heliosciurus gambianus

seen at various sites, for instance at Niokolo Koba NP and Pirang Forest

Hippopotamus/Hippopotamus amphibius

only seen during a boat trip at Campement du Wassadou

Fruit Bat spec.

a group of Fruit Bats found day roosting at Hotel Djoudj next to the swimming pool

**West African Crocodile/Crocodylus suchus**

a baby Croc was found at Wassadou. A larger individual was spotted at Marakissa.

Split from Nile Crocodile (Crocodylus niloticus)

Nile Monitor Lizard/Varanus niloticus

common at Wassadou and at Niokolo Koba. Also seen at Djoudj

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