



Golden Nightjar (Chris Kehoe)

SENEGAL

4 – 17/20 FEBRUARY 2018

LEADER: CHRIS KEHOE

Our second Senegal only tour (earlier tours combining with either The Gambia or Cape Verde) was a huge success in which all of our top targets, particularly several Sahelian endemics, were found and showed extremely well. Bird of the trip was the amazing Quail-Plover and we chanced upon four of these enigmatic birds at a single site where they gave amazing close views. Golden Nightjars were found at day roosts to allow perfect looks of their exquisitely intricate markings while both Saville's and Arabian Bustards showed well. Further highlights included the diminutive Little Grey (or Sahelian) Woodpecker, perky Cricket Warblers and Sennar Penduline Tits and sublime Scissor-tailed Kites, a large post-roost gathering of which held us quite spellbound. Close to the Guinea border we found the very localised Mali Firefinch, plus a group of Black-faced Firefinches for good measure, along with the likes of Sun Lark, Dorst's Cisticola and Gosling's Buntings. Stunning Egyptian Plovers and White-crowned Lapwings were along the Gambie River where several African Finfoots and a bonus Pel's Fishing Owl were much appreciated. On top of all this we witnessed the very impressive spectacle of tens of thousands of wildfowl and other waterbirds at Djoudj National Park where the very localised River Prinia showed well. Those who remained for the extension to the Saloum Delta were rewarded with the hoped-for but never quite expected White-crested Tiger Heron while, amongst many other choice species, amazing fully-plumed Standard-winged Nightjars stole the show. Some of the less expected finds among a very long list of more generally distributed West African species and Palearctic migrants included three Grey Herons of the very pallid Mauretanian race (a potential split)

plus wintering Seebohm's Northern Wheatears (another likely split) and a large gathering of European Storm Petrels, many of which fed just metres from the fish landing area at St. Louis. All in all, an excellent tour to a wonderfully varied region.

After gathering at the brand new international airport near Dakar in the evening we drove for 90 minutes to our hotel in Thiés where we arrived after dark having seen just a few Yellow-billed Kites and Pied Crows along the way.

Soon after first light we were on our way north towards St Louis. Several short stops along the way gave us such local specialities as Chestnut-bellied Starlings, Sudan Golden Sparrows, Speckle-fronted Weaver and White-rumped Seedeater. A fine supporting cast included Long-tailed and Greater Blue-eared Starlings, Blue-naped Mousebirds, Vieillot's Barbet and wintering Western Bonelli's and Subalpine Warblers. At a roadside vulture gathering we enjoyed very close views of White-backed and Hooded Vultures plus both Rüppell's and Eurasian Griffons. After a leisurely lunch in St. Louis we continued towards our overnight base close to the Mauretania border at Podor. Once near our destination we diverted to an area of arid scrub where Black-crowned Sparrow Lark and Southern Grey Shrike were added to the list as the sun set and we began searching for the until recently near-mythical Golden Nightjar. Two hours later we left for our nearby hotel having had three brief and rather unsatisfying contacts with our target but vowing to try again tomorrow.



Chestnut-bellied Starling (Chris Kehoe)

Most of the next day was spent along a quiet bush track where our primary target, the scarce Sahelian specialty, Little Grey Woodpecker, was eventually tracked down and showed well, despite the most unexpected cool and even somewhat damp weather conditions! Subalpine, Western Orphean and Bonelli's Warblers flitted about the trees along with a few Lemon-bellied Eremomelas and others. Moving into an area of low, sparse scrub we began searching for Cricket Warblers but the rather murky conditions didn't help our cause, the birds presumably having gone to ground until the weather improved. We consoled ourselves with views of five dapper Cream-coloured Coursers and a couple of Tawny Pipits before trying another area for the Cricket Warblers. There was no sign of our target here either but while searching we flushed a Golden Nightjar which settled nicely for prolonged scope views, much to everyone's delight. During the lunch break back at the hotel several Sudan Golden Sparrows, Little Weavers and Greater Blue-eared Starlings ate

kitchen scraps while the drive back towards the Cricket Warbler area gave us a close perched Short-toed Eagle. Once back on the bush track, almost the first bird we saw was another roosting Golden Nightjar, quite amazing! Cricket Warblers soon gave themselves too up in the brighter afternoon weather and we were pleased to find two 'Seebohm's' Wheatears and a fine male Black-eared Wheatear amongst the many wintering Northern Wheatears. We ended the day with a try for Standard-winged Nightjars near our hotel but instead found an obliging Long-tailed Nightjar and a couple of Common Genets.



Little Grey or Sahelian Woodpecker. (Chris Kehoe)

After an early breakfast we were on our way towards Richard Toll before sunrise. Once there we began searching a large area of acacias for the very localised and scarce Sennar Penduline Tit. Little Grey Woodpeckers, African Grey Woodpecker and both Lemon-bellied and Senegal Eremomelas were found along with Black Bush Robins, Melodious Warblers and a few other bits and pieces but our target remained unseen until, after two hours, we were just on the point of giving up and trying another site nearby when three appeared in the top of an acacia and gave prolonged scope views. Much relieved, we continued westward towards Djoudj where we arrived in time for lunch having seen an unexpected Barbary Falcon en route. The afternoon was spent touring various open habitats in this spectacular national park. We began with a successful search for Arabian Bustard, with one giving decent scope views, before moving on to various wetlands that were thronged with wintering palearctic species, including Spotted Redshanks and Marsh Sandpipers and thousands of Northern Pintails and Garganey, among which we picked out eight locally rare Tufted Ducks and a most welcome group of 12 Marbled Ducks. The air was filled with countless Sand Martins and a couple of striking Black-crowned Cranes flew by.

A Barn Owl showed well in the spotlight as we waited for breakfast the next morning. Initially our birding was centred on the lodge area and adjacent wetlands where we had greatly improved views of Fulvous Whistling Ducks amongst the vast flocks of White-faced Whistling Ducks. Our main target was the very localised River Prinia which we eventually enjoyed good views of while being distracted by some showy Greater Painted Snipes and some even showier Black Crakes. We spent the rest of the morning exploring various wetland areas with fine scope views of another Arabian Bustard a highlight along with countless waterbirds that

included further Black-crowned Cranes, our only Black Storks, African Spoonbills, Black-crowned Night Herons and point blank views of Eurasian White Pelicans feeding in unison, just like on the telly. In rather breezy conditions small landbirds were not very obliging but a Winding Cisticola gave good if brief views, though some unstreaked *Acrocephalus* Warblers (either Reed or African Reed) defied specific identification.



