



**SENEGAL TOUR REPORT 2023**

27 January - 12 February 2023

Our seventh Senegal 'only' tour (earlier tours combining with either The Gambia or Cape Verde) continued the run of success we have previously enjoyed and firmly establishes the country as a premier West African birding destination for those wishing to see some very special Sahelian endemics. Senegal is less than six hours away from Brussels or Paris by plane and a popular destination with Europeans trying to escape the miserable winter weather in search of sun, sea and sand. For the birdwatcher Senegal holds an impressive number of specialties, most of which are relatively easy to see in this comfortable and trouble-free country. The two most-wanted birds for our group were probably the truly enigmatic Quail-plover and the beautiful Golden Nightjar both of which surrendered to our quest and allowed amazing closeup views. For the Golden Nightjar we headed up to the northern border of the country with Mauritania where we found a pair after dark illuminated by the torch beam. The tiny Quail-plover rose up from under our feet after some 20 minutes searching and we were soon able to relocate it as it consequently froze in front of us, allowing prolonged views. Also, in the far north we hunted out Little Grey Woodpecker and Sennar Penduline Tit as well as the exquisite little Cricket Warbler. Horus Swifts (a recently discovered new bird for the country) were seen at a small colony and a visit to the Djoudj National Park with its numerous waterfowl and flamingos astounded us and we successfully tracked down the highly desirable Arabian Bustard. The unassuming River Prinia, Allen's Gallinule and Savile's Bustard were also found whilst in the area. In the south-east of the country, we easily found small numbers of Mali Firefinch. A fine supporting cast in the area included Fox Kestrel and Sun Lark and a Dybowski's Twinspot was a 'write-in'. A stay at Wassadou along the Gambie River on the edge of Niokolo Koba National Park allowed for fine views of the sublime Egyptian Plover as well as Adamawa Turtle Dove, the bizarre Oriole Warbler and African Finfoot. Finally, we visited the incredible Scissor-tailed Kite roost on Kousmar Island near Kaolack followed by a stay in the Saloum Delta where a superb White-crested Tiger Heron, Bronze-winged Coursier and Yellow Penduline Tit were ultimately the icing on the cake. Other notable or restricted range species seen included; Stone Partridge, Double-spurred Spurfowl, Standard-winged Nightjar, Violet Turaco, Four-banded Sandgrouse, Bruce's Green Pigeon, West African Crested Tern, White-backed Night Heron, Beaudouin's Snake Eagle, Grasshopper Buzzard, Western Red-billed Hornbill, Blue-bellied Roller, African Green Bee-eater, Vieillot's and Bearded Barbets, Willcocks's Honeyguide, Fine-spotted Woodpecker, Yellow-crowned Gonolek, West African Swallow, Iberian Chiffchaff, Dorst's Cisticola, Fulvous Babbler, Chestnut-bellied Starling, White-crowned Robin-Chat, Pygmy Sunbird, Sudan Golden Sparrow, Heuglin's Masked Weaver, Lavender Waxbill, Dybowski's Twinspot, Black-bellied and Black-faced Firefinches, Sahel and Exclamatory Paradise Whydahs, White-rumped Seedeater and Gosling's and Brown-rumped Buntings.

Our tour began in Dakar arriving at the trouble-free airport in the evening and were transported swiftly along a new highway to a small hotel in Thiès some thirty minutes away for a short night's sleep for we were up before dawn watching a Greyish Eagle-Owl on the rooftops surrounding our hotel. We breakfasted at seven (sunrise wasn't until half past!) and set off as quickly as we could because we had a long drive ahead of us towards Podor for a three nights stay.

The other-worldly, flat Sahelian landscape cannot really be described as 'pretty' or 'beautiful' and a steadily increasing layer of plastic detritus seems to be coating the land. However, the street life and culture certainly are fascinating and there is always something to look at although the innumerable shreds of black plastic bags caught on vegetation are what most often catches the eye whilst in search of roadside birds! The crazy stick nests of White-billed Buffalo Weavers loaded onto the bare skeletal Baobab limbs were a natural feature of the scenery and our first Western Red-billed Hornbills were seen alongside spectacular Long-tailed Glossy and Chestnut-bellied Starlings whilst other commonplace species regularly spotted along the way included beautiful Abyssinian Rollers, huge numbers of doves and pigeons and of course, ubiquitous Yellow-billed Kites.

Our first stop was at a stake out for the Little Grey Woodpecker (a Sahelian specialty) and we were pleased to find that the bird was still present in the same area that we had discovered it in last year and once again, we enjoyed some excellent views. As the countryside became even more arid, we noticed groups of vultures gorging themselves on the frequent roadside casualties along the way. By stopping several times, we added Hooded, White-backed, Rüppell's, Griffon and enormous Lappet-faced Vultures but never in particularly large numbers.

