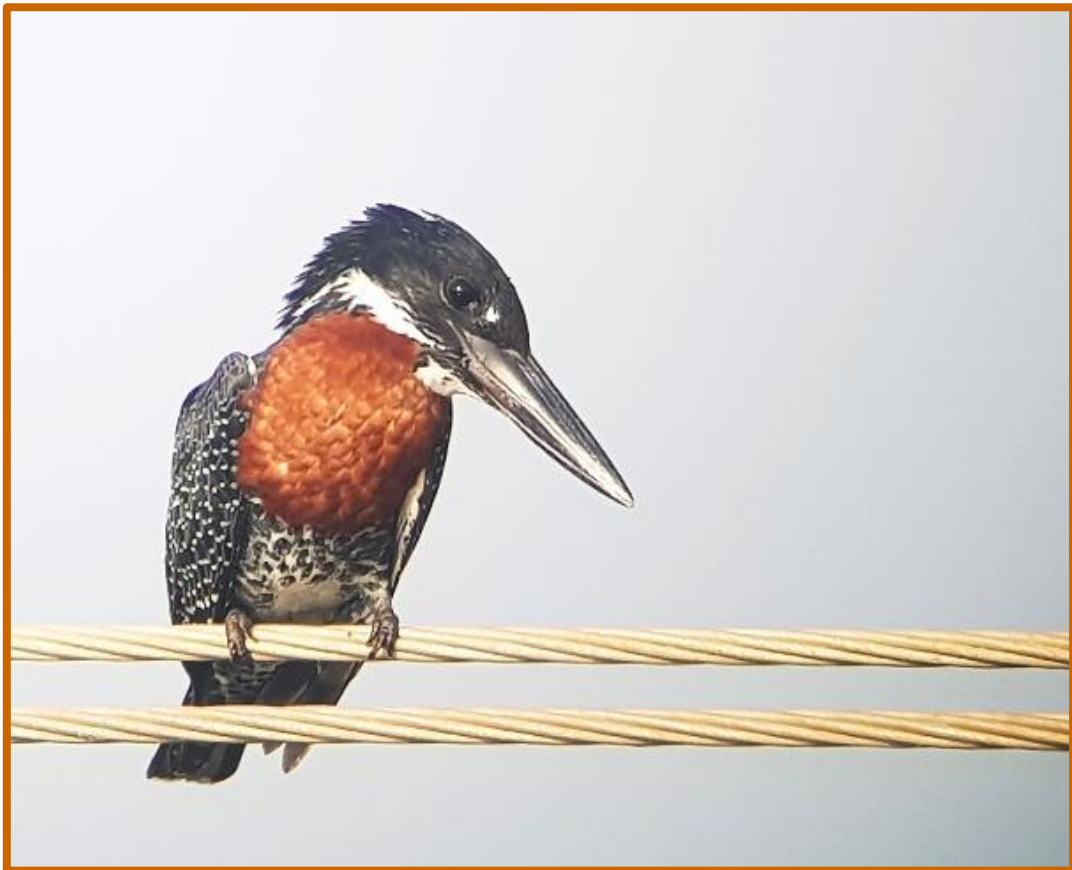


# WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS

IN

## THE GAMBIA

NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> – 26<sup>TH</sup> 2019



## TRIP REPORT

## PLACES VISITED

<b>TUESDAY 12TH</b> <b>TRAVEL FROM UK TO BANJUL - TRANSFER TO SENAGAMBIA HOTEL</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 13TH</b> <b>KOTU CREEK – KOTU SEWAGE PONDS – CASINO TRACK- FAJARA GOLF COMPLEX</b>
<b>THURSDAY 14TH</b> <b>LAMIN RICE FIELDS - ABUKO NATIONAL PK – LAMIN LODGE – LAMIN RICE FIELDS II</b>
<b>FRIDAY 15TH</b> <b>BRUFUT WOODS AND TRAILS – TANJI BEACH – TANJI BIRD RESERVE ECO LODGE</b>
<b>SATURDAY 16TH</b> <b>TUJERING SCRUBLAND – HOTEL SENEGAMBIA AND BEACH AREA</b>
<b>SUNDAY 17TH</b> <b>TRANSFER TO TENDABA WITH STOPS AT PIRANG FOREST – CAMPANCY – SOMA WETLANDS – WATER HOLES – KAUR WETLANDS – TENDABA AIRFIELD</b>
<b>MONDAY 18TH</b> <b>TENDABA CREEK CRAWL – KIANG WEST NATIONAL PARK</b>
<b>TUESDAY 19TH</b> <b>TRANSFER FROM TENDABA TO GEORGETOWN ISLAND WITH STOPS AT SOMA WETLANDS FARAFENNI PEANUT FIELDS – WATER HOLES – KAUR WETLANDS – NAJAU PONDS - PENCHANG PONDS – WASSU QUARRY</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 20TH</b> <b>WASSU QUARRY AND SURROUNDS – BOAT TRIP ALONG THE RIVER</b>
<b>THURSDAY 21ST</b> <b>TRANSFER TO TENDABA CAMP FROM GEORGETOWN ISLAND WITH STOPS AT JAKHALLY RICE FIELDS – SOMA WETLANDS</b>
<b>FRIDAY 22ND</b> <b>TRANSFER FROM TENDABA TO KOLOLI WITH STOPS AT: KIANG WEST PEANUT FIELDS</b>
<b>SATURDAY 23RD</b> <b>KARTONG WETLANDS, POOLS AND BEACH</b>
<b>SUNDAY 24TH</b> <b>FARASUTO BIRD RESERVE – PIRANG SHRIMP FARM</b>
<b>MONDAY 25TH</b> <b>MARAKISSA WOODLANDS, LODGE, MANGROVES AND RICE FIELDS</b>
<b>TUESDAY 26TH</b> <b>BUND ROAD – BANJUL FERRY TERMINAL</b>

## SUMMARY

This was a triumphant return to the Gambia for WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS after an absence of two years. We had a marvellous group made up of four Americans and four British participants, all equally enthusiastic and anxious to find as many species as possible. They were great, I loved leading this group and I'm pretty sure they enjoyed it too!

We found the majority of our target birds and although that is a part of the touring process, I think we all got tremendous thrills from simply watching everything and anything that moved. We saw nine different species of Eagles, eight Bee-eaters and eight Kingfishers and over 260 other species. The amazing colours and rich diversity in such a small country was such a thrill to see, I can't wait to return there next year.

**LEADERS:** Bob Buckler & Modou Colley

**Participants:** Peter & Susan Hayes, Richard & Mai Geeson, Joe & Cindy Harris, Cheryl Smith and Beverly Warburton.

## **DAY 1 – TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

### **TRAVEL FROM UK TO BANJUL - TRANSFER TO SENAGAMBIA HOTEL**

WEATHER: hot and sunny, 30C

Our group arrived in Banjul on several different flights today and two of the American participants, Cheryl and Beverly, were already at the hotel waiting for us, having arrived a couple of days earlier.

It was hot on arrival you felt the blast of warm air hit you as you descended from the aircraft, then in a hot and sticky terminal building we queued for a while as we passed through immigration. The whole terminal was being reformed, rebuilt, it was a working building site, and in such disarray, but we managed to get through.

Peter and Sue had arrive an hour earlier than most of us and had been birding just around the car park, they had tales of many sightings including: both **Klaas's** and **Levaillant's Cuckoos**, **Red-billed Hornbill**, **Senegal Coucal**, **Yellow White-eye**, **Lavender Waxbill**, **Red-billed Firefinch** and about 10 other species.



Pied Kingfisher – one of the first birds recorded during our first full day

Five of us were then taken to the Hotel where we met up with Cheryl and Beverly. Along the way we saw **Pied Crow**, **Hooded Vulture** and dozens of doves mainly **Red-eyed**, **Laughing** and **Vinaceous Doves**.

It was very late in the afternoon by the time we all settled into our rooms and we had a tiny amount of time to look for birds in the grounds before darkness fell. Seven of us birded around our accommodation building (two more of the group were arriving later that evening). We saw many **Broad-billed Rollers**, they roost in the grounds and gather at dusk, also a pair of **Grey Woodpeckers**, a brief glimpse of a **Bearded Barbet** was also had. We 'scoped a **White-crowned Robin-Chat** and watched **Green Wood-hoopoes** in the trees.

Before the light gave way to the darkness we saw **African Palm Swifts** overhead, a **Hooded Vulture** perched in a dead tree and several **African Wattled Lapwings**, they came down on the lawns of the hotel gardens. African Fruit Bats began to appear, the size of crows these silent fruit-eaters flew very low over the top of us, time to leave me thinks!

We had now tasted the great potential of birding in The Gambia and we couldn't wait for tomorrow to arrive for another bite. The final couple of participants arrived at 8:30pm, so now our group of nine was complete.

