

**THE GAMBIA:
COURSER QUEST
FEBRUARY 2024**



Bronze-winged Courser

THE GAMBIA – COURSER QUEST

Introduction

For such a small country The Gambia has always punched well above its avian weight. It is justifiably renowned for exceptional winter birding full of kingfishers, bee-eaters and rollers. But Gambia has also changed, and mostly for the better since our respective first trips in 1994 and 2,000. Road infrastructure, accommodation, and a professionalised bird guiding network have all seen big improvements. New birding sites have opened, or been discovered, and routinely being able to see such goodies as Capuchin Babbler, Savile's Bustard, Ovambo Sparrowhawk and Red-winged Pytillia now would have been unfathomable a couple of decades previously.

Objectives and timing

Andy Latham and myself are very keen on shorebirds, and had long wanted to see Bronze-winged Courser. This is a tricky species to catch up with anywhere in its substantial sub-Saharan range. Our research concluded that we had a moderately strong chance of seeing this bird (we estimated 75%+) between January and March, when non-breeding birds move into the country. A combined target list quickly resolved into a doable week-long birding trip.

Targets	Species seen
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Joint	Mike	Andy
Bronze-winged Courser	White-fronted Black-chat	Capuchin Babbler
Ahanta Francolin	Brown-rumped Bunting	Western Banded Snake-eagle
Ovambo Sparrowhawk		Sahel Paradise-whydah
Rufous Cisticola		Yellow Penduline-tit
		Grey-headed Bristlebill
		Anteater-chat
		White-breasted Cuckooshrike
		Black-faced Firefinch
		Red-winged Pytillia
		Spotted Honeyguide
		Gabar Goshawk
		Chestnut-bellied Starling
		African Collared-dove
		Green-winged Pytillia
		Golden-tailed Woodpecker
		Adawama Turtle-dove

Recording nearly 240 birds in the trip, and missing only four non-critical targets, was quite remarkable given the sheer effort we had to put in to find the courser - 25.5 hours in total!

Guides

The Gambia has a plethora of professional guides. I was in contact with several guides but opting for Ebrima W. Barry proved easy because of personal recommendations from friends, and Ebrima's excellent communications. It was evident in responses Ebrima took care to read each message! From the outset it was clear he also understood the mission, that targeting Bronze-winged Courser was the over-riding priority, with a requirement for a flexible itinerary to help achieve this.

We were not disappointed and fully recommend Ebrima who was not only a very sharp birder in his own right, but great company throughout, even during the repeated drudgery of courser searches! Ebrima also has a good network of birding friends / guides and from we could see is widely respected. Ebrima also leads successful tours around Senegal, both birdwatching and photography, and is happy to do a combination of Senegal and Gambia.

Ebrima's Contact details:

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Flights

Expensive. We struggled to find reasonably priced flights, with hardly any direct flight options from the UK. In the end we opted for a Tui flight, direct from Manchester, for £450, which worked out well giving us 7 full days in the field.

Resources

- Field Guide to the Birds of Senegal and The Gambia: Second Edition (Borrow and Demy, 2022)
- Merlin app - Senegal and The Gambia
- Africa Bird Club app - Field Guide to the Birds of Africa (The Gambia)
- Xeno Canto - supplemented a few calls as backups
- Cloudbirders - we evaluated reports from the last few years for likely targets
- iGoTerra (the best web-based observation and listing tool out there)
- Organic Maps - for recording locations identified by pre-trip research

Weather

Pleasant temperatures to start and end the day, sunny and hot by 10:00 though not oppressively so.

Accommodation

In the end we stayed at two places:

- **Lemon Creek Hotel** (3 nights) along the coast about 1 km south of Bijilo Forest Park. Decent sized rooms, with A/C, fan, mosquito net and hot showers. Good breakfast and decent choice of evening meals.
- **Tendaba Camp** (4 nights) - Good modern rooms with A/C, fan, mosquito net and hot showers. Breakfast limited to omelette, bread and jam, and coffee and tea. Evening meal was buffet style if enough people were staying otherwise a limited a la carte menu.

Getting around

Much improved since our last respective visits, main roads are now tarmac, which improves journey times away from the coast. Previously it was only possible to cross the Gambia river inland via ferry, with often long queues. The Senegambia Bridge beyond Tendaba Camp has revolutionised access to North Bank Road from central Gambia. We used Ebrima's vehicle throughout. Having a car is the best way to get around though my solo trip in 1994 was by local buses, and is still a viable option.

