

Birding Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal 23/10 – 21/11/2022

Introduction

This report is based on a 1 month trip to Senegal and Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire) on which I was joined by my wife Veronique Sylva. Only part of the trip was bird watching. Interesting sites visited in Ivory Coast where Banco NP, Lamto and Assinie. In Senegal we spent few days in the Sine Saloum Delta (Mar Ladj).

Climate

When visiting the country the weather was generally fine, hot, humid and often sunny during the day with temperatures up to 34 degrees. But it frequently rained at night (some heavy downpours) and on few occasions in the evenings, so trails were muddy (esp. at Banco) and lots of biting insects were present.

Visa

As a German citizen it was necessary to obtain a visa for Ivory Coast. I believe it is the same for at least most European citizens. The cost was 70 Euro and the visa was valid for one month. Because getting the visa sounded bit complicated I made use of a visa-service (mein-visum.de) who took 30 Euro for their service. A stay for up to 90 days was granted without visa upon arrival for Senegal.

How to get there

We flew with Air France from Frankfurt via Paris to Dakar (850 Euro, 1 plus 5, 5 hours). From Dakar to Abidjan I took a direct flight with Air Senegal (350 Euro, 2, 5 hours).

Getting around

In Ivory Coast I did not use public transport to get around except for taxis in Abidjan or to visit Banco. For longer distances I arranged a private car through my Hotel or through Julien. In Senegal driver Papis, already known by us, drove us to Sine-Saloum, Toubab, Saly and the airport.

Money

Both countries have the same currency, the CFA. One Euro is worth 656 CFA (West African CFA Franc). We had no problems to withdraw cash from ATM's in cities or the airports.

Language

In Senegal and Ivory Coast most people speak French, only some understand English.

Safety

We always felt totally safe in both countries.

People

We found the people in both countries 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. I often found the food delicious, like seafood/fish in Assinie and Grand Bassam, as well as in Saly or Sine-Saloum. My favorite fish turned out to be Thiof and was best at Saly beach and Bazouk du Saloum Ecolodge. In Abidjan and rural Ivory Coast they often served traditional food with various kinds of foutou (cassava dumplings), which was often very tasty and a nice change from rice.

Accommodation

Accommodation in Ivory Coast is not cheap. The cheapest decent Hotel I found in Abidjan was 40000 CFA. At Grand Bassam and Assinie I paid 35000 for a nice and small middle-class Hotel. In Senegal we paid between 17000 and 30000 CFA, only the Lodge in Sine-Saloum was bit more expensive.

Books/Reports

As a Field Guide I used Birds of Western Africa by Nik Borrow and Ron Demey and ebirds as a source of information. I did not find any recent trip reports. All that I've found were 20 years old. Seems like Ivory Coast had been more or less neglected by birdwatchers.

My Guides, Bookings

When I was desperately looking for some recent information about birding in Ivory Coast I came across a bird watching/photographing group on Facebook and contacted the one who runs this group, Dr. Michael Konan. He kindly answered all my question, organized a permit to visit Lamto for me and handed me over to maybe the only proper birdguide in the whole country, Julien Kouame with whom I spend 6 days birdwatching. Julien charges 20.000 CFA per day, 25.000 if staying overnight like at Lamto. He is a nice, helpful, reliable and knowledgeable bird guide who works and lives at Banco NP. He does not speak English and knows the bird names in French and Latin. Phone: 00225 08667708.

Itinerary

23/10/2022 flight with Air France via Paris to Dakar (850 Euro). Arrival at 23:00. Driver Papis picks me up and brings me to a house in Toubab Dialaw (30 minutes

from the airport) that we have rented and where my wife and daughter already stayed since 4 weeks.

- 24/10/2022 Toubab Dialaw. Beach.
- 25/10/2022 Toubab Dialaw.
- 26/10/2022 Flight (alone, my family stays) with Air Senegal to Abidjan (350 Euro). Taxi (10.000 CFA) to prebooked Hotel Residence Eburnea (42.000 CFA incl. breakfast at Deux Plateau, quiet and extremely friendly staff, restaurants nearby).
- 27/10/2022 Lazy day.
- 28/10/2022 6am taxi to Banco NP. Birding entrance road until staff quarters with guide Julien. Good activity! Dinner at Cook Africa, local specialties (10.000 CFA for buffet!
- 29/10/2022 taxi to Plateau. Visit of modern and interesting St Paul's Cathedral and nearby food market. Walking around Plateaux, lots of Fruit Bats roosting in the trees. Afternoon invitation to join a traditional marriage at my Hotel.
- 30/10/2022 6am car to Lamto (3, 5 hours, 90.000 CFA) with Julien. Birding stop just before leaving the highway. Bed in occupied room (available for few days) plus 3 meals a day plus accommodation and food for Julien 40.000 CFA/day. 6 scientists from different countries are also there, all of them termite and ant specialists. First birding in the afternoon. Emperor Scorpions at night!
- 31/10/2022 Disappointing morning birding in the forest until edge of Savanna. Again forest birding in the afternoon – difficult and quiet birdwatching. Many small biting insects!!!
- 01/11/2022 Morning in the Savanna – excellent activity, lots of interesting birds!! Afternoon in the forest. Heavy rain during evening and night!
- 02/11/2022 9am car back to Abidjan (70.000 CFA) and onwards to Grand Bassam. Productive birding stop at a little woodland/forest at the end of the dirt road. Pleasant and quite Hotel Boblin la mer (40.000 CFA – excellent seafood!!), directly on the beach.
- 03/11/2022 Grand Bassam. Historical Quarter of the former, colonial capital.
- 04/11/2022 Abissa Festival in the historical Quarter – drumming and dancing, very interesting, fantastic, a highlight!
- 05/11/2022 Taxi to Assinie (15.000 CFA, 1, 5 hours). Assinie Lodge (40.000 CFA incl. breakfast – friendly, quiet, huge room with balcony) right in the village.