River Prinia and Arabian Bustard (Chris Kehoe)

By late morning we were on our way to St Louis for lunch. Our afternoon birding was centred on the wetlands and acacia woodland of Marigot 1 and 2. The undoubted highlight was three Saville's Bustards, one of which gave stellar views, as did a couple of Spotted Thick-knees. Wetter areas held African Pygmy Geese, several each of Purple Swampfen and Allen's Gallinule and numerous Black Crakes.



Saville's Bustard and Pygmy Sunbird (Dave Williamson)

Our first stop the next morning was at a series of large lagoons near Gueme. It was a little quiet but Common and Gull-billed Terns, numerous palearctic shorebirds, Pink-backed Pelicans and Slender-billed Gulls were seen. As we approached Old St. Louis the wind was increasing and while stopped in traffic we noticed a European Storm Petrel near the bridge, the first of many seen this morning, several of which were extremely close to shore around the fish landing area on the lee side of the island, presumably pushed onshore by the blustery wind. Also noted near the bridge were a couple of ghostly pale Grey Herons of the enigmatic Mauretanian race *monicae*.



European Storm Petrels (Chris Kehoe)



'Mauretanian' Grey Heron with nominate race Grey Herons, Lesser Black-backed and Grey-headed Gulls (Chris Kehoe)

A scan offshore near windswept Langue de Barbarie produced further Storm Petrels, several Northern Gannets and African Royal Terns along with our first Audouin's Gull. A few more Audouin's were roosting in the sheltered bay along with Little Terns, a couple of Mediterranean Gulls and a single Yellow-legged Gull. After a leisurely lunch, complete with wintering Eurasian Hoopoes, Subalpine and Western Olivaceous Warblers in the hotel garden, we returned to the Marigots where we enjoyed further views of Saville's

Bustards, a Winding Cisticola and another River Prinia plus many others, though a particular highlight was a small group of dazzling Zebra Waxbills. Back at the hotel a fruiting tree attracted many Gambian Epauleted Fruit Bats.



Saville's Bustard (Chris Kehoe)

At first light we were on our way south towards our next base at Kaolack. A large gathering of vultures at a roadside carcass north of Touba prompted an excellent stop. Up to 80 Rüppell's and smaller numbers of White-backed and Hooded Vultures gathered, though the highlight was undoubtedly four immense Lappet-faced Vultures at very close range. Shortly afterwards we set off on a walk into an area of arid scrub and soon found a small group of the hoped-for Sahel Paradise Whydah's feeding quietly. Further exploration of the area gave us several Speckle-fronted Weavers, Black and Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robins and a Common Gonolek.



Senegal Batis and Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark (Chris Kehoe)

After a delicious fish lunch in Mbacke we spent over two hours on a fruitless search for Quail-plover in the extensive dry scrub and harvested maize fields nearby. We returned to the bus with a good thirst and with

just a Desert Cisticola and an unexpected Short-eared Owl to show for our efforts - Looking for Quail-plovers in such extensive open habitats really does feel like looking for a needle in a haystack at times. We resumed our journey towards Kaolack but stopped after 30 minutes to admire a roadside Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark. As the habitat nearby looked promising for coursers and with another hour or so until sunset we decided to have a scout about. A few minutes later we were watching four Quail-plovers which gave stunning views until we left just as the sun sank, sometimes you get very lucky!

The next day was essentially a very long travelling day as we drove from close to the Atlantic coast to the far southeast of the country. As we had already connected with Quail-plovers we used the time allocated for that species this morning to visit a post-roost gathering of hundreds of stunning Scissor-tailed Kites near Kaolack instead - a major bonus as this species is otherwise somewhat unpredictable on the main tour.



Scissor-tailed Kites (Chris Kehoe)

Lunch at Tambacounda gave us a perplexing Olivaceous Warbler, though it became less confusing once we realised there were actually two different individuals present, a tail dipping, wing panelled Eastern and a still-tailed, big billed Western. A few short stops in the afternoon as we passed through Niokolo Koba NP gave us quite a few new species with Abyssinian Ground Hornbills, Pearl Spotted Owlet and Bateleur the pick of the bunch though a couple of flocks of Helmeted Guineafowl and a furtive Grey-headed Bushshrike were also noted. The roads in Senegal are generally of a high standard but the final 100km to our next base at Kedougou was in a very poor state of repair meaning slow progress and a late dinner, though a Genet was spotlighted along the way.

Around sunrise we set off towards the Guinea border, stopping briefly at the Gambie River on the edge of town to view Violet Turacos and a Blue-breasted Kingfisher. Once we reached the end of the driveable road we set off on foot uphill towards an escarpment edge. Once in place we didn't have to wait too long before our top target here, two very welcome Mali Firefinches, showed well, if rather briefly. We remained in the area for quite a while hoping for more views and did eventually connect with one further bird which posed for the scope for a short while. Further notable species seen this morning before we returned to Kedougou for a leisurely lunch included several Gosling's Buntings, White-headed Vulture, Red-throated and Northern Carmine Bee-eaters, Pygmy, Scarlet-chested and Beautiful Sunbirds, Eurasian Wryneck, Red-necked Falcon and a Red-headed Weaver. In the afternoon we visited an area of open country to the west of town

where we watched many Abyssinian and a single Blue-bellied Roller that joined a superb Grasshopper Buzzard monitoring an area of burning stubble. Nearby, we were pleased to see several Pied-winged Swallows hawking over a small watercourse where Pin-tailed Whydahs and others came to drink while stunning Bearded Barbets and Violet Turacos added extra glamour.



Black-faced and Mali Firefinches (Chris Kehoe)



Bronze-tailed Starling (Chris Kehoe)

After an early breakfast we were on our way towards Dindéfelo well before dawn. Once the sun was up we made a couple of roadside stops and quickly found our first Bronze-tailed Starlings. At an area of overgrown fields we lingered a while in the hope that the localised Dorst's Cisticola might put in an appearance but

instead saw a cracking Black-faced Firefinch and a soaring Fox Kestrel. Once at Dindefelo, we concentrated on the gallery forest at the foot of the impressive outcrop, having already seen Mali Firefinch a climb up the rock was deemed unnecessary. Highlights this morning included a pair of Narina Trogons, Grey Tit-flycatcher, Western Violet-backed and Green-headed Sunbirds, African Hawk-Eagles, Guinea Turacos, African Blue Flycatchers and a Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird. After lunch, and as the temperature began to subside, we began the return journey towards Kedougou but made a stop to look again for Dorst's Cisticola which we eventually found along with a handful of very obliging Black-faced Firefinches.