As we passed the historic town of Saint-Louis located on the Senegal River, we noted large numbers of waterbirds but these would have to wait until our return as our final destination today was further east. We did however stop for a delicious fish lunch at a hotel by the banks of the Senegal River in the historic town of Richard Toll. The word 'Toll' means 'garden' in the Wolof language and is named after experimental agricultural gardens laid out by Claude Richard for the Chateau de Baron Roger in the 1820's.

Immediately after lunch we birded an area on the outskirts of town where a pair of Little Grey Woodpeckers were watched at their nest hole and shortly after we added another Sahel target to the list in the form of the diminutive Sennar Penduline Tit. Large flocks of small birds in this region often proved to be Sudan Golden Sparrows which held many decently plumaged male birds. Senegal is a wintering ground for a number of Palearctic migrants and in particular featured Western Bonelli's, Western Olivaceous, Western Orphea and Western Subalpine Warblers all of which were seen during this first day of travel.

From here we completed the drive to Podor and arrived at the nightjar site in the late afternoon. We began a walk into the scrub to see if we could find a Golden Nightjar before dark but were not successful this year. However, at dusk a pair

appeared on queue and we had great close looks in the half-light. Just before we were about to light them up with the torch they took off and we never managed to get close to them again so we vowed to try again the next day.

It was another sunny day as we headed out the following morning to an area near Podor where we set out across the sparsely vegetated sandy wastes to search for our next target, the delightful Cricket Warbler. The characterful Black Scrub Robin flaunted itself but rarely allowed very close approach. A number of Great Grey Shrikes of the race elegans and senator Woodchat Shrikes were dotted around and it didn't take too long to track down the first family of Cricket Warblers which performed beautifully for us allowing some very close views as they foraged in the sparse vegetation wiggling their long tails. Hot on their heels was another target species which isn't always at all easy to track down. A pair of Fulvous Babblers put in an appearance as they flew towards us, low to the ground on stiff, whirring wings and happily flaunted themselves in front of us. Our first African Collared Doves were seen and other goodies included a Singing Bush Lark which was an unusual record for the area.

Nearby, we visited a site where Horus Swifts (a recently discovered 'new' species for Senegal) have been found breeding. We were pleased to find them apparently still at home alongside Little Swifts in the cliffs overhanging the river where attractive African Green Bee-eaters put on a good show. In the late afternoon we returned to the Golden Nightjar area which has sadly been 'developed' for agricultural purposes thus reducing their favoured habitat and despite searching all afternoon we couldn't find any in daylight hours although an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler was a good bonus and Palearctic migrant Short-toed Snake and Booted Eagles were seen. However, as dusk fell the pair from the previous evening once again emerged from their hiding place and this time, we were able to approach them quite closely for superb torchlit views.

After our stay at Podor we headed back westwards and a morning birding in the Richard Toll area produced a daytime roost of up to 15 Long-tailed Nightjars alongside good numbers of Eurasian Stone-curlew and Spotted Thick-knees. Out on the sandy wastes we found small numbers of Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse and obliging pairs of Temminck's Courser put on a great show at the end of the morning after which we celebrated with another superb fish lunch at Richard Toll.

In the afternoon we made our first visit to the Trois Marigots on the outskirts of St Louis and it was only five minutes into our search when we found a pair of Savile's Bustards and with time and patience, we enjoyed some excellent views of this Sahel specialty. Marigots are side streams or tributary rivulets whose water levels are often seasonal and here they are surrounded by tamarisk and tall stands of phragmites. The open waters and inundated flats are home to a wealth of birds and we soon picked out our first River Prinias; a Sahelian specialty that had hidden in plain sight until as recently as 1974 when it was described by Claude Chappuis who noticed the substantially different song of these water-loving prinias. Greater Swamp Warblers making their guttural cries, skulked in the reeds but allowed good views whilst Black Crakes scattered everywhere, 'Spanish' Yellow Wagtails were common and pretty little African Pygmy Geese, hulking African Swamphens and ultimately the highly desirable Allen's Gallinule all showed well.

