Senegal

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Senegal
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By Morten Heegaard, Stig Jensen & Jon Lehmberg

Why Senegal, you might ask. Well, for us the answer was simple: Scissor-tailed Kites – lots of Scissor-tailed Kites! Ever since seeing the first picture of the impressive numbers of roosting kites near Kaolack, on a New Year’s greeting some 10 years ago, Senegal has been on our radar. Since then we’ve been talking about, and checking up on, the matter from time to time, but the roost has gotten surprisingly little mention in various trip reports and elsewhere. However, since we found ourselves with time to travel towards the end of 2017, we decided to finally go there to find out for ourselves what the (lack of) fuss was all about.

As it turned out, the timing of our trip was somewhat dictated by work as usual, and we thus ended up leaving for a two weeks trip on 10th November – a bit sooner than we would have preferred. We were therefore a little worried that we were too early for the really big numbers of kites - and too late for any seabirds along the coast - but luckily, we were not to be disappointed. Disappointed neither with the numbers of kites and kestrels, nor with the seabirds or Senegal in general, since it turned out to be a great trip in every respect. It really is difficult to understand why the country gets so relatively little attention compared to other African destinations, since it’s both easy, safe and very rewarding to travel there, and we can easily recommend others to go.

Travel arrangements

We flew from Copenhagen via Lisbon to Dakar with TAP Portugal... – they sucked! The only other real alternative was Royal Air Maroc which we assume must be a better choice, however, the connection time in Casablanca was just too short for comfort. Our dissatisfaction with TAP already began with the online booking process, where our joy of them being much cheaper than the rest, was turned into annoyance when we discovered that they charge an atrocious amount, if you want to bring anything other than hand luggage – approximately 100 Euros a piece! Obviously, a clever way of beating the competition on search engines like Expedia and Momondo. A much more serious complaint, however, was the flight itself.

Neither of us recall ever having flown with an international airline where the seats don’t recline. That might be acceptable on a 1 or 2-hour flight, but this was 8 hours combined, and the one taking us home was at night. Well, it was supposed to be anyway, but a long delay in Dakar made it more of an early morning flight really. Furthermore, there were precious little legroom, which made the trip quite an ordeal with very little sleep.

While planning we had to make the difficult choice between making the trip on our own or finding a local guide to help us. There are pros and cons for both possibilities, and we reckon it would have been fairly easy doing everything ourselves. Cars and many hotels can be booked online, ATM’s are easy to find, traffic is not much of a problem and road conditions are surprisingly good. However, we ended up choosing the “lazy” solution hiring a local guide to do all the legwork for us, a choice we never regretted. The most important advantage of using a local guide, if you find the right one anyway, is that he’ll most likely have a good local knowledge and network, and ours certainly did. For instance, going to Ile de Koumar, to see the kestrels and kites up close, would have been much more difficult, had we been on our own.

As opposed to many popular birding destinations around the World, finding a guide in Senegal is not so much a question of finding the right one, as finding one at all. It seems that there’s really only one around, and after a bit of digging in various trip report, we eventually found the e-mail address of “Carlos” Abdou Lo. We had read only positive mentions of him, and he responded swiftly to our mail. We can honestly say that Carlos much more than met our expectations! He was a very pleasant guy to be around, speaks both French, Spanish and English, was very flexible always trying to accommodate our wishes, and the arrangements he had made on our behalf was reasonably prized, and worked without a glitch. Furthermore, he knows all the places we went well, and he’s a very capable birder, so we have no reservations at all about recommending his services to anyone travelling to Senegal.

He can be reached at: carlostoubacouta@yahoo.fr

As you would expect from a former French colony, the food is generally good, and we were also quite satisfied with our accommodation which ranged from almost luxurious to pretty basic. Our satisfaction also extends to the widely criticized Wassadou Camp which was much better than some reviews will have you believe. Wi-Fi was available in most of the hotels located in urban areas.
Weather

Senegal this time of year is hot, no doubt about that, but not unbearably so. Mornings were very pleasant, but temperatures rose quickly and reached 35 to 40 degrees Celsius in the middle of the day. At times it was surprisingly humid, especially near the coast, and particularly on the last couple of days around the Saloum Delta NP. On these days visibility also suffered a bit, but otherwise it was very good throughout. Prior to our arrival it had been rather windy from the Northwest, bringing in good numbers of seabirds. However, during our stay it was generally calm, with not much more than a cooling breeze. Skies were mostly clear, though at times it was a little cloudy, especially along the coast.

Great White Pelican – Djoudj NBS.

Timing

Turned out to be a given for us, but was it the right time then? Hard to say, but for birds it was certainly a very good time. Even if the wintering kites and kestrel were present in huge numbers, there was also still very good numbers of seabirds along the coast, and wintering species from the North had arrived or was migrating through. The breeding season was obviously near the end for a number of species, but along the southern part of our route, some sunbirds, whydahs, bishops and weavers etc. were still in beautiful breeding plumages.

All in all, a very good time for birds then, but for mammals it’s a different matter. In many places the vegetation was still rather lush, and tall grass made it very difficult to find smaller mammals. No doubt a visit later in the dry season will be better, with the added benefit of mammals gathering around remaining sources of water.

As mentioned it was quite hot, and at times humid, during our trip. In January and February, the temperature is somewhat lower, and so is the humidity. On the other hand, visibility is sometimes poor then due to dust being picked up further inland and blown towards the coast.

Pests

One obvious disadvantage about going to Senegal just after the rainy season is the number of mosquitoes. Surely, they must become increasingly rare as the dry season progress. In the daytime they were no problem at all, but at dawn, dusk
and at night there were plenty about. Little buggers too, swooping in for the “kill” quite stealthily. Be sure to bring repellent and to use malaria prophylactics!

Other annoying creepy-crawlies to be aware of are ticks. We encountered them on a couple of occasions but luckily they were both rather big, making them easy to detect. The locals have great respect for them, so it’s probably wise to keep an eye out. We saw a few snakes on the trip as well, and some of the “nasty” ones can be found here. Very few people die from snake bites in Senegal, though, and we consider the risk as almost non-existing on a trip like this.

Resources

www.eBird.org once again proved an excellent tool, and there are also some quite good trip reports to be found on the equally useful www.cloudbirders.com, though by no means as many as we expected. Compared to neighbouring Gambia and other popular African destinations, Senegal is weirdly neglected. It’s even worse when it comes to mammals. There were only two short reports on www.mammalwatching.com, but that’s less of a surprise since West Africa simply measures badly with some other Sub-Saharan parts of the continent.

As far as books go, Kingdon is always a good travel companion when going to Africa in search of mammals, but on this trip we settled for smaller “The Kingdon Pocket Guide to African Mammals”, since we didn’t expect much trouble identifying the few mammal species we expected to come across. Regarding the birds, Borrow and Demey’s “Birds of Senegal and The Gambia” was the obvious choice, and both books worked well for us. We had also brought the excellent “Collins Bird Guide” (Svensson et al.), and the “Bradt Travel Guide” to Senegal. A map was not really necessary since we didn’t have to navigate ourselves, but it was still nice to have, and finally we also downloaded a few bird voices from the invaluable website www.xeno-canto.org.

Finally, we’d like to mention the brilliant site https://senegalwildlife.wordpress.com/ which was a great inspiration for us. The site is run by Bram Piot, a really nice guy who we even met a couple of times during the trip, and who was kind enough to review this report before going public. We’d also like to thank Danish birders Troels Eske Ortvad and Kasper Thorup very much - they were also a big inspiration and help for us.
Places

Dakar: Since our trip started and ended in Dakar, it was only natural that we spent the first morning and last afternoon there. The terrace by the restaurant of the Hotel Calao is one of the best places in the Dakar area for seawatching, and since the wind had been good just prior to our arrival, we spent the first morning of the trip here, seeing lots of shearwaters, skuas, gannets and terns, spiced up with the local pair of Peregrine Falcons and a few Red Phalaropes, Sabine’s and Audouin’s Gulls – a really good start to our holiday. We ended in equally good fashion with a trip to Iles de la Madeleine, the World’s smallest national park, just catching the last boat to the islands which are located a few kilometres off shore from Dakar. The main attraction here is the breeding Red-billed Tropicbirds and we got great views of this attractive species. A resident Peregrine Falcon and a couple of Brown Boobies were an added bonus here, and this was a perfect end to a great trip. Had we not been able to sail out to the island, the tropicbirds would almost certainly have been possible to see from land using a telescope, since the breeding site faces Dakar.

Les Trois Marigots and Djoudj NBS: These two adjacent areas are both an interesting mixture of dry areas (Sahel) and extensive wetlands. Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary is, of course, the best known of the two, being a wetland of international importance, and one of the few places to find wintering Aquatic Warblers. However, given the size of the area, and the fact that we weren’t ringing, we certainly didn’t expect to see one. But we did! A single individual was seen on a boat trip to the huge colony of Great White Pelicans which is definitely worth a visit. Black Crowned Crane is another jewel of Djoudj, and we found a few shortly after having been treated to great views of an Arabian Bustard. We were also in luck with Savile’s Bustard seeing a lone bird at Les Trois Marigots. Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters abounded in both places but even more numerous were the Red-billed Queleas flying out from their night roost near Hotel Djoudj. We had ample opportunity to enjoy this truly impressive spectacle, since we spent a few nights in this rather run-down hotel, which also offers good views of Barn Owl and Straw-coloured Fruit Bats roosting in the palm trees surrounding the swimming pool. Impressive were also the numbers of herons and spoonbills in Les Trois Marigots and ducks in Djoudj. Another specialty in both areas is the River Prinia which we found easily along with a host of other interesting species. African Manatee is a possibility in Djoudj, but it is rarely seen, unlike the Warthogs, Patas Monkeys and Golden Jackals which are very much in evidence here. All in all, there are lots to be seen in the two reserves, and we highly recommend a visit to both.

Richard Toll: This strangely named town lies in the extreme north of the country and is the sugar cane capital of Senegal. We stayed at the rather nice Hotel Gite d'Etape which sits on the River Senegal, with a view to Mauritania on the other side. For birders this is an excellent place to see Sahelian species, and we had no real problems tracking down specialties like Sennar Penduline Tit and Little Grey Woodpecker. We spent most of our time in two areas. On the plains west of the road leading to the air strip south of town, we found Cricket Warbler, Temminck’s Coursers, lots of
thick-knees, Fulvous Babblers, shrikes and Black Scrub Robin - the latter being one of our main target species, and surely one of the coolest birds around. Penduline tits and woodpeckers were found along the road leading east along the river. Even now immediately after the rains, the acacia woodland was quite dry, and seemed rather void of birds when driving through. However, when we stopped to explore in several places, it turned out to be anything but. Actually, the trees were teeming with a mixture of northern migrants and resident birds. In addition to the species already mentioned, we found Sudan Golden Sparrows in big flocks, lots of Subalpine and Western Bonelli’s Warblers, glossy starlings, Hoopoes, Black Scimitar-bills and many more. Time permitting, it could have been interesting to go even further east along this road, and a little more spotlighting at night would also have been nice.

Richard Toll.

Ile de Kousmar.

**Kaolack & Ile de Kousmar:** Kaolack serves as a good stopover travelling between the northern localities and southern parts of the country. For sure not the most charming city you’ll ever see, but our hotel - Le Relais - was good, and let’s face it, as a birder you come for one thing only anyway, the raptor roost on Ile de Kousmar. If you don’t, you’re positively cheating yourself of an avian spectacle - don’t do that! The roost is located approximately 10 kilometres west of Kaolack as the kite flies and can be a little difficult to find without local knowledge (see separate note). One morning we also visited another site for the kites closer to town, and saw them really well there also, although in much smaller numbers. In addition to the flying raptors, the island is also home to a few Spotted Hyenas which sadly we didn’t see, but there were plenty of foot prints around.
Wassadou & Niokolo-Koba NP: Without a doubt one of the most interesting places for birders and mammal watchers in Senegal. Our timing wasn't the best, though, since the tracks inside the park are in a bad state so shortly after the rains. Furthermore, the lush ground vegetation makes it difficult to spot mammals, which are also spread out all over the park, as opposed to later in the dry season, when they congregate at remaining sources of water. As a consequence, we never did any game driving inside the park, but had to settle for a drive on the highway which traverse the park on its way to the south-eastern part of the country.

Instead most of our time was spent around Camp Wassadou which is set beautifully on the banks of the River Gambia. The camp gets unfavourable reviews on many websites, but we were pleasantly surprised to find that even if accommodations are basic, they are perfectly adequate (for us anyway), and the food was quite good. From the camp we walked the surroundings and took a few boat rides on the river, and had a jolly good time doing so. The amazing Egyptian Plover is easy to see well here, and this is probably also one of the best places anywhere to find African Finfoot, which can even be seen crossing the river from the camp. The river is also excellent for kingfishers. Giant and Shinning-blue Kingfisher were both seen near the camp, and four other species were common along the river. Other colourful birds here were Little, Red-throated and Northern Carmine Bee-eaters, and lots of other interesting birds like Oriole Warbler and Adamawa Turtle Dove were seen here as well. Western Banded Snake Eagle, Martial Eagle, Bateleur, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Yellow Penduline Tit, Western Red Colobus, Hippopotamus and Red-backed Duiker were just a few of the other cool species we found in this lovely area, where we would have liked to have spent more time, and where a visit would certainly be desirable later in the dry season.

Gambia River at Wassadou.