Having seen a possible Sun Lark to the west of town a couple of days previously we returned there the next morning after watching West African Swallows near our hotel. We soon had a close encounter with a Sun Lark and several other open country species before visiting another open area on the opposite side of town where we were surprised, but very pleased, to locate a pair of Mali Firefinches at a new and easily accessible site.

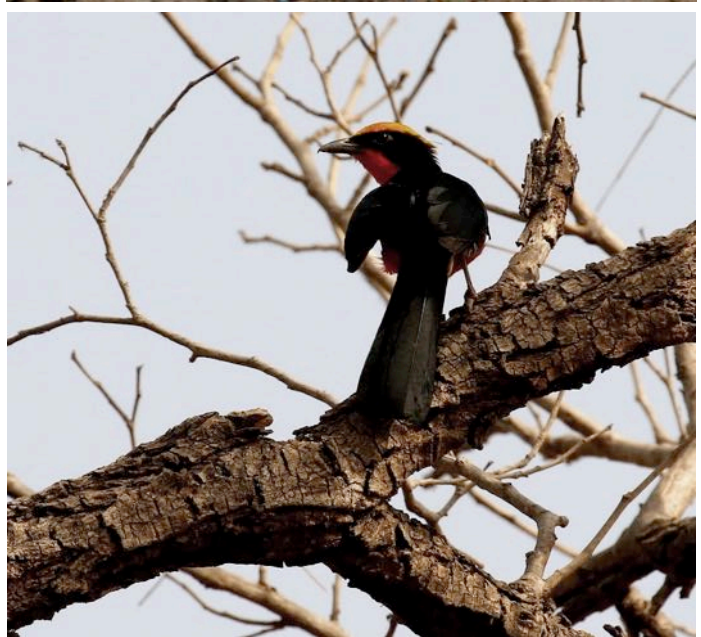


Abyssinian Roller and Sun Lark (Chris Kehoe)

After an early lunch we spent the heat of the day travelling back along the potholed road through Niokolo Koba NP and arrived at our next base at Wassadou in time for some evening birding in and around the camp, especially from a convenient lookout point above the Gambie River. Egyptian Plovers, White-crowned Lapwings, Adamawa Turtle Doves and African Finfoots are particular attractions here and we had repeated encounters with each during the coming days but further highlights this evening included a perched Shining Blue Kingfisher, a brief White-backed Night Heron and a roost gathering of over 100 Northern Carmine Bee-eaters as a couple of Hippos wallowed in the river. After dinner a walk along the camp approach road failed to produce any nightbirds though we did see a Northern Lesser Galago and a Pale Fox.

We spent the whole of the next day in the vicinity of Wassadou Camp, with boat trips on the river in the morning and evening, exploration of various trails in and around the camp as well as plenty of time spent simply scanning the river from the camp lookout. All of the area's star attractions were seen very well while additional highlights, amongst the many commoner species seen at this pleasant and very birdy location, included a handful of scarce Heuglin's Masked Weavers, Woolly-necked Storks, showy Stone Partridges, Palm-nut Vultures, Beaudouin's Snake Eagle, Giant Kingfisher, Black Scimitarbill, African Pied Wagtails, Fine-spotted Woodpecker and Exclamatory Paradise Whydahs. After dinner, a silent Northern White-faced Owl was spotlighted along the entrance road. Our second full day at Wassadou followed a similar pattern to yesterday with morning and evening boat trips, walks on various trails and much scanning from the lookout. Several new species were seen today including showy, and helpfully calling, Iberian Chiffchaffs, an Oriole Warbler, Western Banded Snake Eagle and White-crested Helmetshrikes. In the afternoon a Klaus's Cuckoo

showed very well near the restaurant along with many previously seen species. Lengthy searches for roosting Pel's Fishing Owls in the preceding days had left us empty-handed so we were very pleased when one appeared on a small island in the river at dusk and showed well, if rather distantly. Shortly afterwards White-backed Night Heron was again in view.



Egyptian Plover (Dave Williamson), Cut-throat Finch, Common Gonolek and Montagu's Harrier (Chris Kehoe)



After breakfast we departed for Kaolack, where the main tour ended after lunch, though short roadside stops along the way gave us the likes of Purple Roller, Yellow-billed Oxpeckers, White-crested Helmetshrikes, Lesser Blue-eared Starlings and various commoner species. After saying our goodbyes to anyone returning to Dakar airport those remaining for the extension to the Saloum Delta spent the evening exploring sites near Kaolack where we found a fine Verreaux's Eagle Owl and a couple of very cooperative Temminck's Coursers, a surprise Black-bellied Bustard, several White-rumped Seedeaters and a very showy male Montague's Harrier. As dusk approached we watched up to two thousand Scissor-tailed Kites gathering to roost on an island in the delta.

We left Kaolack at first light and an hour later were birding in fields and wooded areas near Sandicol. Bird activity was high during the cool morning hours and we had good views of the likes of Oriole Warbler, Pearl-spotted Owllet, Yellow-billed Shrikes and for some an Orange-breasted Bushshrike. The rest of the morning was spent on a boat touring the mangroves of the Saloum Delta. Many wetland birds were on show and we enjoyed some excellent views of a few localised Mangrove Sunbirds, though the White-backed Night Herons that formerly roosted here seem to have moved on. Our first Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters showed well though, as did Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters and a striking Long-crested Eagle. After lunch at our very comfortable hotel at Toubacouta, where Red-chested Swallows showed well, we set off into the arid hinterland where three Temminck's Coursers performed admirably, several Quailfinches were buzzing around and Rufous-tailed Scrub Robins showed well. We rounded the day off by staking out a small waterhole at dusk when several Four-banded Sandgrouse put in an appearance.

Soon after first light we were watching a Goliath Heron and a Marsh Mongoose from the hotel jetty before setting off into the mangroves by boat. There was much to see, including a good selection of kingfishers and bee-eaters, but there was no sign of the hoped-for, though never quite expected, White-crested Tiger Heron. In the afternoon we travelled well inland to a site for roosting Standard-winged Nightjars and were treated to some wonderful views of these amazing birds.

