

THE GAMBIA & SENEGAL

16 December – 2 January 2022/23



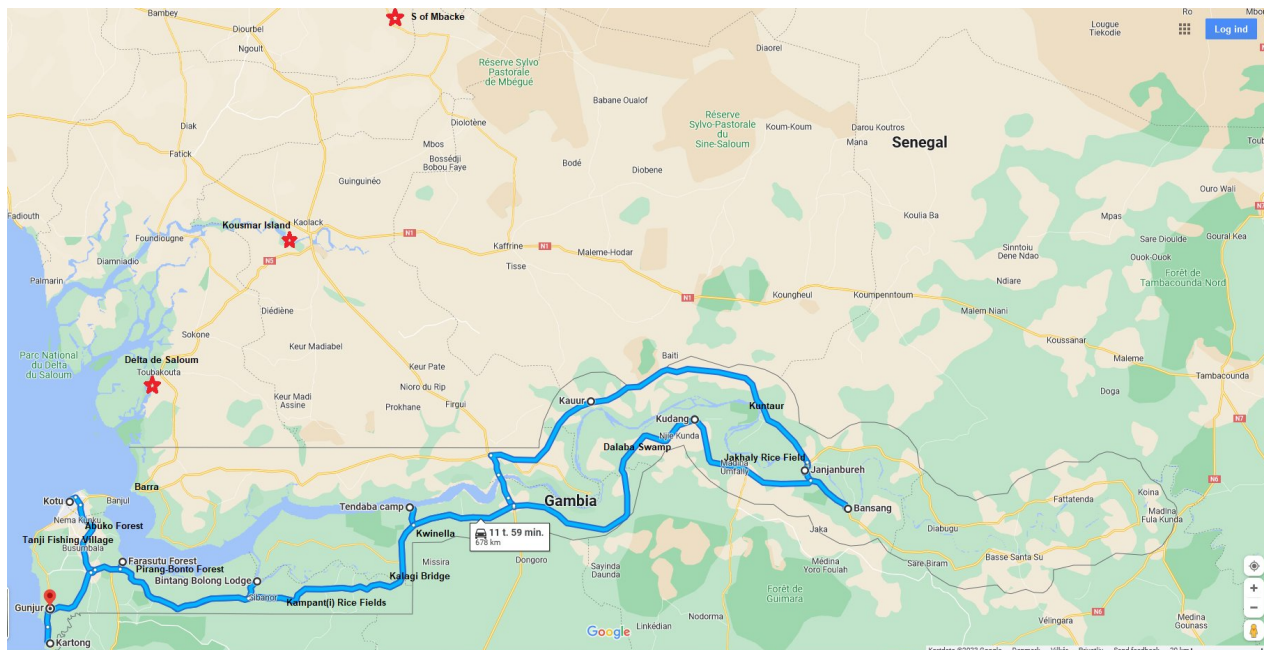
Scissor-tailed Kites roosting on Kousmar Island, Kaolack, SENEGAL.

ARRIVAL & TRANSPORT

We arrived 07.30 pm at Banjul International Airport 16.12.2022 with Air France. Missed the first two days because Air France cancelled our flight from Copenhagen to Paris on the 14.12.2022 due to snow in Charles de Gaulle Airport. Pick-up by our guide Musa Jatta, and thereafter to our Hotel Bakotu at Kotu Creek, Serekunda. Late dinner and bed-time.

GUIDES & DRIVER

Our guide was Musa Jatta. He guided us on the whole trip except for the two days in Senegal. Musa was busy with another group of birders. Instead a bird-guide, educated by Musa, named Ismaila from Musa's company <https://turacobirding.org/wp/> joined us for the Senegal-leg. Our driver during the Gambia and the Senegal trip was Alieu. Alieu is former taxi-driver and a very experienced, safe and careful driver, and he stays back at the car when you go birding with Musa. All three, Musa, Alieu and Ismaila are pleasant company. Musa is a professional birder who knows all calls, songs, bird species and the best localities in The Gambia (and Senegal).



Map of The Gambia and part of Senegal. Route is in blue colour. Gunjur to Kotu Creek was also driven, but is not in the map. The major localities are written in black. In Senegal three red stars indicate the major sites visited. Details on localities are found in the next pages.



Dalaba Swamp – key locality for African Pygmy Goose.

LOCALITIES

Killi Woodlands: Scattered trees in mainly fields of crops mixed with tall grasses.

Pirang Ponds (coordinates 13.276004, -16.525678): Former shrimp ponds – many dry ponds, others with low water level; water-filled canals lined by scattered bushes and grass. Trails are broad and situated on top of dikes.

Kampant(i) Rice Fields: Woodland (coordinates 13.196906, -16.114022) opposite rice fields close to the village of Kampant(i).

Pirang-Bonto Forest (13.281953, -16.550421): Dense forest with many old lianas, tall trees and a good trail-system; surrounded by woodland and settlements. Hide and bird drinking pools. In this report P-B also includes woodland on the north side of the forest.

Farasuto Forest (coordinates 13.299034, -16.566674): Dense forest with many old lianas, tall trees and a good trail-system; surrounded by woodland and settlements. Hides and drinking pools. In this report also includes the ponds on the north-side and the track to Sita Joyeh – Baobab Island (coordinates 13.298866, -16.569117).

Abuko Forest (coordinates 13.393656, -16.643846 – entrance here): Forest surrounded by settlements and bordered on one side by a road with heavy traffic. No big trees are left and rubbish is everywhere. As a habitat, very disappointing despite the birds present. Abuko needs management, cleaning and maintenance. Water in swamp and stream seemed enriched with nutrients (eutrophicated).

Tujering Woods: Was previously a coastal forest, but nothing is left except for scattered bushes, grassland and a lot of unfinished houses under construction. White-fronted Black Chat and Gambia's only population of Chestnut-bellied Starling survive here.

Gunjur-Conoto Forest (coordinates 13.177801, -16.776396) is a small privately owned gem of dense coastal forest. Tall trees and old lianas create an exciting habitat with special forest birds like Green Turaco, Western Bluebill and Capuchin Babbler. Good, wide trails. Hide at drinking pool. A fair fee for using the hide is collected on site by the owners.

Tendaba area refers to the vicinity of Tendaba village (coordinates 13.438436, -15.807463), access road from Kwinella to Tendaba (bushland and woodland) plus the Kwinella-Batelling woodland track (coordinates 13.403113, -15.803265). Tendaba Airfield (13.419845, -15.799393) is also part of the area. There has never been an airfield here – the area comprises a wetland, dike, bushland and woodland.

Bansang Quarry (coordinates 13.406553, -14.649418) is the breeding ground of a large colony of Red-throated Bee-eater. Unfortunately the site is also used as a garbage dump by people. Besides the steep walls of soil with Bee-eater nest holes, the habitat also contains bushland and grassland with scattered trees and some minor pools. The site has certainly bird potential but it needs a large clean-up and fencing to prevent further pollution of water and soil by the growing amount of garbage.

Dalaba Swamp (coordinates 13.601936, -15.213427) is a shallow lake full of water plants. It is situated close to the S Bank Rd. (within walking distance), and the view on the lake-surface is excellent. A telescope is necessary to find African Pygmy Goose in the dense vegetation.

Kaur Wetland, W of Kaur Village, N Bank Rd.. (coordinates 13.707480, -15.343332 and 13.702706, -15.347802). Shallow freshwater lakes and marsh. Observation from N Bank Rd. and dirt-track North in eastern end of marsh. Telescope is recommended.

Jakhaly Rice Field (coordinates 13.548965, -14.959187) is rice ponds dry or wet in a network of dikes that you walk on and bird from. A swamp with lakes is bordering the settlements that attend the rice fields. Good birding area.

Kartong Wetland (coordinates 13.087544, -16.767769) is on the coast close to the border of the Casamance Province in Senegal. Beach, lakes, ponds, swamp with scattered bushes and trees (palms near the coast) are all part of this excellent habitat for bird-watching.



Red-throated Bee-eater at Wassu.

Tanji Fishing Village is primarily visited for the beach, which holds many gulls and terns around the many fishing-boats. However, the folklore of people, fisher-men, market with fish and other foods is a fantastic sight and experience. The beautiful colours of Africa at its best.

Kotu Creek (coordinates 13.462418, -16.703683) is a small stream entering the Atlantic Ocean thus creating a brackish mangrove due to tidal movements. Surrounded by crops, bushland with larger trees, especially at the Fajara Golf Course, the Kotu area creates a varied and bird-rich mosaic of habitats.

At Kotu Bridge and on your way walking to the bridge, you will meet a lot of adult bird-guides that will offer you their service. Be prepared that they can be very insistent, even if you tell them that You prefer to bird on your own. If you tell them that you already have a guide they will ask you who? 'A matter of privacy' will be accepted. But they will follow you. Close to harassment, but the only way is to be polite and consequent in your refusal. They will eventually give up, if that is what you want? Their service is okay – they know what you might be after and they can help you. They can also show you the whole area, so you get familiar with the possibilities in the vicinity and from there on you can bird on your own.

