

Report on birds etc. recorded on trip to  
**Senegal and Mauritania**  
including Banc d'Arguin  
21 January - 4 February 2018



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Participants: Hanne Flint, Annette Friis, Karsten Laursen, Annette Mariager, Inger Meltofte, Christian Ebbe Mortensen, Jan Nielsen & Morten Pedersen

Copenhagen 2018

**Travel Company:** Williams Rejser, Denmark (<http://www.williamsrejser.dk>)

**Organizer:** Marius Dussel, Netherlands ([mariusdussel@gmail.com](mailto:mariusdussel@gmail.com))

**Bird-guide & driver:** Ebrima Korita, Gambia ([ebrimakorita@hotmail.com](mailto:ebrimakorita@hotmail.com))

**Driver:** Evert Jan Groeneweg, Netherlands

## Itinerary

- 21.1: Flight Copenhagen – Dakar via transit in Paris; arrival late evening, pick-up by Marius and his crew, and transfer to hotel at Lac Rose NE of town.
- 22.1: After morning birding around Lac Rose (Lake Retba), drive from Dakar to Palmarin via Sindia and Joal-Fadiouth with several stops at wetlands, particularly in the Sine-Saloum Delta (partly reserve and national park) with large saline lagoons (with little water, however).
- 23.1: After morning birding in the surroundings, drive from Palmarin to Sokone via Fimela (mangroves) with the evening spent at night roost of 24,000 Scissor-tailed Kites and 27,000 Lesser Kestrels (counted in winter of 2015-2016) on island in the Saloum Delta (transfer to the island by dug-out canoe).
- 24.1: After morning birding in the surroundings, long inland drive from Sokone via Kaolack to hotel in Louga.
- 25.1: After drive from Louga to Diama in the Senegal River Delta, most of the morning was spent on boat trip to a crowded pelican colony (on an artificial island) in the Djoudj National Park. Most of the afternoon in bird hides and on dams overlooking the vast wetlands. Night in park entrance hotel.
- 26.1: Drive from Diama to Nouakchott with tiresome crossing on a dam at the border to Mauritania. Afternoon in the Diawling National Park in the Mauritanian part of the Senegal River Delta followed by drive through increasingly dry landscapes to Nouakchott, the capital of Mauritania.
- 27.1: Drive from Nouakchott to Nouadhibou through the Sahara with visit in the Banc d'Arguin information center at Chamy and birding in the oasis of Bou Laouar.
- 28.1: Visit at Cap Blanc in the morning with seabird etc. watching; afternoon at Baie de Étoile with tidal flats north of Nouadhibou. Second night in Nouadhibou hotel.
- 29.1: Drive back through Sahara to Iwik at Banc d'Arguin; last 60 km along sand tracks. Next four nights in tents.
- 30.1: Boat trip (two fishing sailboats) to Nair in the middle of Banc d'Arguin anchoring during a high tide period experiencing the movements and high tide roosts of hundreds of thousands of waders etc. on Nair and Niroum Island.
- 31.1: Drive southwards along the Banc d'Arguin coast to the village of Tessot at Baie d'Abdelatif stopping at several places to watch waders etc. on the tidal flats at low tide. Afternoon at bird hide north of Iwik watching birds coming in for high tide roosting. Visit in research station with Dutch researchers studying Red Knot feeding ecology.
  - 1.2: Car break down, so most of the day spent at bird hide north of Iwik watching birds feeding on tidal flats and coming in for high tide roosting.
  - 2.2: Morning spent at bird hide north of Iwik watching birds feeding at low tide. Drive from Iwik through Azzefall dunes to Nouakchott in the afternoon and evening.
  - 3.2: Drive from Nouakchott to Saint Louis including even more tiresome border crossing at Rosso than at the dam. A few stops in the Sahel zone along the route.
  - 4.2: Morning walk in the old town of Saint Louis. Afternoon drive to Dakar Airport with dinner stop and change to winter clothing at the hotel near Lac Rose. Departure late evening.
  - 5.2: Transit in Paris and arrival in Copenhagen early morning.

