SENEGAL: 20-31 JANUARY 2019

Richard Webb



Quail-plover

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INTRODUCTION

With Northern Cameroon effectively remaining off-limits due to ongoing security issues Senegal is fast becoming the best country to visit in search of most of the Sahel region specialties. Roads are generally in good condition other than in the extreme south-east and reasonable accommodation is available in all the main areas.

Having not been to the Sahel region for almost 25 years I planned a visit to Senegal for 12 days with Nigel Goodgame primarily to look for Golden Nightjar, Savile's Bustard and Quail-plover in northern Senegal along with restricted range species such as Mali Firefinch in the south-east of the country. Barry Reed joined the trip late in the planning stages.

PLANNING

The following trip reports available on www.cloudbirders.com were useful in planning the trip.

- Andy Mears Northern and Central Senegal, 26/3/18 to 6/4/18
- David Karr Northern Senegal (St. Louis, Richard Toll and Podor) 8 & 9 September 2018
- David Karr Northern Senegal Richard Toll and Environs 24-25 March 2018
- David Karr Senegal A weekend trip to Djoudj National Bird Park 17-18 March 2018
- Jon Lehmberg Senegal 10th 26th November 2017
- Henk Hendriks Northern Senegal February 2016

We also used https://ebird.org/country/SN to get up-to-date information on Golden Nightjar and Quail-plover prior to departure.

TRAVEL AND GUIDES

We flew from London Gatwick to Dakar via Lisbon on TAP for about £450, BR flying back into Heathrow to avoid a seven hour wait in Lisbon on the way back. Their planes are not particularly comfortable as the seats in economy do not recline! The timings meant that we arrived in and departed from Dakar in the early hours of the morning. Brussels Airlines and Iberia both have more convenient timings but unfortunately their outbound flights did not work for us due to NG flying in from Jamaica on the day of departure.

Some people do self-drive in Senegal but we decided to follow Andy Mears' advice and hire Carlos Abdou as a guide. He can be contacted at carlostoubacouta@yahoo.fr and generally responds very quickly to emails unless he is leading another tour in an area without internet. Even then he normally replies within 48-72 hours. He provided a comfortable minibus with driver and guided us when we needed it throughout the tour. He can also arrange a vehicle with a driver if he is unavailable himself.

The cost for 12 days guiding, all transport, accommodation (one twin and one single room), meals and water was 2000 euros per person.

I can thoroughly recommend Carlos and he has worked with birders including Birdquest, Andy Mears, Jon Lehmberg and David Karr.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The accommodation used is listed in the Itinerary and is the same as that used on the Birdquest tour. Most was of a good standard although the rooms at the Djoudj Hotel have seen better days.

At Wassadou the electricity and water supply are controlled by a generator which is on roughly between 0615 and 0700, and again from 1700-2330. The rooms were fairly basic and on our second visit they appeared to be over-booked and I'm pretty sure we ended up with guide rooms. The pillows at Wassadou are like slabs of rock so take an alternative pillow or similar with you if you want a good night's sleep.

Breakfast was generally a baguette with butter and jam, other than at Ranch Bango where an excellent buffet was available. Unfortunately breakfast was rarely served before 7 am and we skipped breakfast at Kedougou to get to the birding sites for first light. Elsewhere it was less of an issue.

Other meals were generally a choice of meat, chicken or fish with chips, or rice and vegetables, with salad or omelette for starters. While travelling Carlos would take our orders and phone ahead to order lunches to avoid delays as the service in restaurants and hotels was generally quite slow.

Anyone requiring sugar-free soft drinks should stock up at Richard Toll before going to Podor, and Tambacounda before heading to Wassadou and Kedougou as they were not available in those areas.

WEATHER AND BIRDING HOURS

First light was between 0700 and 0715 most days and it got dark around 1900 hours. It was quite cool at first light particularly in the north around Richard Toll and Podor, and at Wassadou in the south. It started to get hot by 0930 and extremely hot for birding on foot after about 1100. It started cooling down again around 1600. We were normally back out in the field around this time.

INSECTS

Very few mosquitoes were encountered. Mosquitoes are reported to be considerably worse earlier in the dry season and anti-malarials are recommended.

ITINERARY

- Morning drive to Richard Toll and birded three areas around Richard Toll. Drove to Podor and checked into hotel. Late afternoon/evening near Podor. Night Cour du fleuve, Podor.
- Morning at second site near Podor. Brief visit to Gamadgi Sare mid-afternoon before returning to original site near Podor for late afternoon and early evening. Night Cour du fleuve, Podor.
- Drove to RichardToll and birded areas near old airport. Continued to Djoudj birding access road to national park. Afternoon excursion within national park. Night Hotel Djoudj.
- Drove to Marigots and spent morning in marshes and savanna grasslands. Checked into Ranch Bango near St Louis. Returned to Marigots for afternoon. Night Ranch Bango, St Louis.
- Morning drive south to Mbacke stopping just both of Barale Ndiaye and again 104 km south of St Louis for vultures. Further stop in scrub 27 km north of Mbacke. Lunch in Mbacke then afternoon birding grassland c.20 km south of Mbacke. Drove south to Kaolack. Night Hotel Relais de Kaolack Hotel.
- **25**th Early morning visit to distant Scissor-tailed Kite roost near Kaolock. Remainder of morning in forest scrub/cultivation near Toubakouta. Lunch in Toubacouta and late afternoon boat trip in mangroves in Saloum Delta near Toubakouta. Night Hotel Relais de Kaolack.
- Early morning waiting for Scissor-tailed Kites to leave roost before long drive south-east to Tambacounda with a brief stop on route. Late lunch in Tambacounda before continuing south-east with one short stop on route to Wassadou where we spent the late afternoon along the entrance road. Night Campement Wassadou.
- 27th All day Wassadou. Early morning boat trip followed by walk along riverside trail. Mid-afternoon walk around camp followed by late afternoon boat trip on river. Night Campement Wassadou.
- 28th Morning driving south-east to Kedougou. Afternoon drive followed by hot uphill walk to Thiewoune. Back to Kedougou for night at Hotel Bedik.
- All day in Dindefelo area including walk to cascades and afternoon birding in scrub on route back to Kedougou. Night Hotel Bedik, Kedougou.
- 30th Morning vist to Thiewoune before returning to Kedougou and then heading back west to Wassadou arriving mid-afternoon. Late afternoon walking river trail. Night Campement Wassadou.
- **31**st Early morning Wassadou. Drive to Kaolack for lunch and then north-west to Dakar for flight in the early hours of the 1st.