Our final day began with another boat trip through the Saloum Delta mangroves in a final try for the notoriously elusive White-crested Tiger Heron. Goliath Herons and Marsh Mongoose were on show again as we set off and exposed mudbanks held a few Sacred Ibises before we entered the narrower channels. After about 40 minutes we were face to face with a Tiger Heron in the mangrove roots and though it quite quickly walked out of full view, some skilful manoeuvring by our boatman allowed everyone to have a further series of decent views over the next 30 minutes or so. Well pleased with this we began to make our way back to the lodge with a Eurasian Curlew and a few other bits and pieces along the way. Around the lodge a small group of Lavender Waxbills were near our rooms as we packed for the homeward journey. We reached Kaolack in time for lunch before continuing towards Dakar where the extension ended at the airport.

Bird of the trip

1 - Quail-plover	31 points
2 = Golden Nightjar	25
2 = White-crested Tiger Heron	25
4 - Standard-winged Nightjar	24
5 - Scissor-tailed Kite	22



Hooded, White-backed, Rüppell's and Lappet-faced Vultures (Chris Kehoe)



Sundowners at Wassadou, just before a Pel's Fishing Owl appeared (Chris Kehoe)



The Gambie River from Wassadou lookout (Chris Kehoe)



Egyptian Plover (Chris Kehoe)



Quail-Plover – bird of the trip (Chris Kehoe)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* Tens of thousands at Djoudj, several elsewhere.

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* Small numbers at Djoudj and Marigot 2.

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis* About 30 at Djoudj.

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* About 40 at Djoudj.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* Up to 150 at Djoudj.

African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus* Around 20 at Marigot 2.

Garganey *Spatula querquedula* Several thousand at Djoudj.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata* Thousands at Djoudj.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera* (NL) Two at Djoudj.

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope* (NL). Six at Djoudj.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* Around 5000 at Djoudj.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca* Two at Djoudj.

Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris* Twelve with the Pintails at Djoudj.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* Eight at Djoudj. A write-in.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* A few encounters in the south, including groups of up to 40.

Stone Partridge ♦ *Ptilopachus petrosus* Some good views in the southeast.

Double-spurred Francolin ♦ *Pternistis bicalcaratus* Noted almost daily after the first near St. Louis.



Double-spurred Francolins (Chris Kehoe)

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* (LO) One flushed at Djoudj.

European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* Around 100 at St. Louis were a big surprise and a write-in.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* A handful at Djoudj.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* Around 2000 at Djoudj, a few elsewhere.

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* About 200 at Djoudj.

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis* About 20 at Djoudj.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* Three at Djoudj.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* At least one pair at Wassadou.

White Stork *Ciconia Ciconia* (NL) One from the bus between Richard Toll and Djoudj.

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* A few at Djoudj and Keur Saloum.

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* A handful at Wassadou.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* Fifty at Djoudj and a few at Marigot 2.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* Up to 100 at Djoudj.

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* Small numbers at Djoudj and Marigot 2.

White-crested Tiger Heron ♦ *Tigriornis leucolopha* Close views of one in the Saloum Delta.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* (NL) Singles in flight at Djoudj and Marigot 2.

White-backed Night Heron ♦ *Gorsachius leuconotus* Seen at dusk at Wassadou on two occasions.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* About 40 at Djoudj and several more at Wassadou.

Striated Heron (Green-backed H) *Butorides striata* A handful at Wassadou and the Saloum Delta.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* Several at Djoudj, a handful elsewhere.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Widespread, sometimes common.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Present at most wetlands visited.

Mauretanian Grey Heron ♦ (Pallid H) *Ardea [cinerea] monicae* Three at St. Louis. See note.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* Uncommon, noted on just three dates.

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath* About six at the Saloum Delta.



White-crested Tiger-Heron (Dave Williamson) and Great White Pelican (Chris Kehoe)

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* One or two at several wetlands.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* Prominent at Djoudj and the Saloum Delta.

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia* Four at Djoudj.

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca* About 20 at Djoudj, a couple elsewhere.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Fairly common at Djoudj, ones and twos elsewhere.

Western Reef Heron (W R Egret) *Egretta gularis* Numerous in coastal areas.

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* Small numbers on seven dates.

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* Common at Djoudj and along the coast near St Louis.

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* Present at all larger wetlands.

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* At least 50 flew past Langue de Barbarie.

Reed Cormorant (Long-tailed C) *Microcarbo africanus* Common at Djoudj and the Saloum Delta.

White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus* Common at Djoudj and the Saloum Delta.

African Darter *Anhinga rufa* About 20 at Djoudj, smaller numbers elsewhere.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Several at Djoudj with a handful elsewhere.

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* Ones and twos on three dates.

Scissor-tailed Kite ♦ (African Swallow-t K) *Chelictinia riocourii* Over 1500 near Kaolack, some wonderful views.

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus* A handful in the southeast.

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis* Great views at Wassadou and near Kaolack.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* Noted on 10 dates but never very numerous.

White-backed Vulture (African W-b V) *Gyps africanus* Fairly common north of Touba, a couple elsewhere.

Rüppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppelli* Locally common north of Touba with over 100 at roadside carcasses there.

Griffon Vulture (Eurasian G V) *Gyps fulvus* Up to 10 mixed in with the previous species.

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis* A couple east of Kedougou.

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos* Fabulous views of four north of Touba.

Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* Ones and twos on five dates, mainly in the north.

Beaudouin's Snake Eagle ♦ *Circaetus beaudouini* Two singles at Wassadou and another near there.

Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus* Noted on seven dates at widespread sites.

Western Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens* One or two at Wassadou.



Scissor-tailed Kites (Chris Kehoe)

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* Good views at four sites in the south.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* Singles at Dindefelo and near Sandicoly.

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraetus wahlbergi* At least two at Wassadou.

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* Three at Wassadou.

African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster* Great views on five dates including a close perched adult at Wassadou.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* Just two singles at Dindefelo and Wassadou.

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar* One brief flight view near Touba.

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates* Noted on nine dates at widespread sites, often as we travelled.

Red-chested Goshawk *Accipiter toussenelii* A perched adult near Kedougou. A write-in. See note.

Shikra *Accipiter badius* Seen almost daily after the first near Kedougou

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* Up to eight at Djoudj, ones and two elsewhere on five dates.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* Just one, from the moving bus, between St. Louis and Podor.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* Noted on eight dates at widespread sites.

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* Generally common and widespread except in the southeast.

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* Prominent at Wassadou, a few elsewhere.

Grasshopper Buzzard ♦ *Butastur rufipennis* A couple in the southeast.

Arabian Bustard ♦ *Ardeotis arabs* Three singles at Djoudj, good scope views of two.

Savile's Bustard ♦ *Lophotis savilei* Stellar views at Marigot 1, four in total there over two dates.