ACCOMMODATIONS & FOOD

Bakotu Hotel, Kotu Creek, Serekunda: 16.12, 17.12 plus 28.12, 29.12, 30.12 plus 31.12, 1.1
Our booking included breakfast, but many guests have full board which makes food cheaper compared to buying food from the carte. **Food:** Good, varied, but expensive if you buy from the carte. **Room:** the best standard we experienced in The Gambia, spacious with balcony (view over Kotu Creek) and private bathroom with hot water, clean, well-maintained; **Beds:** Excellent; **Hosts:** kind and hospitable. First-class located next to the bird-rich Kotu Creek locality with access from the garden. English-speaking. Contact: booked by ourselves <https://www.bakotuhotel.com/>. If not



Abyssinian Roller, Tendaba

on full board, a cheaper lunch/dinner option is just across the street at e.g. Tandoor Restaurant, which serve reasonably priced excellent Indian food.

Opposite the Bakotu Hotel (right hand) you find a small food shop with fresh bread and other stuff.

Bintang Bolong Lodge: 18.12 and 26.12

Food: Simple, but okay. **Room:** two different rooms on the two dates; both simple with simple bath and toilet; the first date with a magnificent view over the creek and room better than on the second date where room had no view. **Beds:** Double bed too soft – we ended in a depression in the middle – solved with the help of a single bed in the room; mosquito nets; **Hosts:** kind and welcoming staff created a good atmosphere. Would not hesitate to come back (better rooms than our rooms seem to be available). Talk to Musa about it. English-speaking. Contact: booked and arranged by Musa Jatta

Tendaba Camp: 19.12, 20.12, 21.12

Food: good simple food from the carte, but very good and varied, when the dinner was a buffet (only when there were guests enough). **Room:** very small standard room with private simple bath – very warm during night-time because of the small amount of air available. **Beds:** Okay double-bed, but hardly wide enough for two. Mosquito-net. **Hosts:** kind and hospitable; good atmosphere in the camp. Would not hesitate to come back, but would also ask for at larger room if available. Ask Musa – he will know. English-speaking. Contact: booked by Musa Jatta.

Baobolong Lodge, Janjanbureh (Georgetown): 22.12, 23.12, 24.12

Food: Simple, but okay. Three identical dinners. **Room:** simple, dark with very simple bath and toilet and hardly maintained at all; bottom of all accommodations. **Beds:** very simple with mosquito net; **Hosts:** not welcoming and kind – the owner seemed not to care about his hotel and the guests. No good atmosphere except for one staff member (young man) who tried to make it up to the guests



Grey-headed Kingfisher, Janjanbureh Bridge.

when the boss was not around. Would never come back. Musa also addressed the issue to the owner and said: “You are loosing me”. English-speaking. Contact: booked and arranged by Musa Jatta.

Kakuba Hotel, Kudang: 25.12

Food: good simple food from the carte. **Room:** very large room with air-con and lovely private bath with hot shower. **Beds:** Excellent large double-bed. **Hosts:** kind and hospitable; would not hesitate to come back, but Musa will not return, because he had to pay for the two dinners (himself and Aliou). In all other places visited, they have the dinner for free because they bring guests. First time – last time at Kakuba Hotel. English-speaking. Contact: booked by Musa Jatta.

Boboi Beach Lodge, Kartong: 27.12

Food: good simple food from the carte. **Room:** very large room with large private, but ordinary bath. **Beds:** Good large double-bed. Mosquito-net. **Hosts:** kind and hospitable; would not hesitate to come back, English-speaking. Contact: booked by Musa Jatta.

Relais de Kaolack, Kaolack, SENEGAL: 30.12

Food: Nice three course food from the carte. **Room:** large room with air-con and nice private bath with hot shower. **Beds:** Excellent large double-bed. **Hosts:** kind and hospitable; would not hesitate to come back. French-speaking. Contact: booked by Musa Jatta.

In general, it was not possible to have breakfast in the dark before 07.00 am so that birding could start at dawn. On top of that, breakfast was never served at the agreed compromise 07.00 am. Staff did not arrive in time to be ready with the breakfast. The lodges used have not adapted to birders that want to start early. We therefore lost all early mornings with at least 1hr30minutes every day except when birding Kotu Creek. There, on our own, we had an early instant cup of coffee in the

room at Bakotu Hotel, went birding at first daylight and returned for breakfast between 09.30 and 10.00 (breakfast served until 10.00 am). After breakfast, it takes you 5 minutes to be back in the creek birding.

We would make an arrangement next time that excludes breakfast on an up-country trip. Fresh bread, boiled eggs, bananas is available in many small stores as well as coffee on the street, and a supermarket can probably provide cereals and long-life milk to keep you alive till lunch. It also gives the guide and driver the opportunity to eat what they prefer at a price they want to spend on such a meal. It is worth noting that we never had any problems with our stomach-intestinal system. Simple food refers to the general lack of vegetables and variation in dishes. Onions in a sauce with rice and chicken (or fish) is a main dish in many places. We noticed on our trip that vegetables are grown in places, but perhaps mostly for private use and therefore less available and expensive at local markets?

Price level in the street: Ten bananas cost 100 Dalasi – it is not 4 or 5 bananas for 100 Dalasi as some people want in the tourist area at Kotu.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Many air plane companies demand a Covid-19 certificate that documents vaccination to let you on board. It was never checked on arrival in The Gambia. On the Gambian-Senegalese border both authorities wanted to see documentation for a Yellow-fever vaccination (Life-long) to let you cross. Malaria prophylaxis is recommended by the Danish Health Authorities due to the severe *Plasmodium falciparum* or brain malaria, which is prevalent and occur through all months of the year in The Gambia.

Felt completely safe during the whole trip. The people of The Gambia are friendly and welcoming.

WEATHER & SEASON

Dry season visit after the wet season breeding period, which means that almost all weavers are in a brown non-breeding dress. Temperature between 28°C on cloudy days on the coast to 35°C up-country during sunny days (most days sunny). Night-time temperature varied between 19°C and 23°C. 27.12.2022 was a windy day on the coast in the evening – otherwise mostly calm with little wind all other days. A little rain fell on the coast during night-time between 1st and 2nd of January 2023 which created a lot of singing and activity early morning in Kotu Creek on the 2nd of January.

VISA & MONEY

No visa is needed for Danish citizens and most countries in the EU. Better check it out anyway. People love cash in The Gambia, so you need to change cash Euro or Pounds in stores (e.g. the neighbour store at Bakotu Hotel). It is very expensive to withdraw cash using your credit-card and you won't find many places/ATM's, where it is possible.

LITERATURE & SOUNDS

- Borrow & Demey 2012. Birds of Senegal and The Gambia.
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2022. Merlin Bird ID Senegal and The Gambia.
- del Hoyo & Collar 2014. Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World. Non-passerines.
- del Hoyo & Collar 2016. Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World. Passerines.
- Fjeldså, Christidis & Ericson 2020. The Largest Avian Radiation: Passeriformes
- Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 2. 1994. Edited by del Hoyo, Elliott & Sargatal.
- Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 14. 2009. Edited by del Hoyo, Elliott & Sargatal.



Northern White-faced Owl, Pirang-Bonto Forest.

ITINERARY (Localities in daily temporal sequence)

- 16 December. Arrived with Air France in the evening after dark. Pick-up by our guide Musa Jatta, who drove us to Bakotu Hotel, Kotu Creek, Serekunda. Late dinner and bed-time.
- 17 December. One-day trip Pirang-Bonto Forest; Farasuto Forest; Abuko Forest. Bakotu Hotel.
- 18 December. Start of 11-day up-country trip. Pirang Ponds; Killi Woodlands.
- 19 December. Bintang Bolong Lodge; Bintang to Killi Woodland with stop; Killi Woodlands; Kampant(i) Rice Field; Tendaba area (track from Kwinella to Batelling Village and Tendaba Airfield).
- 20 December. Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (high-tide boat-trip, morning); walk W of Tendaba Village (the hill); Kwinella-Batelling track.
- 21 December. A Batelling track accessed from S Bank Rd.; Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (low-tide boat-trip, afternoon).
- 22 December. Tendaba Camp over Farafeni to Janjanbureh with several stops (crop fields, ponds, wetlands, islands). Stops also included Wassu (first Red-throated Bee Eater colony); Kaur Wetland (Egyptian Plover) and boat-trip from Kuntaur to Baboon Islands (Chimpanze).

- 23 December. Boat-trip River Gambia W of Janjanbureh (morning); woodland W of Janjanbureh.
- 24 December. Bansang Quarry (second Red-throated Bee Eater colony) E of Bansang; Kunkilling Forest (noon); bushland E of Janjanbureh; woodland near the Janjanbureh bridge on both sides of the bridge. A third Red-throated Bee Eater colony is present on the south bank not far from the Janjanbureh Bridge.
- 25 December. Baobolong Lodge, Janjanbureh to Kakuba Hotel, Kudang. Stop at Patchari Sana (Marabou Stork breeding); Jakhaly Rice Fields; stop a little E of Kudang (Spotted Thick-Knee) and finally woodland between Kudang and River Gambia.
- 26 December. Kudang to Bintang Bolong Lodge; stop at Dalaba Swamp; Soma (lunch); stop at Kwinella; stop a little N of Kalagi Bridge (crops, bushland E of S Bank Rd.).
- 27 December. Bintang Bolong Lodge; Faraba Banta Bush Track; photo hide at Farasuto Forest (track towards Sita Joyeh); lunch at Brikama; Gunjur-Konoto Forest; Boboi Beach Lodge N of Kartong.
- 28 December. Kartong Wetland and Beach; Tujereng Woods; Tanji Beach; Kotu Creek hide.
- 29 December. Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course.
- 30 December. Kotu Creek-Banjul (ferry) to Toubacotou Village (Saloum Delta boat-trip and lunch) to Isle de Kousmar WSW of Kaolack (Scissor-tailed Kite). Night at Relais de Kaolack (hotel), SENEGAL
- 31 December. Kaolack-Gossas-Mbar-Colobane-Tip-S of Mbacké, SENEGAL and back to Kotu Creek.
- 01 January. Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course.
- 02 January. Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course. Alieu drove us to the airport in the evening.