KEY SPECIES

- White-crested Tiger Heron The Saloum Delta is one of the best areas in Africa for this species. We
 had originally not planned to look for the species having seen it previously in Cote d'Ivoire. However
 having seen Quail-plover very quickly we did have one unsuccessful boat trip into the mangroves in
 search of the species. Andy Mears' excellent report gives more information on seeing this species.
- Scissor-tailed Kite Several thousand roost on Kousmar Island in the Saloum Delta. We only had distant views of the roost as we waited for the birds to leave the roost after first light and did not cross the channel to get to the island. On both mornings we were there the birds did not actually leave the roost until after 9 am so we would have been better off crossing the channel by dug-out canoe to get closer views. On the second morning we had large numbers passing overhead but none lingered in the normal staging areas presumably due to their late departure from the roost.
- **Savile's Bustard** Easy to see in the Marigots area near St Louis in the north-west of the country and BR also saw one at the Quail-plover site south of Mbacke.



Savile's Bustard

- Arabian Bustard Not a key target for us as we had all seen them elsewhere and we therefore only
 had one afternoon in Djoudj. If this is a key target allow more than one session as we dipped. They
 are apparently easiest at dawn and dusk when they fly between feeding and roosting areas.
- Quail-plover You need to allow two full days to search for this species as it has taken some trips this long to find it in the vast areas of suitable habitat but we found at the second site we tried about 20-25 km south of Mbacke and where Andrew Spencer had found it in December 2018 to the east of the R60 at 14.661, -15.837. They had also been seen here on 17 January.
- Golden Nightjar The areas near Podor are reliable for this species and Carlos knows the sites here well. We heard birds and saw birds in flight on both evenings but failed to see them on the ground possibly due to the full moon which also seemed to be limiting the amount of song. We could not find any roosting birds during the day either. I suspect we were just unlucky but patience and a cautious approach to singing birds is advisable. We visited a second site near Podor where Andrew Spencer had flushed a bird during the day in December 2019 at but failed to find it there as well.
- Mali Firefinch/Neumann's Starling/Fox Kestrel The area around Kedougou in the far south-east of
 the country is possibly the most accessible area in Africa for these species. We saw the firefinch
 shortly after dawn at the edge of the escarpment as you walk up the dirt road towards the village of
 Thiewoune. This is a regular stakeout for this species. The starling and kestrel are also seen here but
 we dipped. The other well-known firefinch site at Dindefelo is a steep and difficult walk and even NG
 (aka Mountain Goat) found it hard going.

MAIN BIRDING AREAS

Richard Toll – we visited four areas of scrub around the town of Richard Toll, in the north of Senegal, including the area near the airport. Key species seen included Little Grey Woodpecker, the recently split African Green Bee-eater, Black Scrub Robin, Cricket Warbler, Sennar Penduline Tit and Sudan Golden Sparrow. A female Standard-winged Nightjar and several Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse were also seen.





Little Grey Woodpecker, Sennar Penduline Tit, Black Bush Robin & Cricket Warbler



Podor area – we birded three areas around Podor in north-eastern Senegal.

• The main birding area lies a few kilometres outside the village and consists of scrub and cultivation. This is the main area for Golden Nightjar and Carlos says he normally finds roosting birds once in every three or four visits, and sees them at dusk 80-90% of the time when the birds are calling. We

- saw and heard at least two Golden Nightjars & at least three Long-tailed Nightjars. Black Scrub Robin was common. We also saw at least three Pale (Sand) Foxes.
- Foret de N'Dioum Dieri km 10 off N2 St Louis. We also visited a second area of scrub about an hour's drive from Podor where Andrew Spencer had flushed a roosting Golden Nightjar in December.
 We had no joy but did see African Collared Dove and our only Wryneck and Black-eared Wheatear of the trip. Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark and Black Scrub Robin were common in the area.
- We also visited Gamadji Sare a village about an hour from Podor where Horus Swift has recently been discovered nesting in the riverbanks.



African Collared & Vinaceous Doves

European Turtle & African Mourning Doves

Djoudj National Park – a huge wetland and also the main area for Arabian Bustard. Key species seen in an afternoon in the park included River Prinia, Black Crowned Crane, Cream-coloured Courser and large numbers of waterbirds. Aquatic Warbler also winters here but only in more inaccessible areas of the marsh.

Marigots – near the town of St Louis Marigots comprises areas of savanna scrub good for Savile's Bustard and Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse and a number of wetland areas home to a variety of wetland

species including African Pygmy Goose, Black Heron, Allen's Gallinule, African Swamphen, River Prinia, Greater Swamp Warbler and African Reed Warbler.



Black Crowned Crane, River Prinia, Western Barn Owl & Cream-coloured Courser

St Louis-Mbacke – The N2 road between Louga and Mbacke passes through areas still inhabited by at least four species of vulture: Lappet-faced, White-backed, Ruppell's Griffon and Hooded. A probable European Griffon was also seen. Other species seen included Abyssinian Ground Hornbill and 27 km north of Mbacke Sahel Paradise Whydah and Rufous-tailed (African) Scrub Robin were seen.