- 06/11/2022 8am 7-place (200 CFA) to Hotel Cool Mafia. Boat to their beachside restaurant/bar Okra Beach, with huge comfy beach lounge, at the lagoon (free transport if you eat there or at Cool Mafia). Birdwatching and relaxing/swimming.
- 07/11/2022 same as yesterday, but more intensive birding along the mangroves. Not bad!
- 08/11/2022 taxi with same friendly driver Herman back to Abidjan (30.000 CFA). Same super friendly Hotel as before.
- 09/11/2022 5:30am taxi to Banco NP right until the staff quarters. Looking for birds around the quarters. Motorbike few kilometers further on along path through the forest. Fantastic birding where the forest opened!! Farewell to Julien.
- 10/11/2022 visit of the Musee des Civilisations de Cote d'Ivoire (Museum of the Civilizations) and Galerie Cecile Fakhoury in Plateau and Cocody.
- 11/11/2022 flight back to Dakar. With driver Papis to simple Guesthouse Ker Lep Jamm (17.000 CFA) near Toubab Dialaw where my family awaits me.
- 12/11/2022 drive with Papis to Ndangane in the Sine Saloum Delta. Pirogue/Boat (6.000 CFA) to Bazouk du Saloum Ecolodge (39.000 CFA incl. breakfast) on Mar Lodj Island. Small bungalow in beautiful garden setting and little private beach. The restaurant serves very tasty and extraordinary meals for 7.000 CFA.
- 13/11/2022 stroll through the village and to the church. It is Sunday mass and the women wear colorful dresses. Afternoon boat-trip to Bird Island through mangroves – lots of waterbirds, very pleasant tour, (2 hours, 20.000 CFA), booked in our Lodge.
- 14/11/2022 Morning birding nearby. Village and lazy day at the lodge.
- 15/11/2022 lazy day at the lodge.
- 16/11/2022 after breakfast we take a boat to Ndangane where Papis is already waiting for us. Drive to Saly. Private Apartment 10 minutes walking distance to the beach (30.000 CFA).
- 17/11/2022 Saly. We enjoy the beautiful beach and tasty seafood.
- 18/11/2022 Saly.
- 19/11/2022 Saly.
- 20/11/2022 morning with my daughter on the beach. In the evening Papis drives us to the airport and we fly home.
- 21/11/2022 arrival in Frankfurt at 11am.

Sites

1: Banco 2: Lamto 3: Assinie 4: Sine-Saloum

10	Great White Pelican/ <i>Pelicanus onocrotalus</i>	4		
c	Pink-backed Pelican/ <i>Pelicanus rufescens</i>	4		
f	Long-tailed Cormorant/ <i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	3		
c	White-breasted Cormorant/ <i>Phalacrocorax (carbo) lucidus</i>	4		
5	African Darter/ <i>Anhinga rufa</i>	4		
6	Black-crowned Night Heron/ <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Grand Bassam	4	
f	Cattle Egret/ <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	1		
fc	Western Reef Egret/ <i>Egretta gularis</i>	3	4	
f	Little Egret/ <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	4		
f	Intermediat Egret/ <i>Ardea intermedia</i>	4		
fc	Great Egret/ <i>Ardea alba</i>	4		
f	Grey Heron/ <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grand Bassam	4	
3	Black-headed Heron/ <i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	4		
1	Goliath Heron/ <i>Ardea goliath</i>	4		
f	African Sacred Ibis/ <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	4		
6	Stork spec.	4		
c	African Spoonbill/ <i>Platalea alba</i>	4		
2	Spur-winged Goose/ <i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	4		
f	Osprey/ <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Toubab	4	
f	Palm-nut Vulture/ <i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>	1	2	
f	Hooded Vulture/ <i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	4		
c	Yellow-billed Kite/ <i>Milvus (migrans) aegyptius</i>	1	2	3
f	African Harrier Hawk/ <i>Pollyboroides typus</i>	2	3	
1	African Goshawk/ <i>accipiter tachiro</i>	1		
f	Accipter spec. (African Goshawk?)	3		