Toubakouta & Saloum Delta NP: The vast mangrove of the Saloum Delta National Park, just north of the Gambian border, is a World Heritage Site, and home to lots of interesting birds and mammals. We stayed at the nice hotel Keur de Saloum lying in the outskirts of Toubakouta, and boasting a wonderful view of the mangrove. While staying there we went on a couple of boat trips seeing species like Goliath Heron, European Bee-eater, Brown Sunbird and Marsh Mongoose. Our boatman, a local fisherman, told us that African Manatee is seen here from time to time, but alas we weren't in luck with that particular species. The heron and pelican roost is another interesting attraction in the delta, and is visited in good numbers by other tourists as well. It was a nice experience seeing lots of birds, including a surprising number of Pied Kingfishers, flying in to the small island at dusk. From here we were also quite lucky to hear the call of a single White-crested Tiger Heron quite near.

Toubakouta is Carlos's hometown and he therefore knows the area very well, which we benefited from, of course. On short trips in the hinterland we came across species like Four-banded Sandgrouse, African Golden Oriole, Fanti Saw-wing, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, African Pygmy Kingfisher, Yellow-throated Greenbul, African Quailfinch, Pin-tailed Whydah, Common Genet and many more.
Popenguine NR: The main feature of this small (1009ha) nature reserve, which is located along the coast some 70 kilometres south of Dakar, is the towering cliffs facing the sea. Crag Martins, which are otherwise rare in Senegal, were easily found here, and so was Blue Rock Thrush which is also an uncommon European winter visitor. North of the cliffs is a small wetland which attracts waterbirds as well as good numbers of passerines, coming in from the surrounding dry baobab studded bushland to drink. The reserve, created partly thanks to a local women's group, is definitely worth a visit, and really deserves a little more time than the hour and a half we spent there. It can easily be combined with a visit to the lagoon at Somone just a few kilometres further down the coast, but unfortunately, we didn't have time for that.
The day-to-day account and bird list below pretty much follows the 3rd edition of Howard & Moore’s "Complete Checklist to the Birds of The World", which corresponds reasonably well with the field guide by Borrow & Demey mentioned above. We’ve taken a rather conservative approach to recently proposed splits, even though it could have given us an additional couple of species on the tour list following the split-happy bunch at IOC instead.

11/11

Hotel Calao, Dakar 6.10 – 9.10.
Cory’s Shearwater 3500 , Sooty Shearwater 150 , Manx’s Shearwater 1 , Northern Gannet 8 , Striated Heron 1ad, Cattle Egret 8 , Grey Heron 1 , Purple Heron 5 , Western Reef Egret 2 , Long-tailed Cormorant 1 , Great Cormorant 45 , Peregrine Falcon 2ad, Osprey 1 , Black Kite 25 , Hooded Vulture 3 , Whimbrel 1 , Common Sandpiper 3 , Red Phalarope 3 , Audouin’s Gull 4 , Sabine’s Gull 4 , Gull-billed Tern 3 , Lesser Crested Tern 1 , Sandwich Tern 35 , Common Tern & Arctic Tern 500 , Black Tern 17 , Pomarine Skua 35 , Arctic Skua 1 , Speckled Pigeon 5 , Laughing Dove 10 , Rose-ringed Parakeet 6 , Little Swift 20 , Blue-naped Mousebird 2 , Pied Crow 13 , Red-chested Swallow 1 , Common Bulbul 5 , House Sparrow 7 , African Silverbill 4 , Village Indigobird 1m , African Giant Shrew 1.


White-faced Whistling Duck 1 , Northern Pintail 11 , Garganey 220 , Greater Flamingo 2 , Black Stork 3 , Sacred Ibis 9 , Glossy Ibis 15 , Eurasian Spoonbill 45 , African Spoonbill 20 , Striated Heron 2 , Squacco Heron 35 , Cattle Egret 75 , Grey Heron 5 , Black-headed Heron 7 , Purple Heron 9 , Great White Egret 50 , Intermediate Egret 3 , Black Heron 450 , Little Egret 65 , Western Reef Egret 200 , Great White Pelican 250 , Long-tailed Cormorant 35 , Darter 2 , Osprey 2 , Black Kite 30 , African Fish Eagle Iad , Western Marsh Harrier 12 , Grasshopper Buzzard 1 , Black Drake 11 , Purple Swamphen 3 , Moorhen 7 , Senegal Thick-knee 2 , Black-winged Stilt 12 , Spur-winged Lapwing 50 , African Wattled Lapwing 2 , Little Ringed Plover 6 , Kittlitz’s Plover 4 , African Jacana 14 , Black-tailed Godwit 4 , Marsh Sandpiper 3 , Greenshank 3 , Wood Sandpiper 2 , Little Stint 20 , Dunlin 2 , Ruff 35 , Collared Pratincole 1 , Grey-headed Gull 6 , Gull-billed Tern 5 , Whiskered Tern 13 , Speckled Pigeon 15 , African Mourning Dove 4 , Laughing Dove 40 , Black-billed Wood Dove 1 , Namaqua Dove 30 , Senegal Coucal 1 , Long-tailed Nightjar 1m+1f , African Palm Swift 20 , Malachite Kingfisher 2 , Pied Kingfisher 3 , Little Bee-eater 12 , Blue-cheeked Bee-eater 6 , Hoopoe 1 , Black Scimitarbill 1 , Red-billed Hornbill 4 , Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird 1 , Vieillot’s Barbet 2 , Senegal Batis 1m+1f , Bruburu 3 , Pied Crow 15 , Sand Martin 125 , Crested Lark 4 , River Prinia 2 , Grey-backed Camaroptera 2 , Western Bonelli’s Warbler 3 , Northern Crombec 1 , Subalpine Warbler 1 , Chestnut-bellied Starling 15 , Black Scrub Robin 1 , Isabelline Wheatear 1 , Northern Wheatear 2 , Northern Anteater Chat 2 , Pygmy Sunbird 1m , Beautiful Sunbird 1m+1f , Black-headed Weaver 8 , Red-billed Firefinch 1m+1f , Yellow Wagtail 6 , White Wagtail 6 , White-rumped Seedeater 2.
African Savanna Hare 1 , Striped Ground Squirrel 1.
Monitor lizard 3.
12/11

Djoudj NBS 6.50 - 19.15.
White-faced Whistling Duck 1000+, Spur-winged Goose 50, Egyptian Goose 1, African Pygmy Goose 1m, Northern Shoveler 100+, Northern Pintail 400+, Garganey 2000+, Marbled Teal 12, Greater Flamingo 55, Lesser Flamingo 95, Yellow-billed Stork 2, Sacred Ibis 10, Glossy Ibis 7, Eurasian Spoonbill 70, African Spoonbill 2ad, Squacco Heron 75, Grey Heron 35, Black-headed Heron 2, Purple Heron 50, Great White Egret 65, Black Heron 3, Little Egret 13, Western Reef Egret 10, Great White Pelican 5000+, Pink-backed Pelican 2, Long-tailed Cormorant 110, Great Cormorant 14, Darter 40, Kestrel 1f+1, Osprey 11, Black-winged Kite 1, African Fish Eagle 2ad, Short-toed Eagle 1, Western Marsh Harrier 22, Arabian Bustard 1-2, Black Crane 2, Purple Swamphen 1, Allen’s Gallinule 6, Moorhen 1, Black Crowned Crane 9, Senegal Thick-knee 1, Black-winged Stilt 14, Pied Avocet 150, Spur-winged Lapwing 75, Ringed Plover 25, Little Ringed Plover 1, Kittlitz’s Plover 40, Kentish Plover 1m, African Jacana 25, Black-tailed Godwit 250, Marsh Sandpiper 6, Greenshank 7, Green Sandpiper 2, Wood Sandpiper 11, Common Sandpiper 2, Little Stint 55, Temminck’s Stint 1, Curlew Sandpiper 2, Dunlin 17, Ruff 70, Grey-headed Gull 3, Black-headed Gull 35, Slender-billed Gull 5, Gull-billed Tern 9, Caspian Tern 25, Sandwich Tern 1, Whiskered Tern 35, Black Tern 2, Speckled Pigeon 25, African Mourning Dove 25, Namaqua Dove 1, Great Spotted Cuckoo 3, Barn Owl 1, Long-tailed Nightjar 4, Little Swift 6, Woodland Kingfisher 1, Malachite Kingfisher 5, Pied Kingfisher 4, Little Bee-eater 45, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater 150, Hoopoe 1, Red-billed Hornbill 1, Wryneck 1, Grey Woodpecker 1, Southern Grey Shrike 3, Woodchat Shrike 3, Sand Martin 300+, Barn Swallow 12, Crested Lark 50, Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark 8, Winding Cisticola 1, River Prinia 3, Grey-backed Camaroptera 2, Common Bulbul 13, Aquatic Warbler 1, Reed Warbler 1, Olivaceous Warbler 3, Willow Warbler 2, Chiffchaff 6, Iberian Chiffchaff 2, Western Bonelli’s Warbler 2, Orphean Warbler 2, Subalpine Warbler 7, Long-tailed Glossy Starling 5, Bluetroat 2, Nightingale 1, Rufous Scrub Robin 1, Black Scrub Robin 1, Northern Wheatear 14, Spotted Flycatcher 1, Pied Flycatcher 1f/imm, Pygmy Sunbird 1f, Beautiful Sunbird 20, Sudan Golden Sparrow 3m+3f, Black-headed Weaver 500+, Red-billed Quelea 100.000+, Yellow-crowned Bishop 1f, Red-billed Firefinch 24, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu 1m+1f, Sahel Paradise Whydah 14, Yellow Wagtail 2500+, White Wagtail 18, African Savanna Hare 1, Golden Jackal 8, Straw-coloured Fruit Bat 40, Slit-faced Bat sp. 90, Patas Monkey 28, Warthog 35, Monitor lizard 3, Olive Grass Racer (Psammophis phillipsi) 1.

13/11

Djoudj NBS 6.50 - 11.25.
White-faced Whistling Duck 500+, Spur-winged Goose 1, Egyptian Goose 31, Northern Pintail 2, Garganey 50, Lesser Flamingo 100, Yellow-billed Stork 12, Black Stork 4, Eurasian Spoonbill 47, Black-crowned Night Heron 44, Squacco Heron 15, Little Egret 47, Grey Heron 4, Black-headed Heron 2, Purple Heron 1, Great White Egret 75, Little Egret 15, Western Reef Egret 7, Great White Pelican 40, Long-tailed Cormorant 25, Great Cormorant 3, Kestrel 1f+2, Red-necked Falcon 2, Osprey 1, Short-toed Eagle 2, Western Marsh Harrier 45, Black Crane 1, Purple Swamphen 1, Moorhen 3, Senegal Thick-knee 12, Black-winged Stilt 20, Pied Avocet 110, Spur-winged Lapwing 40, African Wattled Lapwing 8, Ringed Plover 45, Little Ringed Plover 2, Kittlitz’s Plover 70, Common Snipe 1, Black-tailed Godwit 450, Redshank 1, Marsh Sandpiper 2, Wood Sandpiper 1, Common Sandpiper 1, Little Stint 150, Curlew Sandpiper 2, Dunlin 15, Ruff 55, Collared Pratincole 3, Grey-headed Gull 6, Black-headed Gull 9, Slender-billed Gull 2, Gull-billed Tern 6, Caspian Tern 4, Whiskered Tern 5, Black Tern 1, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse 10, Speckled Pigeon 10, African Mourning Dove 6, Namaqua Dove 10, Barn Owl 1, Pied Kingfisher 1, Little Bee-eater 30, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater 20, Hoopoe 1, Southern Grey Shrike 4, Woodchat Shrike 1, Sand Martin 500+, Barn Swallow 6, House Martin 1, Red-rumped Swallow 1, Crested Lark 100+, Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark 28, Black-crowned Sparrow Lark 7, Winding Cisticola 1, Desert Cisticola 1, River Prinia 4, Grey-backed Camaroptera 1, Common Bulbul 15, Olivaceous Warbler 1, Willow Warbler 1, Chiffchaff 2, Subalpine Warbler 6, Whinchat 1f, Northern Wheatear 11, Beautiful Sunbird 1m, House Sparrow 15, Sudan Golden Sparrow 14, Black-headed Weaver 250, Red-billed Quelea 500.000+, Red-billed Firefinch 32, Zebra Waxbill 3m+4f, Yellow Wagtail 2500+, White Wagtail 20, Straw-coloured Fruit Bat 60, Patas Monkey 20.


Garganey 50 , Black Stork 1 , Glossy Ibis 8 , Squacco Heron 45 , Cattle Egret 100 , Grey Heron 8 , Purple Heron 1 , Great White Egret 300 , Intermediate Egret 1 , Little Egret 250 , Western Reef Egret 25 , Kestrel 2 , Black Kite 1 , Western Marsh Harrier 30 , Black-winged Stilt 300 , Spur-winged Lapwing 25 , Speckled Pigeon 8 , Laughing Dove 65 , Namaqua Dove 75 , Senegal Coucal 1 , Abyssinian Roller 1 , Green Bee-eater 2 , Sand Martin 500+ , Crested Lark 10 , Greater Blue-eared Starling 2 , Northern Wheatear 15 , House Sparrow 20 , Red-billed Quelea 200.