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster* Good views of a young male near Kaolack.

African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis* Half-a-dozen at Wassadou and one at the Saloum Delta.

Black Crane *Amaurornis flavirostra* Common at Marigot 2 after a few at Djoudj, another at Wassadou.

African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis* Several at Marigot 2.



Lappet-faced Vulture (Chris Kehoe)

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni* A handful at Marigot 2.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Small numbers at Djoudj and Marigot 2.

Black Crowned Crane *Balearica pavonina* Good scope views of two at Djoudj, a couple more in flight there.

Quail-plover ♦ *Ortyxelos meiffrenii* Sensational views of four together at a random stop north of Kaolack.

Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis* Most prominent at Wassadou and during the extension, few others.

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis* Two at Marigot 1 on both visits.

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* One at St. Louis and several during the extension.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Noted on nine dates, most prominent at Djoudj.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* At least 100 at Djoudj.

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* Absent in the Kedougou area but common elsewhere.

Black-headed Lapwing *Vanellus tectus* Noted on eight dates in more arid areas.

White-crowned Lapwing (W-headed L) *Vanellus albiceps* A handful at Wassadou, stunning as ever !

African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus* Prominent at Wassadou, scarce otherwise.

Grey Plover (Black-bellied P) *Pluvialis squatarola* Small numbers in coastal areas.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* Up to 100 at Djoudj, a couple elsewhere.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* One near Podor.

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* A handful at Djoudj and one near Toubacouta.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* Up to 10 at Djoudj.

Egyptian Plover ♦ *Pluvianus aegyptius* Up to 10 per day at Wassadou, some very close views.

Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* Three at Djoudj.

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* Up to 20 at Djoudj, a couple elsewhere.

Whimbrel (Eurasian W) *Numenius [phaeopus] phaeopus* A few at the coast, mainly during the extension.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* A couple at the coast.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* Four or more at the Saloum Delta.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* At least 50 at Djoudj.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax* About 100 at Djoudj.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* About 30 at Djoudj.



Temminck's Courser and Collared Pratincole (Chris Kehoe)



White-crowned Lapwing (Chris Kehoe)

Sanderling *Calidris alba* Two at Langue de Barbarie.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* At least 20 at Djoudj.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* Over 100 at Djoudj.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* Three at Djoudj, another at Marigot 2.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Noted on ten dates at widespread sites.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* A handful at Djoudj, Wassadou and near Toubacouta.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* Small numbers at Djoudj and the Saloum Delta.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* Six at Djoudj.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* A few at Djoudj and one at Wassadou.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* Up to 10 at Djoudj.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Up to 20 at Djoudj, smaller numbers at several wetlands.

Cream-colored Courser *Cursorius cursor* Five near Podor.

Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii* Seven at three sites during the extension.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* Several at Djoudj and the Marigots.

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei* Up to 50 per day in coastal areas after the first near St. Louis.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* Several hundred around St. Louis, a handful elsewhere.

Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* Common at the coast.

Audouin's Gull ♦ *Ichthyaetus audouinii* Three or four at Langue de Barbarie.

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus* Two at Langue de Barbarie.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* An adult at Langue de Barbarie.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* Numerous at St. Louis, a couple elsewhere.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* About 10 at Djoudj and a couple during the extension.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* A handful at Djoudj and during the extension.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* Small numbers at St. Louis and the Saloum Delta.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* Small numbers at coastal sites.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* Two at Langue de Barbarie.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* One near St. Louis.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* Up to 10 at Djoudj and a couple elsewhere.

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* One at Djoudj.



Adamawa Turtle Dove and Vinaceous Doves (Chris Kehoe)

Four-banded Sandgrouse ♦ *Pterocles quadricinctus* About 20 drinking at dusk near Sandicoly during the extension.

Rock Dove *Columba livia* Present in a few towns and larger villages, no wild types noted.

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea* Widespread and often common.

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* Up to 200 at Wassadou, a couple elsewhere.

Adamawa Turtle Dove ♦ *Streptopelia hypopyrrha* Up to 30 in the Wassadou area, a global hotspot for this species.

African Collared Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea* About 10 in the Podor area and a similar number near Kaolack.

Mourning Collared Dove (African M D) *Streptopelia decipiens* Up to 10 per day on eight dates.

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* Small numbers at sites in the south only.
Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea* Common and widespread.
Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* Common and widespread.
Black-billed Wood Dove *Turtur abyssinicus* Several in the southeast, a few elsewhere.
Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer* One at Dindefelo.
Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* Common, especially in more arid areas.
Bruce's Green Pigeon ♦ *Treron waalia* Noted a few times in the south.
African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus* (LO) One near Toubacouta.
Guinea Turaco (Green T) *Tauraco persa* Good views of two at Dindefelo.
Violet Turaco *Musophaga violacea* Several in the Kedougou area and at Wassadou.
Western Plantain-eater (W Grey P-e) *Crinifer piscator* Widespread in the south where often common.
Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis* Noted on 13 dates.
Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* Two at Wassadou.



Little Bee-eater and Klaas's Cuckoo (Chris Kehoe)

Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba* One roosting at Djoudj.
Northern White-faced Owl *Ptilopsis leucotis* One at Wassadou after much searching.
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Bubo lacteus* Fine views of one near Kaolack during the extension.
Pel's Fishing Owl ♦ *Scotopelia peli* One drinking from the river near the lodge at Wassadou at dusk.
Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum* Good views of four in the south.
Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* One near Mbacke was unexpected.
Golden Nightjar ♦ *Caprimulgus eximius* Amazing daylight views of two near Podor, others spotlighted distantly.
Long-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus climacurus* Great views near Podor and at Marigot 1.
Standard-winged Nightjar ♦ *Caprimulgus longipennis* Fantastic daylight views inland of Toubacouta.
Mottled Spinetail *Telacanthura ussheri* One at Dindefelo, several at Wassadou and one near Kaolack.
African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* Seen almost daily.
Common Swift *Apus apus* Two near Kedougou.
Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* Singles between Kaolack and Tambacounda and at Sandicoly.
Little Swift *Apus affinis* Occasional encounters at widespread sites, mainly in towns.
Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus* Fairly numerous in the north, seen on five dates.
Narina Trogon (Narina's T) *Apaloderma narina* A pair at Dindefelo.
Purple Roller (Rufous-crowned R) *Coracias naevius* Ten in total at widespread sites.



