



SENEGAL TOUR REPORT 2026

29 January - 14 February 2026

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Our tenth Senegal 'only' tour (earlier tours combining with either The Gambia or Cape Verde) was definitely one of the most successful ones we've ran, with an astonishing amount of high-quality birds and a total of 345 species! It builds further on the foundation of Senegal as thé premier West African birding destination, especially for those wanting 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 the sun. 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 close-up views. We headed up to the northern border of the country with Mauritania for the Golden Nightjar, where we found up to two birds roosting in the daylight, allowing for amazing close-up 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 relatively 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. We also had a great time here with large flocks of Black Crowned Cranes and an innumerable amount of Sand Martins. The unassuming River Prinia, colourful Allen's Gallinule and secretive Savile's Bustard were also found whilst in the area, as well as the rare Lesser Jacana, of which we found at least three (possibly four)! Further south, the tiny Quail-plover rose up from under our feet after about an hour searching and we were able to relocate it multiple times, allowing prolonged, walk-away views. We visited the incredible Scissor-tailed Kite roost on Kousmar Island near Kaolack, one of nature's magic moments. In the south-east of the country, we easily found Mali Firefinches and Neumann's Starlings, with other highlights being a nice male Exclamatory Paradise Whydah, a surprise African Cuckoo-Hawk and a fine supporting cast in the area

included Fox Kestrel, Sun Lark, White-shouldered Black-Tit, Black-faced Firefinches and Four-banded Sandgrouse. A stay at Wassadou along the Gambie River on the edge of Niokolo Koba National Park allowed fine views of the sublime Egyptian Plover as well as Adamawa Turtle Dove, the bizarre Oriole Warbler and African Finfoot. A few of us were lucky enough to see Red-winged Pytilias, but the definitive highlight here was our encounter with the stunningly massive Pel's Fishing Owl. We then continued to the Saloum Delta where we had a breeze finding several superb White-crested Tiger Herons. Other notable or restricted range species seen during our amazing tour included; Marbled Duck, Stone Partridge, Double-spurred Spurrow, Standard-winged Nightjar, Violet Turaco, Bruce's Green Pigeon, Beaudouin's Snake Eagle, Grasshopper Buzzard, Western Red-billed Hornbill, Blue-bellied Roller, African Green Bee-eater, Vieillot's and Bearded Barbets, Fine-spotted and the rare Golden-tailed Woodpecker, Yellow-crowned Gonolek, African Red-rumped Swallow, Fulvous Babbler, Chestnut-bellied Starling, White-crowned Robin-Chat, Atlas Wheatear, Mocking Cliff Chat, Pygmy Sunbird, Sudan Golden Sparrow, Lavender Waxbill, Sahel Paradise Whydah, White-rumped Seedeater and Gosling's Bunting.

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. We were off to Podor early the following morning. We would stay there for two nights, plenty of time to find the northern specialities! It was a long drive, but we made the most out of it. 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 are certainly fascinating to watch and there is always something to look at 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 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 and Pied Crows. It didn't take long before we found our first large gather of vultures, feeding on the frequent roadside casualties. We stopped and we watched a real wake of vultures, that included Hooded, Lappet-faced, White-backed, Rüppell's and Griffon Vultures, still their hunger. During one of our leg-stretch stops, some initial birding was done and we connected with our first Senegal and Yellow-bellied Eremomela's, Northern Crombecs and found a nice Speckle-fronted Weaver. White-rumped Seedeaters were another nice addition to our list as they can be a bit erratic. 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. However, we did stop for a delicious fish lunch at a hotel by the banks of the Senegal River in the historic town of Richard Toll and gazed over the river to get a few species onto our Mauritanian list! 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 the diminutive Sennar Penduline Tit was quickly discovered, which was a nice Sahel species stricken of our target list. Another species made it of this list very quickly too, because we had great views of a nice male Little Grey Woodpecker! Large flocks of small birds in this region often proved to be Sudan Golden Sparrows which held many decently plumaged male birds. Another nice roadside encounter was a flock of Yellow-billed Oxpeckers, accompanying a sad-looking donkey. Senegal is a wintering ground for a number of Palearctic migrants and in particular featured Western Bonelli's, Western Olivaceous, Western Orphean and Western Subalpine Warblers all of which were seen whilst birding the far north. From here we completed the drive to Podor and went straight to look for our main quarry: the Golden Nightjar. We walked around in the scrub and were really pleased to find at least two Golden Nightjars roosting and this allowed for amazing views during the daytime. As it had been a long day and we didn't want to disturb any feeding nightjars, we left when it became dark, very content with such a strong start!

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. We started our birding in the nearby forest and soon located a nice female Little Grey Woodpecker, several African Grey Woodpeckers, Striped Kingfishers, Green Wood Hoopoes and a nice pair of Black Scimitarbills. It didn't take us long to find our next target, the delightful Cricket Warbler, and we had close views of several birds as they foraged in the sparse vegetation wiggling their long tails. However, it took us longer to locate a family group of Fulvous Babblers, but they did put in an appearance as they ran and flew towards us, low to the ground on stiff, whirring wings and happily flaunted themselves in front of us. The characterful Black Scrub Robin flaunted itself but rarely allowed very close approach. Several senator Woodchat Shrikes and Great Grey Shrikes were dotted around and we saw our first African Collared Doves. Other goodies included great views of Black-crowned Sparrow-Larks, many Northern Grey-headed Sparrows, a few Fork-tailed Drongos amongst the branches, our first Dark Chanting Goshawk perched atop the acacias and a nice male Atlas Wheatear. Nearby, we visited a site where Horus Swifts have been found breeding. We were pleased to find them still at home alongside Little Swifts in the cliffs overhanging the river where attractive African Green, Red-throated and Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters also put up a good show. After lunch, we birded a nearby system of irrigated fields with plenty of birds to see. Our first Hamerkops, Spur-winged Lapwings, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Northern Red Bishops, Red-billed Quelia, Brubru, great views of Kittlitz's Plovers with chicks, a

nice pair of beautiful Yellow-crowned Gonoleks, many herons and wildfowl including wild Egyptian Geese. We returned after sunset and enjoyed a great dinner before turning in.