Highlight species

Species difficult to see, spectacular species, species with an interesting biology, birds rare in the Gambia & Senegal and species that are new to my bird list or are a better re-sighting of an already seen species, all contribute to the list of highlights. Highlight-species seen on the trip:

The six colourful species on the cover of 'Birds of Senegal and The Gambia': *Egyptian Plover*, *Bearded Barbet*, *Oriole Warbler*, *Blue-bellied Roller*, *Violet Turaco* and *Green Turaco*. Other jewels were *African Finfoot*, *White-backed Night Heron*, *White-crested Tiger Heron*, *Scissor-tailed Kite*, *Grey Kestrel*, *Red-necked Falcon*, *White-spotted Fluff-tail*, *Temminck's Courser*, *Greater Painted Snipe*, *Four-banded Sandgrouse*, *Yellowbill*, *Greyish Eagle-Owl*, *Northern White-faced Owl*, *Long-tailed Nightjar*, *Grey-headed Kingfisher*, *Blue-breasted Kingfisher*, *Red-throated Bee Eater*, *White-fronted Bee Eater*, *Blue-naped Mousebird*, *Abyssinian Ground Hornbill*, *Capuchin Babbler*, *Yellow Penduline Tit*, *White-shouldered Black Tit*, *Pygmy Sunbird*, *Beautiful Sunbird*, *Yellow-crowned Gonolek*, *Chestnut-bellied Starling*, *Western Bluebill*, *Black-faced Quailfinch* and *Sahel Paradise Whydah*.



Red-necked Falcon, near Kwinella

Unnoticed species

We could not find any bustards, the Black Crowned Crane and Quail Plover. A day more in Senegal would have given us a second chance to search for Quail Plover in the area. That was actually suggested by Musa at first, but we had to keep down the costs. Therefore it ended up with two instead of three days. It is more expensive in Senegal than in The Gambia. Besides, Gambian cars have to bribe their way through all the police check-points in Senegal thus increasing costs. Two hours at midday and only three persons to walk through the habitat was obviously not enough to produce the Quail Plover. We did not flush anything during the two hours search.

Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Zebra Waxbill and Red-winged Pytilia also evaded our search despite being in suitable habitat.

Adamawa Turtle Dove is rare in The Gambia, but easy in Wassadou Camp, Niokolo Koba NP, Senegal (too far away for us on this trip). Kunkilling Forest is the best place to search, but our midday arrival did not facilitate our chances to see the species. However, it is not possible to visit all sites in the early morning.

African Wood Owl was a main target missed. The bird had a known stake-out in Farasuto Forest until 14 days before our arrival. A bird group scared it away, and the local guides couldn't relocate it again. Ten days later, when we passed Farasuto Forest, it was still not found.

I had hoped for Northern Carmine Bee Eater, but we could not find any individuals that had remained after breeding in the rainy season. It disperses to the South in the dry season, but there are records in all months of the year.

We were in contact with both Green Hylia, African Blue Flycatcher and Yellow-bellied Hyliota, but could not bring them into sight during the short vocal, but concealed encounter. There is definitely a basis for a nice return-trip to lovely Gambia (and Senegal).



Red-billed Firefinch, male, Farasuto Forest.

BIRD SPECIES SEEN (Annotated checklist)

Date, Locality, nearest town, country if Senegal – otherwise The Gambia. Common refers to more than 20 individuals seen per day), + refers to ‘more than’. List follows the sequence of species in Borrow and Demey’s Birds of Senegal and The Gambia 2012.

Little Grebe

22.12.2022 – Njau waterhole (coordinates 13.743755, -15.212367), North Bank Rd. – 2

White-breasted Cormorant

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 2

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 3

20.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – several hundred in colony

21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 5

31.12.2022 – saline ponds and river S of Kaolack – 50

02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek – 1

Long-tailed Cormorant

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 20

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 5

20.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 20

21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 1

22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 10

26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp – 2 flying over
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 6
31.12.2022 – saline ponds and Saloum River S of Kaolack – 10
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek – 5

African Darter

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 1
20.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 20
21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 15
23.12.2022 – River Gambia W of Janjanbureh – 3
26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp – 3 flying over
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 2

Pink-backed Pelican

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 8
19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 75
20.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 8
21.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 10 soaring
21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 1
22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 1
27.12.2022 – Bintang Bolong Camp to Farasuto Forest – 1
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 5
31.12.2022 – saline ponds and river S of Kaolack – 25

White-crested Tiger Heron

30.12.2022 – Delta du Saloum, Toubakouta, SENEGAL – 1 seen with erected white crest.

White-backed Night Heron

21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 1

Black-crowned Night Heron

20.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 6
25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh at bridge – 1 adult + 4 juveniles to roost
25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 1
26.12.2022 – Kudang to Kwinella – 10
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 1 adult + 2 juveniles

Squacco Heron

17.12.2022 – pond in Abuko Forest – 3
20.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 5
21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 2
22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 8
23.12.2022 – W of Janjanbureh – 30 flying to roost
25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 20
25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 20
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 10
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek – 3

Cattle Egret

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 25

22.12.2022 – Tendaba-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 20
25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 30
25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 20
26.12.2022 – Kudang-Dalaba Swamp-Bintang Bolong Lodge – 25+
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 25
31.12.2022 – S of Kaolack – 50

Green-backed Heron

20.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 2
21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 2
22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 1
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek – 1

Black Heron

22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 5
25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 3

Western Reef Egret

17.12.2022 – lakes on northern limit of Farasuto Forest – 1
18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 10
19.12.2022 – Bintang Bolong Lodge – 10
19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 5
20.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 25
21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 10
22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 25
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 20
31.12.2022 – saline ponds and river S of Kaolack – 25
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek – 3

Little Egret

20.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 2
21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 2
22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 20
23.12.2022 – W of Janjanbureh – 10 to roost
25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 15
25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 25
26.12.2022 – Kudang-Dalaba Swamp-Bintang Bolong Lodge – 25+
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek – 1

Intermediate Egret

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 10
20.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 20
21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 3
22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 20
23.12.2022 – River Gambia W of Janjanbureh – 10 to roost
25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 20
25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 20
26.12.2022 – Kudang-Dalaba Swamp-Bintang Bolong Lodge – 25+



The Gambia – land of Baobabs

Great Egret

- 17.12.2022 – lakes on northern limit of Farasuto Forest – 1
- 18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 1
- 19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 5
- 20.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 20
- 21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 8
- 22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 20
- 25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 15
- 25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 20
- 26.12.2022 – Kudang-Dalaba Swamp-Bintang Bolong Lodge – 25+
- 28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 7
- 02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek – 1

Purple Heron

- 20.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 1
- 25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 4
- 25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 1
- 26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp – 2
- 30.12.2022 – Delta du Saloum, Toubakouta, SENEGAL – 1

Grey Heron

- 18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 5
- 19.12.2022 – Bintang Bolong Lodge – 1
- 19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 3

20.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 12
22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 20
23.12.2022 – River Gambia W of Janjanbureh – 1
25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 5
25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 2
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 8
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek – 2

Black-headed Heron

17.12.2022 – Abuko Forest – 1
22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 4
23.12.2022 – River Gambia W of Janjanbureh – 1
24.12.2022 – E of Janjanbureh and near bridge – 2
25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 5

Goliath Heron

20.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 3
21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 1
30.12.2022 – Delta du Saloum, Toubakouta, SENEGAL – 2

Hamerkop

20.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 7
21.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 4
22.12.2022 – Tendaba-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 5
23.12.2022 – boat-trip on River Gambia W of Janjanbureh – 4
23.12.2022 – Island of Janjanbureh – 2
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry – 3
24.12.2022 – Island of Janjanbureh – 5
25.12.2022 – Island of Janjanbureh – 4
25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 4
26.12.2022 – Kudang to Kwinella – 10
27.12.2022 – Bintang Bolong Camp to Farasuto Forest – 1.
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 4

Yellow-billed Stork

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 20
20.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 5
21.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 4
29.12.2022 – Kotu Creek, Kotu – 8

Black Stork

26.12.2022 – Kudang to Kwinella – 1 soaring
30.12.2022 – Isle de Kousmar, SENEGAL – 1 soaring

Woolly-necked Stork

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 4
20.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 7
21.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 3
22.12.2022 – Tendaba-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 2



Folklore at Tanji Beach with fishermen preparing to take off for fishing over the night. Plus Grey-headed Gull flying.

Marabou Stork

23.12.2022 – boat-trip on River Gambia W of Janjanbureh – 1 ad. soaring

25.12.2022 – at Patchari Sana Village, S Bank Rd. – 1 ad. + 2 juv. in nest; 1 adult + 3 juv. in nest

Hadada Ibis

22.12.2022 – Tendaba-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 1

23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 4

23.12.2022 – South bank near the Island of Janjanbureh – 2

25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh-Kudang – 2

26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp – 3

Sacred Ibis

20.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 5

21.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 3

28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 2

02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 3

Eurasian Spoonbill

26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp – 50 flying over.