The Djoudj is an important wetland staging post and wintering area for migratory birds that lies in the Senegal delta. As we drove along the dirt roads Crested Larks scattered everywhere from the open wastes and dry fields that were dissected by waterways and flooded land. Arriving at the park entrance we found that this fantastic wetland area was absolutely heaving with birds. Whirling flocks of ducks and Great White Pelicans filled the distant skies along with Greater and Lesser Flamingos, herons, storks, ibises and wildfowl that included vast numbers of White-faced Whistling Duck mixed with smaller numbers of Fulvous Whistling Ducks alongside rafts of Palearctic migrant Garganey, Northern Shoveler and Northern Pintail. At the park entrance, we quickly found some marvellous Greater Painted-snipe in the muddy margins to the lagoons and from the main road through the park, we made sure that we had good looks at the interesting mopstanus race of African Stonechat that frequents the tamarisk bushes along the margins of the lagoons and two Iberian Chiffchaffs that proved their identity by singing strongly.

The park is well-known for its huge breeding colony of Great White Pelicans and a boat trip into the heart of the area was an absolutely unforgettable experience. The young were quite well grown by this time of year and the frenzied flapping and exercising of the wings of birds, eager to fly whipped up the guano and dust into the air so that the stench of fish and ammonia was quite overpowering but the sights and sounds were indeed something to see. Flotillas of fishing adults diving in unison were wondrous to behold and the whole experience was simply awesome! To add to this of course there was a fine selection of other birds to be seen along the reedy margins of the waterway where majestic African Fish Eagles perched up and close looks were obtained of African Darter and Reed and White-breasted Cormorants whilst Whiskered and Caspian Terns followed our boat.

In the afternoon, as we drove across the barren flats, we saw a number of Common Warthogs and a couple of African Golden Wolves. Black Crowned Cranes were a much-wanted species that we saw well and ultimately, we managed two sightings of the highly desirable Arabian Bustard. As the species can be very elusive in the park with numbers of individuals probably numbering no more than six, to say that the day was a success is probably something of an understatement!

Pre-breakfast the next day, our hotel garden came up trumps with a very fine Northern White-faced Owl with a mouse in its talons! We spent the morning combining birds and 'culture' by visiting the historical town of Saint-Louis which was once not only the capital of Senegal but also of the whole of French West Africa and is built on a sandy spit battered by the Atlantic Ocean. It is a bustling fishing town connected to the mainland by the distinctive arches of the historical

Faidherbe Bridge and like most towns in Senegal is coated with a layer of plastic detritus! The mudflats and lagoons helped us add to our wader list and a brick red full breeding plumaged Curlew Sandpiper was a bit of a surprise at this time of year! We drove across the famous bridge and onto the island where the decaying colonial buildings hinted at a bygone era of wealth and elegance. Crossing another bridge took us through the fascinating fish market where the colourful boats were hauled up delivering their catch. Our vehicles crawled through the crowds and market places teeming with people coming and going amongst the old colonial buildings and enabled an engrossing fly on the wall look at the bustling life there. Once free of the town where Red-chested Swallows were breeding, we scanned the gulls and terns for something more interesting. West African Crested Tern was seen well and Slender-billed and Grey-headed Gulls were plentiful as they breed in the nearby Langue de Barbarie National Park but we also spotted a Yellow-legged Gull of the race atlantis and out at sea were a couple of Northern Gannets.

The time had come to relocate to a different part of the country but today's travel day was a highly anticipated event for it was going to be our only real chance to find the truly enigmatic Quail-plover. During the course of the morning, we traversed many miles through prime territory for vultures and came across a few small gatherings and also some Yellow-billed Oxpeckers on the cattle. During a stop at a waterhole, we watched thirsty Mottled Spinetails coming to drink along with a juvenile Beaudouin's Snake Eagle that drifted overhead. Cut-throat Finches and White-rumped Seed-eater were also seen.

It wasn't until after lunch that we reached prime habitat for the aforementioned Quail-plover and we set off in a regimented line under the blistering afternoon sun across seemingly never-ending habitat in what felt like a search for the proverbial needle in the haystack. This diminutive bird measures no more than 13 centimetres in length and is cryptically coloured and patterned to the point that it is rarely picked up on the ground before it is flushed. We must have walked for no more than twenty minutes before we thankfully flushed up three birds from our feet which splayed out in separate directions. We focused on one in particular which looked something like a cross between a butterfly, a lark and a quail as it flapped lazily away settling nearby. It was initially frozen to the spot but after a while relaxed and performed its strange chameleon-like walk but kept to cover apparently even 'dozing off' every now and then! We watched this peculiar little bird for as long as we wished but eventually left it to feed or shelter in peace. Sightings of Singing Bush Lark and Desert Cisticola added to the day's tally but then it was a heads-down drive to Kaolack for an overnight stop where the lagoon by the hotel held huge numbers of Slender-billed Gulls performing their evening ablutions and a very fine spot for a well-deserved sundowner!