After our stay at Podor we headed back westwards and our morning birding in the Richard Toll area produced a daytime roost of up to 11 Long-tailed Nightjars, several Spotted and Senegal Thick-knees, whilst African Green Bee-eaters kept flicking in and out of the bushes. Out on the sandy wastes we found small numbers of Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse and after quite some search, a nice breeding pair of Temminck's Coursers put on a great show. Luckily, we made a stop to check that raptor, which turned out to be a Short-toed Snake Eagle! We also added Anteater Chat, Chestnut-back Sparrowlark and Crested Lark to our list. After a great morning we celebrated with another superb fish lunch at Richard Toll before continuing westwards. In the afternoon we made our first visit to the Trois Marigots on the outskirts of St Louis. Our aim was to find Savile's Bustard which appears to be common in the area but habitat loss is threatening the ease with which they can be found. We tracked down a nice male first, which was a bit wary and shy, but gave away great views and only moments later, we found a female that allowed us to get really close while she was calmly foraging amongst the bushes. Never before did I have such views of this normally quite elusive Sahel speciality! We continued to look for the actual water of the marigots. 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 Prinia; 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. Winding Cisticola didn't take long to find, but soon we were distracted by the other avifauna. Greater Swamp Warblers making their guttural cries, skulked in the reeds but allowed views whilst Black Crakes scattered everywhere, Western Yellow Wagtails and African Swamphens were common, whilst a very nice surprise discovery were the three Lesser Jacanas that were actively foraging amongst the lily pads. They gave amazing views and were a serious distraction from the Allen's Gallinules that were giving away great views whilst they were feeding in the reed edge. We came across a large flock of resting Collared Pratincoles, with several Senegal Thick-knees, Spur-winged and African Wattled Lapwings hiding behind them. A single Whiskered Tern was flapping above the marshland, with Little Bee-eaters grabbing insects from perches throughout the marigots area. Senegal Coucals were coucalling everywhere from within the reed. We enjoyed a beautiful sunset and then were on our way to our nice accommodation near the Djoudj.

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 pelicans filled the distant skies along with Greater and Lesser Flamingos, Spur-winged Geese, herons, storks, ibises and wildfowl that included vast numbers of White-faced Whistling Duck mixed with smaller numbers of Fulvous Whistling Ducks. Stilts and sandpipers were present too, with Marsh Sandpipers showing well. Mammals featured here too, with Warthogs running around everywhere, and we would see a pair of African Golden Wolves at the end of the day too! We drove across the barren flats, looking for Arabian Bustard. Sadly, we found no trace of this species, but had a great time at the lake's edge, enjoying the enormous rafts of Palearctic migrant Garganey, Northern Shoveler and Northern Pintail, as well as the whistling ducks again. Yellow-billed Storks were seen flying overhead and we found at least seven Marbled Teal in amongst the other ducks. Ospreys and Western Marsh Harriers caused the odd scare here and there, resulting in whirlwinds of wildfowl taking off. Black Crowned Cranes made a nice appearance as several family groups flew over to the inner parts of the park. We found a few flocks of Orange-breasted Waxbills here too. 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. The wind did blow from the right direction this year, so it wasn't as suffocating as it can be! 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 Darters and Reed and Great Cormorants whilst Whiskered and Caspian Terns followed our boat. We added several other key birds here, including African Spoonbill next to the boat, Knob-billed Ducks and a better view of Spur-winged Goose. Two Black Storks flying overhead were a nice bonus. A single African Stonechat flew across the river and would be our only sighting of this normally common species. In the afternoon, we drove across the flats again, but didn't add much new in the form of new species. A Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin, of the local resident subspecies *minor* was found, while we flushed several Common Quail during our hunt for Arabian Bustard. Content, although a bit saddened by our miss of Arabian Bustard, we returned to our lodge.

We spent the following 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 whilst we checked every bird to find perhaps something rare. 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. Slender-billed and Grey-headed Gulls were plentiful as they breed in the nearby Langue de Barbarie National Park. From the beach itself, we added a fly-by Lesser Crested Tern but no gannets this year. Some post-lunch birding in the garden resulted in nice views of Senegal Batis and a large number of Vieillot's Barbets! In the afternoon, we went back to Trois Marigots. We didn't add much but still enjoyed the large number of birds here. However, it remains a great area for some afternoon birding, enjoying the large numbers of birds and variety of species here. A resting Double-spurred Spurfowl posed well for a picture or two and a Malachite Kingfisher was a nice addition to our list. Upon our return, we enjoyed a pair of Western Barn Owls that gave away quite a show.

The time had come to relocate to a different part of the country but today's travel day was a highly anticipated event. Due to a presidential visit to Kedougou and subsequently our reservations being cancelled, we had to change our itinerary a bit, but we would visit Kousmar Island today. During the course of the morning, we traversed many miles through prime territory for vultures and came across a few small gatherings. One encounter was particularly memorable where roadkill was attracting the vultures right onto the road, whilst a dog was trying to get a piece of meat as well. Quite a spectacle with the incoming traffic trying to avoid the large-winged creatures. We added more Double-spurred Spurfowl to the list en route, but didn't have much time for stops as we needed to cover quite some ground. A short stop for nice views of Pearl-spotted Owlets was appreciated. We reached Touba by midday, but due to several holy events, it was very, very busy. We decided to cut around, but it still took some time. However, lunch was nearby and a good break before we made our way across to Kousmar Island. 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 has hosted up to 28,000 wintering Lesser Kestrels and 36,000 Scissor-tailed Kites. 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 wooden pirogue and with a bit of effort we soon found ourselves on the island and squelched the remaining distance to the roosting trees. We had arrived in good time, which allowed us to be distracted for a while, where some saw another African Collared Dove, there were a few Bleating Camaroptera and Common Whitethroats, but four roosting Northern White-faced Owls stole the show for sure! It was a little longer longer before the first Scissor-tailed Kites were spotted as tiny, white specks high in the skies above us. Some Lesser Kestrels came in first and gradually more and more kites were seen wheeling in and as the temperature dropped so did the birds. They began to make their descent, with wings folded back, 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 was totally worth it 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.