African Spoonbill

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 3

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 4

Greater Flamingo

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds (former shrimp ponds) – 15

31.12.2022 – salt ponds immediately S of Kaolack, SENEGAL – 300

White-faced Whistling Duck

21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Tendaba – 11 flying overhead

25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 80 in swamp + 300 flying in small flocks at dusk.

26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp – 8

02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek – 75 flying over.

Spur-winged Goose

25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh bridge – 1 flying overhead

25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 15 (flock in flight)

26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp – 1 flying over.

28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 1 female + 5 immature.

African Pygmy Goose

26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp just E of Dalaba Village – 16

Osprey

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 1

27.12.2022 – Bo Boi's Beach Lodge N of Kartong – 5

28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 8

30.12.2022 – Delta du Saloum, Toubakouta, SENEGAL – 5

Black-shouldered Kite

26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp area – 2

African Swallow-tailed Kite (Scissor-tailed Kite)

30.12.2022 – Isle de Kousmar, River Saloum, Kaolack, SENEGAL – several thousands to roost.

31.12.2022 – a little S of Ndiaffate Village late afternoon, SENEGAL – 1 along roadside 4pm.

In the afternoon around 15.30-16.00 till dusk, a few Scissor-tailed Kites can be seen foraging low in the terrain between Ndiaffate village and Kousmar Island. So it is not necessary to go to the island to see the species, but it is certainly an amazing and spectacular experience to watch these handsome little raptors descend from the sky in such big numbers to roost in large trees on the island.

Standing near a roost site on Kousmar Island and looking up, it is very obvious that Scissor-tailed Kites arrive as tiny dots from very high up almost out of vision. They come down from a height that birders do not scan on a regular basis. The species is seen only in the Kaolack area during the Northern winter, and it disappears from the area in April to breed in the Sahel in the rainy season. During wintertime, the species is usually not seen outside the Kaolack area in Senegal and almost never in the Gambia. A very strange fact if the species forage mainly on locusts as often suggested in the literature. Alternatively, they forage far away from Senegal and The Gambia. Or perhaps more likely, Scissor-tailed Kite has a preference of hunting insects high up in the sky out of sight more than it forages on locusts – at least during wintertime. That would explain the lack of sightings elsewhere in Senegal and The Gambia.

Black Kite

- 21.12.2022 – track from S Bank Rd. towards Batelling Village, Tendaba – 1 perched.
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 1
30.12.2022 – Isle de Kousmar, River Saloum, Kaolack, SENEGAL – 3
31.12.2022 – N of Kaolack towards Gossas, Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – 5

Yellow-billed Kite – widespread and common in The Gambia.

African Fish Eagle

- 20.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve, N bank opposite Tendaba – 2
22.12.2022 – Kuntaur – 1
23.12.2022 – River Gambia W of Janjanbureh – 1

Palm-nut Vulture

- 17.12.2022 – Pirang Bonto Forest – 2
19.12.2022 – Bintang Bolong Lodge – Killi Woodland – 1
22.12.2022 – stop driving Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 3
23.12.2022 – River Gambia W of Janjanbureh – 3
25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh – 1
25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 4
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 2

Hooded Vulture – widespread and common in The Gambia.

The main human population in The Gambia is concentrated towards the coast while the eastern interior is thinly populated. In the western part of The Gambia you see Hooded Vulture everywhere and in great numbers, but moving east numbers decrease significantly. It seems that the frequency of observations of the species follows the density of the human population and its settlements. Hooded Vulture in large numbers may thrive on human left-overs from the thousands of open garbage dumps accompanying human settlements. A well-adapted and not very shy bird species so to speak. In comparison, the larger vultures all seem to be uncommon to rare in The Gambia.

African White-backed Vulture

- 24.12.2022 – Kunkilling Forest – 5
25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh – 1

Rüppell's Vulture

- 22.12.2022 – stop driving Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 1

Beaudouin's Snake Eagle

- 21.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 2

Brown Snake Eagle

- 19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1
20.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 2
21.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry – 1
25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh – 1
26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp – 1



Long-tailed Nightjar, female, Tendaba

Western Banded Snake Eagle

- 19.12.2022 – Kampanti Ricefield – 1
- 22.12.2022 – Tendaba-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 1
- 25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh – 1
- 30.12.2022 – Kousmar Island, SENEGAL – 1

Bateleur

- 19.12.2022 – Kampanti Ricefield – 1
- 21.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1
- 26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp – 1

African Harrier Hawk

- 17.12.2022 – Pirang Bonto Forest – 3
- 18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 2
- 19.12.2022 – Kampanti Ricefield – 3
- 21.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1
- 23.12.2022 – Janjanbureh boat-trip River Gambia – 1
- 24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry – 1
- 25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh – 1
- 26.12.2022 – Kudang-Soma-Tendaba T-cross (Kwinella) – 1
- 28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 1 juvenile

Montagu's Harrier

- 22.12.2022 – Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 1 male

Western Marsh Harrier

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1 female
22.12.2022 – Tendaba-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 4
25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh – 2 females
26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp – 1
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 2 females

Gabar Goshawk

24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry – 1
24.12.2022 – Janjanbureh – 1

Dark Chanting Goshawk

18.12.2022 – roadside – 1
20.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1
26.12.2022 – Kudang-Soma-Tendaba T-cross (Kwinella) – 2

Shikra

20.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1
21.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 2
22.12.2022 – Tendaba-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 2
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry – 2
24.12.2022 – Janjanbureh – 1
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek – 2

Grasshopper Buzzard

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1
20.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1
21.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 10
22.12.2022 – Tendaba-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 1
24.12.2022 – Kunkilling Forest – 1
26.12.2022 – Kudang-Soma-Tendaba T-cross (Kwinella) – 1

Lizard Buzzard

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 1
22.12.2022 – Tendaba-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 1
26.12.2022 – Kudang-Soma-Tendaba T-cross (Kwinella) – 1

Tawny Eagle

19.12.2022 – Kampanti Ricefield – 2
23.12.2022 – Janjanbureh boat-trip on River Gambia – 1
25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh – 1
31.12.2022 – S of Kaolack, SENEGAL – 1

African Hawk Eagle

23.12.2022 – Janjanbureh – 1

Wahlberg's Eagle

19.12.2022 – Kampanti Ricefield – 2
22.12.2022 – Tendaba-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 1
26.12.2022 – Kudang-Soma-Tendaba T-cross (Kwinella) – 1

Long-crested Eagle

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 2
25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh – 2
26.12.2022 – Kalagi Bridge, Kalagi – 1
27.12.2022 – Faraba Banta Bush Track – 1

Martial Eagle

26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp – 1 soaring

Lesser Kestrel

30.12.2022 – Isle de Kousmar, River Saloum, Kaolack, SENEGAL – 60 on sand flats late afternoon
31.12.2022 – N of Kaolack towards Gossas, Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – 8

Grey Kestrel

18.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 1
19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1
23.12.2022 – Janjanbureh boat-trip on River Gambia – 1
23.12.2022 – Janjanbureh – 1 pair
24.12.2022 – Janjanbureh – 2
25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh – 2
26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp – 2

Red-necked Falcon

26.12.2022 – a little W of Kwinella close to S Bank Rd. – 2 (pair in Palm tree)

African Hobby

19.12.2023 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba.

Lanner Falcon

18.12.2022 – roadside – 1
19.12.2022 – Kampanti Ricefields – 2
27.12.2022 – Faraba Banta Bush Track – 1
29.12.2022 – Kotu Creek – 2
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek – 1

Stone Partridge

25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 3 replayed out of vegetation (we sat in the car)

Double-spurred Francolin

19.12.2022 – Killi Woodland – 1 flushed
20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 1
21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batellling Village, Tendaba – 6
22.12.2022 – roadside near Tendaba – 1
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 12 seen well foraging free of vegetation.
25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Fields – 1
25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 1
26.12.2022 – near Tendaba – 1
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 1
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek – 2



Stone Partridge. Between Kudang and River Gambia.

White-spotted Flufftail

17.12.2022 – Farasuto Forest – 1 female (male not seen for months now)

Black Crake

23.12.2022 – river Gambia creek N bank W of Janjanbureh – 1 flying across creek.

25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 12

25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 5

28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 1 adult

02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 2 adults + 2 immature

Purple Swamphen

22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 1 adult + 2 juveniles

Common Moorhen

25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 1

02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 1

African Finfoot

23.12.2022 – river Gambia creek N bank W of Janjanbureh – 1 adult female.

29.12.2022 – Kotu Creek, Kotu – 1 juvenile

African Jacana

22.12.2022 – Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 4 adults + 2 immature.
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 1
24.12.2022 – E of Janjanbureh and near bridge – 1 adult + 1 immature
25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 30
25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 20
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 20
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 1

Greater Painted Snipe

25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 2 flushed.
28.12.2022 – mudflat in mangrove along Kunta Kinte and Palm Beach Resorts, Kotu Creek – 1 female + 1 male.
02.01.2023 – rice-field at Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 1 male + 1 female.

Eurasian Oystercatcher

28.12.2022 – Kartong Beach – 2

Black-winged Stilt

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 30
19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 10
21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batelling Village, Tendaba – 1
22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 1
25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 1
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 5

Pied Avocet

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 25

Senegal Thick-knee

17.12.2022 – Farasuto Forest – 2
18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 2
22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 50
23.12.2022 – river Gambia creek N bank W of Janjanbureh – 2
23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 2
24.12.2022 – E of Janjanbureh and near bridge – 2
25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 2
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 15

Spotted Thick-knee

25.12.2022 – roadside area just E of Kudang – 6

Egyptian Plover

22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 1

Temminck's Courser

21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batelling Village, Tendaba – 4
22.12.2022 – stop at peanut-fields between Farafeni and Kauur – 7
31.12.2022 – between Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – 2

Bronze-winged Courser

20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 1 flushed at dusk.