Squacco Heron 4 , Cattle Egret 30 , Purple Heron 2 , Kestrel 1m+1f , Red-necked Falcon 2 , Black-winged Kite 1 , Stone Curlew 55 , Spotted Thick-knee 12 , Spur-winged Lapwing 35 , Black-headed Lapwing 8 , Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse 10 , Speckled Pigeon 10 , African Collared Dove 2 , African Mourning Dove 1 , Laughing Dove 30 , Namaqua Dove 14 , Rose-ringed Parakeet 2 , Western Grey Plantain-eater 1 , Verreaux’s Eagle-owl 3 , Long-tailed Nightjar 1m , nightjar sp. 1 , Blue-naped Mousebird 10 , Abyssinian Roller 2 , Striped Kingfisher 2 , Green Bee-eater 10 , Hoopoe 3 , African Grey Hornbill 8 , Red-billed Hornbill 5 , Vieillot’s Barbet 3 , Little Grey Woodpecker 1m+1f , Senegal Batis 1m , Black-crowned Tchagra 1 , Brubru 1 , Southern Grey Shrike 4 , Woodchat Shrike 2 , Fork-tailed Drongo 9 , Sand Martin 30 , Barn Swallow 20 , Black-crowned Sparrow Lark 1m+1f , Cricket Warbler 2 , Common Bulbul 20 , Oliveaceous Warbler 7 , Willow Warbler 1 , Chiffchaff 7 , Western Bonelli’s Warbler 7 , Yellow-bellied Eremomela 11 , Senegal Eremomela 6 , Northern Crombec 1 , Orphean Warbler 1m , Subalpine Warbler 8 , Fulvous Babbler 4 , Greater Blue-eared Starling 12 , Long-tailed Glossy Starling 3 , Crested-bellied Starling 25 , Northern Wheatear 26 , Black-eared Wheatear 1m , Northern Anteater Chat 3 , Spotted Flycatcher 1 , Pygmy Sunbird 2 , Beautiful Sunbird 6 , House Sparrow 25 , Northern Grey-headed Sparrow 24 , Sudan Golden Sparrow 75 , White-billed Buffalo Weaver 45 , Red-billed Quelea 5000+ , Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu 12 , African Silverbill 12 , Village Indigobird 1m , Yellow Wagtail 25 , White Wagtail 15.

Pale Fox 2.

Monitor lizard 1.

14/11


Black-Crowned Night Heron 1ad , Squacco Heron 1 , Cattle Egret 20 , Black-headed Heron 2 , Purple Heron 3 , Kestrel 4 , Barbary Falcon 1 , Black Kite 1 , Western Marsh Harrier 5 , Montagu’s Harrier 1 , Black Crane 1 , Moorhen 4 , Stone Curlew 60 , Spotted Thick-knee 20 , Black-winged Stilt 5 , Spur-winged Lapwing 6 , Black-headed Lapwing 16 , African Jacana 1 , Greenshank 3 , Collared Pratincole 7 , Gull-billed Tern 2 , Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse 80 , Speckled Pigeon 4 , African Collared Dove 2 , African Mourning Dove 10 , Vinaeous Dove 2 , Laughing Dove 150 , Namaqua Dove 25 , Rose-ringed Parakeet 30 , Western Grey Plantain-eater 1 , Barn Owl 1 , nightjar sp. 1-2 , African Palm Swift 5 , Blue-naped Mousebird 55 , Abyssinian Roller 1 , Green Bee-eater 9 , Hoopoe 8 , Black Scimitarbill 3 , African Grey Hornbill 3 , Red-billed Hornbill 6 , Vieillot’s Barbet 2 , Wryneck 6 , Little Grey Woodpecker 1f , Grey Woodpecker 1 , Senegal Batis 1m , Black-crowned Tchagra 9 , Yellow-crowned Gonolek 2 , Brubru 4 , Southern Grey Shrike 17 , Woodchat Shrike 8 , Fork-tailed Drongo 2 , Sennar Penduline Tit 6 , Sand Martin 65 , Barn Swallow 4 , Greater Short-toed Lark 30 , Crested Lark 2 , Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark 85 , Black-crowned Sparrow Lark 8 , Cricket Warbler 3 , Grey-backed Cinnamon 1 , Common Bulbul 50 , Oliveaceous Warbler 6 , Willow Warbler 1 , Chiffchaff 5 , Western Bonelli’s Warbler 25 , Yellow-bellied Eremomela 8 , Senegal Eremomela 12 , Northern Crombec 6 , Blackcap 1f , Orphean Warbler 6 , Subalpine Warbler 7 , Greater Blue-eared Starling 30 , Long-tailed Glossy Starling 13 , Chestnut-bellied Starling 50 , Rufous Scrub Robin 1 , Black Scrub Robin 8 , Redstart 2 , Northern Wheatear 65 , Black-eared Wheatear 2 , Northern Anteater Chat 5 , Pygmy Sunbird 1 , Beautiful Sunbird 40 , House Sparrow 20 , Northern Grey-headed Sparrow 8 , Sudan Golden Sparrow 200 , White-billed Buffalo Weaver 70 , Little Weaver 4 , Black-headed Weaver 25 , Red-billed Quelea 2 , Green-winged Pytilia 1m+2f , Cut-throat Finch 3m+3f , Red-billed Firefinch 7 , Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu 35 , Zebra Waxbill 45 , African Silverbill 40 , Yellow Wagtail 65 , White Wagtail 7 , Tawny Pipit 1 , Plain-backed Pipit 1 , Tree Pipit 3 , African Savanna Hare 3 , Gambian Sun Squirrel 1 , [Black Rat].
Richard Toll 6.50 – 11.45.
Spur-winged Goose 1, Eurasian Spoonbill 1, Cattle Egret 8, Purple Heron 4, Kestrel 1, Black Kite 2, Western Marsh Harrier 2, Stone Curlew 90, Spotted Thick-knee 30, Spur-winged Lapwing 6, Black-headed Lapwing 12, Little Ringed Plover 5, Temminck's Courser 5, Gull-billed Tern 3, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse 60, Speckled Pigeon 4, African Mourning Dove 2, Laughing Dove 75,Namaqua Dove 13, Rose-ringed Parakeet 40, African Palm Swift 3, Blue-naped Mousebird 18, Green Bee-eater 3, Hoopoe 6, Black Scimitarbill 4, African Grey Hornbill 3, Red-billed Hornbill 5, Little Grey Woodpecker 1m+1f, Grey Woodpecker 1m, Senegal Batis 1m, Black-crowned Tchagra 1, Brubru 2, Southern Grey Shrike 11, Woodchat Shrike 6, Fork-tailed Drongo 6, Sennar Penduline Tit 2, Sand Martin 70, Greater Short-toed Lark 35, Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark 12, Desert Cisticola 1, Common Bulbul 15, Olivaceous Warbler 4, Chiffchaff 4, Western Bonelli's Warbler 20, Yellow-bellied Eremomela 8, Senegal Eremomela 10, Northern Crombec 2, Orphean Warbler 2, Subalpine Warbler 15, Fulvous Babbler 1 on nest + 6, Greater Blue-eared Starling 25, Long-tailed Glossy Starling 7, Chestnut-bellied Starling 35, Black Scrub Robin 4, Redstart 1, Northern Wheatear 50, Northern Anteater Chat 4, Beautiful Sunbird 18, House Sparrow 5, Northern Grey-headed Sparrow 10, Sudan Golden Sparrow 75, White-billed Buffalo Weaver 45, Little Weaver 2, Black-headed Weaver 20, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu 10, African Silverbill 20, Yellow Wagtail 40, White Wagtail 5.
Gambian Sun Squirrel 2.

Cricket Warbler - Richard Toll.

Squacco Heron 20, Cattle Egret 30, Grey Heron 6, Black-headed Heron 1, Purple Heron 10, Great White Egret 250, Little Egret 200, Western Reef Egret 50, Long-tailed Cormorant 7, Black Kite 15, Western Marsh Harrier 10, Black-winged Stilt 200, Spur-winged Lapwing 30, Speckled Pigeon 5, Laughing Dove 20, Namaqua Dove 15, Sand Martin 25, Crested Lark 2, Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark 4, Northern Wheatear 10, House Sparrow 10.
Les Trois Marigots 13.30 - 19.35.

- Double-spurred Francolin 7
- White-faced Whistling Duck 15
- Fulvous Whistling Duck 3
- Spur-winged Goose 12
- African Pygmy Goose 2m+1f
- Black Stork 14
- Sacred Ibis 40
- Squacco Heron 15
- Cattle Egret 14
- Grey Heron 1
- Purple Heron 9
- Great White Egret 80
- Black Heron 70
- Little Egret 35
- Western Reef Egret 75
- Long-tailed Cormorant 7
- Darter 2
- Osprey 1
- Black Kite 40
- African Fish Eagle 3
- Western Marsh Harrier 8
- Savile’s Bustard 1
- Black Crane 15
- Purple Swamphen 9
- Allen’s Gallinule 5
- Moorhen 8
- Stone Curlew 12
- Senegal Thick-knee 16
- Spur-winged Lapwing 35
- African Wattled Lapwing 2
- African Jacana 6
- Common Snipe 2
- Wood Sandpiper 5
- Ruff 30
- Whiskered Tern 10
- Speckled Pigeon 13
- African Mourning Dove 10
- Laughing Dove 30
- Namaqua Dove 20
- Rose-ringed Parakeet 4
- Senegal Coucal 3
- Long-tailed Nightjar 3
- Grey-headed Kingfisher 1
- Malachite Kingfisher 4
- Pied Kingfisher 4
- Little Bee-eater 20
- Blue-cheeked Bee-eater 125
- Red-billed Hornbill 2
- Grey Woodpecker 1
- Yellow-crowned Gonolek 1
- Brubru 1
- Sand Martin 30
- Barn Swallow 50
- Crested Lark 5
- Zitting Cisticola 1
- River Prinia 2
- Grey-backed Camaroptera 1
- Common Bulbul 8
- Sedge Warbler 1
- Olivaceous Warbler 1
- Subalpine Warbler 2
- Greater Blue-eared Starling 10
- Chestnut-bellied Starling 2
- Yellow-billed Oxpecker 5
- Rufous Scrub Robin 1
- Redstart 1f
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird 1m+2f
- House Sparrow 25
- Northern Grey-headed Sparrow 4
- Sudan Golden Sparrow 1m+2f
- Little Weaver 3
- Black-headed Weaver 65
- Red-billed Quelea 80
- Red-billed Firefinch 6
- Village Indigobird 1
- Yellow Wagtail 35
- White Wagtail 1
- African Savanna Hare 5
- Striped Ground Squirrel 3
- Common Genet 1
- Slit-faced Bat sp. 3
- Patas Monkey 25
- Monitor lizard 1.

Senegal Batis - Les Trois Marigots.

16/11

Les Trois Marigots 7.00 - 13.45.

- Double-spurred Francolin 6
- White-faced Whistling Duck 25
- Spur-winged Goose 30
- Egyptian Goose 30+
- Northern Shoveler 1
- Garganey 14
- Yellow-billed Stork 2
- Black Stork 4
- Sacred Ibis 30
- Glossy Ibis 20
- Eurasian Spoonbill 250
- African Spoonbill 40
- Squacco Heron 85
- Cattle Egret 40
- Grey Heron 25
- Purple Heron 4
- Great White Egret 400+
- Black Heron 120
- Little Egret 450+
- Western Reef Egret 200
- Hamerkop 1
- Great White Pelican 250+
- Long-tailed Cormorant 50
- Darter 7
- Kestrel 1
- African Hobby 1
- Osprey 9
- Black Kite 50+
- African Fish Eagle h+2ad+1imm
- Western Marsh Harrier 12
- Black Crane 8
- Purple Swamphen 2
- African Grey Warbler 1
- African Reed Warbler 1
- Yellow Warbler 1
- Grass Warbler 2
- Oak Warbler 1
- Tawny Warbler 1
- Scaly-breasted Warbler 1
- Red-chested Cisticola 1
- African Cisticola 2
- Woodchat Shrike 1
- African Stonechat 1
- Black-headed Wheatear 1
- Blackstart 1f
- Orange-chinned Waxbill 1
- Cavaliere Waxbill 1
- African Silverbill 1
- Red-billed Quelea 80
- Red-billed Firefinch 6
- Village Indigobird 1
- Yellow Wagtail 35
- White Wagtail 1
- African Savanna Hare 5
- Striped Ground Squirrel 3
- Common Genet 1
- Slit-faced Bat sp. 3
- Patas Monkey 25
- Monitor lizard 1.
Allen’s Gallinule 2, Moorhen 4, Senegal Thick-knee 6, Black-winged Stilt 30, Spur-winged Lapwing 85, African Wattled Lapwing 7, Ringed Plover 3, African Jacana 5, Common Snipe 1, Black-tailed Godwit 13, Spotted Redshank 2, Redshank 1, Marsh Sandpiper 6, Greenshank 8, Green Sandpiper 2, Wood Sandpiper 5, Little Stint 35, Temminck’s Stint 1, Dunlin 10, Ruff 9, Grey-headed Gull 35, Slender-billed Gull 75, Gull-billed Tern 8, Caspian Tern 2, Whiskered Tern 13, Speckled Pigeon 6, African Collared Dove 1, African Mourning Dove 5, Laughing Dove 100+, Black-billed Wood Dove 6, Namaqua Dove 175, Great Spotted Cuckoo 2, Diecieric Cuckoo 1, Senegal Coucal 2, Little Swift 1, Blue-naped Mousebird 8, Striped Kingfisher 2, Malachite Kingfisher 2, Pied Kingfisher 11, Little Bee-eater 10, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater 8, Hoopoe 3, Black Scimitarbill 1, Red-billed Hornbill 7, Vieillot’s Barbet 3, Senegal Batis 1m+1f, Black-crowned Tchagra 1, Yellow-crowned Gonolek 3, Brubru 1, Woodchat Shrike 5, Pied Crow 4, Sand Martin 60, Barn Swallow 10, Crested Lark 40, Grey-backed Camaroptera 1, Common Bulbul 50+, Sedge Warbler 2, Olivaceous Warbler 2, Chiffchaff 7, Western Bonelli’s Warbler 1, Orphean Warbler 2, Subalpine Warbler 10, Greater Blue-eared Starling 5, Chestnut-bellied Starling 15, Rufous Scrub Robin 1, Black Scrub Robin 6, Redstart 3, Stonechat 1f, Northern Wheatear 18, Northern Anteater Chat 7, Scarlet-chested Sunbird 1m+1f, House Sparrow 20, Northern Grey-headed Sparrow 5, Sudan Golden Sparrow 14, White-billed Buffalo Weaver 3, Black-headed Weaver 80, Red-billed Quelea 200+, Cut-throat Finch 1m+1f, Red-billed Firefinch 16, Village Indigobird 2m+2f, Yellow Wagtail 50, White Wagtail 15, African Savanna Hare 1, Striped Ground Squirrel 5, Patas Monkey 30.