We made our way from Kaolack to our next destination, as we would spend some days in the Saloum Delta exploring the waterways and surrounding country on foot and by boat and minibus. First, however, it was time to find another one of our main birds. It was a highly anticipated event for it was going to be our only real chance to find the truly enigmatic Quail-plover. It was nice to try for this bird in the morning for a change, as we normally had to go during the blistering heat of midday. We now set off in search for the proverbial needle in the haystack in rather cool overcast weather. Our quarry is a 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 walked for about half an hour at a new site and soon flushed a few birds. First, we flushed quite a few Common Buttonquails, but then we found the real deal. At least two birds flew up from underneath our feet, something like a cross between a butterfly, grasshopper, a lark and a quail, settling nearby. It took quite a bit more time to find a cooperative one,, but we ended up with point-blank views of this peculiar little bird. We birded a bit more in the area, with nice views of Red-necked Falcon, Singing Bush Lark and Desert Cisticola. Some of us also flushed a Savile's Bustard and we could hear a few birds singing in the area as well. Onwards we went, as we still had some ground to cover and had planned a short detour. This was because we knew of a roosting Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, that showed itself really well. A nice bonus was that we also ran into a family group of three Abyssinian Ground Hornbills! Parading around and even taking flight to perch in a dead

tree; they were really showing off. Another highlight was our first male Pygmy Sunbird just above the vans. It turned out, we would see plenty more..! After a nice lunch at our new hotel in Toubacouta, we gathered for our first boat ride. One of the gardeners was kind enough to tip us off on a roosting Greyish Eagle-Owl, so we obviously delayed departure for a bit! There were quite some birds mobbing the sleeping great owl, and we added Northern Puffback and Black-rumped Waxbill to our list. There were plenty of Red-billed Firefinches, Red-cheeked Cordon-blues, Village Indigobirds and Village Weavers foraging around and a flock of Bronze Mannikins flew past. Yellow-crowned Gonoleks showed well, but then we dragged ourselves away to get on the boat. was timed for the afternoon when a falling tide would be in our favour for finding the elusive White-crested Tiger Heron; a species 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, as was the White-crested Tiger Heron this year. It didn't take us very long to find our first one, but it was a bit obscured for photographs. The second one showed itself a lot more out in the open, as it was perched right in the top of the mangrove trees! Much more difficult was the small, mouse-sized Mangrove (or Brown) Sunbird but eventually we all managed to obtain good views. We continued the boat trip further upriver to look for West African Crested Terns, but sadly had to make due with Caspian, Gull-billed and Whiskered Terns. A nice mammal surprise was a foraging Marsh Mongoose at the water's edge. A pair of Palm-nut Vultures flying over was what sounded in the end of another great birding day.

The following morning, we would start with another boat trip. The channels were teeming with roosting Black Kites and a few Wire-tailed Swallows were flying by. A surprise encounter with a male African Finfoot was the better start of a day's birding and we soon followed up with better views of the Mangrove Sunbird. Another White-crested Tiger Heron was yet another surprise, as it flew across the channel and disappeared back into the mangroves. A few waders including Grey Plover and Eurasian Whimbrel later and we arrived at Sipo Island for some land-based birding. It would be a great morning session, starting off with some showy Yellow-fronted Canaries, a pair of Olive-naped Weavers, a migrant Melodious Warbler and a write-in for this well-established tour in the form of a Golden-tailed Woodpecker! After enjoying the woodpecker, we birded a bit more, adding Fine-spotted Woodpecker, a male Western Violet-backed Sunbird, Blackcap and Brown Babblers and then returned back to the hotel for lunch. After lunch, we birded various parts of Sandicoly, which resulted in great views of Bearded Barbets, White-crowned Robin-Chats, another Fine-spotted Woodpecker, a few Grey Kestrels and a Lanner Falcon. Between the Black Crakes and African Jacana's, we didn't find anything rare, but did have our first Hadada Ibis and another Black Stork flying over. The final bit of birding required us to chase away the local troop of Guinea Baboons, but it was well worth the effort as we saw several Lesser and Greater Honeyguides, some of us managed to see Oriole Warbler and all of us ultimately obtained great views of Yellow-gorgeted Greenbul! Another mega surprise was sadly only for a few of the group, as the Dwarf Bittern found by Abdou only showed itself twice, and rather briefly. We turned in for the night, but not before we took another look at the roosting Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bats that were back above the bar this year.

We would dedicate today to finding one of the trickiest species of this tour; the Yellow Penduline Tit. For this purpose, we started off early and would focus our birding on Sangako Forest. Right from the start, we started to run into great birds, with an African Golden Oriole kicking things off. A perched Lizard Buzzard was a nice first for the trip and the Lesser Blue-eared Starlings started to show up in force as well. A male Variable Sunbird showed itself very well, while Lavender Waxbills perched right next to it, in beautiful sunlight! A quick stop was made to check a large raptor that was found hidden amongst the treetops. It turned out to be our first Martial Eagle for the trip, but we would see a few more later on. Luckily, because this one flew off quite before everyone laid eyes on it. It was then that we had to put in some work, walking quite some miles with little to distract us at first, apart from a Tree Pipit. We then ran into a nice band of White-crested Helmetshrikes, showing off their namesake crests and their typical sounds. Another male Greater Honeyguide was added to our tally and then we found a single Yellow Penduline Tit! It gave away great but brief views and at least the pressure was off! We returned back to the vans for some more exploration, locating a nice African Paradise Flycatcher and a perched Grasshopper Buzzard. At one of the archetypical haunts for the species, we did indeed find a large flock of Quailfinch spread out across the plains, while a Wahlberg's Eagle was flying overhead. A forced lunch and siesta break was much appreciated by all, but we were back out there at midday, trying to find a few more goodies. We soon ran into a migrant male Eurasian Blackcap, kept seeing large numbers of Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters and Mosque Swallows in the sky, but were much pleased when after a long day of birding we found more Yellow Penduline Tits; a small flock of four this time! With that, it was day's end and we returned for our final night in Toubacouta.