4 Grey Kestrel/*Falco ardosiaceus* 2b 4

2 Lanner Falcon/*Falco biarmicus* 2

1 Double-spurred Francolin/*Pternistis bicalcaratus* 2

2 White-spotted Flufftail/*Sarothrura pulchra* 1

10 Senegal Thick-knee/*Burhinus senegalensis* 4

f Spur-winged Lapwing/*Vanellus spinosus* 2b 4

f Whimbrel/*Numenius phaeopus* 4

2 Common Redshank/*Tringa totanus* 4

fc Common Sandpiper/*Actitis hypoleucos* 3

5 Ruddy Turnstone/*Arenaria interpres* 4

fc Lesser Black-backed Gull/*Larus fuscus* 4

2 Slender-billed Gull/*Chroicocephalus genei* 4

f Grey-headed Gull/*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* 4

f Caspian Tern/*Hydroprogne caspia* 4

8 West African Crested (Royal) Tern/*Thalasseus (maximus) albididorsalis* 3

fc Gull-billed Tern/*Gelochelidon nilotica* 4

f Sandwich Tern/*Thalasseus sandvicensis* 4

fc Common Tern/*Sterna hirundo* 4

c African Green Pigeon/*Treron calvus* 2

f Speckled Pigeon/*Columba guinea* Saly

c Laughing Dove/*Streptopelia senegalensis*

f Vinaceous Dove/*Streptopelia vinacea* 4

c Red-eyed Dove/*Streptopelia semitorquata*

f Blue-spotted Wood Dove/*Turtur afer* 2

fc Senegal Parrot/*Poicephalus senegalus* 2 4

f Rose-ringed Parakeet/*Psittacula krameri* Abidjan Saly

f Green Turaco/*Tauraco persa* 2

4 Yellow-billed Turaco/Tauraco macrorhynchus 1
 f Great Blue Turaco/Corythaeola cristata heard 2
 f Western Grey Plantain-eater/Crinifer piscator 2 3
 1 Levillant`s Cuckoo/Clamator levillanii 1
1 African Emerald Cuckoo/Chrysococcyx cupreus 1
 6 Yellowbill/Ceuthmochares aereus 1 2
 2 Klaas`s Cuckoo/Chrysococcyx klaas 1 Julien
 1 Senegal Coucal/Centropus senegalensis 2
 Black-throated Coucal/Centropus leucogaster heard 1
 African Wood Owl/Strix woodfordii heard 2
 1 Nightjar spec (Long-tailed/Caprimulgus climacurus?) roadside Toubab
 fc African Palm Swift/Cypsiurus parvus 2 3
 fc Little Swift/Apus affinis 3 4
 1 African Pygmy Kingfisher/Ispidina picta 4
 1 Blue-breasted Kingfisher/Halcyon malimbica 2
 2 Woodland Kingfisher/Halcyon senegalensis 3
 c Pied Kingfisher/Ceryle rudis 3 Grand Bassam 4
 f Blue-cheeked Bee-eater/Merops persicus 4
 fc Little Green Bee-eater/Merops pusillus
 f Blue-bellied Roller/Coracias cyanogaster 2
 f Abyssinian Roller/Coracias abyssinicus 4
 f Broad-billed Roller/Eurystomus glaucurus 2
 f Green Wood-hoopoe/Phoeniculus purpureus 2 4
 f Western Red-billed Hornbill/Tockus kempfi 4
 fc African Grey Hornbill/Tockus nasutus 2
 White-crested Hornbill/Horizocerus albocristatus heard 1
 c African Pied Hornbill/Tockus fasciatus 1 2

2 Piping Hornbill/*Bycanistes fistulator* 2

fc Naked-faced Barbet/*Gymnobucco calvus* 1

1 Bristle-nosed Barbet/*Gymnobucco peli* 1

Yellow-billed Barbet/*Trachylaemus purpuratus* heard 1

1 Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird/*Pogoniulus bilineatus* 2