The next day the drive was even longer as we headed to Kedougou in the far south-east of the country and it is surprising that we saw any new birds at all but indeed we did and the day started watching a stream of Lesser Kestrels leaving their roost from an island in the Saloum River. Further on our journey we found a spectacular male Sahel Paradise Whydah in full breeding plumage which was much appreciated. We stopped for lunch in Tambacounda and the afternoon was taken driving through the enormous Niokolo Koba National Park to reach Kedougou. It is not allowed to stop in the park but on the way, we had good looks at Abyssinian Ground Hornbill and our first Purple Starlings as well as some Defassa Waterbuck. It was also a good drive for raptors and during the course of the day we had added Brown and Western Banded Snake Eagles, Bateleur, Wahlberg's Eagle, Gabar and Dark Chanting Goshawks, Shikra and Grasshopper Buzzard to the list.

The next day we headed along rough roads down towards the border with Guinea and the area around Dindefelo situated in the foothills of the Fouta Djallon mountains. From the open Sahel of the north, we had now arrived in the wooded Sudanian-Guinea savannas and as a result there was quite a difference in the avifauna. We started in the darkness and although nightbirds were sadly lacking as the dawn broke the dry bush came alive. Our first gaudy Violet Turacos were seen as well as colourful Bruce's Green Pigeons, marvelously grotesque Bearded Barbets, 'rolling' Blue-bellied Rollers, Klaas's Cuckoo, Fine-spotted Woodpecker, screeching Senegal Parrots, Grey-headed Bushshrike and a flock of confiding White-crested Helmetshrikes.

With all of these new birds we were somewhat later arriving at Dindefelo itself than we had hoped but the walk to one of the cascades that tumble down the high, craggy cliffs was mainly undercover and it was cooler in the shade of the lush vegetation. The area was kept moist by a rushing stream that attracted the washerwomen from the village so that many of the available branches were bedecked with drying laundry! In this place Blackcap and Brown Babblers squabbled from the tangles, we heard Guinea Turacos and watched a male Narina Trogon sitting quietly in the shadows. The recently discovered population at Dindefelo has greenish facial wattles and are thus more likely to be the race brachyurum than the listed constantia, which has large, fleshy yellow wattles. The male Willcock's Honeyguide first discovered for Senegal at Dindefelo by Birdquest in 2019 was also still present and a pair of Dybowski's Twinspots was another great find and a 'write-in!' The change of habitat brought a rush of new birds for the trip and included Blue-spotted Wood Dove, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, African Paradise Flycatcher, African Blue Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Northern Yellow White-eye, African Thrush, White-crowned Robin-Chat, Familiar Chat, Green-headed Sunbird and Black-necked Weaver (sometimes split as Olive-naped Weaver). We stayed until after lunch at a small campement and after lunch a productive stop gave us a pair of Dorst's Cisticola feeding on the ground as well as Moustached Grass Warbler and an 'estrildid-fest' with Magpie Mannikin, Lavender Waxbill, Black-bellied Firefinch, Black-faced Firefinch and miraculously our first Mali Firefinch!

The aim of the following morning our target was to find some more Mali Firefinches and rather than face a steep climb at Dindefelo, we headed for another area where the ascent to the top of the escarpment was more manageable. Bantam-

like Stone Partridges were seen en route but the aim was to reach the area while it was still cool and the firefinches would still be active. The plan worked out well as we found several birds sporting a variety of plumages and everyone enjoyed excellent views. We spent the rest of the morning exploring the area. An angry Pearl-spotted Owl upset the local birds and we saw African Hawk Eagle, Fox Kestrel and our first Gosling's Buntings. The afternoon was spent in some other areas nearer to Kedougou where we were successful in finding Sun Lark and in the late afternoon we lucked upon a pair of Brown-rumped Buntings.

Our time in the Kedougou area was drawing to a close but one last early morning visit to some productive bush added our first Four-banded Sandgrouse, African Golden Oriole, White-shouldered Black Tit, Red-winged Prinia and Exclamatory Paradise Whydah. It was then time to retrace our steps for our next stay at Campement de Wassadou on the edge of Niokolo Koba National Park, a lodge picturesquely placed overlooking the River Gambie. We arrived in time for sundowners and settled in to watch over the river as the day drew to a close.