It was time to continue our journey 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 had several stops planned to add a few more target species to our list en route. A detour was made to obtain point-blank views of a breeding pair of Bronze-winged Coursers first, which was a very nice bonus for the tour! A Montagu's Harrier was haunting the same grounds, but the Rufous-tailed Scrub Robins didn't seem to care much. We then made

our way to a water hole, which had already dried up this time around. This meant we had to work a bit harder to locate our quarry, but after a short while, a nice male Sahel Paradise Whydah came flying by, perched for a bit and allowed for scope views, while all rejoiced. Cut-throat Finches were noted here too, a species that seemed to be in quite low numbers this year. We added quite a few more raptors during the drive, with a trip tick in the form of a Black-winged Kite, but we also noted a few Brown Snake Eagles, African Harrier-Hawks and a few more Dark Chanting Goshawks. In the evening, we reached the entrance to Wassadou, where we had a great show from the local Stone Partridges. Once we reached the camp, we quickly settled at the watchpoint. We saw an African Finfoot swim across the Gambia River, an Egyptian Plover flew by, but we could not locate any White-backed Night Herons this year. We enjoyed our first group of Upper Guinea Red Colobus and met the cheeky Green Monkeys here. There were also no Hippos present this year, sadly, and rumour had it they moved to the nearby airport. Normally, these species would already make quite a great birding list, but we still had some owling to do! We started off with a try for Pel's Fishing Owl, as we understood a pair was frequenting the area, but no luck for us. We continued onwards and drove a bit with the van, away from the camp, where we soon located a showy African Scops Owl. Another weird encounter was an African Hawk-Eagle that lay in the middle of the road, fast asleep. Sadly, it was probably the victim of poisoning, but we managed to coach it off the road and hopefully it would recover after a good night sleep. We tried to find bushbabies, but failed to do so. However, when we returned to camp, we were greeted by an almost infrasound hooting; a very low bass. That could only mean one thing! Trying to keep a lid on our excitement we returned to the same spot and luckily it didn't take long before we were all looking at a massive, beautiful Pel's Fishing Owl! It stayed for a while, allowing for a few photos, but then flew off, cruised right above our heads to the other side of the river. What a great ending to a stellar day's travel and birding!

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 a number of pairs of these beautifully marked birds. Several African Finfoot were seen both during our mini cruises and from terra firma as were small numbers of the localised Adamawa Turtle Dove. As was to be expected kingfishers were a feature of the waterways and as well as the commonplace Malachite and Pied Kingfishers we noted Grey-headed, Blue-breasted 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 & European Pied Flycatcher, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Violet Turaco, a large flock of Helmeted Guineafowl and African Pied Wagtail. Another cool sighting was that of a Black-necked Spitting Cobra that was at least 1.5 metres long! Bush walks produced Cardinal and Fine-spotted Woodpecker, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Red-winged Pytilia, Black-faced Firefinch, Black-rumped Waxbill, Grey Tit-Flycatcher, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, Singing Cisticola, . Northern Carmine Bee-eaters were seen from the boats in the afternoons and performed 'murmuration' flights over the roost areas at dusk. Some were lucky enough to see a Red-flanked Duiker as well, while everyone did get to see a few shy Northern Bushbuck.

The next day the drive was even longer as we headed to Kedougou in the far south-east of the country. Before we left, we did some more birding at the park's entrance, resulting in great views of Oriole Warblers and a large band of Banded Mongooses (or Mongeese, if so preferred). We spent most of the morning driving through the enormous Niokolo Koba National Park to reach Kedougou. It is not allowed to stop and birdwatch in the park without a permit but on the way we still saw quite a few birds, including several Hooded Vultures, a handful of Bateleurs, another Brown Snake Eagle and at the exit of the park we found another target bird: Beaudouin's Snake Eagle. After a quick lunch at our new hotel, we went out again, as we did have a bit less time here this year due to the aforementioned presidential visit. However, it turned that we didn't need more time anyway as we soon managed to locate the range-restricted Sun Lark. The main goal, however, was finding the enigmatic Mali Firefinch. We trailed the area, where tour leader and friend of the show Mark Van Beirs had seen them recently, but to no avail. We did find a few Zitting Cisticola, which were also not the hoped-for Dorst's Cisticola. A perched and singing Gosling's Bunting was a nice addition to our ever-growing tour list. We all climbed back on board the minivans to relocate, but that is when the firefinches decided to show themselves. A nice male had flown up on a single branch of grass right in front of our windscreen! A quick regrouping was necessary and ultimately we all had amazing views of a small flock of Mali Firefinches. Bingo! A short drive later and we were back birding, this time at a rocky outcrop, where we first ran into another flock of beautiful White-crested Helmetshrikes, but then also located a family group of Mocking Cliff Chats. They showed well through the scope and were a nice distraction while we waited for the main star of the show to appear. It didn't take that long and this year we found a total of at least 17 Neumann's Starlings! A fly-by Fox Kestrel was most welcome, before we headed back. We made a final stop to find a small flock of Four-banded Sandgrouse coming in for a nightcap and then it was time to call it a day.