Red-rumped Tinkerbird/*Pogoniulus atroflavus* heard 1

1 Greater Honeyguide/*Indicator indicator* 4

2 Fine-spotted Woodpecker/*Campethera punctuligera* 2

1 Fire-bellied Woodpecker/*Dendropicus (Chloropicus) pyrrhogaster* 1

2 Crested Lark/*Galerida cristata* 4

1 Black-crowned Sparrow Lark/*Eremopterix nigriceps* 2b

f Square-tailed Saw-wing/*Psalidoprocne nitens* 1

f Lesser Striped Swallow/*Cecropis abyssinica* 1

Barn Swallow/*Hirundo rustica*

4 White-throated Blue Swallow/*Hirundo nigrita* 3

3 Preuss's (Cliff) Swallow/*Petrochelidon (Hirundo) preussi* 3

2 African Pied Wagtail/*Motacilla aguimp* 3

2 Little Greenbul/*Eurillas virens* 2

1 Cameroon Sombre Greenbu/*Eurillas curvirostris* heard 2

2 Slender-billed Greenbul/*Stelgidillas gracilirostris* heard 2

1 Honeyguide Greenbul/*Baeopogon indicator* 1

1 Simple Leaflove (Greenbul)/*Chlorocichla simplex* 1

c Swamp Palm Bulbul/*Thescelocichla leucopleura* 1 2

2 White-throated Greenbul/*Phyllastrephus albigularis* 2b

c Common Bulbul/*Pycnonotus barbatus*

1 Finsch's Flycatcher Thrush/*Neocossyphus (Stizorhina)finschii* 1

1 Forest Scrub Robin/*Cercotrichas leucosticta* 3

- 1 **Croaking Cisticola/Cisticola natalensis** 2
- 2 Short-winged (Siffling) Cisticola/Cisticola brachypterus 2
- 2 Tawny-flanked Prinia/Prinia subflava 3
- 5 Grey-backed Camaroptera/Camaroptera brachyura 2
- f Olive-green Camaroptera/Camaroptera chloronota 1
- 2 **Yellow-browed Camaroptera/Camaroptera superciliaris** 1
- c Senegal Eremomela/Eremomela pusilla 2
- Green Hylia/Hylia prasina heard 1
- 1 Willow Warbler/Phylloscopus trochilus 2
- 2 **Green Crombec/Sylvietta virens** 1 2
- fc Spotted Flycatcher/Muscicapa striata 2
- 3 **Little Grey Flycatcher/Muscicapa epulata** 1 2
- 2 Ussher`s Flycatcher/ Muscicapa ussheri 1
- 1 **Olivaceous Flycatcher/ Muscicapa olivascens** 1
- 1 **Chestnut-capped Flycatcher/Erythrocerus mcallii** 1
- 3 Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher/Terpsiphone rufiventer 2 2b
- 2 Common Wattle-eye/Platysteira cyanea 3
- 2 Senegal Batis/Batis senegalensis 2
- 1 **Puvel`s Illadopsis/Illadopsis puveli** 2
- 3 **White-shouldered Black Tit/Parus guineensis** 2
- 1 **Tit-Hylia/Pholidornis rushiae** 1
- 1 African Yellow White-eye/Zosterops senegalensis 3 ??
- 2 **Little Green Sunbird/Anthreptes (Nectarinia) seimundi** 2
- 1 **Fraser`s Sunbird/Deleornis (Anthreptes) fraseri** 2
- fc Collared Sunbird/Anthodiaeta collaris 1 2 2b
- 4 **Reichenbach`s Sunbird/Anabathmis (Nectarinia) reichenbachii** 3
- 6 **Buff-throated Sunbird/Chalcomitra (Nectarinia) adelberti** 2

- 3 Carmelite Sunbird/ Chalcomitra (Nectarinia) fuliginosa 3**
- 7 Copper Sunbird/Cinnyris cupreus 2 2b
- f Variable Sunbird/ Cinnyris venustus 1
- 2 Olive-bellied Sunbird/ Cinnyris chloropygius 1
- f Tiny Sunbird/Cinnyris (Nectarinia) minullus 1**
- 2 Beautiful Sunbird/ Cinnyris pulchellus 4
- 2 Splendid Sunbird/ Cinnyris coccinigastrus 2
- 2 Johanna`s Sunbird/ Cinnyris (Nectarinia) johannae 1**
- 2 Superb Sunbird/ Cinnyris (Nectarinia) superbus 2 2b**
- 1 Common Fiscal/Lanius collaris 2
- f Yellow-crowned Gonolek/Laniarius barbatus 4
- 4 White Helmetshrike/Prionops plumatus 2
- 1 Glossy-backed (Fork-tailed) Drongo/Dicrurus (adsimilis) divaricatus 2b**
- 4 Fanti (Velvet-mantled) Drongo/Dicrurus (modestus) atactus 2**
- c Pied Crow/Corvus albus
- c Long-tailed Glossy Starling/ Lamprotornis caudatus 4
- f Splendid Glossy Starling/Lamprotornis splendidus 1 2**
- 3 Copper-tailed (Glossy) Starling/Hylopsar (Lamprotornis) cupreocauda 1**
- c Northern Grey-headed Sparrow/Passer griseus
- House Sparrow/Passer domesticus
- 3 Blue-billed Malimbe/Malimbus nitens 1**
- f Red-vented Malimbe/Malimbus scutatus 1**
- 5 Heuglin`s Masked Weaver/Ploceus heuglini 2 2b**
- 2 Orange Weaver/Ploceus aurantius 1**
- f Olive-necked (Black-necked) Weaver/Ploceus brachypterus 1 2**
- c Village Weaver/Ploceus cucullatus
- f Black-headed Weaver/Ploceus melanocephalus 4