Original itinerary

31 January - Flight arrives 20:00 and get picked up by Ebrima and taken to our hotel. Overnight: Lemon Creek Hotel.

1 February - Tujereng Woods for White-fronted Black-chat (am). Gunjurr Forest for Capuchin Babbler (pm). Overnight: Lemon Creek Hotel.

2 February - Pirang-Bonto Community Forest for Ahanta Francolin (am). En route to Tendaba Camp call into Killi for Black-faced Firefinch. Evening near Tendaba looking for Bronze-winged Courser. Overnight: Tendaba Camp.

3 February - Tendaba Camp looking for courser, Red-winged Pytilia and Brown-rumped Bunting (am). Kiang West National Park and Bateling Track to look for any targets not yet seen, searching for two species of nightjar in the evening (pm). Overnight: Tendaba Camp.

4 February - Depart Tendaba Camp after breakfast and drive to Kunkiling Forest for Adamawa Turtle-dove. Overnight: Baobolong Camp, Janjanbureh.

5 February - Boat trip from Georgetown looking for Shining-Blue Kingfisher and African Finfoot (am). Cross the Senegambia Bridge to Ngain Sanjal area for Savile's and White-bellied bustards, and Temminck's Coursers (pm). Overnight: Morgan Kunda Lodge, Jarajari.

6 February - Drive through Conteh Kunda looking for Green-winged Pytilia (am) before long drive back to coast (pm). Overnight: Lemon Creek Hotel.

7 February - Drive to Marakissa River Camp for Ovambo Sparrowhawk and White-breasted Cuckooshrike (am). Look for any remaining targets such as Spotted Honeyguide at Farasuto Forest en route to the airport (pm).

Sites visited

Tujereng Woods – located near the SW of the eponymous town. A good selection of open country birds even though the site isn't what it once was, with plenty of buildings and not many trees. It took some time but eventually we found a pair of White-fronted Black Chat at 13.298444,-16.7932873 and nearby, a few Chestnut-bellied Starlings for Andy.

Konoto Forest, Gunjur – This community forest has only been accessible to birders for three years or so. A photo hide has been developed, from which, if your luck is in, Capuchin Babblers pass by, or even drink. Our luck *was* well and truly in, and we enjoyed incredibly views of this forest ghost. This forest is best accessed through Ebrima.

Pirang-Bonto Community Forest – One of the best sites in Gambia for Ahanta Spurfowl, which we dipped on our first visit but got very close. With the help of both Kawsu - a brilliant local guide of the forest – and Ebrima, we saw a pair well on our second attempt. The forest is accessed from the South Bank Road at 13.27787,-16.557083.

Killy – A photo hide established by a local situated between the coast and Tendaba camp. Best organised and accessed via Ebrima. The owners put out water for birds which regularly attracts the scarce, unobtrusive but attractive Black-faced Firefinch. We dipped in a 75-minute wait on our first visit but scored within 10 minutes of our second.

Kampanti Bridge (13.2023169, -16.1139184) – Known for raptors and it didn't disappoint, seeing Wahlberg's and Long-crested Eagles, and Bateleur nearby.

Tendaba Camp and environs – Needs no introduction, one of the best birding localities in Gambia. Accommodation much improved. It's one of the best areas for Brown-rumped Bunting, Red-winged Pytillia, Rufous Cisticola, White-shouldered Black Tit, Yellow Penduline-tit and Bronze-winged Courser.

The courser is typically found anywhere in woodland east of Bumari (about 8.5 kms by road to the SSE of Tendaba). We seemed to hit an untypical year where the birds were tricky to find, and even when they were found, they could not be relocated. According to Ebrima that's unusual behaviour. From what we could gather there had been only three sightings so far this year: 5, 6 and 28 January, despite many visits from guides. We knew from this alone the gargantuan nature of the task we faced. To Ebrima's great credit he organised Tendaba's resident local guide, OJ, credited for the 28 January sighting, to join us on several searches.

The Pytillia is a regular visitor to the photo hide, accessed from the nature trail from Tendaba Camp (where the hide can be booked). The bunting is also found along the nature trail.

Unsurprisingly given the time we spent here, we amassed quite a list of birds at Bumari including two sightings of Bronze-winged Courser, Yellow Penduline-tit, Western Banded Snake Eagle, White-crested Helmet Shrike, Standard-winged Nightjar, Four-banded Sandgrouse, Stone Partridge, Black Scimitarbill and White-shouldered Black Tit.