Monitor lizard 1.


Monitor lizard 1.

17/11

Saint-Louis – Kaolack 7.00 – 18.50.

Monitor lizard 1.

Striped Ground Squirrel 5, Straw-coloured Fruit Bat 5000+.
18/11

Kaolack - Wassadou 6.45 - 18.50.

Double-spurred Francolin 6, Hadada Ibis 2, Black-crowned Night Heron 20, Striated Heron 2, Cattle Egret 120, Grey Heron 2, Purple Heron 2, Great White Egret 3, Western Reef Egret 4, Hamerkop 2, Great White Pelican 5, Pink-backed Pelican 1, Lesser Kestrel 15, Kestrel 6, Grey Kestrel 5, Red-necked Falcon 1, Black-winged Kite 1, Scissor-tailed Kite 250, Black Kite 250, African Fish Eagle 1ad, Hooded Vulture 14, African White-backed Vulture 14, Short-toed Eagle 1ad, Brown Snake Eagle 6, Western Marsh Harrier 3, Dark Chanting Goshawk 2, Gabor Goshawk 1, Shikra 2, Grasshopper Buzzard 13, Wahlberg’s Eagle 1, Black-headed Lapwing 3, White-headed Lapwing 1, African Wattled Lapwing 38, Green Sandpiper 2, Egyptian Plover 2, Grey-headed Gull 8, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse 2, Speckled Pigeon 45, Turtle Dove 1, African Mourning Dove 1, Red-eyed Dove 1, Vinaceous Dove 5, Laughing Dove 300+, Black-billed Wood Doves 8, Namaqua Dove 90, Bruce’s Green Pigeon 2, African Green Pigeon 1, Rose-ringed Parakeet 2, Senegal Parrot 3, Levaillant’s Cuckoo 1, Senegal Coucal 4, Pearl-spotted Owl 2, Mottled Spinetail 6, African Palm Swift 15, Swift 7, Pallid Swift 1, Little Swift 10, Blue-naped Mousebird 9, Rufous-crowned Roller 11, Abyssinian Roller 150+, Blue-bellied Roller 1, Broad-billed Roller 45, Grey-headed Kingfisher 1, Giant Kingfisher 1, Pied Kingfisher 1, Red-throated Bee-eater 2, Green Wood-hoopoe 1, African Grey Hornbill 25, Red-billed Hornbill 45, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird 1, Fine-spotted Woodpecker 1m, Senegal Batis 1m+1f, Northern Puffback 1m, Yellow-crowned Goalek 8, Yellow-billed Shrike 12, Fork-tailed Drongo 2, African Paradise-flycatcher 1f, Piapiac 1, Pied Crow 40, Sand Martin 5, House Martin 5, Lesser Striped Swallow 3, Mosque Swallow 1, Red-rumped Swallow 2, Crested Lark 7, Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark 9, Tawny-flanked Prinia 2, Grey-backed Camaroptera 2, Common Bulbul 10, Olive-backed Warbler 1, Melodious Warbler 1, Willow Warbler 1, Western Bonelli’s Warbler 1, Senegal Eremomela 1, Northern Crombec 3, Common Whitethroat 1, Subalpine Warbler 1, Blackcap Babblers 5, Brown Babblers 25, Greater Blue-eared Starling 10, Bronze-tailed Glossy Starling 10, Purple Glossy Starling 35, Long-tailed Glossy Starling 100, Chestnut-bellied Starling 40, Yellow-billed Oxpecker 5, White-crowned Robin Chat 1, Black Scrub Robin 1, Redstart 2, Scarlet-chested Sunbird 2m+1f, House Sparrow 25, Northern Grey-headed Sparrow 1, Sudan Golden Sparrow 20, Bush Petronia 1, White-billed Buffalo Weaver 70, Speckle-fronted Weaver 2, Vitelline Masked Weaver 2, Village Weaver 13, Black-headed Weaver 20, Red-billed Quelea 300, Cut-throat Finch 4, Red-billed Firefinch 10, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu 7, African Silverbill 15, Village Indigobird 2m+1f, Sahel Paradise Whydah 2m, Exclamatory Paradise Whydah 2m+1f, White Wagtail 1, White-rumped Seedeater 1, Yellow-fronted Canary 1, Yellow-winged Bat 1, Guinea Baboon 50, Hipposcotamus 1.

19/11

Wassadou 6.30 - 18.50.

Stone Partridge 2, Double-spurred Francolin 3, White-faced Whistling Duck 55, Spur-winged Goose 12, Woolly-necked Stork 10, Hadada Ibis 6, Black-crowned Night Heron 35, Striated Heron 3, Cattle Egret 57, Great White Egret 1, Little Egret 1, Hamerkop 8, Darter 2, Grey Kestrel 3, Red-necked Falcon 1, Osprey 1, Black Kite 1, African Fish Eagle 2ad+1imm, Palm-nut Vulture 1-2ad, African White-backed Vulture 2, Western Banded Snake Eagle 1ad, Western Marsh Harrier 1f, African Harrier Hawk 3, Gabor Goshawk 1, Shikra 7, Lizard Buzzard 2, Grasshopper Buzzard 1, Wahlberg’s Eagle 4, African Finfoot 1m+1f, Senegal Thick-knee 10, Black-winged Stilt 1, Spur-winged Lapwing 14, White-headed Lapwing 6, African Wattled Lapwing 191, Ringed Plover 1, Little Ringed Plover 1, African Jacana 1, Green Sandpiper 2, Common Sandpiper 5, Egyptian Plover 9, Speckled Pigeon 30, Turtle Dove 13, Adamawa Turtle Dove 16, African Mourning Dove 35, Red-eyed Dove 13, Laughing Dove 35, Black-billed Wood Doves 20, Namaqua Dove 9, Senegal Parrot 3, Western Grey Plantain-eater 12, Levaillant’s Cuckoo 3, Klaas’s Cuckoo 1m, Senegal Coucal 6, African Palm Swift 75, Broad-billed Roller 55, Grey-headed Kingfisher 9, Blue-breasted Kingfisher 13, Woodland Kingfisher 1, Malachite Kingfisher 8, Shining-blue Kingfisher 1, Giant Kingfisher 1, Pied Kingfisher 15, Little Bee-eater 18, Red-throated Bee-eater 70, Northern Carmine Bee-eater 150, Green Wood-hoopoe 12, African Grey Hornbill 6, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird 1, Barbet 1, Cardinal Woodpecker 1, Northern Black Flycatcher 4, African Yellow White-eye 1, Lesser Blue-eared/Bronze-tailed Glossy Starling 120, Purple Glossy Starling 20, Long-tailed Glossy Starling 25, White-crowned Robin Chat 9, Redstart 2, Northern Black Flycatcher 4.

Gambian Sun Squirrel 1, Gambian Mongoose 11, Western Red Colobus 2, Guinea Baboon 65, Green Monkey 8.

Nile Crocodile 1, monitor lizard 20, Black Cobra 1.

20/11

Wassadou & Nikolo Koba NP 6.30 – 18.40.


Gambian Sun Squirrel 1, Western Red Colobus 1, Guinea Baboon 160, Green Monkey 13.

Nile Crocodile 1, monitor lizard 10.

21/11


Gambian Sun Squirrel 1, Western Red Colobus 1, Guinea Baboon 160, Green Monkey 13.

Nile Crocodile 1, monitor lizard 10.
White-crested Helmet-shrike 1, Yellow-crowned Gonolek 3, Yellow-billed Shrike 14, Fork-tailed Drongo 2, Pied Crow 80, Sand Martin 2, Tawny-flanked Prinia 2, Common Bulbul 20, Blackcap Babbler 10, Brown Babbler 13, Lesser Blue-eared Starling 40, Bronze-tailed Glossy Starling 10, Purple Glossy Starling 90, Long-tailed Glossy Starling 25, Northern Grey-headed Sparrow 4, Red-billed Quelea 35, Red-billed Firefinch 1m+1f, Sahel Paradise Whydah 2m, Exclamatory Paradise Whydah 1m.


Double-spurred Francolin 2, Black Stork 3, Eurasian Spoonbill 150, Great White Egret 25, Little Egret 20, Western Reef Egret 4, Great White Pelican 6, Pink-backed Pelican 3, Long-tailed Cormorant 2, Great Cormorant 2, Lesser Kestrel 6000, Osprey 2, Scissor-tailed Kite 8000, Black Kite 15, African White-backed Vulture 6, Western Marsh Harrier 1m, Black-winged Stilt 13, Ringed Plover 1, Kentish Plover 40, Redshank 1, Greenshank 18, Lesser Black-backed Gull 3, Grey-headed Gull 10, Slender-billed Gull 35, Gull-billed Tern 7, Sandwich Tern 9, Namaqua Dove 3, Senegal Coucal 4, Greyish Eagle-owl 1, Little Swift 20, Red-billed Hornbill 1, Crested Lark 4, Tawny-flanked Prinia 2, House Sparrow 4, White-rumped Seedeater 18.

Golden Jackal 1.

22/11

Kaolack - Toubakouta 6.30 - 8.30.

Golden Jackal 1.

Toubakouta 8.30 - 19.00.
Double-spurred Francolin h, Black-crowned Night Heron 1, Striated Heron 1, Squacco Heron 4, Cattle Egret 450, Purple Heron 2, Great White Egret 1, Western Reef Egret 8, Hamerkop 4, Long-tailed Cormorant 1, Grey Kestrel 3, Red-necked Falcon 1, Osprey 2, Black Kite 30, Western Marsh Harrier 1, African Harrier Hawk Iad, Dark Chanting Goshawk 4, Shikra 1, Lizard Buzzard 2, Wahlberg’s Eagle 1, Black Crake 1, Senegal Thick-knee 1, Black-winged Stilt 4, Spur-winged Lapwing 20, African Wattled Lapwing 2, Common Snipe 1, Greenshank 1, Wood Sandpiper 1, Common Sandpiper 1, Gull-billed Tern 1, Sandwich Tern 1, Royal Tern 2, Four-banded Sandgrouse 1m+1f, Speckled Pigeon 25, Turtle Dove 2, African Mourning Dove 8, Red-eyed Dove 25, Vinaceous Dove 20, Laughing Dove 30, Black-billed Wood Dow 20, Blue-spotted Wood Dow 1, Namaqua Dove 14, Bruce’s Green Pigeon 30, Rose-ringed Parakeet 20, Senegal Parrot 9, Western Grey Plantain-eater 11, Senegal Coucal 6, Pearl-spotted Owlet 1, African Palm Swift 40, Abyssinian Roller 8, Blue-bellied Roller 2, Broad-billed Roller 7, Woodland Kingfisher 4, Malachite Kingfisher 2, Giant Kingfisher 1m, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater 9, Little Bee-eater 6, Green Wood-hoopoe 16, African Grey Hornbill 20, Red-billed Hornbill 40, Bearded Barbet 6, Greater Honeyguide 1m+1f+1juv+1, Grey Woodpecker 5, Grey-headed Bush-shrike 1, Yellow-crowned Gonolek 8, Yellow-billed Shrike 7, African Golden Oriole 1m, Sand Martin 5, Barn Swallow 1, Wire-tailed Swallow 2, House Martin 7, Red-rumped Swallow 1, Tawny-flanked Prinia 3, Oriole Warbler 1, Common Bulbul 35, Yellow-throated Greenbul 2, Willow Warbler 3, Chiffchaff 1, Western Bonelli’s Warbler 5, Blackcap Babbler 20, Brown Babbler 25, Long-tailed Glossy Starling 25, White-crowned Robin Chat 15, Northern Anteater Chat 1, Pygmy Sunbird 2m+2f, Scarlet-chested Sunbird 6, Beautiful Sunbird 15, Variable Sunbird 1m, Northern Grey-headed Sparrow 10, White-billed Buffalo Weaver 30, Village Weaver 45, Black-headed Weaver 150, Red-billed Quelea 75, Red-billed Firefinch 1m+1f, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu 2, Black-rumped Waxbill 25, Bronze Mannikin 9, Village Indigobird 1m, Yellow Wagtail 4, Striped Ground Squirrel 12, Gambian Sun Squirrel 3, Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat 6, Green Monkey 11, Patas Monkey 3.
23/11


24/11

Toubakouta 6.20 - 19.45.