Collared Pratincole

22.12.2022 – Kaur Wetland – 50

25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 8

Common Ringed Plover

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 24

30.12.2022 – Delta du Saloum, Toubakouta, SENEGAL – 15

White-fronted Plover

28.12.2022 – Kartong Beach – 4

Grey Plover

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 8

28.12.2022 – Kartong Beach – 7

30.12.2022 – Delta du Saloum, Toubakouta, SENEGAL – 25

African Wattled Lapwing

17.12.2022 – Farasuto Forest – 2

22.12.2022 – Kaur Wetland – 10

29.12.2022 – Kotu Creek, Kotu – 2

02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 7

Black-headed Lapwing

21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batelling Village, Tendaba – 4

22.12.2022 – Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 6

23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 6

25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 4

25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 5

26.12.2022 – Kudang-Dalaba Swamp-Bintang Bolong Lodge – 2

30.12.2022 – Isle de Kousmar, Kaolack, SENEGAL – 5

Spur-winged Lapwing – widespread and common

Sanderling

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 50

28.12.2022 – Kartong Beach – 40

Little Stint

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 7

Curlew Sandpiper

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 35

Dunlin

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 25



Violet Turaco, Abuko Forest.

Ruff

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 10

Common Snipe

28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 3

Black-tailed Godwitt

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 10

28.12.2022 – Kartong Beach – 2

Whimbrel

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 40

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 20

20.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve – 8

21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve – 25

28.12.2022 – Kartong Beach – 20

30.12.2022 – Delta du Saloum, Toubakouta, SENEGAL – 15

02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 10

Eurasian Curlew

30.12.2022 – Delta du Saloum, Toubakouta, SENEGAL – 3

Common Redshank

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 10

30.12.2022 – Delta du Saloum, Toubakouta, SENEGAL – 10

Marsh Sandpiper

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 2
25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 1

Common Greenshank

20.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve – 8
21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve – 20
22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 5
26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp – 1
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 8
30.12.2022 – Delta du Saloum, Toubakouta, SENEGAL – 8
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 3

Green Sandpiper

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 15
23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 2
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 1
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 8
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 1

Wood Sandpiper

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 10
25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 3
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 1

Common Sandpiper

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 20
20.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve – 8
21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve – 24
23.12.2022 – river Gambia creek N bank W of Janjanbureh – 1
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 1
30.12.2022 – Delta du Saloum, Toubakouta, SENEGAL – 5
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 4

Ruddy Turnstone

28.12.2022 – Kartong Beach – 50

Pomarine Skua

31.12.2022 – outside Banjul Harbour – 1 juvenile dark morph + 5 adult pale morph.

Grey-headed Gull

28.12.2022 – Kartong Beach – 20

Slender-billed Gull

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 50

Lesser Black-backed Gull

19.12.2022 – Bintang Lodge – 1
28.12.2022 – Kartong Beach – 25

Gull-billed Tern

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 6
19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 6
20.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve/River Gambia – 10
22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 1

Caspian Tern

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 50
19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 15
20.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve/River Gambia – 20
21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve – 2
22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 2
28.12.2022 – Kartong Beach – 20
30.12.2022 – Delta du Saloum, Toubakouta, SENEGAL – 4

Royal Tern

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 10
19.12.2022 – Bintang Lodge – 20
19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 35
28.12.2022 – Kartong Beach – 5

Sandwich Tern

28.12.2022 – Kartong Beach – 2

Little Tern

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 8

Four-banded Sandgrouse

23.12.2022 – W of Janjanbureh on the island – 2 flushed, but not seen very well.
26.12.2022 – between Dalaba Swamp and River Gambia – 1 pair on the ground.

African Green Pigeon

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 10

Bruce's Green Pigeon

19.12.2022 – Killi Woodland – 4
21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batellling Village, Tendaba – 2
22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 1
23.12.2022 – river Gambia creek N bank W of Janjanbureh – 1 adult
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 10
26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp – 8

Blue-spotted Wood Dove

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 1
17.12.2022 – Farasuto Forest – 2
17.12.2022 – Abuko Forest – 1
27.12.2022 – Gunjur-Konoto Forest – 8

Black-billed Wood Dove – widespread and common.



Chestnut-bellied Starling – N of Tip, SENEGAL

Namaqua Dove

- 18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 2
- 21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batellling Village, Tendaba – 2
- 22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 10
- 25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 15
- 26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp – 5
- 27.12.2022 – Bintang Bolong-Gunjur – 5
- 31.12.2022 – N of Kaolack towards Gossas, Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – 30

Speckled Pigeon – widespread and common, especially around settlements.

Red-eyed Dove – widespread and common

African Mourning Dove – widespread and common

Vinaceous Dove – widespread and common

Laughing Dove – widespread and common, also around settlements.

Senegal Parrot

- 17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 5
- 19.12.2022 – Bintang Lodge – 1
- 19.12.2022 – Bintang to Killi Woodland – 1
- 20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 2

21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batellling Village, Tendaba – 8
22.12.2022 – Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 1
23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 6
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 4
24.12.2022 – E of Janjanbureh and near bridge – 4
25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 5
25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 15
26.12.2022 – Kudang-Bintang Bolong Lodge – 20
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 2
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 6

Rose-ringed Parakeet

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 2
19.12.2022 – Bintang Lodge – 4
21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batellling Village, Tendaba – 8
21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve – 2
22.12.2022 – Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 2
23.12.2022 – river Gambia creek N bank W of Janjanbureh – 3
23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 8
24.12.2022 – E of Janjanbureh and near bridge – 6
25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 7
25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 15
26.12.2022 – Kudang-Bintang Bolong Lodge – 20
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 4
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 7

Green Turaco

17.12.2022 – Abuko Forest – 1
27.12.2022 – Gunjur-Konoto Forest – 1

Violet Turaco

17.12.2022 – Abuko Forest – 4
24.12.2022 – woodland E of Janjanbureh on the island – 1

Western Grey Plantain-eater – widespread and common.

Great Spotted Cuckoo

25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 1 adult

African Cuckoo

18.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 2
27.12.2022 – Faraba Banta Bush Track – 1 female.

Klaas's Cuckoo

17.12.2022 – Abuko Forest – 1 male

Didric Cuckoo

18.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 1 female



Bruce's Green Pigeon, Bansang Quarry

Yellowbill

17.12.2022 – woodland along border to Pirang-Bonto Forest – 2

After some work and patience, one individual was seen twice, flying over open terrain with noticeable long tail and the yellow bill standing out from dark body. The other individual was seen moving quickly around high in the forest canopy.

Senegal Coucal – widespread and common

Northern White-faced Owl

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 2 perched uncovered and awake midday near entrance.

Greyish Eagle Owl

17.12.2022 – near Farasuto Forest – 1 perched low in small secondary tree.

Verreaux's Eagle Owl

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 1 perched semi-covered and asleep.

24.12.2022 – a little S of Janjanbureh – 1 perched low and free of vegetation in large tree at dusk.

Pearl-spotted Owlet

19.12.2022 – Bintang to Killi Woodland – 1

19.12.2022 – Kampanti Rice Field – 2

24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 1

24.12.2022 – E of Janjanbureh and near bridge – 2

Long-tailed Nightjar

20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Battelling Village, Tendaba – 1 female on ground.

24.12.2022 – E of Janjanbureh and near bridge – 1 female

Mottled Spinetail

19.12.2022 – Killi Woodland – 2

21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batellling Village, Tendaba – 4

23.12.2022 – river Gambia creek N bank W of Janjanbureh – 2

25.12.2022 – roadside area just E of Kudang – 2

28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 2

African Palm Swift – widespread and common

Pallid Swift

19.12.2022 – Killi Woodland – 2

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 10

21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batellling Village, Tendaba – 6

Little Swift

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 8

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 6

Blue-naped Mousebird

31.12.2022 – E and N of Gossas towards Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – 3 flocks (4 in each flock)

Grey-headed Kingfisher

24.12.2022 – E of Janjanbureh and near bridge – 2 near the bridge

25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh Bridge – 1

25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 2

Blue-breasted Kingfisher

20.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve – 1

29.12.2022 – Kotu Creek, Kotu – 2

02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 5

Striped Kingfisher

18.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 2

19.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 2

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1

African Pygmy Kingfisher

27.12.2022 – from hide on track to Sita Joyeh, Farasuto Forest – 1

Malachite Kingfisher

20.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve – 4

21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve – 1

23.12.2022 – river Gambia creek N bank W of Janjanbureh – 2

24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 1

25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 1

28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 1

29.12.2022 – Kotu Creek, Kotu – 1
30.12.2022 – Delta du Saloum, Toubakouta, SENEGAL – 1
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 3

Giant Kingfisher

17.12.2022 – Farasuto Forest – 1 male + 1 female
21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve – 1
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 1 female
29.12.2022 – Kotu Creek, Kotu – 1
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 1 female.

Pied Kingfisher – widespread and common.