We had two full days to explore the area around the camp and our activities involved scanning from the watchpoint, walking in the surrounding bush and exploring the river. The small boat only took a few people at a time so we took it in turns to cruise up and down the river during the course of our stay. The birds along the river seemed oblivious to the engine noise which meant that we were able to get up close to the sublime Egyptian Plover and we gained some intimate views of several pairs of these beautifully marked birds. Several African Finfoot were seen both during our mini cruises and from terra firma as did good numbers of the localised Adamawa Turtle Dove. An adult and a juvenile White-backed Night Heron was seen during the boat trips and as was to be expected kingfishers were a feature of the waterways. As well as the commonplace Malachite and Pied Kingfishers we noted Grey-headed, Blue-breasted, Woodland and Giant Kingfishers. Numerous Red-throated Bee-eaters were busy at their nests in the sandy banks of the river and other waterside birds included White-crowned, Spur-winged and African Wattled Lapwings, Hadada Ibis, Striated Heron, Swamp Flycatcher and African Pied Wagtail. Northern Carmine Bee-eaters were seen from the boats in the afternoons and performed 'murmuration' flights over the roost areas at dusk. Some bush walks produced a resident pair of Red-necked Falcon as well as an adult Beaudouin's Snake Eagle, Broad-billed Roller, Greater Honeyguide and Black-rumped and Orange-cheeked Waxbills whilst at night we saw a fantastic little African Scops Owl.

It was a long, fairly uneventful drive back to Kaolack which was enlivened by the sighting of a juvenile Martial Eagle but after lunch we visited a site in order to search out a roosting Verreaux's Eagle-Owl in the sparse trees dotted over vast open flats of the Saloum Delta. A little further on we arrived at a small village where we met up with a boatman who was willing to ferry us across to Kousmar Island in the delta which has become famous as the site that hosts up to 28,000 wintering Lesser Kestrels and 36,000 Scissor-tailed Kites although on the day of our visit far fewer were present. We drove out over the dry mud flats as far as we could until we met the river channel that separated us from the island. The transport across was to be by a rather wobbly, leaky wooden pirogue and the only way of boarding it was to wade through the sticky estuary mud but everyone opted to make the effort and we soon found ourselves on the island and hiked the remaining distance to the roosting trees. We had arrived in good time but it was a little longer before the first Scissor-tailed Kites were spotted as tiny specks high in the skies above us. Gradually more and more were seen wheeling in now joined by some Lesser Kestrels and as the temperature dropped so they began to make their descent until at a given time, with wings folded back the first ones came hurtling down to land in the trees around us. Now that the first had taken this bold step more and more joined until the trees were bedecked by kites. Needless to say, the spectacle was awe-inspiring and really could only be appreciated from the island itself so it seemed totally worthy to have made the crossing. As the light faded, we hiked back to the river where the boat was waiting and made our way back to the minibuses as the sun sank below the horizon. We were rather late reaching our hotel that night but the experience had been totally worthwhile.

Our last two full days in Senegal were spent in the Saloum Delta exploring the waterways and surrounding country on foot and by boat and minibus. Our first boat trip was timed for the morning when a low tide would be in our favour for finding the elusive White-crested Tiger Heron that spends most of its time inside the dense mangrove swamps that line the convoluted waterways of the Saloum Delta. The huge Goliath Heron was found easily although the tiny, warbler-like Mangrove (or Brown) Sunbird was trickier to see but was successfully searched out as we diligently scanned every mangrove root for the heron and our time seemed to be fast running out as the tide rose. Carlos spotted one but sadly it could not be relocated so it was a great relief when a little later Lynn spotted another in a good position perched low down on the mangrove roots. The boatman skillfully manoeuvred the boat and ultimately everyone saw it quite clearly. We simply could not believe our luck! We thought that we had done well but in fact our luck had only just begun because a walk on a nearby island not only produced the hoped for Yellow Penduline Tit showing at close range but also a pair of Bronze-winged Coursers was found. It had certainly been a morning to remember! In the afternoon we visited an area of scrub and flooded pools where we found Yellow-throated Leaflove and everyone got onto a pair of superb Oriole Warblers (another West African specialty).

The rest of our time in the region was spent exploring the surrounding bush country and we managed good views of Variable and Western Violet-backed Sunbirds, Yellow-crowned Gonoleks were at their most obvious, Mosque and West African Swallows were seen and we flushed two Common Buttonquail. An afternoon boat trip visited a small island where large numbers of Great Egrets and Reed Cormorants were coming into roost but no more tiger herons were found.

The final day started as the first day had begun with another Greyish Eagle-Owl in our hotel garden and then it was time to pack and head back to the airport near Dakar. Our West African adventure had finally come to an end and what an

experience it had been! This long road trip had taken us through the Sahel, down into the Sudanian-Guinea savannahs and finished on the wide open Saloum estuary and everywhere, from the fishing market in St Louis to the crowds around the Grand Mosque at Touba we had been fascinated by the colourful street life. We had tasted some great Senegalese cuisine, particularly some fine fish and of course the Chicken Yassa! A variety of boat trips had brought us close-up and personal with a number of amazing species such as the delightful Egyptian Plover and we had seen some of the most iconic of the Sahelian birds including the highly desirable Golden Nightjar, Quail-plover and Cricket Warbler. We had witnessed some spectacular bird behaviour with the enormous coordinated wheeling flocks of wildfowl, queleas and bishops to the grace of the Scissor-tailed Kite roost in the Saloum. Senegal is a West African gem and surely set to become a classic destination. Many thanks to our guide Carlos and the tireless drivers who kept it all together!