Double-spurred Francolin h+1, African Spoonbill 1ad, Striated Heron 1, Cattle Egret 350, Grey Heron 3, Black-headed Heron 2, Goliath Heron 7, Purple Heron 2, Great White Egret 2, Western Reef Egret 15, Hammerkop 4, Pink-backed Pelican 3, Long-tailed Cormorant 11, Dartar 3, Kestrel 3, Lanner Falcon 1ad, Osprey 5, Black Kite 40, Palm-nut Vulture 1ad+1imm, Hooded Vulture 3, snake eagle sp. 1, Montagu’s Harrier 1m+1f, African Harrier Hawk 4, Dark Chanting Goshawk 1imm, Lizard Buzzard 1, Senegal Thick-knee 1, Oystercatcher 3, Black-winged Stilt 3, Spur-winged Lapwing 10, Grey Plover 5, Ringed Plover 3, Little Ringed Plover 1, Bar-tailed Godwit 1, Whimbrel 17, Curlew 1, Redshank 6, Greenshank 5, Common Sandpiper 7, Slender-billed Gull 1, Gull-billed Tern 4, Caspain Tern 2, Sandwich Tern 12, Royal Tern 7, Speckled Pigeon 25, African Mourning Dove 8, Red-eyed Dove 20, Vinaceous Dove 50+, Laughing Dove 50+, Black-billed Wood Dove 9, Namaqua Dove 8, Rose-ringed Parakeet 4, Senegal Parrot 18, Western Grey Plantain-eater 8, Senegal Coucal 3, Mottled Spinetail 1, Little Swift 2, African Palm Swift 5, Rufous-crowed Roller 1, Abyssinian Roller 1, Broad-billed Roller 13, Blue-breasted Kingfisher 3, Malachite Kingfisher 2, Pied Kingfisher 8, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater 6, Little Bee-eater 3, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater 17, European Bee-eater 3, Green Wood-hoopoe 11, African Grey Hornbill 1, Red-billed Hornbill 30, Greater Honeyguide 2, Fine-spotted Woodpecker 1, Grey Woodpecker 1m, Brown-throated Wattle-eye 4, White-crested Helmet-shrike 4, Black-crowned Tchagra 1, Yellow-crowned Gonolek 6, Fork-tailed Drongo 3, Pied Crow 2, Sand Martin 3, Barn Swallow 2, Red-chested Swallow 14, Wire-tailed Swallow 2, House Martin 50, Red-rumped Swallow 2,
Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark 30, Black-crowned Sparrow Lark 2m+1f, Tawny-flanked Prinia 5, Common Bulbul 50, Olivaceous Warbler 1, Melodious Warbler 1, Willow Warbler 1, Western Bonelli's Warbler 1, Senegal Eremomela 15, Blackcap 1m, Brown Babbler 14, African White-eye 1, Lesser blue-eared/Bronze-tailed Glossy Starling 50, Purple Glossy Starling 40, Long-tailed Glossy Starling 22, Yellow-billed Oxpecker 2, African Thrush 2, Redstart 1, Northern Anteater Chat 9, Brown Sunbird 3, Scarlet-chested Sunbird 1, Beautiful Sunbird 17, Northern Grey-headed Sparrow 15, White-billed Buffalo Weaver 60, Little Weaver 1, Village Weaver 150+, Black-headed Weaver 150+, Red-billed Quelea 16, Northern Red Bishop 35, Cut-throat Finch 6, Red-billed Firefinch 13, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu 10, Lavender Waxbill 12, Black-rumped Waxbill 60, African Quailfinch 2m+2f+1 at nest, Bronze Mannikin 9, Village Indigobird 6, Pin-tailed Whydah 100+, Yellow Wagtail 18, White-rumped Seedeater 17, Yellow-fronted Canary 12, Cinnamon-breasted Bunting 1, Common Genet 1, Marsh Mangoose 3, Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat 2, Green Monkey 12.

Snake sp. 1, Turtle sp. 2.

25/11

25/11
Popenguine NR 13.20 – 14.45.
Knob-billed Duck 1imm, Grey Heron 32, Black-headed Heron 1, Great White Egret 3, Little Egret 2, Western Reef Egret 4, Osprey 5, Black Kite 4, Western Marsh Harrier 1, Black-winged Stilt 6, Spur-winged Lapwing 4, Common Snipe 1, Curlew 2, Spotted Redshank 1, Greenshank 1, Wood Sandpiper 1, Common Sandpiper 1, Gull-billed Tern 1, Sandwich Tern 2, Laughing Dove 20, Black-billed Wood Dove 3, Namaqua Dove 25, Senegal Coucal 1, Mottled Spinetail 1, Little Swift 30, Broad-billed Roller 1, Grey-headed Kingfisher 2, Malachite Kingfisher 1, Red-billed Hornbill 1, Yellow-crowned Gonolek 4, Crag Martin 12, Mosque Swallow 7, Red-rumped Swallow 3, Crested Lark 3, Grey-backed Camaroptera 1, Purple Glossy Starling 7, Blue Rock Thrush 2m+1f, Little Weaver 1, Village Weaver 35, Red-billed Quelea 20, Northern Red Bishop 4m, Cut-throat Finch 2m+2, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu 2, Sahel Paradise Whydah 8m+3f, Yellow Wagtail 1, Cinnamon-breasted Bunting 1, Green Monkey 3.

Western Reef Egret 2, Red-billed Tropicbird 2 on nest + 10, Brown Booby 1ad+1imm, Great Cormorant 500+ (colony), Kestrel 1, Peregrine Falcon 1m, Osprey 2, Black Kite 5, Lesser Black-backed Gull 14, Grey-headed Gull 20, Lesser Crested Tern 1imm, Sandwich Tern 15, Royal Tern 1, Laughing Dove 1, Pied Crow 2, Olive Grass Racer (Psammophis phillipsi) 1.
Peregrine Falcon 2ad – Hotel Calao, Dakar.

Next page: Egyptian Plover – Wassadou.
Birds.

Helmeted Guineafowl (Numida meleagris)  
20/11  110  Wassadou  
21/11  21  Wassadou – Kaolack

Stone Partridge (Ptilopachus petrosus)  
19-21/11  2+4+3  Wassadou  
All seen on the entrance road to the camp, so probably the same birds.

Double-spurred Francolin (Francolinus bicalcaratus)  
Fairly common and widespread.

White-faced Whistling Duck (Dendrocygna viduata)  
Common at wetlands, and particularly high numbers in Djoudj NBS.

Fulvous Whistling Duck (Dendrocygna bicolor)  
15/11  3  Les Trois Marigots

Spur-winged Goose (Plectropterus gambensis)  
Common in wetlands, especially in the Northwest.

Knob-billed Duck (Sarkidiornis melanotos)  
25/11  1imm  Popenguine NR

Egyptian Goose (Alopochen aegyptiaca)  
12+13/11  1+31  Djoudj NBS  
16/11  30+  Les Trois Marigots

African Pygmy Goose (Nettapus auritus)  
12/11  1m  Djoudj NBS  
15/11  2m+1f  Les Trois Marigots

Northern Shoveler (Anas clypeata)  
12/11  100+  Djoudj NBS  
16/11  1  Les Trois Margot

Northern Pintail (Anas acuta)  
11/11  11  Les Trois Marigots  
12+13/11  400+2  Djoudj NBS

Garganey (Anas querquedula)  
11+16/11  220+14  Les Trois Marigots  
12+13/11  2000+50  Djoudj NBS  
13/11  50  Djoudj – Richard Toll

Marbled Teal (Marmaronetta angustirostris)  
12/11  12  Djoudj NBS

Cory’s Shearwater (Calonecrtis diomedea)  
11/11  3500  Hotel Calao, Dakar  
Two subspecies “borealis” and “diomedea” were seen. Some now treat them as separate, though almost inseparable, species.

Manx’s Shearwater (Puffinus puffinus)  
11/11  1  Hotel Calao, Dakar

Sooty Shearwater (Puffinus griseus)  
11/11  150  Hotel Calao, Dakar

Greater Flamingo (Phoenicopterus roseus)  
11/11  45  Dakar – Saint-Louis  
11/11  2  Saint-Louis – Djoudj  
12/11  55  Djoudj NBS  
25/11  1  Toubakouta – Dakar

Lesser Flamingo (Phoeniconaias minor)  
12+13/11  95+100  Djoudj NBS

Yellow-billed Stork (Mycteria ibis)  
12+13/11  2+12  Djoudj NBS  
16/11  2  Les Trois Marigots

Black Stork (Ciconia nigra)  
Fairly common and widespread, with highest count near Kaolack: 17/11 120.

Woolly-necked Stork (Ciconia episcopus)  
19+22/11  10+6  Wassadou

White Stork (Ciconia ciconia)  
17/11  105  Saint-Louis – Kaolack  
All seen together passing high above the road some 50 kilometres north of Kaolack.

Sacred Ibis (Threskiornis aethiopicus)  
Fairly common, especially in the Northwest.

Hadada Ibis (Bostrychia hagedash)  
18-21/11  2+6+4+2  Wassadou

Glossy Ibis (Plegadis falcinellus)  
11+16/11  15+20  Les Trois Marigots  
12/11  7  Djoudj NBS  
13/11  8  Djoudj – Richard Toll

Eurasian Spoonbill (Platalea leucorodia)  
Very common at western wetlands.

African Spoonbill (Platalea alba)  
11+16/11  20+40  Les Trois Marigots  
12/11  2  Djoudj NBS  
24/11  1  Saloum Delta NP  
25/11  1  Toubakouta – Dakar

White-crested Tiger Heron (Tigriornis leucolopa)  
23/11  1  Saloum Delta NP  
Heard repeatedly and well near the heron roost at dusk.
**Black-crowned Night Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

13/11  44  Djoudj NBS
14/11  1  Richard Toll
21/11  35  Wassadou
22/11  1  Toubakouta

**Striated Heron** (*Butorides striata*)

Seen near water in small numbers throughout.

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**Squacco Heron** (*Ardeola ralloides*)

Common in the Northwest, and a few around Toubakouta.

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**Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Very common and widespread.

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**Grey Heron** (*Ardea cinerea*)

Common and widespread.

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**Black-headed Heron** (*Ardea melanocephala*)

Small numbers in western wetlands.

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**Goliath Heron** (*Ardea goliath*)

23-25/11  2+7+1  Saloum Delta NP

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**Purple Heron** (*Aedea purpurea*)

Common and widespread, but mainly in the Northwest.

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**Great White Egret** (*Egretta alba*)

Very common throughout. Highest numbers in the North.

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**Intermediate Egret** (*Egretta intermedia*)

11/11  3  Les Trois Marigots
13/11  1  Djoudj – Richard Toll

To be honest picking out Intermediates among the many Great White Egrets, wasn’t much of a priority for us, and consequently this species is no doubt overlooked.

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**Black Heron** (*Egretta ardesiaca*)

Very common in the Northwest, especially in Les Trois Marigots, and a single individual near Toubakouta.

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**Little Egret** (*Egretta garzetta*)

Very common in the Northwest, and also seen in small numbers elsewhere.

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**Western Reef Egret** (*Egretta gularis*)

Very common in western wetlands.

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**Red-billed Tropicbird** (*Phaethon aetherus*)

25/11  12  Iles de la Madeleine NP.

What a cool bird!

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**Hamerkop** (*Scopus umbretta*)

16/11  1  Les Trois Marigots
18-20/11  2+8+20  Wassadou
22-24/11  4+4  Toubakouta
Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*)
Very common in the Northwest with really big numbers at the breeding colony in Djoudj NBS. Also seen in fair numbers further south.

Pink-backed Pelican (*Pelecanus rufescens*)
A couple seen in Djoudj, but more common in the South.

Northern Gannet (*Sula bassana*)
11/11 8 Hotel Calao, Dakar

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)
25/11 1ad+1imm Iles de la Madeleine NP

Long-tailed Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax africanus*)
Common near water throughout.

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)
Common in the West, including many breeding on Iles de la Madeleine NP. All were of the white-breasted (sub)species "lucidus".

Darter (*Anhinga rufa*)
Fairly common and widespread.

Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*)
17+21/11 6000+ Ile de Koumar
18/11 15 Kaolack
25/11 5 Toubakouta – Fatick
See separate note elsewhere.

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)
Fairly common and widespread.

Grey Kestrel (*Falco ardosiaceus*)
Common in the South.

Red-necked Falcon (*Falco chicquera*)
Common in small numbers throughout.

African Hobby (*Falco cuvierii*)
16/11 1 Les Trois Marigots

Lanner Falcon (*Falco biarmicus*)
23/11 2ad+1imm Toubakouta
24/11 1ad Toubakouta

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
11+25/11 2ad Hotel Calao, Dakar
25/11 1m Iles de la Madeleine NP
The two birds seen from Hotel Calao was sitting high on the east side of neighbouring Hotel Ngor on both dates, though in the dark on the 25th.

Barbary Falcon (*Falco pelegrinoides*)
14/11 1 Richard Toll

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
Common and widespread.

Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)
12/11 1 Djoudj NBS
13/11 1 Richard Toll
18/11 1 Kaolack – Wassadou
21/11 1 Wassadou – Kaolack

Scissor-tailed Kite (*Chelictinia riocourii*)
17/11 75 Saint-Louis - Kaolack
17+21/11 7000+ Ile de Kousmar
18/11 250 Kaolack
Bird of the trip, no doubt.
See separate note elsewhere.