- fc Yellow-mantled Widowbird/*Euplectes macroura* 2
- f Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch/*Nigrita bicolor* 1**
- c Orange-cheeked Waxbill/*Estrilda melpoda* 2 2b
- fc Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu/*Uraeginthus bengalus* Toubab 4
- fc Red-billed Firefinch/*Lagonosticta senegala* Toubab 4
- 2 African Silverbill/*Euodice cantans* 4
- f Bronze Mannikin/*Spermestes cucullata* 3
- fc Black-and-white Mannikin/*Spermestes bicolor* 1 3
- 1 Village Indigobird/*Vidua chalybeata* 4

42 lifers (39/1/2)

Other animals:

- 2 African (Atlantic) Humpbacked Dolphin/*Sousa teuszii* 4**
- 5 Rotfüßiges Sonnenhörnchen/Red-legged Sun Squirrel /*Heliosciurus rufobrachium* 1
- f Striped Ground Squirrel/*Gestreiftes Borstenhörnchen/Xerus erythropus* 2
- 4 Emperor Scorpion/*Kaiserskorpion/Pandinus imperator* 2**
- c Straw-coloured Fruit Bat/*Eidolon helvum* Abidjan
- f Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat/*G. Epaulettenflughund/Epomophorus gambianus* 4

Cote d'Ivoire

Banco

Banco NP is situated at the outskirts of Abidjan. It is probably the most easily accessible of all National Parks in Ivory Coast and consists of 30 km² of rainforest. The entrance fee is 5000 CFA for non-residents. To get there it's best to take a taxi from Abidjan which should cost 3000 – 5000 CFA. Banco holds lot of bird species and should be visited several times, as you may observe different species on each visit. I birded twice with Julien and was very pleased with what we've seen. First day we just birded from the entrance to the staff quarters. On the second day we drove with a taxi right to the staff quarters, birded around there and then continued by motorbike few kilometers along a path until the forest opened. At this spot birding was fantastic with lot of activity until 11am. You could possibly spend all day there waiting. We walked back to the quarters from where I took a taxi to my hotel.

	1: day 1	2: day 2
f	Cattle Egret/ <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	1 2
5	Palm-nut Vulture/ <i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>	1 2
c	Yellow-billed Kite/ <i>Milvus (migrans) aegyptius</i>	1 2 3
1	African Goshawk/ <i>accipiter tachiro</i>	1
2	White-spotted Flufftail/ <i>Sarothrura pulchra</i>	1
4	Yellow-billed Turaco/<i>Tauraco macrorhynchus</i>	1 heard 2
1	Levaillant's Cuckoo/ <i>Clamator levaillanii</i>	1
1	African Emerald Cuckoo/<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>	1
4	Yellowbill/ <i>Ceuthmochares aereus</i>	1 2
2	Klaas's Cuckoo/ <i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>	2
	Black-throated Coucal/ <i>Centropus leucogaster</i>	heard 1
fc	Little Green Bee-eater/ <i>Merops pusillus</i>	
	White-crested Hornbill/ <i>Horizocerus albocristatus</i>	heard 1
fc	African Pied Hornbill/ <i>Tockus fasciatus</i>	1 2
fc	Naked-faced Barbet/<i>Gymnobucco calvus</i>	1 2

- 1 **Bristle-nosed Barbet/Gymnobucco peli** 2
- 1 Yellow-billed Barbet/Trachylaemus purpuratus heard 2
- 1 Red-rumped Tinkerbird/Pogoniulus atroflavus heard 2
- 1 **Fire-bellied Woodpecker/Dendropicus (Chloropicus) pyrrhogaster** 1
- f **Square-tailed Saw-wing/Psalidoprocne nitens** 1
- f Lesser Striped Swallow/Cecropis abyssinica 1
- 1 **Honeyguide Greenbul/Baeopogon indicator** 2
- 1 **Simple Leaflove (Greenbul)/Chlorocichla simplex** 2
- f **Swamp Palm Bulbul/Thescelocichla leucopleura** 2
- 1 **Finsch`s Flycatcher Thrush/Neocossyphus (Stizorhina)finschii** 1
- f Olive-green Camaroptera/Camaroptera chloronota 1
- 2 **Yellow-browed Camaroptera/Camaroptera superciliaris** 2
- 1 Green Hylia/Hylia prasina heard 1
- 1 **Green Crombec/Sylvietta virens** 1 2
- 3 **Little Grey Flycatcher/Muscicapa epulata** 2
- 2 Ussher`s Flycatcher/ Muscicapa ussheri 1
- 1 **Olivaceous Flycatcher/ Muscicapa olivscens** 2
- 1 **Chestnut-capped Flycatcher/Erythrocerus mcallii** 1
- 1 **Tit-Hylia/Pholidornis rushiae** 2
- 6 Collared Sunbird/Anthodiaeta collaris 2
- 4 Variable Sunbird/ Cinnyris venustus 1 2
- 2 Olive-bellied Sunbird/ Cinnyris chloropygius 2
- f **Tiny Sunbird/Cinnyris (Nectarinia) minullus** 1
- 2 **Johanna`s Sunbird/ Cinnyris (Nectarinia) johannae** 1 2
- 1 Western Black-headed Oriole heard 2
- 1 **Glossy-backed (Fork-tailed) Drongo/Dicrurus (adsimilis) divaricatus** 2b
- 4 **Fanti (Velvet-mantled) Drongo/Dicrurus (modestus) atactus** 2