## **DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

### **KOTU CREEK – KOTU SEWAGE PONDS – CASINO TRACK- FAJARA GOLF COMPLEX**

WEATHER: hot and sunny 28C

We had a typical, brilliant Gambian start to our first full day, beginning with breakfast on the terrace at 7am just as it was getting light. We had to wade through a troop of **Green Vervet Monkeys** even before we got to the dining room.

It was just fantastic sitting outside in a lovely temperature with lots of bird calls and strange noises filling the air. From the table we watched a dozen or so of common species such as the beautiful **Speckled Pigeon**, **Yellow-billed Kites**, **Pied Crows**, **Cattle Egrets**, **Common Bulbuls**, **Broad-billed Rollers**, **Beautiful Sunbirds** and several more.

Our first birding excursion began at 8:30 as we were dropped off at the famous Bridge over the tidal Kotu Creek. We were suddenly greeted by a great many species, they seemed to appear from all directions, the group was bemused by all the action and didn't know where to look for the best. It was amazing, a wonderful experience.



The huge Giant Kingfisher posing nicely at the Kotu Bridge

The tide was high so we were not treated to a plethora of waders, we concentrated on the bushes and the sky. **Pied Kingfishers** were seen everywhere and a single **Giant Kingfisher** showed really well from the power lines. **Long-tailed Cormorants**, **Senegal Thick-knee**, **Spur-winged Lapwing**, **African Wattled Lapwing**, **Whimbrel** and **Common Sandpiper** were seen along the riverbanks.



The group enjoyed many other species in the hour that we spent on the bridge, we had good views of **Wire-tailed Swallow**, **Grey Plantain-eater**, **Senegal Coucal**, **Shikra** (being mobbed by **Pied Crows**), **Red-billed Hornbill** and of course all the doves.

The smaller birds were harder to get onto but most of the group managed well, we saw **Red-billed Firefinch**, **Bronze Mannikins**, **Beautiful Sunbird**, **Brown Babbler** and **African Thrush**. Herons and Egrets littered the bushes, we saw **Striated**, **Grey**, **Squacco** and **Black-headed Herons**, **Western Reef Egret** and the enigmatic **Hammerkop**.

Phew, what a great start. We then went for a walk to the Sewage Ponds, our route took us through some rice fields where a new set of species was recorded. The beautiful **Little Bee-eaters** dashed out from bushes, we also listed: **Woodland Kingfisher**, **Grey Woodpecker**, **Tawny-flanked Prinia**, **Senegal Parrot**, **Rose-ringed Parakeets**, **Fork-tailed Drongo**, **Lesser Blue-eared Glossy Starling**, **Lizard Buzzard**, **Caspian Tern** (fly-over), **Palm Swift** and many more.



The unexpected EGYPTIAN PLOVER – is not usually seen on the coast

At the water treatment ponds we searched the banks around the smelly pools for an **EGYPTIAN PLOVER**, this much sought-after species is usually only found many kilometers upriver, but this one had turned up here on the coast, a first for Coastal Gambia. Luckily for us the bird was still present, it showed very well, smashing! It made the other birds look positively dull, we saw **Green**, **Common** and **Wood Sandpipers**, **Common Redshank**, **Black-winged Stilts**, **White-faced Whistling Ducks**, **Little Grebes** and **Common Moorhens**.

The sky was alive with birds, great clouds of **Little Swifts** swooped down to drink the fetid water, Vultures circled above us, on hand just in case one of us dropped to the ground in the heat!

The latter part of the morning was filled by walking to the nearby Casino Cycle Track where we saw even more new species, we logged two Woodpeckers in quick succession, **Fine-spotted** and **Grey**, we had good views of **Fork-tailed Drongos** and better views of many other species. A walk round to a pool found us watching a **Common Chiffchaff**, **White-billed Buffalo Weaver** and another **Grey Woodpecker**. A single **Common Greenshank** was all we saw around the pool.

We left the area around 12:30 for our midday break, we ate our lunch back at the hotel.



It was 3:30pm when we boarded the bus for our afternoon birding excursion to the Golf Course at Fajara, we also explored the surrounding rice fields and mangrove swamp. It was still hot and humid, but the birding was excellent, not as frantic as this morning, even though the birds were just as active. We caught up with many species that we had seen this morning plus about 15 new ones.

We began our walk from yet another bridge over the Kotu Creek, we saw 3 **Blue-bellied Rollers** on the wires nearby, a great start for the afternoon. Over the next hour we walked through the rice fields and then onto the golf course, we saw **Senegal Parrots, Rose-ringed Parakeets, Long-tailed Glossy Starlings, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, Brown Babbler, Common Gonolek, Little Bee-eater, Double-spurred Francolin, Red-necked Falcon** (fly over), **Pearl Spotted Owlet, Bronze-tailed Glossy Starling, Great Egret, Striated Heron, Western Reef Egret** and **Lizard Buzzard**.

We birded until about 6pm when the light began to fade, we were back at the hotel just after 6:15pm, giving us enough time for a relaxing shower before dinner.

### **DAY – 3 - THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> 2019**

#### **LAMIN RICE FIELDS - ABUKO NATIONAL PARK – LAMIN LODGE – LAMIN RICE FIELDS II**

**WEATHER: hot, sunny and humid 30C**

It was another great day's birding in sunny Gambia, so after a lovely breakfast on the outside terrace at the hotel we set off for Lamin Rice Fields. It took about 40 minutes to get there and soon we were birding in the open rice fields.

Birds of prey featured first with a **Shikra** sitting out nicely, an **African Harrier Hawk** flying over and perching in a palm, then a dark morph **Gabar Goshawk** flashed by, it passed right over the top of us and landed in another palm not too far away. Wow, that was special!



The area was full birds, I mean chock-a-block, the sky was full of **Black Kites, Doves** and **Weavers**. A **Purple Heron** flew across the sky in front of us, **African Jacanas** were common, we saw a single **Black Crake, Striated** and **Squacco Herons, Great Egret** and lots of **Cattle Egrets**. Flocks of **Piapiac, Long-tailed Glossy Starlings, Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** and many **Pied Kingfishers**.

We searched the rice fields for **Painted Snipe** without success, but we added **Northern Red Bishop** and we had a good sighting of the rarely seen, migrant **Little Bittern**. In the pools near the mangrove swamp we saw many doves coming down to drink also **Senegal Thick-knee, Spur-winged Lapwing, Whimbrel** and **Common Sandpiper**.

We left the rice fields around 10am and walked across the road to Abuko National Park where a contrasting forest habitat produced a completely different set of bird species. From a raised hide in the Darwin Centre we watched **Fanti Sawings** and **African Palm Swifts** swooping down to take a drink from a large pool where several pairs of **Black-headed Herons** were building their nest in the surrounding trees.

We had several brief sightings of **Violet Turaco** before one landed in view in a nearby tree, but other than that very few species were seen there. Back on the trail we spent the next hour or so searching the trees and following calls for all kinds of species. We eventually caught up with the **Green Turaco**, it gave very short, but excellent views at times.



Often only seen in flight – the African Goshawk

We saw **Red-cheeked Cordonbleu**, **Bronze Mannikin**, **Lesser Honeyguide**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, **Common Wattle-eye**, **African Red-breasted Paradise Flycatcher**, **African Thrush**, **Black-necked Weavers**, both **African Grey** and **African Pied Hornbill** and others. Our best sighting by far was that of an **African Goshawk**, a species rarely photographed in these parts, but for us it sat out in the open for quite a while. What a sighting and what a beauty, click, click!

Other birds were heard and not seen such as: **Oriole Warbler**, **Grey-headed Bristlebird** and **Western Bluebill**, we hope to catch up with those at a later date. For lunch we drove down a bumpy dirt track to Lamin Lodge.

Lamin Lodge is one of those special places that you will never forget! It is a unique restaurant deep in the mangrove swamp on the edge of a wide creek, it looks as though it should have fallen down a long time ago, but we had a nice lunch sitting on the top floor overlooking the river and mangroves, it was magical.

A **Green Vervet Monkey** joined us for lunch and stole half a sandwich from our guide's plate, we also saw a **Swamp Mongoose** as we were leaving. Before driving back to take a second walk in the rice fields we went for a short walk. We heard a **Eurasian Wryneck** calling without seeing it and we found **Grey-headed Sparrow**, **Little Weaver**, **Beautiful Sunbird**, **yellow-fronted Canary**, **Subalpine Warbler**, **Red-billed Firefinch**. An **Osprey** flew over us as did another **African Harrier Hawk**, hundreds of **Yellow-billed Kites** and **Hooded Vultures** circled on the thermals.

We spent the last two hours of the day back in the rice fields hoping for a sighting of the **Painted Snipe** but the area was too busy with locals working in the fields. Again we saw many species a few were new for the day: **Malachite Kingfisher**, **Giant Kingfisher**, **Blue-bellied Roller**, **Senegal Parrots** (they were excavating a hole in the trunk of a palm tree), a few **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** came down and perched in bushes near to us.