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)
Very common everywhere and positively abundant around Dakar. Both subspecies "migrans" and "aegyptius" seen. Some consider the latter a separate species – Yellow-billed Kite.

African Fish Eagle (*Haliaeetus vocifer*)
11+15+16/11 1-3+3 Les Trois Marigots
12/11 2 Djoudj NBS
18/11 1 Kaolack – Wassadou
19+20/11 3 Wassadou

Palm-nut Vulture (*Gypohierax angolensis*)
19+20/11 1-2ad Wassadou
24/11 1ad+1imm Toubakouta

Hooded Vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*)
Common everywhere.

African White-backed Vulture (*Gyps africanus*)
Fairly common and widespread.

Rüppell’s Vulture (*Gyps rueppellii*)
17/11 1 Saint-Louis - Kaolack
Surprisingly few. However, we saw quite a few distant gyps vultures of which some where probably rueppellii.

Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)
21/11 4 Kaolack – Wassadou
25/11 27 South of Fatick

Lappet-faced Vulture (*Torgos tracheliotus*)
21/11 1 Wassadou – Kaolack
25/11 10 South of Fatick
The road south of Fatick, towards the ferry crossing to Foundiougne, proved to be really good for vultures. We found good numbers of Griffon and Lappet-faced Vulture here, and at least three pairs of the latter were nest-building within a couple of kilometres of each other.
Lappet-faced Vulture – south of Fatick.

**Short-toed Eagle** (*Circaetus gallicus*)
12/13/11 1+2 Djoudj NBS
18/11 1 Kaolack – Wassadou
21/11 1 Wassadou – Kaolack
25/11 1 Toubakouta – Dakar

**Beaudouin’s Snake Eagle** (*Circaetus beaudouini*)
17/11 4 Saint-Louis – Kaolack
20/11 1 Niokolo-Koba NP
21/11 3 Wassadou – Kaolack
23/11 1 Toubakouta

**Brown Snake Eagle** (*Circaetus cinereus*)
18/11 6 Kaolack – Wassadou
20/11 3 Niokolo-Koba NP
21/11 3 Wassadou – Kaolack

**Western Banded Snake Eagle** (*Circaetus cinerscens*)
19/11 1ad Wassadou
In the palm “plantation” immediately east of the camp.

**Bateleur** (*Terathopius ecaudatus*)
20/11 2m+1imm+1 Niokolo-Koba NP

**Western Marsh Harrier** (*Circus aeruginosus*)
Very common in the North,
and widespread in smaller numbers further south.

**Montagu’s Harrier** (*Circus pygargus*)
14/11 1 Richard Toll
17/11 2 Saint-Louis – Kaolack
24/11 2 Toubakouta
25/11 6 South of Fatick
There are some big night roosts of this species in Senegal, but we didn’t have exact locations of any, and thus missed out on what is surely an amazing spectacle.

**African Harrier Hawk** (*Polyboroides typus*)
Fairly common in the South.

**Dark Chanting Goshawk** (*Melierax metabates*)
Fairly common along the southern part of the route.

**Gabar Goshawk** (*Micronisus gabor*)
18/11 1 Kaolack – Wassadou
19+20/11 1+1 Wassadou

**Shikra** (*Accipiter badius*)
Common in the South.

**Lizard Buzzard** (*Kaupifalco monogrammicus*)
Fairly common in the South.

**Grasshopper Buzzard** (*Butastur rufipennis*)
A single bird in the North on the 11th, and locally common in the South.
Wahlberg's Eagle (*Hieraaetus wahlbergi*)
18/11  1  Kaolack – Wassadou
19+20/11  4+1  Wassadou
21/11  2  Wassadou – Kaolack
22/11  1  Toubakouta

African Hawk Eagle (*Aquila spilogaster*)
20/11  2ad+1imm  Niokolo-Koba NP

Martial Eagle (*Polemaetus bellicosus*)
20/11  1ad  Niokolo-Koba NP

Arabian Bustard (*Ardeotis arabs*)
12/11  1-2ad  Djoudj NBS
We had excellent and prolonged views of this cool bird, which can be hard to find.

Savile's Bustard (*Lophotis savilei*)
15/11  1  Les Trois Marigots

Black Crane (*Amaurornis flavirostra*)
Common in Les Trois Marigots, otherwise just scattered records in western wetlands.

Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)
Seen in low numbers in northern wetlands.

Allen's Gallinule (*Porphyrio alleni*)
12/11  6  Djoudj NBS
15+16/11  5+2  Les Trois Marigots

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)
Fairly common in northwestern wetlands.

African Finfoot (*Podica senegalensis*)
18+20/11  3-4  Wassadou
Surely the camp at Wassadou is one of the best places to see this species. Often seen from the camp itself, crossing the river and seen really well on boat rides.

Black Crowned Crane (*Balearica pavonina*)
12/11  9  Djoudj NBS
Very nice birds indeed!

Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oedicnemus*)
13-15/11  90  Richard Toll
15/11  12  Les Trois Marigots

Senegal Thick-knee (*Burhinus senegalensis*)
Common and widespread.

Spotted Thick-knee (*Burhinus capensis*)
13-15/11  30  Richard Toll

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)
23+24  11+3  Saloum Delta NP

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)
Very common and widespread.

Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)
12+13/11  150+110  Djoudj NBS

Spur-winged Lapwing (*Vanellus spinosus*)
Very common throughout.

Black-headed Lapwing (*Vanellus tectus*)
Common in dry areas, especially in the North.

White-headed Lapwing (*Vanellus albiceps*)
18-20/11  1+6+1  Wassadou

African Wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus senegallus*)
Common and widespread. Highest counts were made along the river at Wassadou, with as many as 191 on the 19th.

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)
16/11  1  Saint-Louis
23+24/11  8+5  Saloum Delta NP

Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)
Common in the Northwest, but seen throughout in lower numbers.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)
Widespread but only seen in small numbers. 5 birds seen in very dry habitat east of Richard Toll was a bit of a surprise.

Kittlitz's Plover (*Charadrius pecuarius*)
11/11  4  Saint-Louis – Djoudj
12+13/11  40+70  Djoudj NBS

Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)
12/11  1m  Djoudj NBS
21/11  40  Kaolack

African Jacana (*Actophilornis africanus*)
Common in the Northwest and a few further south.

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)
13/11  1  Djoudj NBS
15+16/11  2+1  Les Trois Marigots
22/11  1  Toubakouta
25/11  1  Popenguine NR

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)
11+16/11  4+13  Les Trois Marigots
12+13/11  250+450  Djoudj NBS

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)
23+24/11  3+1  Saloum Delta NP
Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)  
Fairly common near the coast.

Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)  
24/11 1 Saloum Delta NP 
25/11 2 Popenguine NR

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)  
16/11 2 Les Trois Marigots 
25/11 1 Popenguine NR

Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)  
13/11 1 Djoudj NBS  
16/11 1 Les Trois Marigots  
21/11 1 Kaolack  
23+24/11 3+6 Saloum Delta NP  
25/11 3 Toubakouta – Dakar

Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)  
11+16/11 3+6 Les Trois Marigots  
12+13/11 6+2 Djoudj NBS

Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)  
Fairly common in the West.

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)  
12/11 2 Djoudj NBS  
16/11 2 Les Trois Marigots  
18/11 2 Kaolack – Wassadou  
19/11 2 Wassadou

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)  
11+15+16/11 2+5+5 Les Trois Marigots  
12+13/11 11+1 Djoudj NBS  
22/11 1 Toubakouta  
25/11 1 Popenguine NR

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)  
Fairly common and widespread.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)  
16/11 24 Saint-Louis  
17/11 7 Saint-Louis – Kaolack

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*)  
Very common in the Northwest.

Temminck’s Stint (*Calidris temminckii*)  
12/11 1 Djoudj NBS  
16/11 1 Les Trois Marigots

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)  
12+13/11 2+2 Djoudj NBS

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)  
Common in the Northwest.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)  
Common in the Northwest.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)  
11/11 3 Hotel Calao, Dakar  
2 migrating and one lying on the sea.

Egyptian Plover (*Pluvianus aegyptius*)  
18-21/11 2+9+2+2 Wassadou  
Surely one of the nicest birds you’ll ever see anywhere, and we did see it very well.

Temminck’s Courser (*Cursorius temminckii*)  
15/11 5 Richard Toll

Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*)  
11/11 1 Saint-louis – Djoudj  
13/11 3 Djoudj NBS  
14/11 7 Richard Toll

Audouin’s Gull (*Larus audouinii*)  
11/11 4 Hotel Calao, Dakar

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)  
Common but mostly seen near the coast.

Grey-headed Gull (*Larus cirrocephalus*)  
Very common at wetlands, especially near the coast.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)  
Common at wetlands in the Northwest.

Slender-billed Gull (*Larus genei*)  
Very common near water in the West.

Sabine’s Gull (*Xema sabini*)  
11/11 4 Hotel Calao, Dakar  
Migrating fairly far offshore.

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)  
Common and widespread.

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*)  
Common near the coast.

Lesser Crested Tern (*Sterna bengalensis*)  
11/1/1 Hotel Calao, Dakar  
25/11 1 Iles de la Madeleine NP

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*)  
Common by the sea, and at coastal wetlands.

Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*)  
22-24/11 2+5+7 Saloum Delta NP  
25/11 1 Passy  
25/11 1 Iles de la Madeleine NP
Common Tern (*Sterna arctica*)
Approximately 500 Common and Arctic Terns seen from Hotel Calao migrating south along the coast. Unfortunately, with so much else going on, we didn’t have time for proper identification of them all.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)
Se comment above.

Little Tern (*Sterna albafrons*)
17/11  4  Kaolack
25/11  7  Toubakouta - Dakar

Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*)
Common at wetlands in the Northwest.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*)
11/11  17  Hotel Calao, Dakar
12+13/11  2+1  Djoudj NBS
16/11  7  Saint-Louis

Pomarine Skua (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)
11/11  35  Hotel Calao, Dakar
17/11  9  Saint-Louis

Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)
11/11  1  Hotel Calao, Dakar
16/11  2  Saint-Louis
Fun to see how there weren’t any skuas around early on at Hotel Calao, but then they suddenly started showing up in fair numbers - late risers apparently.

Grey-headed Gull - Foundiougne.

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles exustus*)
13/11  10  Djoudj NBS
13-15/11  10+80+60  Richard Toll
18/11  2  Kaolack - Wassadou

Four-banded Sandgrouse (*Pterocles quadricinctus*)
22/11  1m+1f  Toubakouta
Coming in to drink at dusk.

Speckled Pigeon (*Columba guinea*)
Common throughout.

Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*)
18/11  1  Kaolack - Wassadou
19+20/11  13+18  Wassadou
22+23/11  2+2  Toubakouta

Adamawa Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia hypopyrrha*)
19/11  16  Wassadou
Coming to drink by the river in the afternoon.

African Collared Dove (*Streptopelia roseogrisea*)
13+14/11  2+2  Richard Toll
16/11  1  Les Trois Marigots
African Mourning Dove (*Streptopelia decipiens*)
Common and widespread.

Red-eyed Dove (*Streptopelia semitorquata*)
Common in the South.

Vinaceous Dove (*Streptopelia vinacea*)
Very common in the South, less so further north.

Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*)
Abundant everywhere.

Black-billed Wood Dove (*Turtur abyssinicus*)
Common everywhere, but highest numbers were seen in the South.

Blue-spotted Wood Dove (*Turtur afer*)
22/11 1 Toubakouta

Namaqua Dove (*Oena capensis*)
Very common and widespread.

Bruce's Green Pigeon (*Treron waalia*)
Common in the South.

African Green Pigeon (*Treron calvus*)
18/11 1 Wassadou

Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*)
Fairly common and widespread.

Senegal Parrot (*Poicephalus senegalus*)
Farly common in the South, not least around Toubakouta.

Western Grey Plantain-eater (*Crinifer piscator*)
Widespread and common, especially in the South.

Levaillant’s Cuckoo (*Oxylophus levaillantii*)
18/11 1 Kaolack - Wassadou
19+20/11 3+5 Wassadou
23/11 1 Toubakouta

Great Spotted Cuckoo (*Clamator glandarius*)
12/11 3 Djoudj NBS
16/11 2 Les Trois Marigots

Klaas's Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx klaas*)
19/11 1m Wassadou

Diederic Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx caprius*)
16/11 1m Les Trois Marigots

Senegal Coucal (*Centropus senegalensis*)
Fairly common throughout, but in higher numbers in the South.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)
12+13/11 1 Djoudj NBS
14/11 1 Richard Toll

Both seen and heard around our accommodation. The one in Djoudj was seen really well, sleeping the day away in the palm trees surrounding the pool.

Greyish Eagle-owl (*Bubo cinerascens*)
21/11 1 Ndiaffat (Ile de Kousmar)

Verreaux's Eagle-owl (*Bubo lacteus*)
13/11 3 Richard Toll

Pearl-spotted Owlet (*Glaucidium perlatum*)
18+20/11 2+1 Wassadou
22/11 1 Toubakouta

Long-tailed Nightjar (*Caprimulgus climacurus*)
11+15/11 2+3 Les Trois Marigots
12/11 4 Djoudj NBS
13/11 1 Richard Toll

We also saw these unidentified nightjars:
13+14/11 1-2 Richard Toll
22/11 1 Kaolack

Unfortunately, we never saw them well enough for a positive id, but they were certainly something else than Long-tailed - possibly Standard-winged Nightjar.