Long-tailed Nightjar (Chris Kehoe)

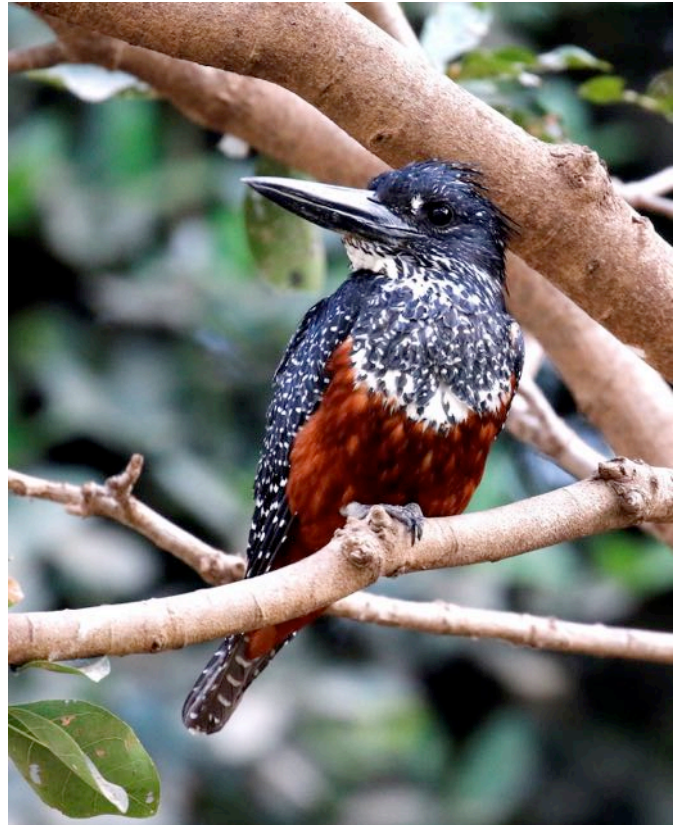


Standard-winged Nightjar with standards (Chris Kehoe)

- Abyssinian Roller** *Coracias abyssinicus* Generally common except in the far north.
- Blue-bellied Roller** ♦ *Coracias cyanogaster* A handful in the southeast.
- Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus* One at Wassadou.
- Grey-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala* Singles near Touba and at Wassadou.
- Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti* Singles on six dates at widespread sites.
- Blue-breasted Kingfisher** *Halcyon malimbica* Prominent at Wassadou, a couple elsewhere.
- Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis cristatus* Small numbers at Djoudj, Wassadou and the Saloum Delta.
- Shining-blue Kingfisher** *Alcedo quadribrachys* Scope views of one at Wassadou.
- Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima* Seen well at Wassadou and the Saloum Delta.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* Present at almost all wetlands.

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus* Several at the Saloum Delta.



Swallow-tailed Bee-eater (Dave Williamson) and Giant Kingfisher (Chris Kehoe)



Western Red-billed Hornbill and Red-necked Falcon (Chris Kehoe)

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* Regular encounters after the first at Djoudj, seen on 10 dates.

Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bullocki* Most prominent at Wassadou where nesting, a few elsewhere.

Green Bee-eater (Little G B-e) *Merops orientalis* Three in the far north and one at Wassadou.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus* One at Djoudj and several in the Saloum Delta.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* Noted near Sandicoly and Toubacouta during the extension.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus* A few near Kedouga and up to 150 each evening at Wassadou.

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* Noted on 11 dates, seemingly all nominate race birds.

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* Fairly numerous in the southeast and a couple near Kaolack.

Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus* One at Wassadou.

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus* Groups of three and seven roadside birds at Niokolo Koba NP.

Western Red-billed Hornbill ♦ *Tockus kemp* Fairly common throughout, seen daily.

African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus* Fairly common except near Kedougou..

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus* Two at Dindefelo.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* Seen on five dates, others heard.

Vieillot's Barbet *Lybius vieillot* Ones and twos near Touba, Podor and Kedougou, a couple more heard.

Bearded Barbet ♦ *Lybius dubius* Noted on five dates in the south after the first near Kedougou, a stunner.

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* Noted at Dindefelo, Wassadou, Sandicoly and Toubacouta.

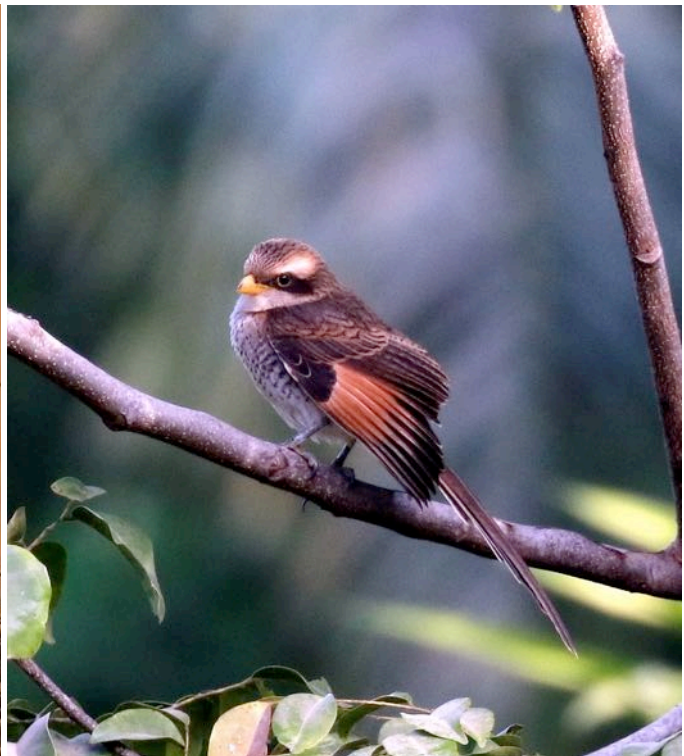
Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* Singles near Podor and Kedougou.

Fine-spotted Woodpecker ♦ *Campethera punctuligera* Ones and twos at Wassadou and south of Kaolack.

Little Grey Woodpecker ♦ *Dendropicos elachus* Six or more near Podor and Richard Toll.

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* Two at Wassadou.

African Grey Woodpecker (Grey W) *Dendropicos goertae* Noted on eight dates after the first at Richard Toll.



Southern Grey Shrike and Yellow-billed Shrike (Chris Kehoe)

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* Dozens in flight near Kaolack.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* Widespread in small numbers.

Fox Kestrel ♦ *Falco alopex* Good flight views near Dindefelo.

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus* Seen on six dates in the south after the first near Tambacounda.