It was lovely out there in the afternoon light, much more comfortable as the temperature dropped and the humidity reduced. We left the rice fields around 5:45pm and returned to the hotel. Dinner was taken out on the terrace in the warm evening temperature of around 24C, smashing!

#### **DAY 4 – FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

##### **BRUFUT WOODS AND TRAILS – TANJI BEACH – TANJI BIRD RESERVE AND ECO LODGE**

WEATHER: cloudy to start then hazy sunshine all day, humid, temp 27C

It was another terrific birding day in sunny Gambia! We arrived at Brufut Woods around 8:30am it was overcast so the temperature remained relatively low, but it was still quite humid.

As usual, the woodland along the approach track to Brufut was very productive, the first hour was amazing we saw so many species my mind is totally boggled. I can't remember the sequence of our sightings but suffice is to say that there were lots of ooh's and aaaah's coming from the group.



A typical track around Brufut Woods

We watched a family party of **Northern Black Flycatchers** before we went to see a nest of the **Beautiful Sunbird**, quickly followed by a nest-watch of the **Oriole Warbler**. The Sunbird was sitting on eggs and the warblers were feeding young, the latter did not show too well.

A single tree produced about ten species, we started with the flycatchers, **Northern Black** and **African red-bellied Paradise Flycatchers**, then we saw **Yellow-throated Leaflove** and a superbly, colourful bird was the **Sulphur-breasted Bush-Shrike**, what a stunner, with striking colours a real beauty.

Walking further along the tracks we bumped into **Senegal Eremomela** and then **Grey-backed Camaroptera**, you try calling those names out after a couple of beers! Next, we watched a **Northern Crombec**, a tiny, tail-less bird with the colours of a Eurasian Nuthatch, then a **Tawny Flanked Prinia** showed well and a pair of **Red-necked Falcons** sat nicely for the cameras.

A local guide led us straight to a pair of roosting **Northern White-faced Owls**, they were excellent, then we bumped into a **Levaillant's Cuckoo**, a **Black-winged Kite**, **Senegal Parrots**, **African Grey Hornbill**, **Shikra**, **Blue-bellied Kingfisher** and we 'staked out' a family party of noisy **Stone Partridges**.

Three hours flew by, we must have seen 60 species by then, but even better birding was to come. We entered the woodland and we were led to a seating area where three large water containers were hanging in the trees, another was placed on the ground. We watched in awe as a series of fantastic birds came to drink or bathe. I can't tell you how great it was, we were mesmerised.



I'll just mention a few of the 30 odd species that appeared: **Pygmy Kingfisher**, **Bearded Barbet**, **Spotted Honeyguide**, **Yellow-throated Leaflove**, **Buff-spotted Woodpecker**, **Snowy-crowned Robin-chat**, **Black-capped** and **Brown Babblers**, **Lavender Waxbill**, **Northern Red Bishop** and a host of other species.



Buff-spotted Woodpecker

Just before we left the woods we were taken into dense scrub to see a roosting **Long-tailed Nightjar**, that was superb and the highlight of the morning. Whist there we added **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**, **Yellow-fronted Canary**, **Variable Sunbird** and **Cardinal Woodpecker** to the list. The star bird appeared very briefly, our guides located it by call, the **Yellowbill**, is rarely seen well and all we got was short flight views and one perched view.

It was now 1pm so we set off for the short journey to the coast at the fishing town of Tanji. We ate a lovely lunch in a very clean and modern restaurant before we went birding along the beach.

The beach was the most aesthetically displeasing I have ever seen, covered in litter and heaps rubble, trashed boats and piles of oyster shells. The smell of dead fish polluted the sea-breeze, and yet, the sea and beach area were teeming with birds, hundreds of them. **Grey-headed** and **Lesser-black-backed Gulls**, **Caspian**, **Lesser-crested** and **Royal Terns** and a selection of waders, egrets and herons.

We had one place left to visit before we returned to the hotel and that was an Eco Lodge found a few kilometers further along the beach, we drove there in a few minutes. At the lodge we settled down in comfy seats to watch the bird activity around a pool of water, a repeat of this morning almost.

The main attraction was the **Western Bluebill**, top of the bill, it did not disappoint, what a cracking bird, my photos do not do it justice. We also watched our first **African Paradise Flycatcher**, also **Orange-cheeked Waxbill**, **Little Greenbul**, another **Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat** and yet another **Pygmy Kingfisher**.

A very pleased group returned to the hotel arriving around 6:15, dinner was taken at 7:30pm, it was lovely sitting out on the terrace with a nice warm breeze and a nice cold beer.

## DAY 5 – SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019

### **TUJERING SCRUBLAND – HOTEL SENEGAMBIA AND BEACH AREA**

**WEATHER:** overcast for most of the morning, sunshine later. Hot and humid all day. Temp 25 -30C

What can I say other than it was another terrific morning, I know....change the record, but why should I when the birding is so good?



Pygmy Kingfisher seen at Brufut yesterday

Tujering was once a flourishing forest which was decimated in the 70's and 80's, but it developed into a fantastic scrubland with scattered trees and lots of scrub. Slowly it is disappearing with small-holding developments and more encroachment by the local population.

I still love this open area because you have a lot of sky to watch and fewer trees for the birds to hide in! Another advantage here is the type of trees, they all seem to have small leaves except for the huge Boabab Tree.

We stopped to admire a **Grey Kestrel** perched on a pylon as we left the Kololi district and headed south to Tanji. The day list rose exponentially as we left town because the roadside power lines were drooping with the weight of perched birds (I may be exaggerating a little). Apart from dozens of doves we saw **Piapiac**, **Yellow-billed Shrike**, **Blue-bellied Roller**, various **Glossy Starlings**, **Senegal Coucal**, **Western Grey Plantain-eater**, **Hooded Vultures** and **Yellow-billed Black Kites**.

Once we disembarked, we followed a winding track into the scrub our first birds were **Cisticolas**, the **Singing** and the **Zitting**, both showed briefly. We could also hear **Red-winged Warbler** but it failed to show.

Searching the few trees available to us we found **Common Chiffchaff**, **Willow Warbler**, **Whinchat** and **Common Redstart**!! Hang on a minute.....I thought we were in Africa and not Europe! This area is loved by wintering western palearctic species we also went on to find **Olivaceous Warbler** too.

Some local specialities took a while to find, but we eventually saw the **White-fronted Black Chat**, **Brown-backed Woodpecker**, **Chestnut-crowned Sparrow Weaver** (this bird is a sparrow but it weaves an intricate nest just like weavers do) and **Yellow Penduline Tit**, we only heard the latter.



Klaas's Cuckoo at Tujering

Birds of prey featured heavily in our enjoyment, we saw two **Lanner Falcons**, **Beaudouin's Snake Eagle**, **Dark Chanting Goshawk**, at least three **Ospreys**, a **Lizard Buzzard** and the usual **Hooded Vulture** and **Yellow-billed Kite**.

Other sightings of interest were: **Striped Kingfisher** (a non-fish-eating species), **Variable**, **Beautiful** and **Scarlet-chested Sunbirds**, **Tawny-flanked Prinia**, **Black-crowned Tchagra**, **Common Gonolek**, **Little Bee-eater** and **Pied-winged Swallow**.

We left at 12 noon, the clouds had cleared up and it became very hot. We added a few species along the track back to the bus such as: **Mottled Spinetail**, **African Golden Oriole**, another **Grey Kestrel**, **Olivaceous Warbler** (two were found and one of them was singing!) and **Northern Wheatear**.

Once back on the bus we drove along a dirt track back to the main road, Modou spotted four **Black-headed Lapwings** in a grassy field, a new bird for the list. There was also two **Wattled Lapwings** in the field, a bonus!

For the afternoon we were left to our own devices, with some downtime and a well-earned rest. I arranged a short birding trip to the beach, only one of the 8 turned up!! So, Cheryl and I went to beach with a scope and our bins, it was useless down there. We saw very few passing birds, the beach was crowded with sun bathers and the birds were too far off-shore. We managed to ID **Grey-headed Gull**, **Sandwich** and **Royal Terns** and a smaller tern looked like a **Common Tern**, but we couldn't be sure.

We had plenty of time to pack our bags for tomorrow's journey upriver because we had an early dinner followed by an early night.

#### **DAY 6 – SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

#### **TRANSFER TO TENDABA WITH STOPS AT PIRANG FOREST – CAMPANCY – SOMA WETLANDS – WATER HOLES – KAUR WETLANDS – TENDABA AIRFIELD**

We were all packed and ready to begin our journey upriver to Tendaba Camp at 8am. It was very quiet on the roads because it was a Sunday so we made good progress, arriving at Pirang within the hour. The walk through the forest along well-trodden tracks was a little quiet at first but it soon picked up.