Mottled Spinetail (*Telacanthura ussheri*)
17/11 6 Saint-Louis - Kaolack
18/11 6 Kaolack - Wassadou
24/11 1 Toubakouta
25/11 1 Popenguine NR

African Palm Swift (*Cypsiurus parvus*)
Common throughout.

Swift (*Apus apus*)
18/11 7 Kaolack - Wassadou

Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*)
17/11 1 Saint-Louis - Kaolack
18/11 1 Kaolack - Wassadou

Little Swift (*Apus affinis*)
Common and widespread.

Blue-naped Mousebird (*Urococcyx macrurus*)
Common in many places, except around Niokolo-Koba NP.

Rufous-crowned Roller (*Coracias naevius*)
Fairly common along the southern part of our route.

Abyssinian Roller (*Coracias abyssicus*)
Very common and widespread, especially in the South.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bird Name</th>
<th>Location/Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue-bellied Roller (Coracias cyanogaster)</td>
<td>18/11 1 Kaolack - Wassadou</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20/11 3 Niokolo-Koba NP</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22+23/11 2+2 Toubakouta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad-billed Roller (Eryrystomus glaucurus)</td>
<td>Common in the South, especially around Wassadou with up to 55 birds feeding high above the river at dusk.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grey-headed Kingfisher (Halcyon leucocephala)</td>
<td>Widespread but mostly seen in small numbers.</td>
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<td>Striped Kingfisher (Halcyon chelicuti)</td>
<td>13/11 2 Richard Toll</td>
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<td>16/11 2 Les Trois Marigots</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17/11 1 Saint-Louis - Kaolack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-breasted Kingfisher (Halcyon malimbica)</td>
<td>19+20/11 13+3 Wassadou</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23+24/11 2+3 Saloum Delta NP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woodland Kingfisher (Halcyon senegalensis)</td>
<td>12/11 1 Djoudj NBS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19+20/11 1+1 Wassadou</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22+23/11 4+3 Toubakouta</td>
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<tr>
<td>African Pygmy Kingfisher (Ceyx pictus)</td>
<td>23/11 1 Toubakouta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malachite Kingfisher (Alcedo cristata)</td>
<td>Common and widespread.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shining-blue Kingfisher (Alcedo quadribrachys)</td>
<td>19/11 1 Wassadou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A pleasant surprise. Seen really well near the camp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant Kingfisher (Megaceryle maxima)</td>
<td>18-21/11 3 Wassadou</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22/11 1 Toubakouta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pied Kingfisher (Ceryle rudis)</td>
<td>Common and widespread. Highest count at the heron roost in the Saloum Delta NP, with approximately 45 birds coming in to roost.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swallow-tailed Bee-eater (Merops hirundineus)</td>
<td>22-24/11 9+2+6 Toubakouta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Bee-eater (Merops pusillus)</td>
<td>Common and widespread.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-throated Bee-eater (Merops bullocki)</td>
<td>18-20/11 70 Wassadou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Bee-eater (Merops orientalis)</td>
<td>13-15/11 12+9+3 Richard Toll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-cheeked Bee-eater (Merops persicus)</td>
<td>Very common in the West.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Bee-eater (Merops apiaster)</td>
<td>24/11 3 Saloum Delta NP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Carmine Bee-eater (Merops nubicus)</td>
<td>19+20/11 150 Wassadou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoopoe (Upupa epops)</td>
<td>Fairly common in the North. Both European migrants and the resident &quot;senegalensis&quot; can be found.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Wood-hoopoe (Phoeniculus purpureus)</td>
<td>18/11 1 Kaolack - Wassadou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19+20/11 12+35 Wassadou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22-24/11 16+28+11 Toubakouta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Scimitarbill (Rhinopomastus atterimus)</td>
<td>11+16/11 1+1 Les Trois Marigots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14+15/11 3+4 Richard Toll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Grey Hornbill (Tockus nasutus)</td>
<td>Widespread and common in the South.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-billed Hornbill (Tockus erythrornynchus)</td>
<td>Common everywhere, especially in the South. There's still some debate regarding the taxonomic status of the Red-billed Hornbill complex. If split, this would become Western Red-billed Hornbill (T. Kempi).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abyssinian Ground Hornbill (Bucorvus abyssinicus)</td>
<td>20/11 3 Niokolo-Koba NP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21/11 7 Wassadou - Kaolack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird (Pogoniulus chrysosconus)</td>
<td>11/11 1 Saint-Louis - Djoudj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18-20/11 1+1+2 Wassadou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vieillot's Barbet (Lybius vieilloti)</td>
<td>Widespread in the West but always in low numbers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bearded Barbet (Lybius dubius)</td>
<td>Fairly common in the South.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Greater Honeyguide** (*Indicator indicator*)
20/11 1 Wassadou
22-24/11 3+2+2 Toubakouta

**Wryneck** (*Jynx torquilla*)
12/11 1 Djoudj NBS
14/11 6 Richard Toll

**Fine-spotted Woodpecker** (*Campethera punctuligera*)
18/11 1 Kaolack - Wassadou
20/11 3 Niokolo-Koba NP
23+24/11 1+1 Toubakouta

**Little Grey Woodpecker** (*Dendropicos elachus*)
13-15/11 2+1+2 Richard Toll

**Cardinal Woodpecker** (*Dendropicos fuscens*)
19+20/11 1+1 Wassadou

**Grey Woodpecker** (*Dendropicos goertae*)
Seen in low numbers throughout.

**Brown-throated Wattle-eye** (*Platysteira cyanea*)
19/11 2 Wassadou
24/11 4 Toubakouta

**Senegal Batis** (*Batis senegalensis*)
Singles and pairs seen in many places, but never in big numbers.

**White-crested Helmet-shrike** (*Prionops plumatus*)
20/11 13 Niokolo-Koba NP
21/11 1 Wassadou - Kaolack
24/11 4 Saloum Delta NP

**Grey-headed Bush-shrike** (*Malaconotus blanchoti*)
19/11 1 Wassadou
22/11 1 Toubakouta

**Black-crowned Tchagra** (*Tchagra senegalus*)
13-15/11 1+9+1 Richard Toll
16/11 1 Les Trois Marigots
24/11 1 Toubakouta
Northern Puffback (*Dryoscopus gambiensis*)
18/11 1 Kaolack - Wassadou
23/11 2 Toubakouta

Yellow-crowned Gonolek (*Laniarius barbarus*)
Common, widespread and beautiful.

Brubru (*Nilaus afer*)
11/11 3 Saint-Louis - Djoudj
13-15/11 1+4+2 Richard Toll
15+16/11 1+1 Les Trois Marigots

Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike (*Campephaga phoenicea*)
23/11 1m Toubakouta

Yellow-billed Shrike (*Corvinella corvina*)
Common in the South.

Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius merdionalis*)
Common in the North.

Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*)
Fairly common in the North, and a single bird seen between Fatick and Dakar.

African Golden Oriole (*Oriolus auratus*)
22/11 1m Toubakouta

Fork-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus adsimilis*)
Fairly common and widespread.

African Paradise-flycatcher (*Terpsiphone viridis*)
18-20/11 1+2+3 Wassadou

Piapiac (*Ptilostomus afer*)
11/11 6 Dakar - Saint-Louis
18/11 1 Kaolack - Wassadou
20/11 7 Niokolo-Koba NP
22/11 3 Wassadou - Kaolack

Pied Crow (*Corvus albus*)
Very common along the coast, increasingly rare inland.

Sennar Penduline Tit (*Anthoscopus punctifrons*)
14+15/11 6+2 Richard Toll
Took a little searching, but finally seen very well in the acacia woodland east of town.

Yellow Penduline Tit (*Anthoscopus parvulus*)
20/11 1 Niokolo-Koba NP

Fanti Saw-wing (*Psalidoprocne obscura*)
23/11 3 Toubakouta

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)
Abundant in the Northwest. Widespread further south.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
Common and widespread, but primarily seen in the Northwest.

Red-chested Swallow (*Hirundo lucida*)
Fairly common and widespread.

Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*)
22-24/11 2+12+2 Toubakouta

Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*)
25/11 12 Popenguine NR
According to "Birds of Senegal and The Gambia" (Borrow & Demey) these birds were a little out of range. However, we saw them well and have no doubt about the identification. The locality also seems well suited for this particular species, and according to Bram Piot it is apparently a regular here.

House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*)
Common but almost exclusively seen in the South.

Lesser Striped Swallow (*Cecropis abyssinica*)
18/11 3 Kaolack - Wassadou

Mosque Swallow (*Cecropis senegalensis*)
Fairly common and widespread, but not seen in the North.

Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*)
Seen in low numbers throughout.

Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*)
14+15/11 30+35 Richard Toll

Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*)
Very common and widespread, but not seen in the Niokolo-Koba area.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark (*Eremopterix leucotis*)
Very common and widespread.

Black-crowned Sparrow Lark (*Eremopterix nigriceps*)
13/11 7 Djoudj NBS
13+14/11 2+8 Richard Toll
24/11 3 Toubakouta

Winding Cisticola (*Cisticola galactotes*)
12+13/11 1+1 Djoudj NBS

Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*)
15/11 1 Les Trois Marigots

Desert Cisticola (*Cisticola aridulus*)
13/11 1 Djoudj NBS
15/11 1 Richard Toll
Tawny-flanked Prinia (*Prinia subflava*)
Fairly common in the South.

River Prinia (*Prinia fluviatilis*)
11+15/11 2+2 Les Trois Marigots
12+13/11 3+4 Djoudj NBS
Responded to playback, and was seen well on several occasions.

Cricket Warbler (*Spiloptila clamans*)
13+14/11 2+3 Richard Toll
A really cool species, but less numerous than expected.

Oriole Warbler (*Hypergerus atriceps*)
19/11 2 Wassadou
22/11 1 Toubakouta
We had excellent views of this skulking species.

Grey-backed Camaroptera (*Camaroptera brachyura*)
Seen all over in low numbers.

Common Bulbul (*Pycnonotus barbatus*)
Very common everywhere.

Yellow-throated Greenbul (*Chlorocichla flavicolls*)
22/11 2 Toubakouta

Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*)
12/11 1 Djoudj NBS
It was a nice surprise seeing this species on the boat trip to the pelican colony. It’s a winter visitor to north-western wetlands, but rarely seen by visiting birders.

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)
15+16/11 1+2 Les Trois Marigot

Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)
12/11 1 Djoudj NBS

Oliveaceous Warbler (*Hippolais palida*)
Widespread and common, especially in the North. Both (sub)species occur in the northern part of the country.

Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*)
18/11 1 Kaolack - Wassadou
23+24/11 1+1 Toubakouta

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopos trochilus*)
Fairly common throughout.

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)
Common in the North, less so further south.

Iberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus ibericus*)
12/11 2 Djoudj NBS

Western Bonelli’s Warbler (*Phylloscopus bonelli*)
Common, especially around Richard Toll.

Yellow-bellied Eremomela (*Eremomela icteropygialis*)
13-15/11 11+8+8 Richard Toll

Senegal Eremomela (*Eremomela pusilla*)
Common and widespread.

Northern Crombec (*Sylvietta brachyura*)
Fairly common in the North.

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*)
14/11 1f Richard Toll
24/11 1m Saloum Delta NP

Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*)
20/11 1 Niokolo-Koba NP

Orphean Warbler (*Sylvia hortensis*)
12/11 2 Djoudj NBS
13-15/11 1+6+2 Richard Toll
16/11 2 Les Trois Marigots
The western (sub)species “hortensis” is the one seen here.

Common Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*)
18/11 1 Kaolack – Wassadou

Subalpine Warbler (*Sylvia cantillans*)
Common, especially in the North.
Now split by some in three separate species, of which at least two can be seen in Senegal.

Fulvous Babbler (*Turdoides fulva*)
13+15/11 4+7 Richard Toll
One of the birds seen on nest.

Brown Babbler (*Turdoides plebejus*)
Common in the South.

African Yellow White-eye (*Zosterops senegalensis*)
19-20/11 1+4 Wassadou
23+24/11 1+1 Toubakouta

Greater Blue-eared Starling (*Lamprotornis chalybeus*)
Common and widespread, but mainly seen in the North.

Lesser Blue-eared Starling (*Lamprotornis chloropterus*)
Common in the South.
No doubt we saw many more than the ones noted, but many were not seen well enough to be separated from the next species with certainty.
Bronze-tailed Glossy Starling (*Lamprotornis chalcurus*)  
Common in the South.  
See comment above.

Purple Glossy Starling (*Lamprotornis purpureus*)  
Very common in the South.

Long-tailed Glossy Starling (*Lamprotornis caudatus*)  
Common and widespread.

Chestnut-bellied Starling (*Lamprotornis pulcher*)  
Very common in dry northern and central parts.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker (*Buphagus africanus*)  
15/11 5 Les Trois Marigots  
18/11 5 Kaolack - Wassadou  
23+24/11 4+2 Toubakouta

African Thrush (*Turdus pelios*)  
24/11 2 Toubakouta

Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*)  
12/11 2 Djoudj NBS

Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*)  
12/11 1 Djoudj NBS

White-crowned Robin Chat (*Cossypha albicapilla*)  
18-20/11 1+9+3 Wassadou  
22/11 15 Toubakouta

Rufous Scrub Robin (*Cercotricas galactotes*)  
12/11 1 Djoudj NBS  
14/11 1 Richard Toll  
15+16/11 1+1 Les Trois Marigots  
Both the resident subspecies "minor" and the migrant "galactotes" seen.