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera* Noted near Podor, Kedougou and Kaolack.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* Singles at Dindefelo and Wassadou.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* Singles at Djoudj, near Kaolack and the Saloum Delta, all northern migrants.

Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinodes* A perched adult near Djoudj was a Senegambian rarity and a write-in.

Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus* Fairly common in the south and east.

Rose-ringed Parakeet (Ring-necked P) *Psittacula krameri* Noted on 12 dates at widespread sites.

Senegal Batis *Batis senegalensis* Noted near St. Louis, at Marigot 1 and Wassadou.

Brown-throated Wattle-eye (Common W-e) *Platysteira cyanea* Several at Dindefelo and a couple at Wassadou.

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus* Noted at Wassadou and at a leg stretch west of Tambacounda.

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* Briefly seen at Niokolo Koba and Wassadou, heard at Dindefelo.

Orange-breasted Bushshrike (Sulphur-b B) *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* {NL} One at Sandicoly.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* Noted near Touba, Mbacke, Kedougou and Wassadou.

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis* A handful in the south.

Yellow-crowned Gonolek ♦ *Laniarius barbarus* Noted on 12 dates, some fine views but more heard than seen.

Brubru *Nilais afer* Ones and twos near Podor, Richard Toll and Dindefelo.

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea* (NL) A female at Dindefelo.

Yellow-billed Shrike *Corvinella corvina* Singles near Touba and Wassadou and about 20 during the extension.

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis* About six in the far north and one near Mbacke.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* Seen on eight dates, about 40 birds in total.

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus* Two at Niokolo Koba and another at Wassadou.

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* Small numbers on six dates.

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* About six at Dindefelo and a few singles elsewhere.

Piapiac *Ptilostomus afer* Fairly numerous at Wassadou with a handful elsewhere.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* Common in more arid areas.

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda* About four at Dindefelo.

Sennar Penduline Tit ♦ *Anthoscopus punctifrons* Three near Richard Toll after a lengthy search.



Sennar Penduline Tit (Dave Williamson) and Western Olivaceous Warbler (Chris Kehoe)

Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix nigriceps* About 40 in the far north.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis* Noted on four dates in the south.

Singing Bush Lark *Mirafr cantillans* A few near Mbacke.

Sun Lark ♦ *Galerida modesta* About six west of Kedougou.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* Common at Djoudj with smaller numbers on four dates at widespread sites.

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* A small handful at Djoudj and one near Podor.

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus* Seen almost daily, often common.

Yellow-throated Leaflove *Atimastillas flavicollis* Six in Kedougou, others heard.

Sand Martin (Common S M, Bank Swallow) *Riparia riparia* Hundreds of thousands at Djoudj, a few elsewhere.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Seen almost daily but never common.

Red-chested Swallow *Hirundo lucida* Small numbers near Kaolack and Toubacouta.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* Noted a few times after the first at Kedougou.

Pied-winged Swallow ♦ *Hirundo leucosoma* Great views of about 10 west of Kedougou.

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* A handful at Dindefelo.

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum* About 10 at St. Louis sites, perhaps migrants.

West African Swallow ♦ *Cecropis domicella* About 10 near our hotel in Kedougou.

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura* Ones and twos on seven dates in more wooded areas.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* Small numbers throughout, most frequent at Djoudj and Wassadou.

Iberian Chiffchaff ♦ *Phylloscopus ibericus* Two seen and, more importantly, heard at Wassadou.

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* Several in the far north, fewer elsewhere.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* A few at Djoudj, Marigot 2 and Wassadou.



Black Bush Robin and Seeborn's Wheatear (Chris Kehoe)

Western Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna opaca* Several in the south over eight dates.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida reiseri* A tail-dipping write-in at Tambacounda during a lunch stop.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* Two at Richard Toll.

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus* Singles at Djoudj and Marigot 2.

Dorst's Cisticola ♦ *Cisticola guinea* Up to three near Dindefelo.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* Just two at Marigot 2 and one near Toubakouta.

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus* One rather flighty bird near Mbacke.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* Fairly common in dry country, mainly in the south.

River Prinia ♦ *Prinia fluviatilis* One at Djoudj and two at Marigot 2.

Cricket Warbler ♦ *Spiloptila clamans* About four near Podor.

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida* A handful at Dindefelo.

Oriole Warbler ♦ *Hypergerus atriceps* Singles at Wassadou and near Sandicoly.

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata* Ones and twos at several widespread sites.

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis* Several in the far north.

Senegal Eremomela *Eremomela pusilla* Widespread in wooded areas, mainly in the south.

Blackcap Babbler *Turdoides reinwardtii* Several at Wassadou, a handful elsewhere.

Brown Babbler *Turdoides plebejus* Very similar to the previous species in numbers and distribution.

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* One at the Marigot 1.

Western Orphean Warbler *Sylvia hortensis* Up to 10 in the far north.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* Three singles in the north.

Subalpine Warbler (Western S W) *Sylvia [cantillans] inornata* Several daily in the north.

African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis* Three encounters in the southeast.

Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* Fairly numerous in the north.

Lesser Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus* Small numbers in the southeast.
Bronze-tailed Starling (B-t Glossy S) *Lamprotornis chalcurus* Several in the southeast and two at Keur Saloum.
Purple Starling (P Glossy S) *Lamprotornis purpureus* Common and conspicuous in the southeast.
Long-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis caudatus* Widespread and often common, especially further south.
Chestnut-bellied Starling ♦ *Lamprotornis pulcher* Rather common and easy to see in the north.
Neumann's Starling ♦ *Onychognathus naumanni* (NL) Roger photographed one at Wassadou, an odd location.
Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus* Scattered encounters on four dates.
African Thrush *Turdus pelios* Just three singles after one at Djoudj.
Black Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas podobe* Several encounters in the north where seen on five dates.
Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes* Seen on four dates after the first at Marigot 1.
Grey Tit-Flycatcher (Lead-coloured F) *Myioparus plumbeus* One in a mixed flock at Dindefelo.
Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edoloides* A few in the south.
Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica* A handful along the river at Wassadou.
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla* (LO) One at Dindefelo.
White-crowned Robin-Chat ♦ *Cossypha albicapillus* A handful at Wassadou and near Sandicoly.
European Pied Flycatcher (Pied F) *Ficedula hypoleuca* Four in the far southeast.
Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* A few wintering birds at widespread sites.
African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* Two at Djoudj.
Anteater Chat (Northern A C) *Myrmecocichla aethiops* Eight encounters in arid areas.
Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* Scattered records, mainly in the north where sometimes several.
Seebohm's Wheatear (Black-throated W) *Oenanthe [oenanthe] seebohmi* Two males near Podor. See note.
Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* A stunning male near Podor.