Our first target bird was the **Verreaux's Eagle Owl** but we got distracted by a bunch of **Brown-necked Parrots**. They were feeding in the canopy and we scoped them easily. The owl was a little more difficult, it took quite a while to find it and when we actually found it the sighting wasn't great even through the scope.



Staking out the **WHITE-SPOTTED FLUFFTAIL** – unfortunately I never got a shot of it

For the next two hours we had a fantastic bird-filled session, it was superb. A string of excellent species offered themselves up to our optics, some of those species are hard to find in the Gambia. We found our second **Yellowbill**, what a great bird that one is. Then we found a **Green Hylia** followed by **Green Crombec**.

Our guides then led us to a spot where a real goodie could be seen the **WHITE-SPOTTED FLUFFTAIL**, no I'm making up the names as I go along, it is real. After about a twenty minute wait the bird finally appeared, it showed briefly but very well and everyone got to see it except Sue who was fiddling with her camera!!



Brown-necked Parrot seen in Pirang Forset

We continued our walk finding some super birds, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, both the **Collared** and later the **Green-headed Sunbirds** were seen, a **Violet Turaco** also put an appearance. Many other species entertained us before we got back to the bus.

It was 1pm when we said goodbye to Cowsu the local guide as we left the Pirang Forest. We drove for over an hour before we stopped to eat a picnic lunch. We had already made one or two unscheduled stops to look at our first **Abyssinian Roller**, also a **Lizard Buzzard** and several other species.



Green Hylia – a canopy bird in the Pirang Forest

We stopped by the roadside near some rice fields with a few small pools, it was difficult to eat our sandwiches because birds kept appearing, **African Harrier Hawk**, **Wahlberg's Eagle**, **Dark Chanting Goshawk**, **Grasshopper Buzzard**, **White-backed Vulture** and **Pink-backed Pelicans** were all seen up on the thermals with **Hooded Vultures** and **Black Kites**.

A short walk in the rice fields produced a lot more sightings, **African Jacana**, **Black-headed** and **Squacco Herons**, dozens of **Village Weavers**, a few **Purple Glossy Starlings**, at least three **African Harrier Hawks** and another **Wahlberg's Eagle**.

After lunch we continued along the excellent main road, I remember not so long ago that this was a treacherous bumpy dirt track which took hours to negotiate, but now you can fly along to Tendaba in no time.

We made more roadside stops to look at perched birds, they were mainly raptors but we also saw, **Black-winged Bishop**, more **Abyssinian Rollers** and **Bruce's Green Pigeon**. The raptors were fantastic, we saw a very close **Tawny Eagle** and in the next tree was a **Long-crested Eagle**, we also saw **Grey Kestrel** and another **Lizard Buzzard**.

Our last stop was at Tendaba Airfield, it is no longer an airfield, it is a wide-open swamp and an excellent birding place. We saw twenty odd species there including our first **African Hobby** and a **Marsh Harrier**, we also saw two **Long-crested Eagles**, **Gabar Goshawk**, **Abyssinian Roller**, **Broad-billed Roller** and **Bruce's Green Pigeon**.

We arrived at Tendaba Camp around 6pm, the usual room allocation chaos ensued, the place hasn't changed, it is still very run-down and in need of renovation, which they are slowly accomplishing! Surprisingly, the food was rather good which was served at 8pm, we all retired to bed around 9:30pm.

#### **DAY 7 – MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

##### **TENDABA CREEK CRAWL – KIANG WEST NATIONAL PARK**

WEATHER: cloudy first thing, hot and sunny later, humid 30C

Well the day had arrived for us to take the famous Tendaba Creek Crawl, I love this trip because you can see many species at close quarters without disturbing them. We set off at 8am and headed across the wide expanse of the River Gambia. Even though we are 150 kms inland from the coast the river is still tidal and the water still brackish. On the shoreline we saw **Hammerkop**, **Western Reef Egret**, **Great Egret** and **Yellow-billed Kite**.



Once we entered the mangrove swamp the boatman killed the engine somewhat and we crept up the creek, we quickly found **African Darter**, the first of dozens that would appear in trees on either sides of the creek. They drop into the water and swim with their long, thin neck and head above the water, hence their nick-name, Snake-Bird. Before long we were watching **Mouse-coloured Sunbirds** attending their nests and we had our first encounter with **African Blue Flycatcher** that first sighting was very brief.



The African Darter or Snake Bird – taken by Susan Hayes

It got better and better as we travelled further up the creek, a **Goliath Heron** sat out nicely and we added **Intermediate Egret**, **White-throated Be-eater** and **Black Scimitarbill**. There were also many, many, egrets, herons and waders. We saw **Woolly-necked** and **Yellow-billed Storks** and **Mosque Swallows**. We saw two species of **Night Herons**, both of these were difficult to see but everyone got on to them in the end. The **White-backed Night Heron** is something very special, a colourful bird with huge eyes and the **Black-crowned Night Heron** was a familiar species to all of us.

Our final sighting before we left the creek was that of **African Blue Flycatcher**, this sighting was much better than the previous one and nearly all of the group saw it well. We arrived back at Tendaba around 11:30 am and some of the group decided to go for a walk before lunch.

A pathway behind the Camp led us along the shore of the river through open woodland and mangrove swamp, we found an open area where we stopped to watch the area for a while. A small pool attracted several species, they came down to drink, these included: **Yellow-fronted Canary**, **Red-billed Firefinch** and **Red-cheeked Cordonbleu**. A pair of **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks** ran along the shore and a **Levaillant's Cuckoo** sat very close for a short while. We also watched **Purple Glossy** and **Long-tailed Glossy starlings**, **Grey** and **Red-billed Hornbills**. **Abyssinian Roller**, **Village Weavers** and several more common species.

After a long lunch break when most of us had a nap we met up at 3:30pm for an excursion into the nearby Kiang West National Park. We made several stops along the main track that bisects the park with varying amounts of success. One stop produced **Pygmy Sunbird**, the male has a fantastic elongated tail, also seen were **Variable** and **Violet Chested Sunbirds**, our first **Bush Petronia** was also notable. Other species seen were: **Brown-backed Woodpecker** and **White-fronted Black Chat** and many more species.

The bird of the afternoon was undoubtedly the **White Helmetsrike**, what an obliging and stunning bird. This species is never seen alone there are always a group of them, we saw seven and they gave us all such a delightful show.





The strange looking White Helmetshrike

We left the area around six and returned to the Camp, dinner was late, we ate at 8:30, but I must say that the food at Tendaba is really good even if the rooms are something to be desired.

#### **DAY 8 – TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

**TRANSFER FROM TENDABA TO GEORGETOWN ISLAND WITH STOPS AT SOMA WETLANDS FARAFENNI PEANUT FIELDS – WATER HOLES – KAUR WETLANDS – NAJAU PONDS - PENCHANG PONDS – WASSU QUARRY**

**WEATHER:** another hot and humid day, sometimes with a light breeze, 35C at times!



Senegal Chameleon

The air-conditioned bus was a godsend today, we really appreciated it as temperatures reached 35C. Our journey to Georgetown Island was punctuated with many stops, it took us all day to get there but it was an enjoyable trip. I've lost count of the number of places we stopped at and have only included those that provided new species and good sightings of others.

The wetlands at Soma were disappointing because very few species were seen there and those that were seen were quite distant. We did see both **Gull-billed** and **Caspain Terns**, **Woolly-necked Storks**, **Pied Kingfisher** and lots of common egrets and herons.



The tiny Namaqua Dove

The same goes for the peanut fields where we searched for **Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill**, most of the fields were being worked and so there was a lot of disturbance. We gave up after only 20 minutes out there, we saw **Striped Kingfisher**, **Dark Chanting Goshawk**, **Abyssinian Roller** and not much else. We had stopped to look at a **Brown Snake Eagle** along the road just before the peanut fields.



African Harrier-Hawk

We then went to the water holes which are found alongside the main road, there we had much more excitement and lots more birds. The first watering hole produced dozens of species including the diminutive **Namaqua Dove** and the extraordinary **Exclamatory Paradise Whydah** with its huge tail feathers, what a bird the male is. We also saw **Bush Petronia**, **Yellow-fronted Canary**, **Red-cheeked Cordonbleu**, hundreds of **Bishops** and countless doves.

At the second watering hole we sat and ate our picnic lunch whilst watching even more birds. It's great when you can sit and the birds come to you. We added **Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting**, **Black-rumped Waxbill**, **Red-rumped**



**Swallow** and a group of **White-throated Bee-eaters** came down to splash into the water. **Harrier Hawks** flew over us and many more **Namaqua Doves** were seen.