South of Mbacke – Two stops 20-25 km south of Mbacke along the R60 produced Savile's Bustard west of the road and superb views of Quail-plover east of the R60 at 14.661, -15.837.







Lappet-faced, White-backed, Hooded & Ruppell's Vulture

Saloum Delta & Toubakouta – we visited three main areas.

- Kousmar Island we viewed the Scissor-tailed Kite and Lesser Kestrel roost distantly from both the south and west. I would recommend getting a dugout canoe across to the island to get much better views. We had expected close range views of perched birds but had to settle for great flight views instead. We had nesting Red-necked Falcon near the eastern viewpoint.
- Areas of woodland, scrub and cultivation near the village of Toubakouta. We saw our only Purple Roller and Quailfinch of the trip here along with our only identifiable Northern Red Bishops of the trip, but could not find Temminck's Courser which is often seen here. Woodland held Brown and Blackcap Babblers and White-crowned Robin-Chat.
- Saloum Delta we took a three-hour boat trip out into the mangroves from the main tourist hotel in Toubakouta but failed to find the hoped-for White-crested Tiger Heron. The best birds seen were Swallow-tailed Bee-eater and Mangrove (Brown) Sunbird plus the only Goliath Heron of the trip.

Tambacounda – the grounds of the Hotel Relais in Tambacounda (on route from the Saloum Delta to Wassadou) produced nesting Northern White-faced Owl.

Wassadou – The camp lies 4 km south of the N7 on the north bank of the River Gambia (Gambi) on the northern edge of Niokola-Koba National Park. The main birding areas are:

- Boat trips on the river were good for Egyptian Plover, White-crowned Lapwing, African Finfoot, kingfishers, bee-eaters etc. Pel's Fishing Owl can sometimes be seen on the late afternoon boat trips.
- The camp itself can produce Pel's Fishing Owl and we heard it on our second visit here.
- The 3.5 km entrance road is worth birding at dawn and dusk. A wide variety of species can be seen along the road including Stone Partridge. White-throated Francolin has been seen here. Spotlighting produced African Scops Owl and Northern Lesser Galago.
- A trail runs east from the camp parallel to the river for 1.5-2 km at which point it reaches a track
 which leads down to the right to the river where Egyptian Plover, White-crowned Lapwing etc. can
 be seen.



African Finfoot







Spur-winged Lapwing, White-crowned Lapwing and Egyptian Plover

Kedougou area – Kedougou in the extreme south-east of Senegal near the borders with Mali and Guinea offers opportunities to see a number of restricted range species including Mali Firefinch and Neumann's Starling together with a wide variety of more widespread West African species such as Blue-bellied Roller, Guinea and Violet Turacos etc. This is the one area where an early pre-breakfast departure from the hotel is desirable. We visited two main areas.

- Dindefelo Reserve lies about 90 minutes' drive SSW of Kedougou. It is not particularly far but the sandy road is slow going hence the need for an early start. A trail running around the right hand (western) side of the campsite (with bandas) leads up a steep slope to an area known to be a reliable stakeout for Mali Firefinch. NG and BR walked/scrambled up this but failed to find the rosefinch. They did see Violet Turaco. A second trail runs to the left of the campsite for a kilometer or so to the cascades. This trail was very quiet first thing but was extremely good one the sun hit the valley after 0930. Good birds included Guinea Turaco and Narina Trogon. We also made a number of stops in scrubby habitats along the road back to Kedougou and found our only Blue-bellied Rollers of the trip at one of these stops.
- The village of Thiewoune is about an hour's drive from Kedougou. We were unable to drive the last kilometre of the road to the village as it was too rough for the vehicle. From the point that you stop it's about 750 metres along the road to the edge of the escarpment where we found at least three Mali Firefinches in with a flock of Lavender Waxbills. There was also a Red-billed Firefinch in the same flock. This is a regular site for the firefinch. Continuing along the road through the villages there are cliffs on the left hand side of the road behind the village. This is a site for Neumann's Starling although wse failed to find them on morning and evening visits to the site. The area also holds Fox Kestrel but we only found Beaudouin's Snake Eagle and numerous Gosling's Buntings.



Gosling's Bunting & Beaudouin's Snake Eagle

BIRDS

The checklist largely follows IOC taxonomy and nomenclature as at January 2019. Numbers quoted are RW's personal counts. The totals of many species will actually have been much higher taking into account BR & NG's counts. Many groups, in particular swifts & hirundines were generally underrecorded & bishops, whydahs & weavers were under-recorded as most were in non-breeding plumage. Additional species known to have been seen by BR and/or NG are shown at the end of the list.

White-faced Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna viduata	1000s Djoudj.
Fulvous Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna bicolor	5+ Djoudj.
Spur-winged Goose	Plectropterus gambensis	Small numbers Djoudj.
Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiaca	Three near Kaolack.
African Pygmy Goose	Nettapus auritus	c.20 Marigots.
Garganey	Spatula querquedula	Small numbers Djoudj.
Northern Shoveler	Spatula clypeata	Small numbers Djoudj.
Northern Pintail	Anas acuta	1000s Djoudj.
Marbled Duck	Marmaronetta angustirostris	Two Djoudj.
Helmeted Guineafowl	Numida meleagris	Common Wassadou and several other groups in the south-east.
Stone Partridge	Ptilopachus petrosus	Small numbers Thiewoune. Heard Wassadou.
Double-spurred Francolin	Pternistis bicalcaratus	Small numbers Marigots, Kaolack, Wassadou, Thiewoune & near Dindefelo.
Lesser Flamingo	Phoeniconaias minor	Common Djoudj.
Black Stork	Ciconia nigra	Eight Djoudj & two Saloum Delta.
African Sacred Ibis	Threskiornis aethiopicus	Two Saloum Delta boat trip.
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Bostrychia hagedash

Common Wassadou. One Thiewoune.