Little Bee-eater

17.12.2022 – Abuko Forest – 2
19.12.2022 – Killi Woodland – 2
22.12.2022 – Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 1
23.12.2022 – river Gambia creek N bank W of Janjanbureh – 3
25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 1
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 1
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 15

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater

18.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 8
19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 15

Red-throated Bee-eater

22.12.2022 – Quarry at Northern outskirts of Wassu, N Bank Rd. – 35
23.12.2022 – river Gambia creek N bank W of Janjanbureh – 2
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 50
24.12.2022 – Near Janjanbureh bridge on the S Bank – 25
25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh Bridge – 1

White-throated Bee-eater

20.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve – 15 + 3
21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve – 4

White-throated Bee-eater is an intra-African migrant and non-breeder to The Gambia, and is only present here in the Northern winter during its migration. All individuals seen were perched or flying from high positions in the canopy.

African Green Bee-eater (*Merops viridissimus*) - according to del Hoyo & Collar 2014

22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 1
24.12.2022 – Near Janjanbureh bridge on the S Bank – 3
30.12.2022 – Isle de Kousmar, Kaolack, SENEGAL – 5

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 3
19.12.2022 – Killi Woodland – 2
20.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve – 10



Hooded Vulture – red face excitement watching a garbage dump in a hotel garden, Kotu Creek

26.12.2022 – Kudang-Bintang Bolong Lodge – 2

29.12.2022 – Kotu Creek, Kotu – 15

European Bee-eater

19.12.2022 – Bintang to Killi Woodland – 10

20.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve – 3

20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 10

21.12.2022 – Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve – 5

27.12.2022 – Faraba Banta Bush Track – 15

29.12.2022 – Kotu Creek, Kotu – 8

Rufous-crowned Roller (Purple Roller)

24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 1

25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 1

Blue-bellied Roller

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 1

19.12.2022 – Bintang to Killi Woodland – 1

23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 1

24.12.2022 – roadside near Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 2

25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 1

26.12.2022 – Kudang-Bintang Bolong Lodge – 1

27.12.2022 – Bintang Bolong-Gunjur – 1

28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 2 around palm trees.

02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 3 (always near Palm trees).

Abyssinian Roller – widespread and common.

Broad-billed Roller

17.12.2022 – Abuko Forest – 2
20.12.2022 – Baobolong Wetland Reserve – 3
21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batellling Village, Tendaba – 1
22.12.2022 – Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 2
23.12.2022 – river Gambia creek N bank W of Janjanbureh – 12
23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 10
25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 3
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 1
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 1

Green Wood-hoopoe

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 2
19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 4
21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batellling Village, Tendaba – 20
22.12.2022 – Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 20
25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 4
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 1
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 4

Black Scimitarbill

18.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 4
19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 2

Hoopoe

31.12.2022 – N of Tip, SENEGAL – 1

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill

26.12.2022 – N of Kalagi Bridge E side of S Bank Rd. – 1 male perched in a small tree.

Red-billed Hornbill

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest 10
17.12.2022 – Farasuto Forest 10
19.12.2022 – Kampanti Rice Field – 1
19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 5
21.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 20
22.12.2022 – Tendaba-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 25
23.12.2022 – W of Janjanbureh – 25
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry – 4
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry – 4
24.12.2022 – E of Janjanbureh – 6
25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh-Kudang – 5
25.12.2022 – between River Gambia and Kudang – 20
26.12.2022 – Kudang-Bintang Bolong Lodge – 25
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland-Kotu Creek – 10
31.12.2022 – N of Kaolack towards Gossas, Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – 20
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 20



Sunrise seen from Bintang Bolong Lodge.

African Pied Hornbill

- 17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 6
- 17.12.2022 – Farasuto Forest – 6
- 26.12.2022 – close to Bintang Bolong Lodge – 1

African Grey Hornbill

- 17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 2
- 18.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 1 male + 1 female
- 19.12.2022 – Kampanti Rice Field – 1
- 19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 3
- 21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batellling Village, Tendaba – 20
- 22.12.2022 – Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 10
- 23.12.2022 – river Gambia creek N bank W of Janjanbureh – 1
- 23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 10+
- 24.12.2022 – Janjanbureh-Bansang Quarry-Kunkilling Forest-Janjanbureh – 8
- 24.12.2022 – E of Janjanbureh and near bridge – 6
- 25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh-Kudang – 5
- 25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 20
- 26.12.2022 – Kudang-Bintang Bolong Lodge – 15
- 02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 5

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird

- 18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 1
- 19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1

20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 2
21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batellling Village, Tendaba – 2
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 1
27.12.2022 – from hide on track to Sita Joyeh, Farasuto Forest – 1
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 2

Vieillot's Barbet

18.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 3
19.12.2022 – Bintang to Killi Woodland – 1
19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1
20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 2
26.12.2022 – Kudang-Bintang Bolong Lodge – 1

Bearded Barbet

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 2
21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batellling Village, Tendaba – 3
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 2
24.12.2022 – Near Janjanbureh bridge on the S Bank – 4
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 1

Wahlberg's Honeybird (Brown-backed Honeybird)

24.12.2022 – close to the bridge over River Gambia (island side), Janjanbureh – 1 actively foraging.

In the afternoon on 24.12.2022, we observed a foraging Honeyguide close to the bridge of Janjanbureh (island side) (coordinates 13.525390, -14.761863). The bird was brownish above and a lighter grey-whitish colour below. There was no greenish on the wings. Bill was lightly built and pointed. Tail sides were prominently white. The bird was vividly foraging in woodland with scattered bushes.

We believe (Musa Jatta and Bent Otto Poulsen) that the bird observed was Wahlberg's Honeybird, also called Brown-backed Honeybird (*Prodotiscus regulus*) in Southern Africa. Wahlberg's Honeybird is an Afrotropical vagrant to West Africa and has been recorded once before in The Gambia in 2006. Unfortunately, no photograph was taken. Musa Jatta has informed Gambian colleagues to keep an eye on the species when visiting the eastern part of the country.

Spotted Honeyguide

17.12.2022 – Farasuto Forest – 1 adult
27.12.2022 – from hide on track to Sita Joyeh, Farasuto Forest – 1

Greater Honeyguide

17.12.2022 – Farasuto Forest – 1 male
20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 1 female
24.12.2022 – Near Janjanbureh bridge on the S Bank – 1 male.
27.12.2022 – from hide on track to Sita Joyeh, Farasuto Forest – 1 juvenile + 2 adults

Lesser Honeyguide

28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 1 perched low in tree.

Fine-spotted Woodpecker

23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 1 male + 1
24.12.2022 – E of Janjanbureh and near the bridge – 1

Grey Woodpecker

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 4
19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1
23.12.2022 – river Gambia creek N bank W of Janjanbureh – 1 male.
23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 1 male.
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 1 male + 1 female.

Brown-backed Woodpecker

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1 male
20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 1 female

Flappet Lark

22.12.2022 – stop Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 2

Crested Lark

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 5
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 1
31.12.2022 – N of Kaolack towards Gossas, Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – 1

Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark

22.12.2022 – stop Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 4
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 2 males + 3 females
31.12.2022 – N of Kaolack towards Gossas, Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – 7

West African Swallow (Cecropis domicella)

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 20
21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batellling Village, Tendaba – 18

Wire-tailed Swallow

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 4
18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 10
19.12.2022 – Bintang to Killi Woodland – 2
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 2
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 6

Pied-winged Swallow

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 2

Red-chested Swallow

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 15

Common House Martin

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 22
19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 30

Yellow Wagtail

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 5
22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 3

White Wagtail

22.12.2022 – Kauur Wetland – 2

Tawny Pipit

31.12.2022 – N of Tip, SENEGAL – 4

Tree Pipit

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1

Little Greenbul

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 4

Yellow-throated Leaflove

23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 6 seen very well, shy bird.

Leaflove

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 3

Grey-headed Bristlebill

17.12.2022 – Farasuto Forest – 1

27.12.2022 – Gunjur-Konoto Forest – 2

Common Bulbul – widespread and common**Snowy-crowned Robin Chat**

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 3

White-crowned Robin Chat

23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 4

24.12.2022 – Kunkilling Forest – 1 juvenile

29.12.2022 – Kotu Creek, Kotu – 2

02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 1 pair feeding two immatures.

Common Redstart

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1

23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 2

24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 1

26.12.2022 – Kudang-Bintang Bolong Lodge – 1

27.12.2022 – Gunjur-Konoto Forest – 1

Whinchat

18.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 1

Northern Wheatear

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 1

22.12.2022 – Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 4

31.12.2022 – N of Kaolack towards Gossas, Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – 5

Northern Anteater Chat

24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry E of Bansang – 1

31.12.2022 – between Tip and Mbacke, SENEGAL – 1 adult + 1 juvenile

White-fronted Black Chat

28.12.2022 – Tujereng Woods – 1 male

African Thrush

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 5

17.12.2022 – Farasuto Forest – 3

27.12.2022 – Gunjur-Konoto Forest – 5

28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 10

Sedge Warbler

26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp – 1

European Reed Warbler

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 1 seen and also heard singing.

02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 1 singing.

Western Olivaceous Warbler

25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh Bridge – 2

Melodious Warbler

25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 1

Senegal Eremomela

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 4

20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 1

23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 2

24.12.2022 – E of Janjanbureh and near the bridge – 4

25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 4

28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 1

Northern Crombec

18.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 2

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1

20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 1

23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 2

25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 1

Willow Warbler

27.12.2022 – Faraba Banta Bush Track, Faraba-Banta – 1

27.12.2022 – Gunjur-Konoto Forest – 1

Subalpine Warbler

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 2

Red-faced Cisticola

23.12.2022 – river Gambia creek N bank W of Janjanbureh – 1 pair called out by replay.