Scarlet-chested and Mangrove Sunbirds (Chris Kehoe)

Familiar Chat *Oenanthe familiaris* One rather briefly at Dindefelo.
Mangrove Sunbird (Brown S) *Anthreptes gabonicus* Good views of three in the Saloum mangroves.
Western Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes longuemarei* A handful at Dindefelo and Wassadou on three dates.
Pygmy Sunbird ♦ *Hedydipna platura* Several fine sightings, mainly in the arid interior.
Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis* A couple at Dindefelo.
Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* Common inland.
Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus* Common in the south and especially southeast.
Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* Singles at Dindefelo and Sandicoly.
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* In some towns and villages.
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus* Plenty most days.
Sudan Golden Sparrow ♦ *Passer luteus* Common in northern areas where up to 50 per day noted.

Bush Petronia *Gymnoris dentata* Fairly numerous in the interior.

White-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis albirostris* Most prominent in the far north and at Wassadou.

Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis* Noted north of Touba on two dates and one at Richard Toll.

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus* A few in the far north and at Wassadou.

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis* a handful at Dindefelo.

Heuglin's Masked Weaver *Ploceus heuglini* Up to six at Wassadou.

Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus* Widespread in a range of contexts.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cuculatus* Often common, seen on 10 dates.

Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus* Numerous at Djoudj and several in the southeast.

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps* A female east of Kedougou.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* Locally common, seen on nine dates.

Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer* Rather poor views of 10 at Marigot 1.

Black-winged Red Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus* Seen by some at Wassadou and near Kaolack.



Orange-breasted Waxbill and Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu (Chris Kehoe)



Mali Firefinches (Chris Kehoe)

Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus* Rather few in the south.

Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata* Good views of several at Wassadou and Sandicoloy.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* Very widespread but commoner in the south.

Mali Firefinch ◇ (Kulikoro F) *Lagonosticta virata* A total of five east of Kedougou.

Black-faced Firefinch ♦ *Lagonosticta larvata* Up to seven near Dindefelo were a real bonus. See note
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus* Seen most days, sometimes common.
Lavender Waxbill ♦ *Estrilda caerulescens* Small groups near Kedougou, at Wassadou and Keur Saloum.
Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda* Singles near Kedougou and at Wassadou.
Black-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda troglodytes* Several at Wassadou, others during the extension.
Orange-breasted Waxbill (Zebra W) *Amandava subflava* About 10 at Marigot 2 showed very well.
Quailfinch ♦ *Ortygospiza atricollis* Up to 15 inland of Toubacouta, some good views.
African Silverbill (Warbling S) *Euodice cantans* Several encounters in the north.
Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata* A handful at Kedougou sites.
Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeate* Small numbers throughout.
Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* About 20 coming to drink west of Kedougou.
Sahel Paradise Whydah ♦ *Vidua orientalis* Up to seven showed well north of Touba.
Exclamatory Paradise Whydah ♦ *Vidua interjecta* A small flock at Wassadou.
Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* Widespread away from drier country, hundreds at Djoudj.
Western Yellow Wagtail (Yellow W) *Motacilla [flava] flavissima* One at Marigot 2.
Western Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] flava* Six identified in the northwest.
Western Yellow Wagtail (Spanish W) *Motacilla [flava] iberiae* Dozens at Djoudj, several elsewhere.
Western Yellow Wagtail (Grey-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] cinereocapilla* Two at Djoudj.
White Wagtail *Motacilla [alba] alba* Several in the far north, one at Wassadou..
African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* A few along the river Gambie at Wassadou.
Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* Small numbers in the north after the first near Podor.
White-rumped Seedeater ♦ *Crithagra leucopygia* Two south of St. Louis and 15 in total at two sites near Kaolack
Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica* Several in the south, mainly inland.
Gosling's Bunting ♦ *Emberiza goslingi* Ten or more east of Kedougou.

MAMMALS

Northern Lesser Galago (Lesser Bushbaby) *Galago senegalensis* One or more at Wassadou when owling.
Green Monkey (Callithrix M) *Chlorocebus sabaeus* Numerous in the south, especially at Wassadou.
Patas Monkey *Erythrocebus patas* Scattered records after the first at Djoudj.
Guinea Baboon *Papio papio* Several encounters in the southeast.
West African Red Colobus *Procolobus badius* A few at Wassadou.
African Savanna Hare *Lepus microtis* Three near Podor matched this species.
Gambian Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus gambianus* Seen on seven dates at widespread sites.
Striped Ground Squirrel (Geoffrey's G S) *Xerus erythropus* Noted on eight dates.
Marsh Mongoose *Atilax paludinosus* Two or three at the Saloum delta.
Gambian Mongoose *Mungos gambianus* (NL) One near Kedougou.
Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo* One at Wassadou.
Common Genet (Small-spotted G) *Genetta genetta* Two near Podor and singles near Kedougou and Wassadou.
Pale Fox (Sand Fox) *Vulpes pallida* Singles near Podor and at Wassadou.
Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus* Up to 40 at Djoudj.
Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibious* Two viewable daily at Wassadou.
Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus* Two at Wassadou.
Red-flanked Duiker *Cephalophus rufilatus* Seen three times at Wassadou.
Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat *Epomophorus gambianus* Numerous at our hotel near St. Louis.
Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons* Several of these striking bats at Wassadou.

Notes to the systematic list

Mauretanian Grey Heron (Pallid H) *Ardea [cinerea] monicae*

These very pale birds breed only at Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania where the most recent population estimate indicated just 4188 pairs in 1997. Sometimes suggested to deserve species status.

Red-chested Goshawk *Accipiter toussenellii*

The form concerned is *macroscelides*, a potential split as West African Goshawk *A. macroscelides*. Formerly part of African Goshawk *A. tachiro*.

Barbary Falcon *Falco [peregrinus] peleginodes*

The taxonomic status of this morphologically distinctive form has long been a cause of dispute with many preferring to treat it as a race of Peregrine Falcon *F. peregrinus*, IOC are currently reviewing its borderline status.

Seebohm's Wheatear (Black-throated W) *Oenanthe [oenanthe] seebohmi*

Several recent authors elevate this distinctive Maghreb breeding form to species status. Voice differences have recently been discovered so more general acceptance of a split from Northern Wheatear may well follow.

Black-faced Firefinch ♦ *Lagonosticta larvata*

The form concerned is *vinacea* which some recent authors split as a restricted range West African endemic, Vinaceous Firefinch *L. vinacea*.