**Cover:** High tide roost on Nair with Great White Pelicans, Eurasian Spoonbill, Little Egrets, Western Reef Herons, Reed Cormorants, and Slender-billed Gulls. Photo: Christian Ebbe Mortensen.



Route map with prime birding spots (from Google Maps).





<b>Birdlist: Senegal og Mauretaniien</b>	<b>22. januar - 4. februar 2018</b>	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>						+	+							
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>							+							
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>		+												
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	+	+		+	++		+		+	+		+	+	+
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	+	+		+										
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>						++	+	+					++	
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	+++	++	++	++	++	+								+++
African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>				+										
African Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>				+	++									
Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>				+	+									
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	+			++	+									
Black Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica pavonina</i>				++	+									
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>									+	+	+			
Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>	+		+		+									
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>							+	++	++	++++	++++	++		
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	++	++	++	++	+++				++					
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	255	+++		++	+++									
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	++	+++	+++	++	++									
Black-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus tectus</i>		+	+										+	
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	+		+				++	+	++	++	++	++		
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	++	++		++	++		+++	++	++	+++	+++	+++		+
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>	+	+		+										
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>							+			+				
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>					+		+		+	+	++	+		
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>	+			++	+									
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	+		+	+	+		++		+++++	+++	+++	++		
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	+	+	+				+		++	++	+++	++		
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	+	++					++		+++++	++++	++++	+++		
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	+	+		++	++									
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>							+		++	+++	+++	++		

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Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>							+		++++	++++	++++	++++		
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	+	+		+++	++									
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	+			+						+	+	+		
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	+	+			+									
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	++	+					++	++	++++	+++	+++	+++		
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	+	+		+	+		+++		++++	++++	++++	+++		
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	++	+		+++	++					+				
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	+				+									
Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	48		+											
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	++	++		+	+			+						+
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	+	+		+										
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	+	+		+	+		++		++++	++	++	++		
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>				+	+		+			+				
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	+	+		+	++									
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	+	+	+	++	++		+		++	++	+	+		
Cream-coloured Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>				2		+		+						
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>				+	++		+							
African Skimmer	<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>					5									
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	+++	+++	+	++	+		+++	+	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	+
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				++	+			+			+		+	++
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>	++	++		++	++									++
Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus audouinii</i>		+							+					
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	+	++			+		++++	+++	++++	+++	+++	+++	++	++
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	+	++	++	++	++				++	+++	++	++	+	+
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	++	++	+	+	++		++++		+++	+++	+++	++		
Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	++	+							+	~10	+			
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>										+	+			
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	+				+		++		++	+++	++	++		+
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>					+									
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>							+		+					









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Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	+	+	+	+	+		+			+	+	+	+	
Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>						+					+	+		
Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platura</i>		+	+											
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>		+												
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>	+	+	+										+	
Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>	+													
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	++	+	+	+	++	++	++	+					++	++
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>	+	+		+	+									
Desert Sparrow	<i>Passer simplex</i>						++								
Sudan Golden Sparrow	<i>Passer luteus</i>	+	+++	++	++	++									
White-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>	++		++	++										
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>													+	
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	++	++	++		++									+
Black-headed Weaver	<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>				++	+									
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	++	+		150000										
Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>		+												
Yellow-crowned Bishop	<i>Euplectes afer</i>				++										
Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>				+										
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	++	+		+	+									
Red-checked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	++	++	+		+									
Lavender Waxbill	<i>Estrilda caerulea</i>			+											
Black-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>	+													
African Silverbill	<i>Euodice cantans</i>	+	+												+
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>	+													
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>	+			+										
Sahel Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua orientalis</i>	+													
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	++	++	+	++	++							+		+
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	+			++	++	+	+++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>										+				