Apart from birds there was a great mass of butterflies coming down to take up minerals and salts from the wet soil around the pool, many Grass Yellows were joined by Guineafowl Butterflies and Diadems. We also found a Senegal Chameleon by the roadside a little earlier.

Kaur Wetlands is usually very productive and is one of my favourites places to stop, but today it was not so good. We did find a pair of **Egyptian Plovers** which ordinarily would have been the highlight of the day, but of course we had already seen one on the coast. We did find **Marsh Sandpiper**, lots of **Woolly-necked Storks**, **Common Greenshank** and lots of common species.

It got very hot after lunch and it was difficult to stay out of the vehicle for very long, we had short stops at various ponds looking for **Pygmy Goose** without success, but we did find a few new species. At Njau ponds we added **Yellow-crowned Bishop** and a **Gabar Goshawk** flew into a tree very close to us. Overhead, Modou our guide picked out a pair of **African Hawk Eagles**, they were very high up but quite identifiable with their distinctive black and white markings.

Penchang Ponds produced a few more species, we added **Common Moorhen**, **Reed Warbler**, **Red-throated Bee-eater** and a few others to the list. It was the Quarry at Wassu that produced our best birding of the day by far. By the time we arrived there it was late afternoon, the temperature had dropped significantly, and a breeze kept us cool.

The quarry is well known for hosting a huge colony of **Red-throated Bee-eaters**, they did not disappoint, hundreds of them filled the trees and bushes all around the quarry. The quarry itself was half-filled with water and held several wetland species, we saw **Spur-winged Lapwing**, **Black-headed Lapwing** and **Wattle Lapwing** along with **Senegal Thick-knee**, **Green Sandpiper**, **Black-winged Stilt** and **Long-tailed Cormorant**. But the best bird by a country mile was the **GREATER PAINTED SNIPE**.



The plain coloured male Painted Snipe – the female is the brightly coloured sex of this species

Unfortunately the Snipe was a male (there is a role reversal with this species, the female is the most colourful), so it wasn't so colourful but all the same it was smashing to see. We also had good close views of **Levaillant's Cuckoo**, **White-billed Buffalo Weaver**, three species of **Glossy Starlings**, **Piapiac** and much more.

We were exhausted but there was still a little travelling to do, we got to the ferry some twenty minutes later, we had a short wait and then a short crossing to Georgetown Island. Our 'Camp' on Georgetown Island was very close by, we arrived by 6pm.



Within 10 minutes we were out again, a short bus drive down the lane found us searching for **Four-banded Sandgrouse**, which we found in semi-darkness. Back at the 'camp' we ate dinner at 8, which was delicious. We all went off to bed at 9pm.

#### **DAY 9 – WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

##### **WASSU QUARRY AND SURROUNDS – BOAT TRIP ALONG THE RIVER**

**WEATHER:** a nice cool morning, overcast sky, 25C much hotter later

A short walk along the lane outside our 'Camp' produced sightings of a few species, nothing new to add to the list but we enjoyed **Grey Kestrel, Shikra, Little Weaver, Bronze-tailed** and **Greater Blue-eared Glossy Starlings, Beautiful Sunbird** and **Bruce's Green Pigeon**.

After a nice breakfast we boarded the bus for the ferry crossing to the north bank of the river, at the ferry there was a long wait, but we saw our first **Swamp Flycatcher** from the quay. To avoid waiting a fair while for the car ferry, we jumped on board a river-taxi and left the bus in the queue, once on the north-bank we birded as we walked along a dirt track.



**Bearded Barbets** were seen a couple of times, **Bruce's Green Pigeons** flew over, a **Shikra** dashed about trying to catch the weavers and a pale morph **Gabar Goshawk** flew over us.

The bus finally arrived, so we jumped back on it to drive to Wassu some 20km away, **Abyssinian Rollers** sat on power lines and poles, **Dark Chanting Goshawks** perched in the trees and weavers dashed everywhere in large groups.

We parked a few hundred meters from the quarry and walked along a quiet track searching for **CARMINE BEE-EATERS**, which, at the time was our most wanted species and the main reason we had returned to the quarry area. A **Levaillant's Cuckoo** sat out nicely for us as did several **Abyssinian Rollers**, we also saw a few raptors circling above us.

The huge **MARTIAL EAGLE** was spotted by Modou, it circled slowly for all of to see in the scope. Then an **African Hawk Eagle** and a **Wahlberg Eagle** were also seen well. **White-backed Vultures** followed the eagles into the notebook as did a light morph **Gabar Goshawk**, another **Shikra** and a **Western Marsh Harrier**.

The quarry was heaving with birds as usual, a cloud of hirundines dashed all around swooping down to drink with both **Palm** and **Little Swifts**. We saw **Mosque** and **Red-chested Swallows, House** and **Sand Martins**. The huge colony of **Red-throated Bee-eaters** were ever-present giving us superb views as they perched near their nest holes or in nearby trees.

We also added **Black-rumped Waxbill, White-billed Buffalo Weaver, Green Woodhoopoe, Yellow-billed Kite** and a few lapwings and waders near the water, but the **Greater Painted Snipe** was not there.

We drove to another track not far away and Modou quickly found us a few **NORTHERN CARMINE BEE-EATERS**, what a bird, incredible colours. We also found **Cut-throat Finch**, **Grey-headed Sparrow** and large party of hirundines landed in a nearby tree. A quick scan produced a sighting of a single **PLAIN MARTIN**, this was an unbelievable find and a lifer for Modou. Unfortunately, a Roller flew into the tree and flushed the lot of them, the Martin did not return so we had no photographic evidence of this rare sighting!!



The huge Mosque Swallow with an Abyssinian Roller

We drove back to the river only to find an even longer queue so we caught a river taxi back to our 'Camp' which had a jetty in the back garden. Lunch was made up of sandwiches with a cold drink followed by a nap in the heat of the day.



The colourful and elusive Northern Carmine Bee-eater

Our afternoon boat trip along the river commenced at 3:30pm we were all refreshed and raring to go, we had several target species, it was an exciting prospect as we set out to find them. The first new bird for the list was the **Yellow-backed Weaver** (formerly Black-headed Weaver), we saw several colonies of them along the north bank. We then saw our 8<sup>th</sup> Kingfisher of the trip when a **Grey-headed Kingfisher** was found sitting out waiting for our attention.



A couple of **Palm-nut Vultures** were nice to see as was **Woodland Kingfisher**, **Malachite Kingfisher**, **African Darter**, **Long-tailed Cormorant** and **Swamp Flycatcher**. A **Little Grebe** looked very out of place in the centre of this mighty river but it looked healthy, just a little lost perhaps.



Peter Hayes and Richard Geeson showing the local children the Carmine bee-eater through the scope

As we were watching the Grebe, Modou called a **SHINING BLUE KINGFISHER**, this bird dashed across the river and was lost to sight in the mangroves, only a few of the group picked it out in their binoculars.

We turned up a smaller creek and intensified our search for the **FINFOOT**, which is a grebe-like water bird that winters in the area. Soon we found one, a young bird, but an **African Finfoot** all the same, it was a great sighting and an excellent species for our list.



Juvenile African Finfoot – taken by Susan Hayes

After the creek excitement we quickly ran into another adventure, this time it was a mammal that got us all on the edge of our seats. A Hippopotamus appeared some distance away, so we set off to investigate. We kept a good, safe distance away from this huge and dangerous animal, it surfaced several times before we left it in peace.

We then crossed the river and began our journey back along the south side, we found Green Vervet Monkeys, more **Palm-nut Vultures** and eventually our target eagle, the **African Fish Eagle**. Boy did this bird pose for the cameras, it sat just above us and opened its wings and just sat there, amazing.



African Fish Eagle – picture by Susan Hayes

Next we had another encounter with a **Shining Blue Kingfisher**, this time most of us saw it as it flew from a nearby perch, it didn't fly far but was lost to sight. We cut the engine and waited a short while, then the bird reappeared and flew down river and landed a long way off. One person missed it so we followed but could not relocate it.

Other sightings included a tree full of Baboons, a huge flock of **Yellow-billed Kites**, a pair of **Harrier Hawks** and a large Owl flew across the river ahead of us. We approached the place where the owl disappeared and Modou found a **Verraux's Owl** perched in a tree.

We also saw lots of **Straited Herons**, a single **Black-crowned Night Heron**, **Grey Heron**, **Great**, **Intermediate** and **Cattle Egrets** and many common species. Everyone loved the trip it was really enjoyable and with all our target species in the bag we couldn't have asked for more. We got back to our private jetty just as it was getting dark and in good time for dinner.

#### **DAY 10 – THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

#### **TRANSFER TO TENDABA CAMP FROM GEORGETOWN ISLAND WITH STOPS AT JAKHALLY RICE FIELDS – SOMA WETLANDS**

**WEATHER:** a cloudless sunny day, very hot not so humid 30C+

Today we set off back towards the coast, we intended to stop half-way for one night at Tendaba Camp, but before we arrived there we planned a long stop at Jakhally Rice Fields and several shorter birding stops.