Early next morning, we headed along rough roads down towards the border with Guinea and the area around Dindéfelo 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 early and as the dawn broke, the dry bush came alive. We did stop for much as we wanted to spend as much time in the forest as possible. We prepared for the 1.5 km walk to the cascades that tumble down the high, craggy cliffs. The walk was mainly completed undercover and it was refreshingly cooler in the shade of the lush vegetation. The area was kept moist by a rushing stream that often attracts the washerwomen from the village so that many of the available branches were bedecked with drying laundry but today they were mostly absent. In this place Blackcap and Brown Babblers squabbled from the tangles, with a Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat foraging on the floor, and thirsty birds came to forage finding relief from the hot sun. The change of habitat brought a rush of new birds for the trip and included the stunning Guinea Turaco, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, African Paradise Flycatcher, African Blue Flycatcher, Red-winged Prinia, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Northern Yellow White-eye, African Thrush, Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat, Familiar Chat, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Lavender Waxbill, Scarlet-chested and Green-headed Sunbird and Olive-naped Weavers. The Willcock's Honeyguide was not home during our visit and we only ID-ed a Heuglin's Masked Weaver from photos after the fact. Inside the forest we ran into an African Pygmy Kingfisher, which was a nice bonus bird. At the end of the track we enjoyed the beautiful waterfall and some managed to obtain views of a few Red-throated Rock Martins flying above the fall. A Blue-spotted Wood Dove showed itself quite well and we managed to track down an obliging Narina Trogon. The definitive highlight here was finding a small flock of Dybowski's Twinspots that were returning to a small pool for some water. It was difficult to get good views, but any view with such a mega bird does well! We stayed until after lunch at a small campement and afterwards we made our way slowly back to the accommodation, with some birding here and there. A Martial Eagle was waiting for us at the outskirts of the village, showing rather well. We added Pin-tailed Whydah to our list and a few Northern Carmine Bee-eaters graced the sky, but not much else of note was seen.

Our final morning of birding in the Kedougou area turned out to be a very good one indeed. It started off with a few nicely perched Bruce's Green Pigeons, but before everyone had fully woken from their sleep, we ran into a raptor that threw us a curve ball at first. However, we soon realized what it was, and we had great views of a hunting African Cuckoo-Hawk! Another write-in for the tour. We soon found a very nice flock of birds after that, which included Black-faced Firefinches, a small flock of Red-winged Prinias, several nice White-shouldered Black Tits, Northern Black Flycatchers, another surprise in the form of a nice male Exclamatory Paradise Whydah with streamers still attached! We did not see a single trace of Dorst's Cisticola, even after long searches. Alas, we had to continue our way up north to make for Tambacounda. Another drive through the Niokolo Koba NP added more raptors to our list, including Bateleur, Brown Snake Eagle, Hooded Vultures, Dark Chanting Goshawk, Lizard Buzzard, Shikra and a pair of Grasshopper Buzzards. We would attempt to locate Standard-winged Nightjars before we went to the hotel, but had to wait until dusk would set in. A bit more birding didn't result in much, apart from large numbers of Red-billed Quelea and a showy pair of Red-necked Falcons. As darkness set in, we used a bit of playback to lure out the nightjars, but it was just one individual that flew across the roads and that was all she wrote.

The final day of our amazing Senegal birding tour was spent travelling back to Dahkla, with a bit of a rest in the middle of the day to freshen up before the flights.

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 savannas 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 charismatic White-crested Tiger Heron 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. On behalf of the entire group I would like to extend a very special thanks to our great local guide Abdou (Carlos), and to Modou (Mamadou) and George (Djibril), the best drivers Senegal has to offer!

BIRDS OF THE TOUR

- 1st: Golden Nightjar
2nd: Pel's Fishing Owl
3rd: Quail-plover
4th: Egyptian Plover
5th: Scissor-tailed Kite & White-crested Tiger Heron

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the bird list follows **AviList v2025** (AviList Core Team. 2025. *AviList: The Global Avian Checklist, v2025*).

Where the subspecies seen is/are known, these are often given in parentheses at the end of the species comment.

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. only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; 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).

BIRDS

- White-faced Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata* Literal clouds were seen at Djoudj NP.
- Fulvous Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor* Quite a few at Djoudj NP.
- African Pygmy Goose** *Nettapus auritus* Seen at multiple occasions throughout the trip.
- Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis* Present in Djoudj NP [*gambensis*].
- Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca* Seen in Djoudj NP; real wild ones!
- Knob-billed Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos* Great views during our boat trip in Djoudj NP, but also large flocks flying by near Podor.
- Marbled Duck** ◊ *Marmaronetta angustirostris* Quite a few were present on the large Lake Khar in Djoudj NP.
- Garganey** *Spatula querquedula* Large numbers present on Lake Khar.
- Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata* Large numbers present on Lake Khar, amongst the large numbers of wildfowl.
- Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta* Large numbers present on Lake Khar.
- Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris* Quite a few flocks seen during our time in the south, especially great views at Wassadou. Wild ones [*galeatus*]:
- Stone Partridge** ◊ *Ptilopachus petrosus* Great views of this species [*petrosus*] at Wassadou, heard at many more sites. Always intriguing to see a New World Quail on this side of the pond.
- Common Quail** *Coturnix coturnix* Several flushed [*coturnix*] during our search for Arabian Bustard in Djoudj NP.
- Double-spurred Spurfowl** ◊ (D-s Francolin) *Pternistis bicalcaratus* A common bird [*bicalcaratus*] for this tour; seen throughout the trip.
- Lesser Flamingo** *Phoeniconaias minor* Seen during our time in and around Djoudj NP.
- Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus* Seen during our time in and around Djoudj NP, larger numbers than Lesser.
- Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Small numbers [*capensis*] noted during our time birding the Podor region.
- Western Plantain-eater (W Grey P-e)** *Crinifer piscator* Seen throughout the country, becoming more common as we went south.
- Violet Turaco** ◊ *Tauraco violaceus* Great views at Wassadou.
- Guinea Turaco (Green T)** *Tauraco persa* Amazing sightings at Dindéfelo [*buffoni*].
- Savile's Bustard** ◊ *Lophotis savilei* Amazing, but somewhat brief views of a male first and then, only five minutes later, we enjoyed point-blank views of a foraging female. What an encounter!
- Senegal Coucal** *Centropus senegalensis* Common throughout [*senegalensis*].
- Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles exustus* Great views were obtained in the northern regions, where quite a few were nice enough to just keep foraging while we were watching [*exustus*].
- Four-banded Sandgrouse** ◊ *Pterocles quadricinctus* Happy with somewhat brief views of a flock coming to a drinking place near Kedougou.
- Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis* Common throughout [*senegalensis*]. Seen every day of the trip.
- European Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur* Glad to encounter larger numbers this year, in the northern regions and around Wassadou [*turtur*].
- Adamawa Turtle Dove** ◊ *Streptopelia hypopyrrha* Great encounters during our time at Wassadou.
- Vinaceous Dove** *Streptopelia vinacea* Common throughout.