Hadada Ibis



Double-spurred Francolin

Eurasian Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia	Small numbers Djoudj. One Marigots.
Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	One Marigots, one near Kaolack and common Wassadou.
Striated Heron	Butorides striata	One Saloum Delta boat trip, two Wassadou.
Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides	Small numbers Djoudj & Marigots.
Western Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	Widespread in north and south to Saloum Delta.
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	Small numbers Podor, Djoudj, Marigots, Saloum Delta boat trip & Wassadou.
Black-headed Heron	Ardea melanocephala	Three Saloum Delta boat trip.

Goliath Heron Ardea goliath One Saloum Delta boat trip.

Purple Heron Ardea purpurea Two Marigots.

Great Egret Ardea alba Small numbers Podor, Djoudj,

Marigots, Saloum Delta &

Wassadou.

Black Heron Egretta ardesiaca Two Marigots.

Little Egret Egretta garzetta Small numbers Djoudj &

Marigots. Probably under-

recorded.

Western Reef Heron Egretta gularis Small numbers at all coastal sites

visited & at Marigots.

Hamerkop Scopus umbretta One Podor & three Wassadou.

Great White Pelican Pelecanus onocrotalus Common Djoudj.

Pink-backed Pelican Pelecanus rufescens Small numbers south of St Louise

& two at Saloum Delta.



Reed Cormorant Microcarbo africanus Small numbers Gamadji Sare,

Djoudj, Marigots, St Louis, Saloum Delta & Wassadou.

White-breasted Cormorant Phalacrocorax lucidus Common Djoudj & small

numbers Saloum Delta.

African Darter Anhinga rufa Two Marigots & three on Saloum

Delta boat trip.

Western Osprey Pandion haliaetus Two Djoudj & singles Marigots,

Saloum Delta & Wassadou.

Black-winged Kite Elanus caeruleus Singles Richard Toll & Dindefelo.

Scissor-tailed Kite Chelictinia riocourii 1000s Saloum Delta.





Scissor-tailed Kite & Bateleur

African Harrier-Hawk Polyboroides typus Singles on route to Wassadou &

east of Wassadou. Two

Wassadou.

Palm-nut Vulture Gypohierax angolensis Three Saloum Delta boat trip,

two Wassadou.

Hooded Vulture Necrosyrtes monachus Two 104 km south of St Louis,

three Toubakouta, small numbers Tambacounda-Wassadou & Wassadou-

Kedougou.

White-backed Vulture Gyps africanus Common along route from St

Louis to Mbacke.

Rüppell's Vulture Gyps rueppelli Common along route from St

Louis to Mbacke.

Lappet-faced Vulture Torgos tracheliotos Two 104 km south of St Louis.

Short-toed Snake Eagle Circaetus gallicus Singles Podor & Toubakouta, two

south of Mbacke.

Beaudouin's Snake Eagle Circaetus beaudouini One Thiewoune.

Brown Snake Eagle Circaetus cinereus Two on route from

Tambacounda-Kaolack.

Bateleur Terathopius ecaudatus Five Wassadou-Kedougou.

Wahlberg's Eagle Hieraaetus wahlbergi Two Wassadou-Kedougou.

African Hawk-Eagle Aquila spilogaster Singles Wassadou, east of

Wassadou & Thiewoune.





Wahlberg's Eagle / Lizard Buzzard

Lizard Buzzard Kaupifalco monogrammicus One Wassadou-Kedougou.

Gabar Goshawk Micronisus gabar One dark phase individual

Wassadou.

Dark Chanting Goshawk Melierax metabates 1-2 Podor, Saloum Delta, &

Wassadou-Tambacounda.

Shikra Accipiter badius Three Wassadou, singles

hiewoune & Dindefelo.

Western Marsh Harrier Circus aeruginosus Small numbers Podor, Richard

Toll-Djoudj, Djoudj, Marigots, Saloum Delta & Wassadou.

Pallid Harrier Circus macrourus Males Podor-Richard Toll &

Djoudj.

Montagu's Harrier Circus pygargus Singles Richard Toll &

Toubakouta.

Black Kite Milvus migrans Small numbers in the north & in

the Saloum Delta.

Yellow-billed Kite Milvus aegyptius Common Saloum Delta.

African Fish Eagle Haliaeetus vocifer One Marigots & two Wassadou.

Savile's Bustard Lophotis savilei Two males & one female

Marigots.

African Finfoot Podica senegalensis One Saloum Delta boat trip &

one or two juveniles Wassadou.

Black Crake Amaurornis flavirostra Abundant Marigots.

African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis* 20+ Marigots.

Allen's Gallinule Porphyrio alleni Two Marigots.

Common Moorhen Gallinula chloropus Small numbers Djoudj &

Marigots.

Black Crowned Crane Balearica pavonina Six Djoudj.

Quail-plover Ortyxelos meiffrenii One c.20 km south of Mbacke.

Senegal Thick-knee Burhinus senegalensis Five Marigots & 7+ Wassadou.

Spotted Thick-knee Burhinus capensis 3+ Richard Toll & one Marigots.

Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus Small numbers Podor, Djoudj &

Marigots.

Pied Avocet Recurvirostra avosetta Common Djoudj.

Spur-winged Lapwing Vanellus spinosus Widespread in small numbers.

Common at Wassadou.

Black-headed Lapwing Vanellus tectus Small numbers Richard Toll,

Podor, south of St Louis,

Toubakouta, Kaolack & Kaolack-

Tambacounda.

White-crowned Lapwing Vanellus albiceps 5+ Wassadou.