We left our Camp on Georgetown Island crossed a bridge over the river to the south bank, after a few kilometers we pulled over and took a short walk into open woodlands. It was alive with birds with plenty to see and hear. We quickly built up an impressive list but none of them were new for the trip. A **Scarlet-chested Sunbird** sat out in the morning sun, we also saw **Pygmy Sunbirds** at close range. The trees held plenty of glossy starlings, **African Grey Hornbills**, we saw a **Scimitarbill**, **Bruce's Green Pigeon**, **Abyssinian Rollers**, lots of weavers and both **Wahlberg's Eagle** and **Harrier Hawk**.

The highlight of the day was our visit to Jakhally Rice Fields I have always had good sightings there and today was no exception. We had several target species, not all of them turned up but those that did pleased the group as they showed very well.



Once off the bus we walked a hundred meters and Modou called out a crane, the bird disappeared rather too quickly for most of the group but we were certain that it was a **Little Crane**, another first for the Gambia for me. Next, we saw **Common Snipe**, in flight, we then found a family party of the diminutive **Pygmy Goose**, what a stunning looking goose, it is about the size of a Wigeon, so tiny for a goose.



The male Pygmy Goose – they are tiny birds

A distant **Purple Heron** flew over the rice fields as we searched for a **Black Coucal**, the Coucal never showed up. We logged many herons and egrets and the number of **African Jacanas** was amazing, they were everywhere. We saw **Black Crake** as we drove to a pumping station and a flock of 10 **Ruff** flew around the fields as we disembarked.



The Black-faced Quailfinch

From the pumping station we took a second walk to look for the Coucal, we added **Marsh Harrier**, **Harrier Hawk**, **Grey Kestrel** and large numbers of **Red-billed Queleas**, **Black-rumped Waxbills** and **Yellow-crowned Bishops** before we saw a **Painted Snipe** very briefly.

For about 30 minutes we tried to pin down a pair of **Black-faced Quailfinches**, they gave us the run-around until they finally landed on the track ahead of us, what a cracking little bird. We gave up on the Coucal and sat in the shade of the pumping station watching a lot of weaver activity as we ate our picnic lunch. As we sat many species appeared, we saw **Pygmy & Pied Kingfishers**, **Cut-throat Finch**, **African Darter**, **Abyssinian Roller** and many egrets.

We left Jakhally around 1pm and set off for Tendaba hoping to arrive around teatime, unfortunately we had problems with the air-conditioning on the bus and had to stop for an hour for repairs. We also stopped at several pools hoping for **Black Heron** or **Spur-winged Goose**, we saw neither, but we did find a flock of 12 **Pygmy Geese**, a larger flock of **White-faced Whistling Ducks**, **Green Sandpiper** and a selection of egrets.

We also made a few stops to try to see a **Bruce's Green Pigeon** actually sitting still on a perch!! This we achieved after several attempts, we were almost at Tendaba by the time that all of the group had finally seen one well.

Once at Tendaba Camp the usual confusion at the check-in counter ensued, only this time it was much worse because we had no rooms allocated to us at all!! We spent nearly two hours waiting, in the meantime we had dinner in our birding clothes and finally got keys to our rooms at 8:30pm. What a way to end a hot and sticky day, everyone went to bed early, hoping that tomorrow would bring better luck!

#### **DAY 11 – FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

##### **TRANSFER FROM TENDABA TO KOLOLI WITH STOPS AT: KIANG WEST PEANUT FIELDS**

**WEATHER:** clear blue sky, nice cool breeze, temp 25C – 30C

After last night's fiasco with the rooms we were hoping for better luck today and we surely got it. What a great morning's birding we had by just walking across a few post-harvest peanut fields, it was a really enjoyable session.



Bruce's Green Pigeon

Before we got to Kiang West we had stopped the bus a couple of times to look at perched birds, The **Bruce's Green Pigeon** is now a standing joke within the group because we had never seen it perched in the open.....until now! We had really good views of a couple sitting in the morning sun, a **Greater Blue-eared Starling** sat near them too. The next stop was to look at a pair of **Hawk Eagles**, also perched in roadside trees, what a superb sighting, they were awesome looking birds. We also watched **Shikra**, **Grasshopper Buzzard**, **Senegal Parrots** and quite a few more species.

Once in the peanut fields it was just like day 1, birds were flying all around and seemed to be in every tree. Our main target was the **Abyssinian Ground Hornbill**, and would you believe it, one sat right out for us, it stood on a sawn-off tree trunk and posed for the cameras. Although it was distant we had great scope views of it, the bird eventually dropped down into long grass. We did see it twice more, but only in flight.

What an amazing start! We walked into open fields looking for other species and before long we were watching an amazing array of colourful birds. It was another day when palearctic winter visitors featured heavily in our sightings, over the next couple of hours we saw **European Bee-eater** (our last possible Bee-eater species for this Tour) **Woodchat Shrike**, **Common Whitethroat**, **Common Chiffchaff**, **Willow Warbler** and both **Bonelli's Warbler** and **Eurasian Wryneck** were seen by just one or two of us.



A bird that most of us wanted to see was the **Brubru**, we heard one calling and spent 30 minutes searching for it, eventually it showed well but only briefly, we all saw it well in the end. We also watched **Cut-throat Finch**, **African Golden Oriole**, a beautiful male **Black-winged Bishop**, **Variable**, **Scarlet-chested**, **Pygmy** and **Beautiful Sunbirds**, lots of weavers and four species of glossy starling.



A distant record shot of the Abyssinian Ground Hornbill

The comical **Yellow-billed Oxpecker** showed well as did **Northern Black Flycatcher**, **Fork-tailed Drongo**, **Abyssinian Roller**, **Blue-cheeked**, **Swallowtail** and **Little Bee-eaters** and so the list goes on.



Yellow-billed Oxpeckers

Birds of prey were ever present too, with **Dark Chanting Goshawk**, **Western Marsh Harrier**, **Grasshopper Buzzard**, **Grey Kestrel**, **Hooded Vulture** all perched or flying over the fields, on our way back to the bus we watched a magnificent male **Martial Eagle** circling over us. Phew, we saw over 50 species in those few short hours, it was just fantastic, it was sad to leave the area.

Not long after we had recommenced our journey to the coast, we pulled over to watch our first **Bateleur**, it was a colourful male and it showed very well as it circled over the fields.

For our lunch break we stopped at Campancy which is a regular stop for Modou our guide and where you can see a good variety of raptors. It was 1pm when we arrived and after eating our picnic lunch we began to watch the sky.

Apart from the ever-present **Hooded Vulture** we saw **Wahlberg's Eagle**, **African Harrier hawk**, **White-backed Vulture**, **Yellow-billed Kite**, both **Grasshopper** and **Lizard Buzzards** and, a **Lanner Falcon** appeared at least 3 times. It was amazing watching all those birds high up on the thermals, we also watched **Pink-backed Pelicans** and **Woolly-necked Storks** floating around with the raptors.

A short walk into the rice fields produced better views of **Harrier hawk**, **Lizard** and **Grasshopper Buzzards** but not much else.

We recommenced our journey around 3pm and arrived at our hotel at 5pm, it was so nice to be back at our coastal hotel with hot water, air-conditioning, nice beds, beautiful gardens, wfi and cold beers.

## **DAY 12 – SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

### **KARTONG WETLANDS, POOLS AND BEACH**

**WEATHER:** hot and sunny all day 28C

We are now back on the coast and today we headed south to Kartong where a British guy, Colin Cross, founded a ringing station back in 2012, the Kartong Bird Reserve has a few ponds, a small wetlands area and a beach to visit.

We set off at 8am and headed south reaching Kartong an hour later. We scanned the reed-fringed pools as soon as we got off the bus. They produced a few species but were generally disappointing, we saw **African Purple Gallinule** (Swamphen) for the first time, a huge number of **White-faced Whistling Ducks** and a few **Spur-winged Lapwings**. Overhead we watched **Pink-backed Pelicans**, a **Lanner Falcon** and a **Long-tailed Glossy Starling** mobbing an **African Harrier-Hawk**.



White-faced Whistling Ducks

Further scrutiny of the wetlands produced a brief sighting of **Spur-winged Goose** and we saw a **Levaillant's Cuckoo**. Kartong is well known for its ringing station and so that is where we headed next. We walked a few hundred meters into some scrub and a wooded area. The ringers were going full pelt, they had about 15 nets up and about 10 of the ringers were very busy processing their catches.

We watched them demonstrate the weighing, ringing and ageing of a number of species and we were shown moult patterns etc. **African Thrush**, **Yellow-throated Leaflove**, **Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat**, **Common Gonolek**, **Bronze Mannikin**, **Grey-backed Camaroptera** and **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** were all seen in the hand.