1	Splendid Glossy Starling/Lamprotornis splendidus	1
3	Copper-tailed (Glossy) Starling/Hylopsar cupreocauda	2
3	Blue-billed Malimbe/Malimbus nitens	1
f	Red-vented Malimbe/Malimbus scutatus	1
2	Orange Weaver/Ploceus aurantius	2
f	Olive-necked (Black-necked) Weaver/Ploceus brachypterus	1
fc	Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch/Nigrita bicolor	1 2
fc	Black-and-white Mannikin/Spermestes bicolor	1 2

Lamto

Julien organised a driver and our stay incl. permit (together with Michael Konan) and food for Lamto research station. The drive from Abidjan took about 3,5 hours. On the way back we used another driver. I paid 60.000 + 30.000 for gasoline and 60.000 plus 10.000 for gasoline until Grand Bassam on my way back! The permit was 18.000 CFA, a simple room with shared bathroom and 3 meals was 40.000 per day for both of us together. The fee for Julien was 25.000 per day.

Birding in the forest around the station was rather difficult, slow and sometimes frustrating. There was not much bird activity and many species were secretive and shy and not easy to get good looks at. Like all the Bulbuls, with the exception of Swamp Palm Bulbul, which can be easily observed in noisy groups. Much more enjoyable and productive was the Savanna behind the geophysical station, on the entrance road. We found that birding the Savanna between 1 and 2 kilometers from the geophysical station, where the habitat becomes more wooded, to be excellent, with lots of different and easy to see species.

On our way to Lamto we made a short birding stop just before you leave the highway to look around some farmland where there was also an artificial lake. More interesting was a small forest patch shortly before you reach the highway (coming from Lamto) on our way back. Despite that it was already late in the morning we were able to observe quite a few birds in a rather short time. I suppose that this spot must be very good and worth trying in the early morning.

1: forest 2: savanna 2b: road to Lamto, birding stops

1 Palm-nut Vulture/*Gypohierax angolensis* 2

1 African Harrier Hawk/*Pollyboroides typus* 2b

2 Grey Kestrel/*Falco ardosiaceus* 2b

2 Lanner Falcon/*Falco biarmicus* 2

1 Double-spurred Francolin/*Pternistis bicalcaratus* 1

1 Spur-winged Lapwing/*Vanellus spinosus* 2b

c African Green Pigeon/*Treron calvus* 1 2

c Laughing Dove/*Streptopelia senegalensis*

c Red-eyed Dove/*Streptopelia semitorquata*

f Blue-spotted Wood Dove/*Turtur afer*

fc Senegal Parrot/*Poicephalus senegalus* 1 2

f Green Turaco/*Tauraco persa* 1

f Great Blue Turaco/*Corythaeola cristata* heard 1

f Western Grey Plantain-eater/*Crinifer piscator* 1 2

2 Yellowbill/*Ceuthmochares aereus* 1

1 Senegal Coucal/*Centropus senegalensis* 1

1 African Wood Owl/*Strix woodfordii* heard 1

f African Palm Swift/*Cypsiurus parvus* 2

1 Blue-breasted Kingfisher/*Halcyon malimbica* 2

6 Blue-bellied Roller/*Coracias cyanogaster* 2

f Broad-billed Roller/*Eurystomus glaucurus* 2

7 Green Wood-hoopoe/*Phoeniculus purpureus* 2 2b

fc African Grey Hornbill/*Tockus nasutus* 2

c African Pied Hornbill/*Tockus fasciatus* 1 2

2 Piping Hornbill/*Bycanistes fistulator* 2

1 Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird/*Pogoniulus bilineatus* 2