Whistling Cisticola

28.12.2022 – Tujereng Woods – 2

Zitting Cisticola

21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batellling Village, Tendaba – 2

Tawny-flanked Prinia

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1

25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 2

27.12.2022 – Bintang Bolong-Gunjur – 2

28.12.2022 – Tujereng Woods – 2

Red-winged Warbler

18.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 1

28.12.2022 – Tujereng Woods – 2

Yellow-breasted Apalis

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 2

Grey-backed Camaroptera

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 1

17.12.2022 – Farasuto Forest – 3

19.12.2022 – Killi Woodland – 2

23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 2

25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh Bridge – 1

25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 2

27.12.2022 – Gunjur-Konoto Forest – 1

Oriole Warbler

28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland near beach – 2

02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek, Kotu – 3

We had many failed attempts to watch this locally common, but skulking Cisticolid species before we finally managed to see two individuals in deep shade near Kartong Beach (coordinates 13.079367, -16.770185). However, on the very last day (2.1.2023) of our trip, we eventually saw the beauty out in the wide open in good light at Kotu Creek. The observation point was in the middle of the mangrove near the unfinished board-walk accessible from Bakotu Hotel and Fajara Golf Course (coordinates 13.461850, -16.701318). Time of day was between 07.15 and 08.30am. Oriole Warbler was singing and two individuals left cover and climbed to the top of mangrove bushes announcing their presence in full splendour and song. A third individual was climbing a palm trunk next to the mangrove (Fajara Golf Course) to investigate the lower leaf sheaths of the crown (coordinates 13.462606, -16.700449). One of my main targets was finally decently bagged.

Northern Black Flycatcher

22.12.2022 – stop Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 1 pair

24.12.2022 – Kunkilling Forest – 3

Swamp Flycatcher

23.12.2022 – river Gambia and creek on N bank W of Janjanbureh – 5.

African Paradise Flycatcher

17.12.2022 – Pirang Bonto/Farasuto Forest– 5
24.12.2022 – Kunkilling Forest – 1 female
27.12.2022 – Gunjur-Konoto Forest – 1
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 1

Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher

17.12.2022 – Pirang Bonto/Farasuto Forest– 5
27.12.2022 – Gunjur-Konoto Forest – 2

Common Wattle-eye

17.12.2022 – Pirang Bonto Forest– 1 male
17.12.2022 – Farasuto Forest– 1 male
27.12.2022 – from hide on track to Sita Joyeh, Farasuto Forest – 1 female.

Senegal Batis

20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 1 female seen well.

Brown Babbler

19.12.2022 – Bintang to Killi Woodland – 7
24.12.2022 – E of Janjanbureh and near the bridge – 2
29.12.2022 – Kotu Creek, Kotu – 10

Blackcap Babbler

24.12.2022 – Kunkilling Forest – 5
29.12.2022 – Kotu Creek, Kotu – 15

Capuchin Babbler

27.12.2022 – Gunjur-Konoto Forest – 2

Seen close to Photohide 1 on main trail. Two individuals were seen briefly, but well, three times at eye level in tangles of vines. All three characteristics – yellow bill, whitish-grey hood and chestnut body seen well. However, the species is extremely shy and stays in partly cover. Gunjur-Konoto Forest is so far the only known habitat in The Gambia that holds the species.

del Hoyo & Collar 2016 suggest three species in the genus *Phyllanthus*: Grey-hooded Capuchin Babbler (*P. atripennis*), Black-crowned Capuchin Babbler (*P. rubiginosus*) and Grey-caped Capuchin Babbler (*P. bohndorffi*). However, DNA work in Fjeldså, Christidis & Ericson 2020 only produce one single species Capuchin Babbler (*Turdoides atripennis*). Remark the change in genus. *Phyllanthus* is no longer valid.

White-shouldered Black Tit (Pale-eyed Black Tit)

19.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 4
20.12.2022 – track from S Bank Rd. towards Batelling Village, Tendaba – 1
27.12.2022 – Faraba Banta Bush Track, Faraba-Banta – 2

According to DNA research mentioned in Fjeldså, Christidis & Ericson 2020, White-shouldered Black Tit *Parus leucomelas guineensis* is a species in its own right named Pale-eyed Black Tit *Melaniparus guineensis*. It is the sister-taxon to the *leucomelas* subspecies. In the field, the pale to white eye is very distinctive at large distance.



Western Red Colobus Monkey, River Gambia National Park, Kuntaur

Yellow Penduline Tit

19.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 3

This beautiful species was finally seen amazingly well hanging on dry leaves searching insects, but first after some hard work in vain at other sites.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1 male

20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 2 males + 2 females.

21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batelling Village, Tendaba – 1 male + 2 females.

23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 2 males + 4 females.

24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 2 males

24.12.2022 – Kunkilling Forest – 1 male

25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh Bridge – 4

25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 2

26.12.2022 – Kudang-Bintang Bolong Lodge – 2

28.12.2022 – Tujereng Woods – 2

Pygmy Sunbird

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 1 male + 1 female

23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 1 male + 4 females.

24.12.2022 – Kunkilling Forest – 1 male

24.12.2022 – E of Janjanbureh and near the bridge – 1 male + 1 female

25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 5

31.12.2022 – N of Kaolack towards Gossas, Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – 1 male

Beautiful Sunbird

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 2 males
21.12.2022 – track from S Bank Rd to Batelling Village – 1 immature male.
21.12.2022 – Tendaba Camp – 1 adult male
23.12.2022 – W of Janjanbureh – 1 male + 1 female.
24.12.2022 – Janjanbureh Bridge – 1 male + 1 female
25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh Bridge – 4
27.12.2022 – Faraba Banta Bush Track – 1 male.
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 1 male

Variable Sunbird

17.12.2022 – Pirang Bonto Forest – 6
18.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 1

Splendid Sunbird

19.12.2022 – Kampanti Rice Field – 1 male + 1 female

Copper Sunbird

19.12.2022 – Kampanti Rice Field – 1 male + 3 females

Yellow White-eye

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1
20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 4
26.12.2022 – Kudang-Bintang Bolong Lodge – 1

Southern Grey Shrike

31.12.2022 – N of Tip, SENEGAL – 2

Woodchat Shrike

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 2
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 1
31.12.2022 – N of Kaolack towards Gossas, Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – 1

Yellow-billed Shrike

19.12.2022 – Kampanti Rice Field – 2
21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batelling Village, Tendaba – 1
23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 2
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 1
28.12.2022 – Tujereng Woods – 2
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 4

Grey-headed Bush-shrike

19.12.2022 – Bintang to Killi Woodland – 1

Black-crowned Tchagra

19.12.2022 – Killi Woodland – 1 adult
19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1

Northern Puffback

24.12.2022 – Kunkilling Forest – 1 male + 1 female

25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh Bridge – 2 females + 1 male

Yellow-crowned Gonolek

19.12.2022 – Bintang to Killi Woodland – 1 adult
19.12.2022 – Kampanti Rice Field – 1 adult feeding 1 juvenile
22.12.2022 – stop Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 1 adult.
23.12.2022 – river Gambia creek N bank W of Janjanbureh – 1 adult.
23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 3 adults
24.12.2022 – E of Janjanbureh and near the bridge – 2 adults
28.12.2022 – Kartong Wetland – 2
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 6 adults

Brubru

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1 male + 1 female
20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 1

White Helmetshrike

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 2
20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 6 ad. + 1 juvenile on nest

White or White-crested Helmet-shrike is a co-operative breeder according to del Hoyo, Elliott & Christie 2009. Watching the nest with the juvenile, it appeared that more than two different adults attended the young on the nest, thus supporting the information above.

White-crested Helmet-shrike is known to display multiple brooding (del Hoyo et al. 2009), but this is normally close to the rainy season (in The Gambia one, not two rainy season as in e.g. East Africa closer to the Equator) and in the rainy season. Our observation is in the middle of the dry season, which runs from October till April, and therefore the observation does not support a clear breeding peak for White-crested Helmet-shrike in this area.

Helmet-shrikes previously belonged to Malaconotidae – the Bush-shrike family or to its own family Prionopidae – The Helmet-shrike family. In Fjeldså, Christidis & Ericson 2020, DNA work has demonstrated Helmet-Shrikes to belong to the family Vangidae – a major bird family of Madagascar and now holding many Ethiopian and Oriental species with previously uncertain affinities.

African Golden Oriole

22.12.2022 – stop Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 1 male
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 1 male + 1 female seen very well.

Fork-tailed Drongo

17.12.2022 – Pirang Bonto/Farasuto Forest– 10
19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 2
21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batelling Village, Tendaba – 1
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry Bansang –
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 3

Pied Crow – widespread and common

Very few in the Eastern half of The Gambia. Same tendency as Hooded Vulture in its distribution pattern. And perhaps a similar explanation – Pied Crow is an opportunistic omnivorous species, that benefits from all the garbage dumps that follow the distribution of the human population in the country.