Spotted Thicknee, Senegal Thicknee & Kittlitz's Plover

African Wattled Lapwing	Vanellus senegallus	One Djoudj, two Marigots, 30+ Wassadou.
Grey Plover	Pluvialis squatarola	Two Saloum Delta.
Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula	Small numbers Djoudj.
Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius	Two Marigots.
Kittlitz's Plover	Charadrius pecuarius	10+ Djoudj.
Kentish Plover	Charadrius alexandrinus	Two Djoudj.
Egyptian Plover	Pluvianus aegyptius	10+ Wassadou. Bird of the trip despite being the fourth country I've seen them.
Greater Painted-snipe	Rostratula benghalensis	Two Djoudj. BR/NG saw five at Wassadou.
African Jacana	Actophilornis africanus	Common Marigots.

Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus One Saloum Delta.

Eurasian Curlew Numenius arquata Small numbers Saloum Delta.

Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa Small numbers Djoudj.

Ruff Calidris pugnax Small numbers Djoudj.

Curlew Sandpiper Calidris ferruginea Small numbers Djoudj.

Dunlin Calidris alpina Small numbers Djoudj.

Little Stint Calidris minuta Small numbers Djoudj.

Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos Small numbers Gamadji Sare, Marigots,

Saloum Delta & Wassadou.

Green Sandpiper Tringa ochropus One Marigots, two Wassadou.

Common Redshank Tringa totanus One Djoudj.

Marsh Sandpiper Tringa stagnatilis Three Djoudj & one Marigots.

Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola Small numbers Podor, Djoudj & Marigots.

Spotted Redshank Tringa erythropus One Marigots.

Common Greenshank Tringa nebularia Singles Marigots, Saloum Delta &

Wassadou.

Cream-colored Courser *Cursorius cursor* Three Djoudj.

Collared Pratincole Glareola pratincola One Podor, 20+ Djoudj.

Slender-billed Gull Chroicocephalus genei Small numbers Saloum Delta.

Grey-headed Gull Chroicocephalus Small numbers Djoudj & Saloum Delta.

cirrocephalus

Gull-billed Tern Gelochelidon nilotica Small numbers Djoudj & Saloum Delta.

Caspian Tern Hydroprogne caspia One Djoudj, small numbers Saloum Delta.

Royal Tern Thalasseus maximus Two Saloum Delta boat trip.

Sandwich Tern Thalasseus sandvicensis Two Saloum Delta.

Whiskered Tern Chlidonias hybrida Small numbers Djoudj & Marigots.

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse

Pterocles exustus

Up to 30 Richard Toll. Smaller numbers Djoudj & Marigots.



Speckled Pigeon

Columba guinea

Widespread.

European Turtle Dove

Streptopelia turtur

Small numbers Podor, Tambacounda-

Wassadou & Wassadou.

Adamawa Turtle Dove

Streptopelia hypopyrrha

6+ Wassadou.



Adamawa Turtle Dove & Black-billed Wood Dove

African Collared Dove

Streptopelia roseogrisea

2+ near Podor.

Mourning Collared Dove Streptopelia decipiens Small numbers Podor & north of Mbacke.

Red-eyed Dove Streptopelia semitorquata Small numbers Wassadou.

Vinaceous Dove Streptopelia vinacea Widespread & common.

Laughing Dove Spilopelia senegalensis Widespread & common.

Black-billed Wood Dove Turtur abyssinicus Common Wassadou, small numbers

Dindefelo & Thiewoune.

Blue-spotted Wood Dove Turtur afer One Dindefelo.

Namaqua Dove Oena capensis Widespread & common, abundant in

places but scarcer in south-east.





Bruce's Green Pigeon *Treron waalia* Three Thiewoune.

Guinea Turaco Tauraco persa One seen & several heard Dindefelo.

Violet Turaco *Musophaga violacea* Two near Dindefelo.

Western Plantain-eater Crinifer piscator Common Wassadou, smaller numbers

Tambacounda-Wassadou & eastwards

from Wassadou.

Senegal Coucal Centropus senegalensis Up to five Djoudj, Marigots,

Tambacounda & Wassadou.

Klaas's Cuckoo Chrysococcyx klaas One Dindefelo.

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis* One near Podor.

Western Barn Owl Tyto alba An adult plus four juveniles in one of the

hides at Djoudj.

African Scops Owl Otus senegalensis One Wassadou.

Northern White-faced Owl Ptilopsis leucotis Adult plus juvenile in grounds of hotel in

Tambacounda.



Northern White-faced Owl & Pearl-spotted Owlet

Pearl-spotted Owlet	Glaucidium perlatum	One near Dindefelo, heard Thiewoune.
Golden Nightjar	Caprimulgus eximius	At least two seen poorly in flight at Podor. The main disappointment of the trip.
Long-tailed Nightjar	Caprimulgus climacurus	3+ at night at Podor, one during the day near Podor & a pair during the day near St Louis.
Standard-winged Nightjar	Caprimulgus longipennis	Females/non-breeding males Richard Toll during the day & pre-dawn on route to

Thiewoune.





Long-tailed & Standard-winged Nightjars

Mottled Spinetail Telacanthura ussheri Small numbers north of Mbacke & at

Thiewoune.

African Palm Swift Cypsiurus parvus Widespread.

Little Swift Apus affinis Small nur	nbers Podor, Gamadji Sare &
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at Thiewoune. Under-recorded.

White-rumped Swift Apus caffer One Gamadji Sare.

Horus Swift Apus horus One Gamadji Sare. A recently

discovered breeding site.

Blue-naped Mousebird Urocolius macrourus Small numbers Richard Toll, Podor,

Djoudj & north of Mbacke.

Narina Trogon Apaloderma narina Two Dindefelo.

Purple Roller Coracias naevius Two near Toubakouta.

Abyssinian Roller Coracias abyssinicus Widespread & common. Abundant in

the south-east particularly around fires.