2 Fine-spotted Woodpecker/*Campethera punctuligera* 2

1 Black-crowned Sparrow Lark/*Eremopterix nigriceps* 2b

2 Little Greenbul/*Eurillas virens* 1

1 Cameroon Sombre Greenbu/*Eurillas curvirostris* heard 1

2 Slender-billed Greenbul/*Stelgidillas gracilirostris* heard 1

c Swamp Palm Bulbul/*Thescelocichla leucopleura* 1 2

2 White-throated Greenbul/*Phyllastrephus albigularis* 2b

1 Croaking Cisticola/*Cisticola natalensis* 1

2 Short-winged (Siffling) Cisticola/*Cisticola brachypterus* 1

5 Grey-backed Camaroptera/*Camaroptera brachyura* 1 2

c Senegal Eremomela/*Eremomela pusilla* 2

1 Willow Warbler/*Phylloscopus trochilus* 2

1 Green Crombec/*Sylvietta virens* 2

fc Spotted Flycatcher/*Muscicapa striata* 2

1 Little Grey Flycatcher/*Muscicapa epulata* 2

3 Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher/*Terpsiphone rufiventer* 1 2b

2 Senegal Batis/*Batis senegalensis* 2

1 Puvél's Illadopsis/*Illadopsis puveli* 2

3 White-shouldered Black Tit/*Parus guineensis* 2

2 Little Green Sunbird/*Anthreptes (Nectarinia) seimundi* 2

1 Fraser's Sunbird/*Deleornis (Anthreptes) fraseri* 1

fc Collared Sunbird/*Anthodiaeta collaris* 1 2 2b

6 Buff-throated Sunbird/*Chalcomitra (Nectarinia) adelberti* 1

7 Copper Sunbird/*Cinnyris cupreus* 2 2b

2 Splendid Sunbird/*Cinnyris coccinigastus* 1

2 Superb Sunbird/*Cinnyris (Nectarinia) superbus* 2 2b

1 Common Fiscal/*Lanius collaris* 2

4 White Helmetshrike/*Prionops plumatus* 2

- 1 Glossy-backed (Fork-tailed) Drongo/Dicrurus (adsimilis) divaricatus 2b**
- 4 Fanti (Velvet-mantled) Drongo/Dicrurus (modestus) atactus 1**
- 6 Splendid Glossy Starling/Lamprotornis splendidus 2
- 5 Heuglin`s Masked Weaver/Ploceus heuglini 2 2b**
- f Olive-necked (Black-necked) Weaver/Ploceus brachypterus 2
- fc Yellow-mantled Widowbird/Euplectes macroura 2
- c Orange-cheeked Waxbill/Estrilda melpoda 2 2b
- fc Black-and-white Mannikin/Spermestes bicolor 1 3





Entrance road and savanna at Lamto. Julien

Assinie

After few days in Grand Bassam I took a taxi (15.000 CFA, arranged through my Hotel) to Assinie, where I stayed in Assinie Lodge (40.000 CFA incl. breakfast – quiet and friendly). To reach the lagoon I walked or took a shared taxi for 200 CFA until Hotel Cool Mafia. With their boat I did the short crossing from where it was a 2 minutes walk to Okra Beach. The huge roof sheltered beach loungers as well as the simple bar and resto belong to Cool Mafia. If you eat there the boat ride is free, otherwise it's 2000 CFA. Swimming/bathing is safe and the water is still. I birded the gardens and along the mangroves, especially along a trail which starts where the boat drops you (opposite the beach side). White-throated Blue Swallow was visible from Cool Mafia and from the boat while crossing, Preuss's Cliff Swallow was seen around the entrance to Cool Mafia and Forest Scrub Robin near the mangroves.

- f Long-tailed Cormorant/*Microcarbo africanus*
- 1 Western Reef Egret/*Egretta gularis*
- c Yellow-billed Kite/*Milvus (migrans) aegyptius*
- 3 African Harrier Hawk/*Polyboroides typus*
- f African Goshawk/*Accipiter tachiro* ??
- 4 Common Sandpiper/*Actitis hypoleucos*
- 8 West African Crested (Royal) Tern/*Thalasseus (maximus) albidorsalis***
- 2 Western Grey Plantain-eater/*Crinifer piscator*
- f African Palm Swift/*Cypsiurus parvus*
- fc Little Swift/*Apus affinis*
- f Pied Kingfisher/*Ceryle rudis*
- 2 Woodland Kingfisher/*Halcyon senegalensis*
- 4 White-throated Blue Swallow/*Hirundo nigrita***
- 3 Preuss's (Cliff) Swallow/*Petrochelidon (Hirundo) preussi***
- 2 African Pied Wagtail/*Motacilla aguimp*
- 1 Forest Scrub Robin/*Cercotrichas leucosticta***
- 2 Tawny-flanked Prinia/*Prinia subflava*
- 2 Common Wattle-eye/*Platysteira cyanea*
- 1 African Yellow White-eye/*Zosterops senegalensis*
- 4 Reichenbach's Sunbird/*Anabathmis (Nectarinia) reichenbachii***
- 3 Carmelite Sunbird/ *Chalcomitra (Nectarinia) fuliginosa***
- f Bronze Mannikin/*Spermestes cucullata*
- fc Black-and-white Mannikin/*Spermestes bicolor*