Piapiac

17.12.2022 – roadside dump – 7
22.12.2022 – stop Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 2
29.12.2022 – Kotu Creek, Kotu – 20

Purple Glossy Starling

20.12.2022 – The hill near Tendaba Village – 2
20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 10+
21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batellling Village, Tendaba – 20

Bronze-tailed Glossy Starling

19.12.2022 – Bintang to Killi Woodland – 1
20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 12+
21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batellling Village, Tendaba – 20

Greater Blue-eared Starling – widespread and common

Lesser Blue-eared Starling – widespread and common

Long-tailed Glossy Starling – widespread and common

Chestnut-bellied Starling

28/12.2022 – Tujereng Woods, Tujereng – 18
31.12.2022 – N of Kaolack towards Gossas, Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – Common

Yellow-billed Oxpecker

21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batellling Village, Tendaba – 3 on cattle
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry Bansang – 3
26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp – 2 on a Donkey

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds – 1
19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 5
20.12.2022 – The hill near Tendaba Village – 6
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry Bansang – 2
25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 6
26.12.2022 – Kudang-Bintang Bolong Lodge – 10
31.12.2022 – N of Kaolack towards Gossas, Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – 20

House Sparrow (introduced)

31.12.2022 – N of Kaolack towards Gossas, Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – Common

Sudan Golden Sparrow

31.12.2022 – N of Kaolack towards Gossas, Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – Common

Bush Petronia

20.12.2022 – The hill near Tendaba Village – 4
20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 10
21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batellling Village, Tendaba – 5
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry Bansang – 6



Senegal Thick-knee and Common Sandpiper, Kotu Creek.

White-billed Buffalo Weaver

23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 3 males non-breeding dress (bill black).

24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry Bansang – 10 non-breeding dress (black, not white bill)

31.12.2022 – N of Kaolack towards Gossas, Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – 20

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow Weaver

18.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 5

20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 2

Speckle-fronted Weaver

31.12.2022 – along roadside between Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – 10

Little Weaver

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 1 non-breeding dress.

20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 2 non-breeding dress.

Black-necked Weaver

17.12.2022 – Pirang Bonto/Farasuto Forest– 10 in breeding dress.

27.12.2022 – from hide at Gunjur-Konoto Forest – 1 male

Village Weaver – widespread and common

Black-headed Weaver – widespread and common

Red-billed Quelea – widespread and common



In the centre between the vertical *Avicennia* pneumatophores – a female and a male Greater Painted Snipe, Kotu Creek.

Black-winged Bishop

24.12.2022 – E of Janjanbureh and near the bridge – 20 non-breeding dress

Yellow-crowned Bishop

25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 1 non-breeding dress

Lavender Waxbill

17.12.2022 – Farasuto Forest – 2

20.12.2022 – The hill near Tendaba Village – 2

23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 6

27.12.2022 – from hide on track to Sita Joyeh, Farasuto Forest – 1

28.12.2022 – Tujereng Woods – 8

Black-rumped Waxbill

17.12.2022 – Farasuto Forest – 20

18.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 15

20.12.2022 – The hill near Tendaba Village – 20

24.12.2022 – Kunkilling Forest – 6

27.12.2022 – from hide on track to Sita Joyeh, Farasuto Forest – 6

28.12.2022 – Tujereng Woods – 5

Western Bluebill

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 1 female + 2

27.12.2022 – Gunjur-Konoto Forest – 1 male

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu

17.12.2022 – Farasuto Forest – 6
18.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 10
19.12.2022 – Killi Woodland – 1 male + 1 female
20.12.2022 – The hill near Tendaba Village – 20
20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 2
24.12.2022 – E of Janjanbureh and near the bridge – 1 male
28.12.2022 – Tujereng Woods – 10
31.12.2022 – N of Kaolack towards Gossas, Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – 10

Red-billed Firefinch

17.12.2022 – Farasuto Forest – 4
18.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 12
19.12.2022 – Killi Woodland – 1 male + 1 female
20.12.2022 – The hill near Tendaba Village – 1 male + 1 female
24.12.2022 – E of Janjanbureh and near the bridge – 1 male
26.12.2022 – Kudang-Bintang Bolong Lodge – 8
27.12.2022 – from hide on track to Sita Joyeh, Farasuto Forest – 4
28.12.2022 – Tujereng Woods – 4
31.12.2022 – N of Kaolack towards Gossas, Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – 2
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 2 pairs

Bar-breasted Firefinch

23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 1 pair seen well on ground in high grass
25.12.2022 – Janjanbureh Bridge – 1 pair.
25.12.2022 – between Kudang and River Gambia – 1 pair

Cut-throat Finch

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 4 males + 6 females
20.12.2022 – The hill near Tendaba Village – 2 males + 2 females.
20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 1
22.12.2022 – stop Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 10
31.12.2022 – N of Kaolack towards Gossas, Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – 15

Black-faced Quailfinch (African Quailfinch)

18.12.2022 – Pirang Ponds (former shrimp farm) – 2 flushed
25.12.2022 – Jakhaly Rice Field – 1 male + 1 female on the ground; close encounter.

Del Hoyo & Collar 2016 treat *Ortygospiza* as one species, **African Quailfinch**, with several subspecies due to lack of genetically monophyletic lineages in the various species groups proposed. There are no differences in characters like vocalizations, breeding bill colour, nestling mouth markings and colours as well. The situation is less clear in Fjeldså, Christidis & Ericson 2020 mainly due to lack of details on the species. The phylogenetic tree from multiple genetic markers only produce one species *Orygospiza atricollis* (unless details are omitted), but in the text a sentence add confusion to that diagram and the status of *Ortygospiza*: “.... and tiny species in the genera *Ortygospiza* (quailfinches)”.

Bronze Mannikin

17.12.2022 – Pirang-Bonto Forest – 15
22.12.2022 – stop Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 10
27.12.2022 – from hide on track to Sita Joyeh, Farasuto Forest – 1 adult
02.01.2023 – Kotu Creek and Fajara Golf Course – 50 at rice field

African Silverbill

31.12.2022 – Hotel Relais de Kaolack, Kaolack, SENEGAL – 2
31.12.2022 – between Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – 1

Pin-tailed Whydah

20.12.2022 – The hill near Tendaba Village – 1 adult pair non-breeding dress.
23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 12 non-breeding dress

Sahel Paradise Whydah

31.12.2022 – between Tip and Mbacké, SENEGAL – 2 males breeding dress + 2 females

Exclamatory Paradise Whydah

22.12.2022 – stop at waterhole Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 1 male breeding dress.
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 1 male breeding dress (tail not fully grown)

Village Indigobird

18.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 2 males breeding dress
23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 1 male breeding dress.
24.12.2022 – Kunkilling Forest – 1 male non-breeding dress.
26.12.2022 – Kudang-Bintang Bolong Lodge – 1 male + 1 female

White-rumped Seed eater

25.12.2022 – between Kudang Village and River Gambia – 3 at houses

Yellow-fronted Canary

18.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 15
19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 7
20.12.2022 – The hill near Tendaba Village – 25
20.12.2022 – track from Kwinella towards Batteling Village, Tendaba – 5
22.12.2022 – stop at waterhole Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 7
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 6
27.12.2022 – from hide on track to Sita Joyeh, Farasuto Forest – 4

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting

22.12.2022 – stop at waterhole Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 1 male.
24.12.2022 – Bansang Quarry, Bansang – 5

Number of bird species seen: 291

MAMMAL SPECIES SEEN

Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat

17.12.2022 – Farasuto Forest – 10 hanging under a big palm leaf

African Yellow-winged Bat

23.12.2022 – river Gambia creek N bank W of Janjanbureh – 1 hanging inside bush over water.

Ground Squirrel

23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 1

Marsh Mongoose

26.12.2022 – Dalaba Swamp area – 1 slowly across a road.

Western Red Colobus Monkey

17.12.2022 – Abuko Forest – 10

22.12.2022 – from boat around Baboon Islands, Kuntaur – 1

23.12.2022 – river Gambia creek N bank W of Janjanbureh – 15

Patas Monkey

18.12.2022 – Killi Woodlands – 3 seen well on ground; part of larger flock, shy species.

22.12.2022 – stop Tendaba Camp-Farafeni-Janjanbureh – 5

Guinea Baboon

19.12.2022 – Tendaba area – 10 settled in large leafless tree.

21.12.2022 – track from South Bank Rd. to Batelling Village – 2

Green Vervet Monkey

22.12.2022 – from boat around Baboon Islands, Kuntaur – 2

23.12.2022 – river Gambia creek N bank W of Janjanbureh – 10

23.12.2022 – Woodland and open plain W of Janjanbureh – 12

Chimpanzee

22.12.2022 – from boat around Baboon Islands, Kuntaur – 8 (3 males, 2 females, 2 infants, 1 young)

Guinea Baboons swim to-and-fro between the three monkey-populated larger islands in the Gambia River and the mainland. The other monkeys (Western Red Colobus, Green Vervet and Chimpanzee), are trapped on the islands until river dynamics has eroded and added new material to the islands so that the islands potentially join the mainland again. Access on the islands is not permitted, but boat-trips are arranged from Kuntaur on the North Bank and from a camp Badi Mayo on the South Bank accessed from Kudang. Supplementary food is added every other day due to the increasing population size of Chimps (100-150). This increases your chance of watching the animals on these days. Baboon Islands is part of the River Gambia National Park and is Africa's longest running Chimpanzee rehabilitation project. Chimpanzees went extinct in The Gambia a century ago due to deforestation and hunting for bush-meat. The Chimps on Baboon Islands originate from West African animals rescued from merchant traders back in 1969 and the years onward. They now breed on the islands and make up four healthy populations.



Chimpanzee, River Gambia National Park

REPTILE SPECIES SEEN

Crocodylus suchus

23.12.2022 – river Gambia W of Janjanbureh – 1 individual three meter long; slowly swimming.

Varanus niloticus

23.12.2022 – river Gambia and creek N bank W of Janjanbureh – 5