From the ringing station we jumped onto the bus and drove to the beach where we spent an hour or so looking at waders, we had one main target bird, the **White-fronted Plover**. A large flock of some 200 **Sanderling** were feeding on the shoreline with a few **Ruddy Turnstones**, several **Whimbrel** and a couple of **Grey Plovers**, we also listed 3 **Ospreys** and a single **Eurasian Oystercatcher**.



Walking a little further we found our target bird, the **WHITE-FRONTED PLOVER**. Just a single individual, but one is enough, four others turned up a little later. We could see a huge flock of roosting gulls and terns much further down the beach near the town of Kartong, we could also see the border with Senegal. So, we decided to go back to the bus and drive to the village, on the way back to the bus we found a single **Common Ringed Plover**.



Lanner Falcon – taken by Susan Hayes

From our new position at the village we walked to the gull roost and spent another hour scanning the beach and sifting through the gulls and terns. We found hundreds of **Caspian Terns** with just as many **Royal Terns**, also many **Sandwich** and **Common Terns**. The gulls were mainly **Grey-headed** with Lesser **Black-backed Gulls**. We found a single **Bar-tailed Godwit** and more **Whimbrels** and **Sanderlings**.



White-fronted Plover on Kartong Beach

It was now getting very hot and the smell from a sardine processing factory was putting us off lunch, so we departed and drove all the way northward to Tangi for a sit-down lunch in our favourite restaurant. It was very late by the time we finished lunch, 4pm, so we decided to call it a day and head back to Kololi and our hotel.

The usual Saturday night barbeque was put on for dinner and afterwards we went through our checklist, we have now seen 266 species with two and a half days to go, I don't think that we are going to make the 307 total of our last trip here, but we can try.

**DAY 13 – SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

**FARASUTO BIRD RESERVE – PIRANG SHRIMP FARM**

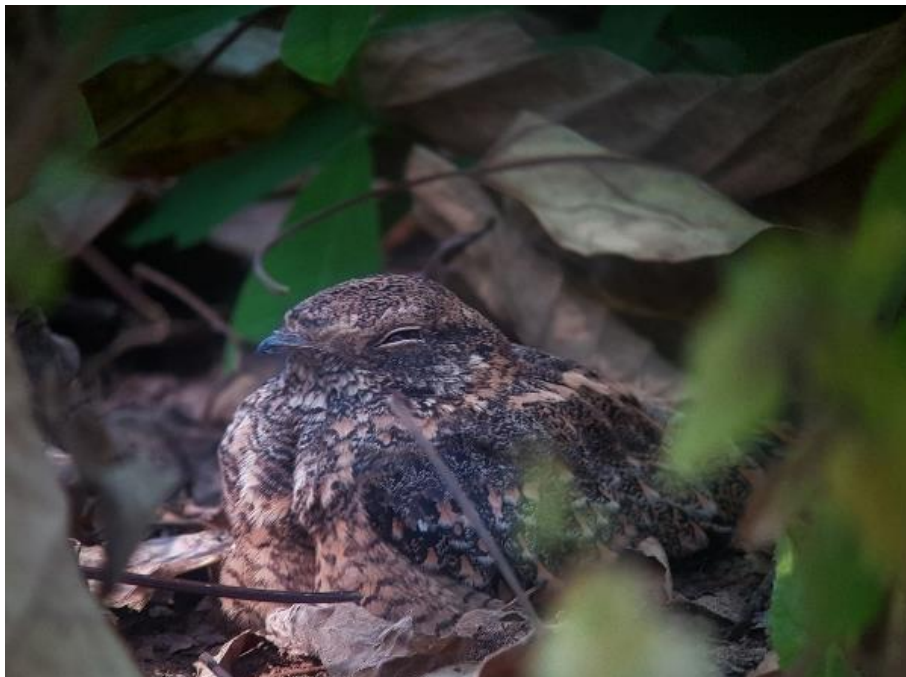
**WEATHER:** hot and sunny all day, temp 30C+

We left the hotel at the usual time of 8am and drove west for an hour, the Bird reserve at Farasuto consists of woodland and sits on the banks of the river. There are several tracks through the woodland and some areas of farmland, that is where we started our first walk.



A Greyish Eagle Owl

A typical Gambian morning's birding ensued, with birds flitting about everywhere, we listed about 20 species within the first half-an-hour. We had great views of **Grey-backed Eremomela**, **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**, **Levaillant's Cuckoo**, **Splendid Sunbird**, **Black-winged Bishop** and many common species.



Standard-winged Nightjar

A local guide, Mustafa, then led us into the forest to look for owls and nightjars, we didn't actually search for any of them as Mustafa knew exactly where they were roosting. First, he showed us a pair of **Greyish Eagle Owls**, we had



excellent views of them. Then we walked a little further in the woods and he pointed out two roosting **Standard-winged Nightjars**. Wow, they were fantastic, so well camouflaged.

Next, we sat on benches and watched a watering station where trays of water are 'planted' in the trees at eye level and dozens of birds were coming down to drink. Nothing spectacular happened except for the appearance of an **African Goshawk**, this rarely seen predator was our second sighting of this species during the tour.

After watching lots of common species such as **Red-billed Firefinch**, **Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu**, **Village** and **Little Weavers**, we took another walk into a different section of the reserve. This time there were lots of birds to look at: we finally got great views of **Grey-headed Bristlebird** and **Oriole Warbler**. A **Common Wattle-eye** sat out nicely as did a **Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher**. We also saw **Common Gonolek**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, and **African Thrush**.



The ubiquitous Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu

Mustafa led us to our second owl of the day where he showed us **African Wood Owl**, about the size of a **Tawny Owl** this bird was tucked away in the foliage and was harder to see than the **Greyish Eagle Owl**.

Next, we took a walk along the shore of the river we scanned pools and the edges of the mangrove swamp, finding: **Senegal Thick-knee**, **Yellow-wattled Lapwing**, **Whimbrel**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Western Reef Egret**, **Pied Kingfisher** and **Blue-bellied Roller**. A few birds flew over us including a **Shrikra**, **Yellow-billed Stork** and **Long-tailed Cormorant**.

We then sat at a second 'feeding' station which had much more activity, lots of species we coming down to drink we had great views of: **Splendid Sunbird**, **Black-rumped** and **Orange-cheeked Waxbills**, there were also lots of weavers and bishops, another **Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher**, **Blue-spotted Wood Doves** and **Yellow-fronted Canary**.

Lunch was a unique experience, we caught a six-person ferry and were taken to a private island where a restaurant and lodgings were found. We sat in a huge open plan dining room, drinking cold drinks as we waited for our food. It took quite a while for the food to arrive, in fact it was about 1 ½ hours so most of us went birding in the grounds.

The **Purple Glossy Starling** has an unbelievable shiny plumage, it doesn't look real! We also saw **Bearded Barbet**, **Grey-headed Sparrow**, **Red-billed** and **African Grey Hornbills** and a few more species.

Lunch arrived at 3pm and by 4pm we were back on the ferry, which broke down during the second run, so we had to be rowed across the small expanse of water to the landing jetty.

From Farasuto we drove the short distance to Pirang Shrimp farm. Which is now disused, but the huge pools are still there and hundreds of birds feed or roost in them. We had a fantastic hour walking around the pools, we listed about 50 species, seventeen of them were waders!!

We found our first **Crested Larks** as we started our walk and the scrub held several **Subalpine Warblers** with a few **Common Chiffchaffs**. We added **Pied Avocet, Black-tailed Godwit, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Little-ringed Plover, Great White Pelican, Slender-billed Gull** and **Little Tern** to our trip list.

Most of group had much better views than they had previously, of **Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruff, Redshank** and **Greenshank, Common Ringed Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Gull-billed Tern** and **Grey Plover**. It was a fabulous last hour of the day, the light was exquisite and we had a nice temperature, the light began to fade as we made our way back to the bus.