Kiang West National Park - Encircling Batteling Village, this is a reasonable-sized national park by Gambian standards. We only explored the area between Batteling and Wurokang. We came here unsuccessfully looking for coursers, both during the day and during a night drive. It's a good area for Brown-rumped Bunting, and we also jammed a Rufous Cisticola, an unobtrusive and tricky bird to find in The Gambia.

Farafenni Marsh (13.570914, -15.5629707) - Often attracts a pair of Black-crowned Crane as it did for us.

Ngayen Sanjal area – A reliable site for Savile’s and White-bellied Bustards and we saw a female of each species. Best accessed with a local guide to secure access permissions. Small Buttonquail and Temminck’s Courser was the icing on an already good cake!

Njau Pond – A reliable locality for Red-throated Bee-eater just to the south of the town. We enjoyed great views of a pair, 4 dapper African Green Bee-eaters, a male Sudan Golden Sparrow, and stunning views of a ridiculously long-tailed male Sahel Paradise-whydah.

Kotu Bridge area (13.461591,-16.704869). We looked for Golden-tailed Woodpecker at its only known site in Gambia, but with dusk looming we probably left it just a little too late. Thanks to Ebrima’s connections we enjoyed great views of Northern White-faced Owl nearby.

Marakissa – The area to the south of the town harbours Gambia’s only breeding pair of Ovambo Sparrowhawks, and we enjoyed extended views of birds around their nest. A birdy area eventually yielding a bonus for Andy in the form of a single White-breasted Cuckooshrike.

Farasuto – All three species of Gambian honeyguides (despite much information to the contrary, Least does not occur in The Gambia!) come to drink from a photo hide. Best to use a local guide for access.

Daily log - what actually happened!

31 January - Flight arrives 20:25 and get picked up by Ebrima and taken to our hotel. Overnight: Lemon Creek Hotel.

1 February - Short drive from Lemon Creek Hotel to Tujereng Woods, where a pair of White-fronted Black-chat finally shows well. Good introduction to Gambian birding with over 80 species seen in the morning. In the afternoon drive to Gunjurr Forest where we enjoy staggering views of Capuchin Babbler, normally an ultra-skulking ghost! Overnight: Lemon Creek Hotel.

2 February - Drive to Pirang-Bonto Community Forest where Ahanta Spurfowl gives us the runaround in the Western and more open part of the forest. Ebrima says he often sees them in this area but after several attempts of birds coming close, it's clear mine and Andy's instincts were right, you must be in the forest to stand a reasonable chance of seeing these forest chickens! Killi produces our second dip as Black-faced Firefinch fails to come in to the photo hide. Treble dip on Bronze-winged Courser near Tendaba but what were the chances of scoring on the first night! Overnight: Tendaba Camp.

3 February - A good search in the Bumari area which results in the low point of the trip, when Ebrima flushes a pair of Bronze-winged Courser which Andy manages to see for a few seconds before one bird flies off and the other melts away into the bush, before I could get there! But good news, they are still here! The trail from Tendaba Camp is quiet but we finally see Brown-rumped Bunting, a stunning Grey-headed Bush Shrike, and a pair of Red-winged Pytilia coming in to drink at the photo hide. A late afternoon visit to Bumari frustrates further as we can't get close to two calling Bronze-winged Coursers before they stop calling. Overnight: Tendaba Camp

4 February - More time at Bumari pre-breakfast where the best bird is White-crested Helmetshrike. Change strategy by going to Kiang-West National Park but despite much effort in the hot conditions, we fail to stumble across any coursers. Rufous Cisticola, a tricky bird to see in The Gambia, is bird of the day. Another visit to Bumari results in a Bronze-winged Courser vocalising briefly but we don't get close. A pair of Yellow Penduline-tits is the highlight of another hot afternoon / evening's work. Overnight: Tendaba Camp

5 February - Needing a break from the monotony of courser searching, we change direction and head for Ngayen Sanjal, picking up Black-crowned Cranes en route. Seeing both White-bellied and Savile's Bustards, as well as Temminck's Courser, proves to be routine in the grasslands. Red-throated Bee-eaters and a stunning male Sahel Paradise-Whydah further east at Njau provides a further antidote to our courser consternations. Foregoing a chance of Northern Carmine Bee-eater, we head back early to Bumari where we have a major change of luck, finally stumbling across a Bronze-winged Courser. Whew! Overnight: Tendaba Camp