Blue-bellied Roller Coracias cyanogaster Two near Dindefelo. Surprisingly scarce.

Broad-billed Roller Eurystomus glaucurus Two Wassadou.

Grey-headed Kingfisher Halcyon leucocephala Singles Marigots & St Louise. 5+

Wassadou.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher Halcyon malimbica One Saloum Delta, 5+ Wassadou & two

Dindefelo.

Malachite Kingfisher Corythornis cristatus Four Marigots, three Saloum Delta &

one Wassadou.

Giant Kingfisher Megaceryle maxima At least five at Wassadou.

Pied Kingfisher Ceryle rudis Five Djoudj, one Marigots, one Saloum

Delta & common Wassadou.

Little Bee-eater Merops pusillus Small numbers Djoudj, Marigots,

Wassadou, Dindefelo & Thiewoune.

Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bulocki* Small numbers near Podor & Dindefelo.

Common Wassadou.

African Green Bee-eater Merops viridissimus A recent split. 4+ Richard Toll, two

Toubakouta & small numbers

Wassadou.



Giant, Blue-breasted, Grey-headed, Lesser Pied & Malachite Kingfishers

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater

Merops persicus

Three Podor, 5+ Marigots, Saloum Delta boat trip & Wassadou.









African Green, Red-throated, Little & Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters

Northern Carmine Bee-eater Merops nubicus Three near Dindefelo. Seen by Carlos at Wassadou.

Eurasian HoopoeUpupa epops
1-3 Richard Toll. Podor, north of Mbacke & Tambacounda-Wassadou.

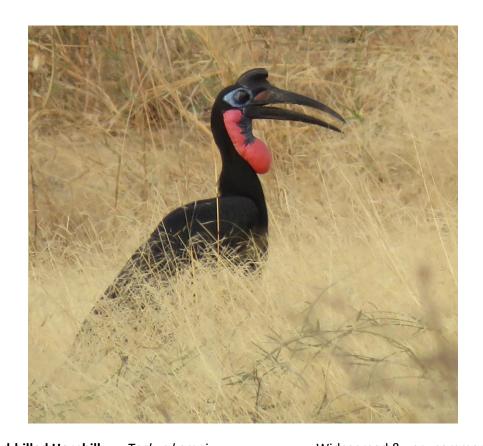
Green Wood Hoopoe Phoeniculus purpureus Up to five Podor, Wassadou &

Dindefelo.

Black Scimitarbill Rhinopomastus aterrimus Common Dindefelo.

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill Bucorvus abyssinicus Three St Louis-Mbacke, five east of

Wassadou.



Western Red-billed Hornbill Tockus kempi Widespread & very common. Widespread but less so & less common **African Grey Hornbill** Lophoceros nasutus than previous species. Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird Pogoniulus bilineatus One Dindefelo. **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** Pogoniulus chrysoconus One Marigots. **Vieillot's Barbet** Small numbers Podor, Gamadji Sare, Lybius vieilloti Toubakouta & Kaolack-Tambacounda. **Bearded Barbet** Lybius dubius Singles on both journeys between Tambacounda & Wassadou. **Eurasian Wryneck** Jynx torquilla One near Podor. **Little Grey Woodpecker** Dendropicos elachus Pair nesting Richard Toll. Two Wassadou & one Dindefelo. **Cardinal Woodpecker** Dendropicos fuscescens **African Grey Woodpecker** Dendropicos goertae Singles Marigots & Tambacounda-

Wassadou.

Lesser Kestrel Falco naumanni Small numbers Saloum Delta.

Common Kestrel Falco tinnunculus Singles Podor & St Louis-Mbacke.

Under-recorded.

Grey Kestrel Falco ardosiaceus Singles Wassadou & Thiewoune.





Grey Kestrel / Red-necked Falcon

Red-necked Falcon Falco chicquera Pair near Kaolack, one near Dindefelo.

Lanner Falcon Falco biarmicus Singles Gamadji Sare & Podor.

Peregrine Falcon Falco peregrinus One near Podor.

Senegal Parrot Poicephalus senegalus Small numbers Saloum Delta,

Wassadou & Dindefelo. Common

Thiewoune.

Rose-ringed Parakeet Psittacula krameri Small numbers Podor, Podor-Richard

Toll & Wassadou.

Senegal Batis Batis senegalensis Two Marigots.

Brown-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira cyanea* Two Dindefelo.

Grey-headed Bushshrike Malaconotus blanchoti One Tambacounda-Wassadou.

Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* One near Dindefelo.

Black-crowned Tchagra Tchagra senegalus One 27 km north of Mbacke.

Northern Puffback Dryoscopus gambensis Singles Toubakouta, Wassadou & near

Dindefelo.

Yellow-crowned Gonolek

Laniarius barbarus

4+ Wassadou, 1+ Dindefelo, heard Thiewoune.



Brubru	Nilaus afer	One Richard Toll.
White-crested Helmetshrike	Prionops plumatus	8+ Mbacke-Kaolack, two near Tambacounda.
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	Campephaga phoenicea	Male & female Dindefelo.
Yellow-billed Shrike	Corvinella corvina	One Kaolack-Tambacounda, small numbers Wassadou.
Great Grey Shrike	Lanius excubitor	The southern form has recently been lumped by IOC. Small numbers Podor, Richard Toll & Djoudj.
Woodchat Shrike	Lanius senator	Widespread in small numbers.
Fork-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus adsimilis	Small numbers Podor, north of Mbacke, Kaolack-Tambacounda, Wassadou & Dindefelo. Under-recorded.
African Paradise Flycatcher	Terpsiphone viridis	One Wassadou. Common Dindefelo.
Pied Crow	Corvus albus	Widespread away from the south-east.
Piapiac	Ptilostomus afer	Five Wassadou & two Dindefelo.



Piapiac

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda* 5+ Dindefelo.