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* Became more common as we went south.

Mourning Collared Dove (African M D) *Streptopelia decipiens* Common throughout the trip [*shelleyi*].

African Collared Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea* A few individuals seen in the Sahel region and on Kousmar Island [*roseogrisea*].

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea* Present everywhere we went [*guinea*].

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* More common in the northern regions [*capensis*].

Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer* Seen well in Dindéfelo.

Black-billed Wood Dove *Turtur abyssinicus* Very common once we went south.

Bruce's Green Pigeon ♦ *Treron waalia* Seen well at multiple sites.

Black Crowned Crane *Balearica pavonina* Large flocks flying across the plains of Djoudj NP [*pavonina*].

African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis* Seen well at Wassadou and in the Saloum Delta [*senegalensis*].

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Common in Trois Marigots [*meridionalis*].

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni* Amazing views in the Trois Marigots area.

Purple Swampphen (African S) *Porphyrio [porphyrio] madagascariensis* Common in most wetlands, especially in Trois Marigots.

Black Crake *Zapornia flavirostra* Present throughout the Trois Marigots area, even walking on the roads.

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis* Seen very well at a roosting site in the northern region of Senegal [*maculosus*].

Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis* Seen very well at multiple occasions and their calls are never far away.

Egyptian Plover ♦ *Pluvianus aegyptius* Everyone got their fill of this unique species at the Gambia river during our stay at Wassadou, where we enjoyed prolonged point-blank views.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Present in several of the pools still filled with water throughout the trip.

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* Seen near the coast in the northeast [*ostralegus*].

Grey Plover (Black-bellied P) *Pluvialis squatarola* Plenty of wintering birds in and around the mudflats of Senegal's coast [*squatarola*].

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* Common on the northern mudflats [*psammmodromus*].

Little Ringed Plover *Thinornis dubius* Also quite common in the northern areas, especially when water (was) present [*curonicus*].

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* Seen throughout the country, only a few days where we didn't see a single one.

Black-headed Lapwing *Vanellus tectus* Fairly common throughout the tour, especially in drier areas [*tectus*].

White-crowned Lapwing (W-headed L) *Vanellus albiceps* Great views at Wassadou.

African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus* Found in random places throughout the country and larger numbers at Trois Marigots [*senegallus*].

Kittlitz's Plover *Anarhynchus pecuarius* Great views of this cute plover in several places during the tour.

Kentish Plover *Anarhynchus alexandrinus* Present in the Djoudj NP [*alexandrinus*].

Lesser Jacana *Microparra capensis* A surprise to find at least three of these cute jacana's in Trois Marigots, at the same place we found four last year.

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* Common throughout.

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Quail-plover ◊ *Ortyxelos meiffrenii*
Common Buttonquail *Turnix sylvaticus*
Bronze-winged Courser ◊ (Violet-tipped C) *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus*
Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii*
Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*
Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*
Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*
Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*
Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*
Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*
Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*
Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*
Audouin's Gull ◊ *Ichthyaetus audouinii*
Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*
Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*
Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*
African Woolly-necked Stork (A Woollyneck) *Ciconia microscelis*
African Darter *Anhinga rufa*
Reed Cormorant (Long-tailed C) *Microcarbo africanus*
Great Cormorant (White-breasted C) *Phalacrocorax [carbo] lucidus*
Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*
African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*
Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*
Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*
Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*
White-crested Tiger Heron ◊ *Tigriornis leucolopha*
Dwarf Bittern *Botaurus sturmii*
Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca*
Western Reef Heron (W R Egret) *Egretta gularis*
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Little Heron *Butorides atricapilla*
Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*
Great Egret *Ardea alba*
Yellow-billed Egret *Ardea brachyrhyncha*
Western Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*
Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Standard-winged Nightjar ◊ *Caprimulgus longipennis*
Golden Nightjar ◊ *Caprimulgus eximius*
Long-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus climacurus*
Mottled Spinetail *Telacanthura ussheri*
African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