6 February - Having pre-booked Tendaba lodge we were somewhat tied to the area so try unsuccessfully to find last night's courser at its day-roost. The declining Brown-necked Parrot is bird of the day. Killi redeems itself with brilliant views of four Black-faced Firefinch en route to the coast. At Pirang-Bonto Community Forest Ebrima enlists the help of Kawsu, a brilliant local guide. Deploying a different strategy of going into the forest in an area favoured by Ahanta Francolin, we sit quietly until we hear birds coming towards us, eventually securing good views of a feeding pair. A roosting African Wood-owl is a nice bonus, whilst at the coast near Kotu Bridge, Ebrima uses his many contacts to show us Northern White-faced Owl. Overnight: Lemon Creek Hotel.

7 February - A pair of Ovambo Sparrowhawk seen first thing in and around their nest south of Marakissa town. We also find Greater Painted-snipe, White-breasted Cuckooshrike and Giant Kingfisher in what proves to be a pleasant birdy area. At Farasuto we enjoy great views of all three species of honeyguides from a photo hide, including Andy's target of Scaly-breasted. A late lunch on Sitta Joyeh island with an unexpected day-roosting African Scops-owl, before heading off to the airport.

Any questions or if you need some additional information, feel free to contact:

Mike Hunter (mikee_deedee@yahoo.co.uk).

Systematic List

#	Common Name	Scientific Name
1	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
2	Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>
3	Ahanta Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis ahantensis</i>
4	Double-spurred Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>
5	Standard-winged Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus longipennis</i>
6	Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>
7	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
8	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
9	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
10	Western Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>
11	Violet Turaco (heard only)	<i>Tauraco violaceus</i>
12	Guinea Turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>
13	White-bellied Bustard	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>
14	Savile's Bustard	<i>Lophotis savilei</i>
15	Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>
16	Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>
17	Four-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles quadricinctus</i>
18	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
19	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
20	Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>
21	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
22	Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>
23	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>
24	Black-billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>
25	Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>
26	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
27	Bruce's Green Pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>
28	African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>
29	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
30	Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>
31	Black Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica pavonina</i>
32	Common Buttonquail	<i>Turnix sylvaticus</i>
33	Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>
34	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
35	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
36	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>
37	Black-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus tectus</i>
38	African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
39	Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>
40	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
41	Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
42	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
43	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
44	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>

45	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
46	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
47	Bronze-winged Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus chalcopterus</i>
48	Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>
49	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
50	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
51	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
52	Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>
53	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
54	African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
55	Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
56	White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>
57	Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
58	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
59	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>
60	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
61	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
62	Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>
63	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
64	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
65	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
66	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
67	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
68	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
69	Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
70	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
71	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
72	Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>
73	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
74	African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
75	Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>
76	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
77	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
78	Rüppell's Vulture	<i>Gyps rueppelli</i>
79	Beaudouin's Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>
80	Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
81	Western Banded Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinerascens</i>
82	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
83	Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>
84	Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>
85	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
86	African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>
87	Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>
88	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>
89	Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>
90	Red-chested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter toussenelii</i>

91	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
92	Ovambo Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter ovampensis</i>
93	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
94	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
95	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>
96	Grasshopper Buzzard	<i>Butastur rufipennis</i>
97	Pearl-spotted Owllet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
98	African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>
99	Northern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>
100	Greyish Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>
101	African Wood Owl	<i>Strix woodfordii</i>
102	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
103	Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>
104	Black Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>
105	Western Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus kempii</i>
106	West African Pied Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros semifasciatus</i>
107	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>
108	Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>
109	Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>
110	Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>
111	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>
112	Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>
113	Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>
114	African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>
115	Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>
116	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
117	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>
118	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
119	Red-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops bulocki</i>
120	African Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridissimus</i>
121	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>
122	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
123	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>
124	Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieilloti</i>
125	Bearded Barbet	<i>Pogonornis dubius</i>
126	Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
127	Spotted Honeyguide	<i>Indicator maculatus</i>
128	Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>
120	Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>
130	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
131	African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>
132	Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>
133	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
134	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
135	Brown-necked Parrot	<i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i>
136	Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>