Assinie mangroves and beach loungers



Senegal

Sine-Saloum

Papis drove us from Toubab Dialaw via Mbour to Ndangane (there is also public transport, but you have to change vehicles), one of the entrance gates to the Sine-Saloum Delta. On the way we called Bazouk du Saloum Ecolodge, which lies on Mar Lodj Island, to arrange a pirogue (6000 CFA) for us. The transfer took about 30 minutes. The Lodge (little bungalow for 39.000 incl. breakfast) is situated in a beautiful garden setting, has a small private beach and the restaurant serves really excellent food (7000 per meal). You can also find cheaper small restaurants in the village. I birded a bit nearby our Lodge, without much effort and did a lovely boat trip (20.000, booked with the Lodge) through the mangroves to „Bird Island“. Did not find Flamingos, but lots of Pelicans, Herons, Gulls and Terns as well as some waders. As I was with my wife and little daughter, birdwatching was not the main purpose of our stay. There are much more bird species to be found in the delta.

- 10 Great White Pelican/*Pelicanus onocrotalus*
- c Pink-backed Pelican/*Pelicanus rufescens*
- c White-breasted Cormorant/*Phalacrocorax (carbo) lucidus*
- 5 African Darter/*Anhinga rufa*
- 4 Black-crowned Night Heron/*Nycticorax nycticorax*

fc Western Reef Egret/*Egretta gularis*
f Little Egret/*Egretta garzetta*
f Intermediat Egret/*Ardea intermedia*
fc Great Egret/*Ardea alba*
f Grey Heron/*Ardea cinerea*
3 Black-headed Heron/*Ardea melanocephala*
1 Goliath Heron/*Ardea goliath*
f African Sacred Ibis/*Threskiornis aethiopicus*
6 Stork spec.
c African Spoonbill/*Platalea alba*
2 Spur-winged Goose/*Plectropterus gambensis*
2 Osprey/*Pandion haliaetus*
f Hooded Vulture/*Necrosyrtes monachus*
c Yellow-billed Kite/*Milvus (migrans) aegyptius*
4 Grey Kestrel/*Falco ardosiaceus*
10 Senegal Thick-knee/*Burhinus senegalensis*
f Spur-winged Lapwing/*Vanellus spinosus*
f Whimbrel/*Numenius phaeopus*
2 Common Redshank/*Tringa totanus*
f Common Sandpiper/*Actitis hypoleucos*
5 Ruddy Turnstone/*Arenaria interpres*
fc Lesser Black-backed Gull/*Larus fuscus*
1 Slender-billed Gull/*Chroicocephalus genei*
f Grey-headed Gull/*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*
f Caspian Tern/*Hydroprogne caspia*
fc Gull-billed Tern/*Gelochelidon nilotica*
f Sandwich Tern/*Thalasseus sandvicensis*

- fc Common Tern/*Sterna hirundo*
- f Vinaceous Dove/*Streptopelia vinacea*
- f Laughing Dove/ *Streptopelia senegalensis*
- f Senegal Parrot/*Poicephalus senegalus*
- f African Palm Swift/*Cypsiurus parvus*
- f Little Swift/*Apus affinis*
- 1 African Pygmy Kingfisher/*Ispidina picta*
- c Pied Kingfisher/*Ceryle rudis*
- f Blue-cheeked Bee-eater/*Merops persicus*
- fc Little Green Bee-eater/*Merops pusillus*
- 2 Abyssinian Roller/*Coracias abyssinicus*
- 3 Green Wood-hoopoe/*Phoeniculus purpureus*
- f Western Red-billed Hornbill/*Tockus kemp*
- 1 Woodpecker spec.
- 1 Greater Honeyguide/*Indicator indicator*
- 2 Crested Lark/*Galerida cristata*
- 2 Beautiful Sunbird/ *Cinnyris pulchellus*
- f Yellow-crowned Gonolek/*Laniarius barbatus*
- c Long-tailed Glossy Starling/ *Lamprotornis caudatus*
- c Village Weaver/*Ploceus cucullatus*
- f Black-headed Weaver/*Ploceus melanocephalus*
- fc Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu/*Uraeginthus bengalus*
- fc Red-billed Firefinch/*Lagonosticta senegala*
- 2 African Silverbill/*Euodice cantans*
- 1 Village Indigobird/*Vidua chalybeata*



boat trip to Bird Island. Private beach at Bazouk du Saloum Lodge

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