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED

### BIRDS

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus*

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

Stone Partridge ◊ *Ptilopachus petrosus*

Double-spurred Spurfowl ◊ (D-s Francolin) *Pternistis bicalcaratus*

Golden Nightjar ◊ *Caprimulgus eximius*

Long-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus climacurus*

Standard-winged Nightjar ◊ *Caprimulgus longipennis*

Mottled Spinetail *Telacanthura ussheri*

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* Presumably this species but views distant.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Horus Swift *Apus horus*

Western Plantain-eater (W Grey P-e) *Crinifer piscator*

Violet Turaco ◊ *Tauraco violaceus*

Guinea Turaco (Green T) *Tauraco persa* Heard only

Arabian Bustard ◊ *Ardeotis arabs*

Savile's Bustard ◊ *Lophotis savilei*

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus*

Four-banded Sandgrouse ◊ *Pterocles quadricinctus*

Rock Dove *Columba livia* Domestic birds only  
Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*  
European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*  
Adamawa Turtle Dove ◊ *Streptopelia hypopyrrha*  
African Collared Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea*  
Mourning Collared Dove (African M D) *Streptopelia decipiens*  
Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*  
Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea*  
Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*  
Black-billed Wood Dove *Turtur abyssinicus*  
Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer*  
Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*  
Bruce's Green Pigeon ◊ *Treron waalia*  
African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis*  
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*  
Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni*  
African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis*  
Black Crake *Zapornia flavirostra*  
Black Crowned Crane *Balearica pavonina*  
Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*  
Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*  
Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*  
Common Buttonquail *Turnix sylvaticus*  
Quail-plover ◊ *Ortyxelos meiffrenii*  
Eurasian Stone-curlew (E Thick-knee) *Burhinus oedicephalus*  
Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis*  
Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*  
Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*  
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*  
Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*  
Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*  
Black-headed Lapwing *Vanellus tectus*  
White-crowned Lapwing (W-headed L) *Vanellus albiceps*  
African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus*  
Grey Plover (Black-bellied P) *Pluvialis squatarola*  
Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*  
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*  
Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*  
Egyptian Plover ◊ *Pluvianus aegyptius*  
Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*  
African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*  
Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*  
Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*  
Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*  
Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*  
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*  
Ruff *Calidris pugnax*  
Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*  
Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* Non-leader.  
Sanderling *Calidris alba*  
Dunlin *Calidris alpina*  
Little Stint *Calidris minuta*  
Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*  
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*  
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*  
Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*  
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*  
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*  
Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*  
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*  
Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii*  
Bronze-winged Courser ◊ (Violet-tipped C) *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus*  
Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*  
Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*  
Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*  
Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*  
Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*  
Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*  
Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*  
Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*  
West African Crested Tern ◊ (A Royal Tern) *Thalasseus albididorsalis*  
Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*  
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*  
Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*  
Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*



White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* Non-leader  
Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*  
African Darter *Anhinga rufa*  
Reed Cormorant (Long-tailed C) *Microcarbo africanus*  
White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus*  
African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*  
Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*  
Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*  
Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*  
African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*  
White-crested Tiger Heron ◊ *Tigriornis leucolopha*  
White-backed Night Heron ◊ *Gorsachius leuconotus*  
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*  
Striated Heron (Green-backed H) *Butorides striata*  
Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*  
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*  
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*  
Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*  
Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*  
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*  
Great Egret *Ardea alba*  
Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*  
Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca*  
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*  
Western Reef Heron (W R Egret) *Egretta gularis*  
Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*  
Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*  
Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*  
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*  
Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*  
Scissor-tailed Kite ◊ (African Swallow-t K) *Chelictinia riocourii*  
African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus*  
Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*  
Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*  
White-backed Vulture (African W-b V) *Gyps africanus*  
Rüppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppelli*  
Griffon Vulture (Eurasian G V) *Gyps fulvus*  
Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos*

Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*  
Beaudouin's Snake Eagle ◊ *Circaetus beaudouini*  
Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*  
Western Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens*  
Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*  
Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*  
Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraetus wahlbergi*  
Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus*  
Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*  
African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster*  
Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*  
Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*  
Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*  
Shikra *Accipiter badius*  
Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*  
Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*  
Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*  
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*  
Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius*  
African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*  
Grasshopper Buzzard ◊ *Butastur rufipennis*  
Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba*  
Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*  
African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis*  
Northern White-faced Owl *Ptilopsis leucotis*  
Greyish Eagle-Owl *Bubo cinerascens*  
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Bubo lacteus*  
Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*  
Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina*  
Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*  
Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa [epops] senegalensis*  
Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*  
Abyssinian Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus*  
Western Red-billed Hornbill ◊ *Tockus kempfi*  
African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus*  
Purple Roller (Rufous-crowned R) *Coracias naevius*  
Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus*  
Blue-bellied Roller ◊ *Coracias cyanogaster*

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*  
Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*  
Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*  
Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica*  
Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*  
Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus*  
Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*  
Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*  
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus*  
Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*  
Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bulocki*  
African Green Bee-eater ◊ (Little G b-e) *Merops viridissimus*  
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*  
European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*  
Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus*  
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*  
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*  
Vieillot's Barbet ◊ *Lybius vieilloti*  
Bearded Barbet ◊ *Lybius dubius*  
Willcocks's Honeyguide ◊ *Indicator willcocksii*  
Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*  
Fine-spotted Woodpecker ◊ *Campethera punctuligera*  
Little Grey Woodpecker ◊ (Sahelian W) *Dendropicos elachus*  
African Grey Woodpecker (Grey W) *Dendropicos goertae*  
Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*  
Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*  
Fox Kestrel ◊ *Falco alopex*  
Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*  
Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*  
Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*  
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*  
Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus*  
Rose-ringed Parakeet (Ring-necked P) *Psittacula krameri*  
Senegal Batis *Batis senegalensis*  
Brown-throated Wattle-eye (Common W-e) *Platysteira cyanea*  
Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*  
Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*  
Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*

Yellow-crowned Gonolek ◊ *Laniarius barbarus*

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

White-crested Helmetshrike (White H) *Prionops plumatus*

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea*

Yellow-billed Shrike *Corvinella corvina*

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus*

Glossy-backed Drongo *Dicrurus divaricatus*

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

Piapiac *Ptilostomus afer*

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*

White-shouldered Black Tit *Melaniparus guineensis*

Sennar Penduline Tit ◊ *Anthoscopus punctifrons*

Yellow Penduline Tit ◊ *Anthoscopus parvulus*

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis*

Singing Bush Lark *Mirafra cantillans*

Sun Lark ◊ *Galerida modesta*

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

Yellow-throated Leaflove *Atimastillas flavicollis*

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

Sand Martin (Common S M, Bank Swallow) *Riparia riparia*

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Red-chested Swallow *Hirundo lucida*

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*

West African Swallow ◊ *Cecropis domicella*

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis*

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Iberian Chiffchaff ◊ *Phylloscopus ibericus*

Greater Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus rufescens*

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* Possibility of 'African' Reed Warbler not eliminated.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*  
 Western Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna opaca*  
 Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*  
 Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*  
 Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus*  
 Dorst's Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola guinea*  
 Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*  
 Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus*  
 Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*  
 River Prinia ◊ *Prinia fluviatilis*  
 Red-winged Prinia (R-w Warbler) *Prinia erythroptera*  
 Cricket Warbler ◊ *Spiloptila clamans*  
 Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*  
 Oriole Warbler ◊ *Hypergerus atriceps*  
 Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata*  
 Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis*  
 Senegal Eremomela *Eremomela pusilla*  
 Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*  
 Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* Non-leader 1 at Wassadou.  
 Western Orphean Warbler *Curruca hortensis*  
 Western Subalpine Warbler *Curruca iberiae*  
 Common Whitethroat *Curruca communis*  
 Northern Yellow White-eye (African Y W) *Zosterops senegalensis*  
 Fulvous Babbler ◊ *Argya fulva*  
 Brown Babbler *Turdoides plebejus*  
 Blackcap Babbler *Turdoides reinwardtii*  
 Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*  
 Lesser Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus*  
 Bronze-tailed Starling (B-t Glossy S) *Lamprotornis chalcurus*  
 Purple Starling (P Glossy S) *Lamprotornis purpureus*  
 Long-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis caudatus*  
 Chestnut-bellied Starling ◊ *Lamprotornis pulcher*  
 Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*  
 African Thrush *Turdus pelios*  
 Black Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas podobe*  
 Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin (African S R) *Cercotrichas [galactotes] minor*  
 Grey Tit-Flycatcher (Lead-coloured F) *Myioparus plumbeus*  
 Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edoloides*

Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica*  
White-crowned Robin-Chat ◊ *Cossypha albicapillus*  
European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*  
Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*  
African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*  
Anteater Chat (Northern A C) *Myrmecocichla aethiops*  
Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*  
Familiar Chat *Oenanthe familiaris*  
Mangrove Sunbird (Brown S) *Anthreptes gabonicus*  
Western Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes longuemarei*  
Pygmy Sunbird ◊ *Hedydipna platura*  
Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis*  
Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis*  
Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus*  
Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus*  
Sahel Bush Sparrow (Bush Petronia) *Gymnoris dentata*  
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*  
House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus*  
Sudan Golden Sparrow ◊ *Passer luteus*  
White-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis albirostris*  
Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis*  
Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus*  
Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*  
Heuglin's Masked Weaver ◊ *Ploceus heuglini*  
Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*  
Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*  
Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus*  
Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*  
Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*  
Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullata*  
Magpie Mannikin *Spermestes fringilloides*  
African Silverbill (Warbling S) *Euodice cantans*  
Lavender Waxbill ◊ *Glaucostrelda caerulescens*  
Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda*  
Black-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda troglodytes*  
Quailfinch *Ortygospiza atricollis*  
Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata*  
Orange-breasted Waxbill (Zebra W) *Amandava subflava*

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*  
Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba*  
Dybowski's Twinspot *Euschistospiza dybowskii*  
Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*  
Mali Firefinch ◊ (Kulikoro F) *Lagonosticta virata*  
Black-bellied Firefinch ◊ *Lagonosticta rara*  
Black-faced Firefinch ◊ *Lagonosticta [larvata] vinacea*  
Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata*  
Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*  
Sahel Paradise Whydah ◊ *Vidua orientalis*  
Exclamatory Paradise Whydah ◊ *Vidua interjecta*  
Western Yellow Wagtail (Yellow W) *Motacilla [flava] flavissima*  
Western Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] flava*  
Western Yellow Wagtail (Spanish W) *Motacilla [flava] iberiae*  
White Wagtail *Motacilla [alba] alba*  
African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*  
Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*  
White-rumped Seedeater ◊ *Crithagra leucopygia*  
Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica*  
Gosling's Bunting ◊ *Emberiza goslingi*  
Brown-rumped Bunting ◊ *Emberiza affinis*

#### MAMMALS

Common Rock Hyrax *Procavia capensis*  
Marsh Mongoose *Atilax paludinosus*  
Gambian Mongoose *Mungos gambianus*  
Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo*  
African Golden Wolf *Canis lupaster*  
Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*  
Red-flanked Duiker *Cephalophus rufilatus*  
Waterbuck (Defassa W) *Kobus [ellipsiprymnus] defassa*  
Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus*  
Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius*  
African Straw-coloured Fruit-bat *Eidolon helvum*  
Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat *Epomophorus gambianus*  
Northern Lesser Galago (Lesser Bushbaby) *Galago senegalensis*  
Green Monkey (Callithrix M) *Chlorocebus sabaeus*  
Patas Monkey *Erythrocebus patas*

Guinea Baboon *Papio papio*

West African Red Colobus *Piliocolobus badius*

African Savanna Hare *Lepus victoriae*

Gambian Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus gambianus*

Striped Ground Squirrel (Geoffrey's G S) *Xerus erythropus*

African Grass Rat (Unstriped G R) *Arvicanthis niloticus*



Yellow-crowned Gonolek (image by Nik Borrow)



Yellow Penduline Tit (image by Nik Borrow)





*White-crested Tiger Heron (image by Nik Borrow)*



*White-crested Helmetshrike (image by Nik Borrow)*



*West African Crested Tern (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Wassadou at sunset (image by Nik Borrow)*



*African Scissor-tailed Kite (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Sennar Penduline Tit (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Sunset over Kedougou (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Temminck's Courser (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Vieillot's Barbet (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Violet Turaco (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Savile's Bustard (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Saloum sunset (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Sahel Paradise Whydah (image by Nik Borrow)*



*River Prinia (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Red-throated Bee-eater (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Quail-plover (image by Nik Borrow)*





*Northern White-faced Owl (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Northern Carmine Bee-eater (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Great White Pelican (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Greater Painted Snipe (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Oriole Warbler (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Grey-headed Kingfisher (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Osprey (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Watching the enigmatic Quail-plover (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Patas Monkey (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Little Grey Woodpecker (image by Nik Borrow)*



*male Pygmy Sunbird (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Mali Firefinch (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Goliath Heron (image by Nik Borrow)*



*African Scops Owl (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Common Warthog (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Cricket Warbler (image by Nik Borrow)*





*Adamawa Turtle Dove (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Golden Nightjar (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Giant Kingfisher (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Cattle drinking at Nema Ba (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Bronze-winged Courser (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Fulvous Babbler (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Egyptian Plover (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Blue-naked Mousebird (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Blue-breasted Kingfisher (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Crossing to Kousmar Island (image by Nik Borrow)*