Horus Swift *Apus horus*
 Little Swift *Apus affinis*
 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*
 Pel's Fishing Owl ◊ *Scotopelia peli*
 Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Ketupa lactea*
 Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
 Scissor-tailed Kite ◊ (African Swallow-t K) *Chelictinia riocourii*
 Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
 African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus*
 Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*
 Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos*
 Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*
 White-backed Vulture (African W-b V) *Gyps africanus*
 Griffon Vulture (Eurasian G V) *Gyps fulvus*
 Rüppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppelli*
 Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*
 Western Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens* Seen en route back from Dindefelo, completing our quartet of snake eagles.
 Beaudouin's Snake Eagle ◊ *Circaetus beaudouini*
 Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*
 Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*
 Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*
 Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*
 African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster*
 Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*
 Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*
 Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*
 Shikra *Tachyspiza badia*
 Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*
 Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*
 Black Kite (Yellow-billed K) *Milvus [migrans] aegyptius*
 African Fish Eagle *Icthyophaga vocifer*
 Grasshopper Buzzard ◊ *Butastur rufipennis*
 Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*
 Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina*
 Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops*
 Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*
 Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*
 Abyssinian Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus*
 African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus*
 Western Red-billed Hornbill ◊ *Tockus kemp*
 Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*
 Blue-bellied Roller ◊ *Coracias cyanogaster*
 Purple Roller (Rufous-crowned R) *Coracias naevius*
 Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus*
 Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bullocki*
 Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus*
 Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus*
 African Green Bee-eater ◊ (Little G b-e) *Merops viridissimus*
 European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*
 Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*
 African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*
 Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus*
 Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*
 Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*
 Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica*
 Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*
 Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*
 Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*
 Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*
 Bearded Barbet ◊ *Pogonornis dubius*
 Vieillot's Barbet ◊ *Lybius vieilloti*
 Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor*
 Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*
 Fine-spotted Woodpecker ◊ *Campethera punctuligera*
 African Grey Woodpecker (Grey W) *Dendropicos goertae*
 Little Grey Woodpecker ◊ (Sahelian W) *Dendropicos elachus*
 Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*
 Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*
 Fox Kestrel ◊ *Falco alopex*
 Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
 Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*
 Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*
 Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*
 Peregrine Falcon ◊ (Barbary F) *Falco [peregrinus] peleginoides*
 Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*
 Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus*
 Rose-ringed Parakeet (Ring-necked P) *Psittacula krameri*
 Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea*
 Brubru *Nilaus afer*
 Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*
 Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*
 Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*
 Orange-breasted Bushshrike (Sulphur-b B) *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*
 Yellow-crowned Gonolek ◊ *Laniarius barbarus*
 Brown-throated Wattle-eye (Common W-e) *Platysteira cyanea*
 Senegal Batis *Batis senegalensis*
 White-crested Helmetshrike (White H) *Prionops plumatus*
 African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus*
 Fork-tailed Drongo (Glossy-backed D) *Dicrurus [adsimilis] divaricatus*
 African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*
 Yellow-billed Shrike *Corvinella corvina*
 Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*
 Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
 Piapiac *Ptilostomus afer*
 Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*
 Sennar Penduline Tit ◊ *Anthoscopus punctifrons*
 Yellow Penduline Tit ◊ *Anthoscopus parvulus*
 White-shouldered Black Tit *Melaniparus guineensis*
 Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix nigriceps*
 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis*
 Singing Bush Lark *Mirafra javanica*
 Sun Lark ◊ *Galerida modesta*
 Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*
 Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*
 Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis*
 Senegal Eremomela *Eremomela pusilla*
 Bleating Camaroptera (Grey-backed C) *Camaroptera [brachyura] brevicaudata*
 Cricket Warbler ◊ *Spiloptila clamans*
 Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*
 Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*
 River Prinia ◊ *Prinia fluviatilis*
 Red-winged Prinia (R-w Warbler) *Prinia erythroptera*
 Oriole Warbler ◊ *Hypergerus atriceps*
 Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*
 Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus*
 Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*
 Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus*
 Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*
 Western Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna opaca*
 Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
 Common Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus [scirpaceus] scirpaceus*
 Greater Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus rufescens*
 Sand Martin (Bank Swallow) *Riparia riparia*
 Red-throated Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne rufigula*
 Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*
 Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
 Red-chested Swallow *Hirundo lucida*
 Western House Martin *Delichon urbicum*
 Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*
 African Red-rumped Swallow ◊ *Cecropis melanocrissus*
 Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*
 Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*
 Yellow-gorgeted Greenbul *Atimastillas flavicollis*
 Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*
 Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*
 Western Orphean Warbler *Curruca hortensis*
 Common Whitethroat *Curruca communis*
 Western Subalpine Warbler *Curruca iberiae*
 Northern Yellow White-eye (African Y W) *Zosterops senegalensis*
 Fulvous Babbler ◊ *Argya fulva*
 Brown Babbler *Turdoides plebejus*
 Blackcap Babbler *Turdoides reinwardtii*
 Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*
 Neumann's Starling ◊ *Onychognathus neumanni*

Long-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis caudatus*
 Lesser Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus*
 Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*
 Purple Starling (P Glossy S) *Lamprotornis purpureus*
 Bronze-tailed Starling (B-t Glossy S) *Lamprotornis chalcurus*
 Chestnut-bellied Starling ◊ *Lamprotornis pulcher*
 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) *Fraseria plumbea*
 Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edoloides*
 Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica*
 Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*
 White-crowned Robin-Chat ◊ *Cossypha albicapillus*
 European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*
 Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
 African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*
 Mocking Cliff Chat *Thamnodia cinnamomeiventris*
 Anteater Chat (Northern A C) *Myrmecocichla aethiops*
 Atlas Wheatear ◊ (Seebohm's W) *Oenanthe seebohmi*
 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*
 Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis*
 White-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis albirostris*
 Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus*
 Olive-naped Weaver *Ploceus brachypterus*
 Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*
 Heuglin's Masked Weaver *Ploceus heuglini* At least one, identified from photographs, in Dindéfelo.
 Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*
 Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus*
 Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*
 Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*
 Exclamatory Paradise Whydah ◊ *Vidua interjecta*
 Sahel Paradise Whydah ◊ *Vidua orientalis*
 Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*
 Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata*
 Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullata*
 African Silverbill (Warbling S) *Euodice cantans*
 Lavender Waxbill ◊ *Glaucostrelda caerulea*
 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*
Red-winged Pytilia ◊ *Pytilia phoenicoptera*
Dybowski's Twinspot ◊ *Euschistospiza dybowskii*
Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*
Black-faced Firefinch ◊ *Lagonosticta [larvata] vinacea*
Mali Firefinch ◊ *Lagonosticta virata*
Sahel Bush Sparrow (Bush Petronia) *Gymnoris dentata*
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*
Sudan Golden Sparrow ◊ *Passer luteus*
House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus*
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*
African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*
White Wagtail *Motacilla [alba] alba*
Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys* Non-leader
Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*
White-rumped Seedeater ◊ *Crithagra leucopygia*
Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica*
Gosling's Bunting ◊ *Emberiza goslingi*