White-shouldered Black Tit Melaniparus guineensis One Wassadou-Kedougou.

Sennar Penduline TitAnthoscopus punctifrons

Two Richard Toll.

Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix nigriceps* Common near Podor.



Black-crowned & Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark Eremopterix leucotis Small numbers Podor, Richard Toll &

near Toubakouta.

Singing Bush Lark Mirafra cantillans 2-3 north & south of Mbacke & near

Kaolack.

Crested Lark	Galerida cristata	Small numbers Richard Toll. Djoudj & Marigots.
Greater Short-toed Lark	Calandrella brachydactyla	One Richard Toll, common near Podor.
Common Bulbul	Pycnonotus barbatus	Widespread.
Sand Martin	Riparia riparia	Small numbers Richard Toll, 1000s Djoudj. Under-recorded.
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	Small numbers Djoudj. Under-recorded.
Red-chested Swallow	Hirundo lucida	One Toubakouta. Under-recorded.
Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum	Small numbers Djoudj.
Northern Crombec	Sylvietta brachyura	Small numbers Richard Toll, Podor, north of Mbacke, Toubakouta & Dindefelo.
Western Bonelli's Warbler	Phylloscopus bonelli	Common Richard Toll, Podor & Marigots.
Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	Small numbers Podor, Marigots, Saloum Delta & Wassadou.
Greater Swamp Warbler	Acrocephalus rufescens	One Marigots.
Sedge Warbler	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus	Three Marigots.
African Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus baeticatus	Two Marigots.
Western Olivaceous Warbler	Iduna opaca	Singles near Podor & Gamadji Sare, three Wassadou.
Melodious Warbler	Hippolais polyglotta	One Wassadou.
Winding Cisticola	Cisticola marginatus	Three Marigots.
Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola juncidis	One Marigots & two Toubakouta.
Tawny-flanked Prinia	Prinia subflava	One near Dindefelo.

Prinia fluviatilis

River Prinia

3+ Djoudj, three Marigots.





Winding & Zitting Cisticolas

Cricket Warbler	Spiloptila clamans	Two Richard Toll & two near Podor.
Yellow-breasted Apalis	Apalis flavida	Two Dindefelo.
Grey-backed Camaroptera	Camaroptera brevicaudata	Small numbers north of Mbacke & Wassadou. Common Dindefelo.
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	Eremomela icteropygialis	Small numbers Richard Toll & north of Mbacke.
Senegal Eremomela	Eremomela pusilla	Small numbers Richard Toll, Tambacounda-Wassadou & Wassadou.
Blackcap Babbler	Turdoides reinwardtii	5+ Toubakouta, common Wassadou.
Brown Babbler	Turdoides plebejus	10+ Richard Toll. 2+ Toubakouta, common Wassadou & two Dindefelo.
Western Orphean Warbler	Sylvia hortensis	One Richard Toll & two near Podor.
Common Whitethroat	Sylvia communis	Small numbers north & south of Mbacke. One Toubakouta.
Subalpine Warbler	Sylvia cantillans	Small numbers Richard Toll, Podor, Marigots & north & south of Mbacke.
African Yellow White-eye	Zosterops senegalensis	Common Wassadou.

Greater Blue-eared Starling	Lamprotornis chalybaeus	Small numbers Podor & Marigots.
Bronze-tailed Starling	Lamprotornis chalcurus	Common Wassadou. Under-recorded.
Purple Starling	Lamprotornis purpureus	Common Tambacounda-Wassadou & Wassadou. Smaller numbers Thiewoune. Under-recorded.
Long-tailed Glossy Starling	Lamprotornis caudatus	Widespread. Particularly common in





south.

Long-tailed & Chestnut-bellied Starlings

Chestnut-bellied Starling	Lamprotornis pulcher	Common Richard Toll & Marigots & smaller numbers north of Mbacke.
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	Buphagus africanus	One Marigots, 10+ Toubakouta.
Black Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas podobe	2+ Podor, 5+ near Podor, one Richard Toll & two 27 km north of Mbacke.
Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas galactotes	Singles Dindefelo, Marigots & 27 km north of Mbacke. The last of these appeared to be the resident African form sometimes split as African Scrub Robin.
Swamp Flycatcher	Muscicapa aquatica	5+ Wassadou.





Black & Rufous-tailed Scrub Robins

White-crowned Robin-Chat	Cossypha albicapillus	Four Toubakouta, two Wassadou & three Dindefelo.
European Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula hypoleuca	Two Dindefelo.
Common Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus	Two near Podor.
White-crowned Cliff Chat	Thamnolaea coronata	One Thiewoune.
Anteater Chat	Myrmecocichla aethiops	Small numbers Podor, north of Mbacke & Toubakouta. Under-recorded.
Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe	Widespread in small numbers in north.
Black-eared Wheatear	Oenanthe hispanica	One Toubakouta.
Familiar Chat	Oenanthe familiaris	One Thiewoune & 4+ Dindefelo.
Mangrove Sunbird	Anthreptes gabonicus	Two Saloum Delta boat trip.
Western Violet-backed Sunbird	Anthreptes longuemarei	Two Dindefelo.
Collared Sunbird	Hedydipna collaris	One near Dindefelo.
Pygmy Sunbird	Hedydipna platura	Small numbers Richard Toll,

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis* 3+ Dindefelo.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird Chalcomitra senegalensis Small numbers Wassadou & Dindefelo

& one Thiewoune.

& Dindefelo.

Toubakouta, Tambacounda-Wassadou

Beautiful Sunbird Cinnyris pulchellus Common Wassadou. Smaller numbers

Dindefelo & Thiewoune.

Splendid Sunbird Cinnyris coccinigastrus Small numbers Gamadji Sare, Marigots

& St Louis.

House Sparrow Passer domesticus Small numbers Richard Toll & Podor.