Black Scrub Robin (*Cercotricas podobe*)  
Fairly common in the North.

Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)  
Widespread but always in small numbers.

Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*)  
13/11 1f Djoudj NBS

Stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*)  
16/11 1f Les Trois Marigots  
Many have now split the Saxicola torquatus complex, making this an African Stonechat which has retained the scientific name.
Isabelline Wheatear (Oenanthe isabellina)  
11/11 1 Saint-Louis – Djoudj  
Possibly somewhat overlooked.

Northern Wheatear (Oenanthe oenanthe)  
Very common in the North.

Black-eared Wheatear (Oenanthe hispanica)  
13+14/11 1+2 Richard Toll

Northern Anteater Chat (Myrmecocichla aethiops)  
Fairly common in the North and around Toubakouta.

Blue Rock Thrush (Monticola solitarius)  
25/11 2m+1f Popenguine NR

Northern Black Flycatcher (Melaenornis edolioides)  
19+20/11 4+3 Wassadou

Spotted Flycatcher (Muscicapa striata)  
12/11 1 Djoudj NBS  
13/11 1 Richard Toll

Swamp Flycatcher (Muscicapa aquaticola)  
19+20/11 4+1 Wassadou

Pied Flycatcher (Ficedula hypoleuca)  
12/11 1 Djoudj NBS  
16/11 1 Saint-Louis  
19+20/11 1+1 Wassadou

Brown Sunbird (Anthreptes gabonicus)  
24/11 3 Saloum Delta NP  
Not an easy bird to find in the mangrove, but eventually we succeeded.

Pygmy Sunbird (Hedydipna platura)  
Seen in small numbers in the Northwest and around Toubakouta.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird (Chalcimyia senegalensis)  
Fairly common and widespread.

Beautiful Sunbird (Chinnyris pulchellus)  
Very common throughout. Males in breeding plumage were only seen in the South.

Variable Sunbird (Chinnyris venustus)  
22/11 1m Toubakouta

House Sparrow (Passer domesticus)  
Very common and widespread.

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow (Passer griseus)  
Common everywhere.

Sudan Golden Sparrow (Passer luteus)  
Very common in the Sahel.

Bush Petronia (Gymnoris dentata)  
18/11 1 Kaolack – Wassadou  
19/11 2 Wassadou  
20/11 2 Niokolo-Koba NP

White-billed Buffalo Weaver (Bubalornis albirostris)  
Common in many places.

Speckle-fronted Weaver (Sporopipes frontalis)  
11/11 3 Dakar – Saint-Louis  
18/11 2 Kaolack – Wassadou

Little Weaver (Ploceus luteolus)  
Seen in small numbers in the West.

Vitelline Masked Weaver (Ploceus vitellinus)  
18/11 2 Kaolack – Wassadou

Village Weaver (Ploceus cucullatus)  
Common in central and southern parts.

Black-headed Weaver (Ploceus melanocephalus)  
Very common everywhere.

Red-billed Quelea (Quelea quelea)  
Abundant and widespread. Impressive numbers were seen leaving their night roost in Djoudj NBS.

Yellow-crowned Bishop (Euplectes afer)  
12/11 1f Djoudj NBS

Northern Red Bishop (Euplectes franciscanus)  
Fairly common along the southern part of our route. The only males in full breeding plumage were seen in Popenguine NR.

Green-winged Pytilia (Pytilia melba)  
14/11 1m+2f Richard Toll

Cut-throat Finch (Amadina fasciata)  
Fairly common and widespread.

Red-billed Firefinch (Lagonosticta senegalensis)  
Common and widespread.

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu (Uraeginthus bengalus)  
Common throughout.

Lavender Waxbill (Estrilda caerulescens)  
23+24/11 12+12 Toubakouta

Orange-cheeked Waxbill (Estrilda melpoda)  
19/11 2 Wassadou
Black-rumped Waxbill  (*Estrilda tragodytes*)
19/11  6  Wassadou
22-24/11  25+30+60  Toubakouta

Zebra Waxbill  (*Amandava subflava*)
13/11  7  Djoudj NBS
14/11  45  Richard Toll

African Quailfinch  (*Ortygospiza atricollis*)
24/11  5  Toubakouta

African Silverbill  (*Lonchura cantans*)
Common in northern and central parts of the country.

Bronze Mannikin  (*Lonchura cucullata*)
19/11  1  Wassadou
22-24/11  9+18+9  Toubakouta

Village Indigobird  (*Vidua chalybeata*)
Fairly common and widespread

Pin-tailed Whydah  (*Vidua macrura*)
24/11  100+  Toubakouta

Sahel Paradise Whydah  (*Vidua orientalis*)
Fairly common and widespread, but mostly in the South, where males, like the next species, were in beautiful breeding plumage.

Exclamatory Paradise Whydah  (*Vidua interjecta*)
18/11  2m+1f  Kaolack – Wassadou
21/11  1m  Wassadou – Kaolack

Yellow Wagtail  (*Motacilla flava*)
Common in western parts of the country.

White Wagtail  (*Motacilla alba*)
Common but primarily seen in the Northwest.

African Pied Wagtail  (*Motacilla aguimp*)
19+20/11  4+2  Wassadou

Tawny Pipit  (*Anthus campestris*)
14/11  1  Richard Toll

Plain-backed Pipit  (*Anthus leucophrys*)
14/11  1  Richard Toll
23/11  2  Toubakouta

Tree Pipit  (*Anthus trivialis*)
14/11  3  Richard Toll

White-rumped Seedeater  (*Serinus leucopygius*)
Common and widespread.

Yellow-fronted Canary  (*Serinus mozambica*)
18/11  1  Kaolack – Wassadou
19/11  2  Wassadou
24/11  12  Toubakouta

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting  (*Emberiza tahapisi*)
19/11  1  Wassadou
24/11  1  Toubakouta
25/11  3  Popenguine NR
The subspecies here is “goslingi”, by some considered a separate species: Gosling’s Bunting (*E. goslingi*)

Yellow Wagtail – *Motacilla flava*.
White Wagtail – *Motacilla alba*.

**Black Crake – Les Trois Marigots.**
Mammals

**African Savanna Hare** (*Lepus victoriae*)
11/11 1 Saint-Louis - Djoudj
12/11 1 Djoudj NBS
14+15/11 3+5 Richard Toll
16/11 1 Les Trois Marigots

**Striped Ground Squirrel** (*Xerus erythropus*)
11/11 1 Dakar - Saint-Louis
15+16/11 3+5 Les Trois Marigots
17/11 5 Saint-Louis - Kaolack
22/11 12 Toubakouta

**Gambian Sun Squirrel** (*Heliosciurus gambianus*)
14+15/11 1+2 Richard Toll
19+20/11 1+1 Wassadou
22/11 3 Toubakouta

[**Black Rat** (*Rattus rattus*)]
14/11 1 Richard Toll
A non-native species.

**Common Genet** (*Genetta genetta*)
15/11 1 Les Trois Marigots
24/11 1 Toubakouta

**Egyptian Mongoose** (*Herpestes ichneumon*)
11/11 2 Dakar - Saint-Louis

**Marsh Mongoose** (*Atilax paludinosus*)
23+24/11 1+3 Saloum Delta NP
Only seen in the mangrove.

**Gambian Mongoose** (*Mungos gambianus*)
19/11 11 Wassadou
All seen together at the river.

**Pale Fox** (*Vulpes pallida*)
13/11 2 Richard Toll

**Golden Jackal** (*Canis aureus*)
12/11 8 Djoudj NBS
21/11 1 Kaolack
22/11 1 Kaolack - Toubakouta
Apparently recent DNA studies show that African Golden Jackals are more closely related to Grey Wolfs (*C. lupus*) than Eurasian Golden Jackals, and some now treat it as a separate species - African Golden Wolf (*Canis anthus*).

**African Giant Shrew** (*Crocidura olivieri*)
11/11 1 Hotel Calao, Dakar
Rescued from the swimming pool.

**Straw-coloured Fruit Bat** (*Eidolon helvum*)
11-13/11 60 Djoudj NBS
17/11 5000+ Touba
The impressive numbers in Touba were seen near the Great Mosque.

**Gambian Epaullett-ed Fruit Bat** (*Epomophorus gambianus*)
22+23+24/11 6+7+2 Toubakouta

**Yellow-winged Bat** (*Lavia frons*)
18/11 1 Wassadou

**Slit-faced Bat** (*Nycteris sp.*)
11/11 20 Hotel Djoudj
12/11 90 Djoudj NBS
15/11 3 Les Trois Marigots
Even though we saw them well, and took good photos, identifying them with certainty afterwards just proved to difficult. Hairy Slit-faced Bat (*N. hispida*) has been suggested, and looking at distribution maps on the IUCN site, this is the only species supposed to be here. However, maps are probably not absolutely reliable, and some other Nycteris species are found not too far away.

**Western Red Colobus** (*Procolobus badius*)
19+20/11 2+1 Wassadou

**Guinea Baboon** (*Papio papio*)
18/11 50 Kaolack - Wassadou
19/11 65 Wassadou
20/11 160 Niokolo-Koba NP
21/11 50+ Wassadou - Kaolack

**Green Monkey** (*Chlorocebus sabaeus*)
Common in the South.
Like the two species above, the jury is still out on the taxonomy.

**Patas Monkey** (*Erythrocebus patas*)
Common in the North, and a few around Toubakouta.

**Warthog** (*Phacochoerus africanus*)
12/11 35 Djoudj NBS

**Hippopotamus** (*Hippopotamus amphibius*)
18/11 1 Wassadou
Surprisingly secretive and only seen once (from the camp) during our stay.

**Red-flanked Duiker** (*Cephalophus rufilatus*)
21/11 2 Wassadou
Seen on the entrance road to the camp.
Ile de Kousmar raptor roost.

How often do you find yourself planning a holiday overseas with the main aim of seeing a bird you’ve already seen before? Not very often we’d imagine. For us the answer is next to never, so it would of course take a pretty special bird for us to do just that. However, the Scissor-tailed Kite, also known as African Swallow-tailed Kite, is exactly such a bird – elegant, enigmatic and erratic.

For us it all started in the beginning of 2008, when a New Year's greeting, made by Marieme Mbaye and Sarah & Wim Mullie, was circulating amongst Danish birders. The picture on it showed lots of Scissor-tailed Kites and the text claimed a count of 15,000 individuals on 28th December 2007 in Senegal - a truly staggering number! As if that wasn’t enough, we later learned that an equal, or even greater, number of Lesser Kestrels use the area as a night roost as well, making this one of the largest gatherings of raptors in the World. As far as we know, the discovery was made by French ornithologists, though of course the local villagers must have known about it for a longer time. After seeing more breathtaking pictures from the roost, we expected the news to spread like a wildfire, and hordes of birders to go there, as it’s the case with other impressive gatherings like the raptor migration in Eilat or the wintering Steller’s Sea Eagles on Hokkaido. To our surprise it doesn’t appear to have been so, and judging by trip reports, not even birders going to Senegal are visiting the roost in great numbers. We therefore started wondering if it had been abandoned, but then came across an observation on eBird.org, of 2,500 kites seen by Marshall Lliff and Chris Wood on 24th October 2016.

That clinched it for us, and we decided try our luck as soon as possible.

It seemed that we’d all have time already in the beginning of December 2017 but, as so many times before, work obstructed our plans, and we ended up going in the middle of November instead. We hoped that it wouldn’t be too early for the kites but given the fact that the observation by Lliff and Wood was made in late October, we reckoned it would be all right. Luckily it turned out to be, and we were treated to one of nature’s truly great spectacles, seeing thousands of both kites and kestrels. It was an incredible experience standing on the island seeing the birds arrive from their feeding grounds many kilometres away. The arrival of the kites was especially impressive. The first ones, which was also by far the main body, came in at great height, barely visible even with binoculars, slowly descending on the island like a huge swarm of grasshoppers. An absolutely amazing show! It was an added bonus that they weren't very shy either, and many came in pretty close to check us out.
The picture was completely different regarding the Lesser Kestrels. Although many came in with the big flock of kites, most came quite late in small flocks, often resting for some time on the mudflats before flying out to the island. The falcons were also much shyer, which is why we left the island before most of them came in to roost.

In this report we've only estimated the number of raptors, since they were pretty much impossible to count with any kind of accuracy from our position on the island. There were a couple of young French researchers staying in the local village, and their estimate matched ours rather well, so the numbers are probably not way off, we think.
Why a lot more birders aren’t visiting this roost is a total mystery to us, and that some are even spending a night in Kaolack without coming here is simply beyond belief. Granted, the village can be a little difficult to find, though signposted from the highway, and from here there’s a veritable labyrinth of paths leading to the shore. Even if you aren’t going out to the island, the view from here is spectacular, and many kites and kestrels will pass right over. If you want to go out to the island, it takes a small boat ride in a dugout canoe. There’s a good chance that Carlos can assist you if you plan to visit, since he lives less than an hour’s drive away, so please don’t cheat yourself of this amazing spectacle which was the undisputed highlight of a fantastic trip for us.

Questions and enquiries concerning our trip, or this report, are welcome. Please feel free to contact Stig on: sej@primoris.dk, Morten on morten.heegaard@gmail.com or Jon on: jon.lehmberg@gmail.com