MAMMALS

Four-toed Hedgehog *Atelerix albiventris* Found in the hotel grounds at Kaolack.
Marsh Mongoose *Atilax paludinosus* Seen during our boat trips in the Saloum Delta.
Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo* Enjoyed good views of a large band of these banded bandits at Wassadou.
African Golden Wolf *Canis lupaster* Several individuals seen in the Djoudj NP, a pair showing quite well at the end of the day.
Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus* Seen throughout, with quite a few in the Djoudj NP this year.
Red-flanked Duiker *Cephalophus rufilatus* Two individuals, or perhaps the same one, seen during our time at Wassadou.
Northern Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus* Two/three groups seen near the Gambia River at Wassadou.
African Straw-colored Fruit Bat *Eidolon helvum* One joined two Barn Owls flying about at Ranch de Bango, few more seen at Kaolack.
Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat *Epomophorus gambianus* Very happy to see a small number of these beautiful bats have returned to their in-house roost in Toubakouta.
Green Monkey (Callithrix M) *Chlorocebus sabaesus* Common in the southern parts of Senegal, especially in Toubakouta and Wassadou.
Common Patas Monkey *Erythrocebus patas* Quite a few groups seen in the northern parts of Senegal this year.
Guinea Baboon *Papio papio* Common throughout the south, with large troops at Toubakouta, Wassadou and Niokolo Koba NP.
Upper Guinea Red Colobus *Piliocolobus badius* Great views of quite a large number at Wassadou.
African Savanna Hare *Lepus microtis* One found in the evening during our drive back from Trois Marigots.
Gambian Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus gambianus* A few of these interesting squirrels seen in the southern regions near Kedougou.
Striped Ground Squirrel (Geoffrey's G S) *Xerus erythropus* Common throughout the trip.

BUTTERFLIES

Plain Tiger
Citrus Swallowtail
Pioneer White
Dancing Amber
African Grass Blue
African Migrant
Guinea-fowl Butterfly
Common Hairstreak

Savanna Pied Pierrot
Broad-bordered Grass Yellow
Painted Lady
Western Dotted Border
Forest Grass Yellow
Brown Playboy
Serene Sailor
Yellow Pansy
Darker Commodore
Leaden Hairtail
Sky Blue Cupid
Blue Pansy
Common Smoky Blue
Bright Babel Blue
Common Scarlet
Vulgar Bush Brown
Senegal Blue Policeman
Common Grass Yellow
Desert Orange Tip *Colotis evagore*
Mediterranean Pierrot
Gaudy Commodore
Lang's Short-tailed Blue
Diverse White
Soldier Commodore
Widespread Forester
Grey Elfin
Pea Blue
Desert Orange Tip *Colotis liagore*
Common Bush Brown
Large Striped Swordtail
Elegant Acrae
Lolaus menas

Names follow iNaturalist Butterflies of Senegal and iNaturalist Butterflies of The Gambia. List provided by tour participants, led by Martin Hale.



Winding Cisticola (image by Diedert Koppenol)



White-crowned Lapwing (image by Diedert Koppenol)



White-crested Tiger Heron (image by Martin Hale)



White-crested Tiger Heron (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Verreaux's Eagle-Owl (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Upper Guinea Red Colobus (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Temminck's Courser (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Swamp Flycatcher (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Sudan Golden Sparrows (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Stone Partridges (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Yellow Penduline Tit (image by Diedert Koppenol)



White-shouldered Black Tit (image by Martin Hale)



Sennar Penduline Tit (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Senegal Parrot (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Scissor-tailed Kites (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Scissor-tailed Kites (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Scarlet-chested Sunbird (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Pygmy Sunbird (image by Diedert Koppenol)



male Savile's Bustard (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Olive-naped Weaver (image by Diedert Koppenol)



River Prinia (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Red-throated Bee-eater (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Quailfinch (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Quailfinch (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Quail-plover (image by Diedert Koppenol)



female Savile's Bustard (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Pel's Fishing Owl (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Northern Yellow White-eye (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Northern White-faced Owl (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Senegal Coucal (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Northern Carmine Bee-eater (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Marsh Mongoose (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Mangrove Sunbird (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Mali Firefinch (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Greyish Eagle-Owl (image by Diedert Koppenol)



male Black-faced Firefinch (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Long-tailed Nightjar (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Little Grey Woodpecker (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Little Bee-eaters (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Lesser Jacana (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Martial Eagle (image by Martin Hale)



Lavender Waxbills (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Guinea Turaco (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Giant Kingfisher (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Grey-headed Kingfisher (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Grey-headed Bushshrike (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Greater Swamp Warbler (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Goliath Heron (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Golden-tailed Woodpecker (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Mali Firefinches (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Golden Nightjar (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Bronze-winged Courser (image by Diedert Koppenol)



female Black-faced Firefinch (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Egyptian Plover (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Dybowski's Twinspot (image by Martin Hale)



Double-spurred Spurfowl (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Desert Cisticola (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Cricket Warbler (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Chestnut-bellied Starling (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Common Patas Monkey (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Bronze-winged Courser (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Bronze-tailed Starling (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Black Scrub Robin (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Black Crowned Cranes (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Beautiful Sunbird (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Abyssinian Roller (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Banded Mongoose (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Adamawa Turtle Dove (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Atlas Wheatear (image by Diedert Koppenol)



Allen's Gallinule (image by Diedert Koppenol)



African Swamphen (image by Diedert Koppenol)



African Scops Owl (image by Diedert Koppenol)



African Green Bee-eater (image by Diedert Koppenol)



African Golden Oriole (image by Diedert Koppenol)



African Cuckoo-Hawk (image by Martin Hale)



male (left) and female Abyssinian Ground Hornbill (image by Diedert Koppenol)