137	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
138	Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>
139	Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>
140	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
141	Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>
142	Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>
143	White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
144	White-breasted Cuckooshrike	<i>Cebilepyris pectoralis</i>
145	African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>
146	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
147	Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>
148	Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Lanius corvinus</i>
149	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>
150	Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>
151	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
152	White-shouldered Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus guineensis</i>
153	Yellow Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus parvulus</i>
154	Singing Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra javanica</i>
155	Chestnut-backed Sparrow-lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>
156	Grey-headed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda canicapillus</i>
157	Yellow-throated Leaflove	<i>Atimastillas flavicollis</i>
158	Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>
159	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>
160	Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>
161	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
162	West African Swallow	<i>Cecropis domicella</i>
163	Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>
164	Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>
165	Green Crombec	<i>Sylvietta virens</i>
166	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
167	Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
168	Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna opaca</i>
169	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>
170	Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>
171	Short-winged Cisticola	<i>Cisticola brachypterus</i>
172	Rufous Cisticola	<i>Cisticola rufus</i>
173	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
174	Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
175	Red-winged Prinia	<i>Prinia erythroptera</i>
176	Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>
177	Oriole Warbler (heard only)	<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>
178	Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>
179	Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>
180	Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>
181	Northern Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>
182	Capuchin Babbler	<i>Turdoides atripennis</i>

183	Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>
184	Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>
185	Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>
186	Lesser Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>
187	Bronze-tailed Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalcurus</i>
188	Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>
189	Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>
190	Chestnut-bellied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis pulcher</i>
191	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
192	African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>
193	Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>
194	Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>
195	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
196	Anteater Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla aethiops</i>
197	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
198	White-fronted Black Chat	<i>Oenanthe albifrons</i>
199	Western Violet-backed Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes longuemarei</i>
200	Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platura</i>
201	Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>
202	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
203	Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>
204	Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastrus</i>
205	Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>
206	Copper Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>
207	Sahel Bush Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris dentata</i>
208	Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>
209	Sudan Golden Sparrow	<i>Passer luteus</i>
210	White-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>
211	Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser superciliosus</i>
212	Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>
213	Olive-naped Weaver	<i>Ploceus brachypterus</i>
214	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
215	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
216	Black-winged Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>
217	Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>
218	Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>
219	African Silverbill	<i>Euodice cantans</i>
220	Lavender Waxbill	<i>Glaucestrilda caeruleascens</i>
221	Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>
222	Black-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>
223	Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>
224	Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>
225	Western Bluebill	<i>Spermophaga haematina</i>
226	Red-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia phoenicoptera</i>
227	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
228	Black-faced Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta larvata</i>

229	Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>
230	Sahel Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua orientalis</i>
231	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
232	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
233	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
234	White-rumped Seedeater	<i>Crithagra leucopygia</i>
235	Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>
236	Brown-rumped Bunting	<i>Emberiza affinis</i>



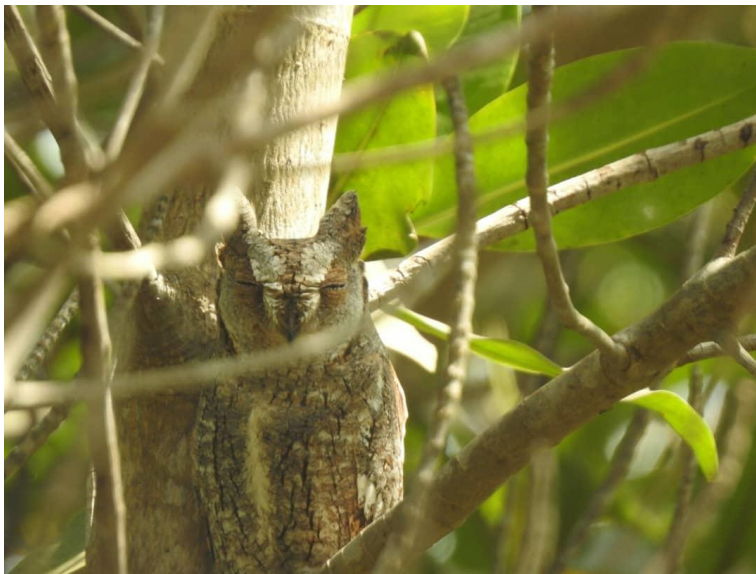
Saville's Bustard – relatively straightforward in the Ngayen Sanjal area



Red-winged Pytilia – reliably coming to drink at the hide, Tendaba Camp



Ovambo Sparrowhawk – now breeding in The Gambia at one location only.



African Scops-owl – responded during the heat of the day for great views!



Brown-rumped Bunting – The Gambia is surely one of the best countries to see this rather localised species.