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow Passer griseus Widespread.

Sudan Golden Sparrow Passer luteus Very common around Richard Toll &

Podor. Smaller numbers 27 km north of

Mbacke.

Bush Petronia Gymnoris dentata Small numbers Tambacounda-

Wassadou. Common Dindefelo &

Thiewoune.



Sudan Golden Sparrow & Bush Petronia

White-billed Buffalo Weaver Bubalornis albirostris Small numbers Richard Toll & Saloum

Delta.

Speckle-fronted Weaver Sporopipes frontalis 5+ St Louis-Mbacke.

Little Weaver Ploceus luteolus Small numbers Podor & Marigots.

Black-necked Weaver Ploceus nigricollis Common Dindefelo.

Village Weaver Ploceus cucullatus Small numbers Toubakouta.

Black-headed Weaver Ploceus melanocephalus Small numbers Djhoudj.

Red-billed Quelea Quelea quelea Common in north. Smaller numbers

Dindefelo.

Yellow-crowned Bishop Euplectes afer One positively identified Podor,

probably many more as all out of

plumage.

Northern Red Bishop Euplectes franciscanus Small numbers Toubakouta.

Cut-throat Finch Amadina fasciata Singles Marigots, south of Mbacke &

Kaolack-Tambacounda.

Red-billed FirefinchLagonosticta senegala
Small numbers Podor, Marigots &

Thiewoune. Common Wassadou.





Red-billed Firefinch & Village Indigobird

Mali FirefinchLagonosticta virata3+ Thiewoune.

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu Uraeginthus bengalus Widespread in small numbers.

Lavender Waxbill Estrilda caerulescens 5+ Dindefelo, common Thiewoune.

Orange-cheeked Waxbill Estrilda melpoda c.10 Wassadou.

Black-rumped Waxbill Estrilda troglodytes 5+ Wassadou.

Orange-breasted Waxbill Amandava subflava Three Djoudj.

Quailfinch Ortygospiza atricollis 5+ Toubakouta.

African Silverbill Euodice cantans Common Richard Toll, Podor & north of

Mbacke.





Quailfinch, African Silverbills & Sahel Paradise Whydah

Village Indigobird Vidua chalybeata 1-2 Richard Toll, Podor, Wassadou &

Dindefelo.

Pin-tailed Whydah Vidua macroura Small numbers Toubakouta &

Dindefelo.

Sahel Paradise Whydah Vidua orientalis Two males & two females 27 km north

of Mbacke & a pair Kaolack-

Tambacounda.

Western Yellow Wagtail Motacilla flava Common in north. Small numbers

Toubakouta.

White Wagtail Motacilla alba Small numbers Richard Toll. One

Gamadji Sare.

African Pied Wagtail Motacilla aguimp Small numbers Wassadou.

Tawny Pipit Anthus campestris 3+ near Podor.

Tree Pipit Anthus trivialis Small numbers Richard Toll & Podor.



Tree & Tawny Pipits

White-rumped Seedeater Crithagra leucopygia Two Marigots.

Yellow-fronted Canary Crithagra mozambica Small numbers Wassadou & Dindefelo.

Gosling's Bunting Emberiza goslingi 5+ Thiewoune







Purple Roller, Hamerkop and Narina Trogon

Additional species seen by Barry Reed and/or Nigel Goodgame included.

Western Banded Snake Eagle Circaetus cinereus Wassadou.

Four-banded Sandgrouse Pterocles quadricinctus Wassadou.

Greyish Eagle Owl Bubo cinerascens Thiewoune.

Pel's Fishing Owl Scotopelia peli Heard Wassadou.

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus* Saloum Delta boat trip.

Fine-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera punctuligera* Djoudj?

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba* Wassadou.

Bar-breasted Firefinch Lagonosticta rufopicta Wassadou.

MAMMALS

Western Rock Hyrax	Procavia ruficeps	One Dindefelo. One seen at Thiewoune by NG.
Northern Lesser Galago	Galago senegalensis	One Wassadou.
Green Monkey	Chlorocebus sabeaus	Small numbered Toubacouta. Common Wassadou and further south-east.
Patas Monkey	Erythrocebus patas	10+ Marigots and near Toubacouta. 15+ on route from Wassadou to Kedougou and in the reverse direction.
Guinea Baboon	Papio papio	Common Wassadou. Also seen south-east of Wassadou and at Triewoune.
Western Red Colobus	Procolobus badius	Eight Wassadou.
African Savanna/Cape Hare	Lepus microtis/capensis	Three near Podor. 6+ Marigots. I did not study the hares closely but those at Podor appeared to be Cape while those at Marigots seemed larger and may well have been African Savanna. The habitat at Podor was much more open than that at Marigots.
African Grass Rat	Arvicanthis niloticus	Two 27km north of Mbacke.
Striped Ground Squirrel	Xerus erythropus	One near Podor, three Marigots and several on route from St Louis to Mbacke.
Gambian Sun Squirrel	Heliozciurus gambianus	Six Dindefelo. One Thiewoune.
African Wildcat	Felis lybica	One near Podor.
Serval	Leptailurus serval	A probable seen by BR & NG at Wassadou.
Slender Mongoose	Herpestes sanguineus	One south-east of Wassadou.

Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo* 16+ Wassadou.

African Golden Wolf Canis anthus Four Djoudj and three near

Kaolack.

Pale Fox Vulpes pallida Three near Podor.

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus* Six Djoudj.

Western Bushbuck Tragelaphuss scriptus Three Wassadou. One on route

from Wassadou to Kedougou.

Hippopotamus 5+ Wassadou.

amphibius





Patas Monkey & Gambian Sun Squirrel

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REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Nile Crocodile Crocodylus niloticus One Wassadou.

West Africa Nile Monitor Varanus stellatus Two Wassadou.