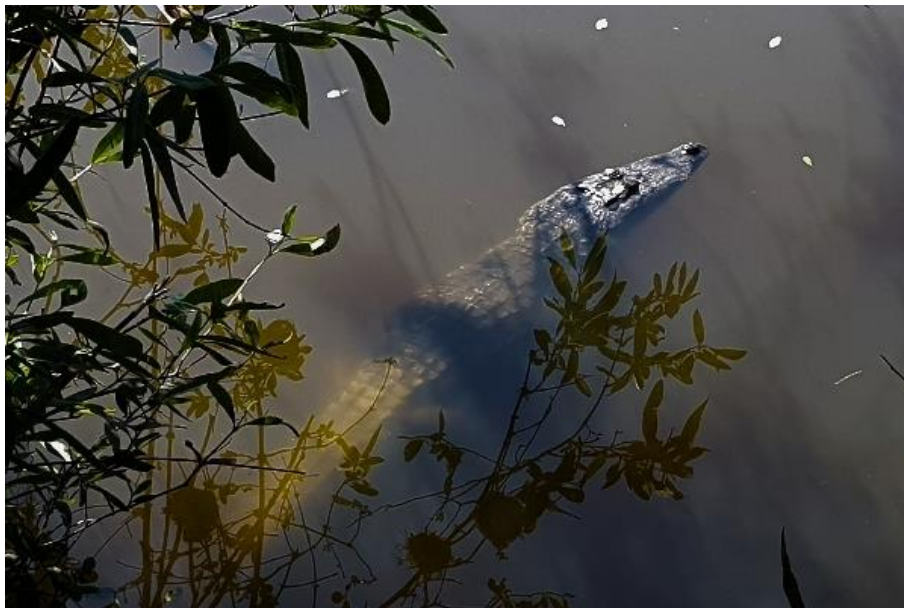
We arrived back at the hotel much later than usual, we took dinner at 8pm and called the checklist after that, we had added 11 new species to the trip list, we have one more full day left.

#### **Day 14 – MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

##### **MARAKISSA WOODLANDS, LODGE, MANGROVES AND RICE FIELDS**

**WEATHER:** hot and sunny as usual, 30C+

Our last full day had arrived and we were still looking for new species, our list falls just short of the last WINGSPAN TOUR and we hoped to make up a few species during our visit to Marakissa.



Nile Crocodile

The area we visited was inland and to the south near to the border with Senegal, we spent the morning walking tracks in open woodland and scrub. On arrival we found our first **African Green Pigeon** of the trip, what a stunning bird and one worth waiting for. Then we had great views of **African Pied Hornbill**, some of the group had not previously seen that one at all. There followed a flurry of sightings involving many common species but nothing too remarkable. We searched for **Red-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike** and **Leaflove** but neither turned up.

It was slow going out there, we heard much more than we saw, an **African Golden Oriole** gave us the run around and still never showed. Eventually we found a **Leaflove**, but it was very elusive and only showed in short dashes in flight.

A **Red-winged Warbler** was also on our wanted list, this bird was calling, but once again, it remained elusive and we hardly had a glimpse of it. After nearly 3 hours in the field it was now getting quite hot, so we headed back to the bus. A short drive found us at Marakissa Lodge where we spent the next few hours relaxing in the shade watching bird feeders and we took lunch there too.

A lagoon lies adjacent to the lodge and produced sightings of **Grey Heron, Long-tailed Cormorants, African Darter, Spur-winged Lapwing** and **Senegal Thick-knee**. We also saw a **Nile Crocodile**, a **Monitor Lizard** and a couple of **Sun Squirrels** came down to the feeders.

More birds arrived as we watched the feeder after lunch, a large flock of **Piapiacs** (25) were so noisy, also noisy were a group of **Black-headed Babblers**, a group of **Purple Glossy Starlings** arrived just after. Later we saw **White-crowned**



**Robin-Chat** and when the group went for a walk one or two stayed behind and they saw **Palm Nut Vulture, Giant** and **Blue-breasted Kingfishers**.



The Black Egret (aka Black Heron)

For our final excursion of the day the majority of the group went down to the rice fields where some open areas of lily ponds and rice fields could be scanned from a bridge, in particular we searched the reed bed fringes for **Allen's Gallinule**, but one did not appear. We did see **Malachite** and **Pied Kingfishers, Spur-winged Lapwing, White-faced Whistling Ducks, Western Reef, Cattle** and **Great Egrets** and a party of **Yellow-billed Oxpeckers**.



Malachite Kingfisher

Towards the end of our walk Modou, our guide, found a **Black Egret**, we all eventually saw it performing its famous 'Umbrella' fishing technique, this most wanted bird was now finally on the list. Whilst watching the **Black Egret** we also found our first **African Spoonbill**, a juvenile bird that fed nearby in the marshes.

We finished at 5:30pm and drove back to the hotel, our last day was over, we still have tomorrow morning left for a bit of birding before we all go our separate ways, having different flight departure times.

**DAY 15 – 26<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAY NOVEMBER 2019**

**BUND ROAD – BANJUL FERRY TERMINAL**

**WEATHER:** no change, hot and sunny all morning. 25C

Our very last day had arrived and we had only a few hours of birding time left, so we met for breakfast at 7am and set out at the usual time of 8am.

We headed into Banjul with the typical heavy rush-hour traffic, but we turned off onto the unmade Bund Road which led to the docks and the Ferry Terminal. We stopped a couple of kilometers from the docks and birded a rubbish-strewn marsh area that had quite an unpleasant smell. The water was black and so was most of the mud around the pools, amazingly the area was covered in birds, waders, egrets, herons and kingfishers.



Spur-winged Lapwings with Grey-headed Gull

At the first pool we came to we found a **Tree Pipit** feeding in the scrub at the edge of the mud, how unusual was that? A nice collection of waders was seen and included: **Ruff**, **Curlew Sandpiper** (a single bird with only one foot), **Common** and **Wood Sandpipers**, **Common Redshank** and **Common Greenshank**, **Greater** and **Little Ringed Plovers**, a single **Grey Plover** and dozens of **Spur-winged Lapwings**.



Kelp Gull with a Lesser Black-backed Gull (foreground)



Both **Yellow** and **White Wagtails** fed in the muddy areas and we also noted several **Pied Kingfishers**, **Malachite Kingfisher** (1), our first **Sacred Ibis** of the trip, plenty of **Western Reef Egrets**, **Great Egrets** and a couple of **Striated Herons**.

Our next stop was another kilometer nearer to the docks, we had a panoramic view of the mighty River Gambia, the tide was high. Out on the water we scanned a flock of gulls, there was about 20 **Slender-billed Gulls** and a dozen **Grey-headed Gulls**. We also noted **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and a few **Common** and **Caspian Terns**.

On the other side of the road a large shallow pool of water held hundreds of birds, mostly **Grey-headed Gulls**, but we also found **Gull-billed Terns**, a selection of waders, **African Spoonbills**, **Sacred Ibis**, **Great Egrets** and the wonderful **Black Egret**. Two of these unique 'umbrella' birds were present, one of them was in fact fishing using the 'umbrella' technique, how marvellous for all of us to see.

Before we turned around and headed for the hotel we drove to the beach just west of the ferry terminal. We were confronted by a heaving mass of people doing all sorts of things, loading or loading small boats, fishing, packing or unpacking goods, loading people on and off Ferries. Despite all this noise and movement taking place large numbers of gulls were sitting in the water or loafing on the beach.



Sacred Ibis

To our great delight, our most wanted species flew around just off-shore. The **Pomarine Skua** appeared in small numbers, we saw about 10 of them in various morphs and plumages. A bonus bird here was the **Kelp Gull**, at least 6 of them sat out on the water just offshore with **Grey-Headed** and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, it was good to compare the different sizes of these three gulls.

We arrived back at the hotel at 11am, the trip was now officially over, 4 of the group departed at 1:30pm another 3 of us went at 7:30pm and the last two went at 11pm.

Our final tally was an excellent 284 species, I couldn't get a 'bird-of-the-trip' from anyone but most agreed that the spectacular Kingfishers were high on their favourites list. Bee-eaters were also mentioned, the number of colourful birds found here is truly remarkable, if you want to see them for yourself why not join us in 2020?





	SPECIES	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
44.	Cormorant, White-breasted <i>Phalacrocorax c. maroccanus</i>				X			X					X			
45.	Cormorant, Long-tailed <i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>		X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
46.	Coucal, Senegal <i>Centropus senegalensis</i>	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	
47.	Crake, Little <i>Porzana parva</i>										X					
48.	Crake, Black <i>Amauornis flavirostra</i>			X					X		X					
49.	Crombec, Green <i>Sylvietta virens</i>						X									
50.	Crombec, Northern <i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>				X			X					X			
51.	Crow, Pied <i>Corvus albus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
52.	Cuckoo, Klaas's <i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>	X				X										
53.	Cuckoo, Levillant's <i>Clamator levillantii</i>	X			X			X	X	X			X	X		
54.	Cut-Throat, <i>Amandina fasciata</i>								X	X	X	X				
55.	Darter, African <i>Anhinga rufa</i>		X					X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
56.	Dove, African Mourning <i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
57.	Dove, Black-billed Wood- <i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
58.	Dove, Blue-spotted Wood- <i>Turtur afer</i>			X	X		X							X	X	
59.	Dove, Laughing or Palm <i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
60.	Dove, Namaqua <i>Oena capensis</i>							X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
61.	Dove, Red-eyed <i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X
62.	Dove, Vinaceous <i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>		X	X		X	X					X	H	X	X	
63.	Drongo, Fork-tailed <i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X		X	
64.	Duck, White-faced Whistling- <i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>		X				X				X		X	X	X	
65.	Eagle, African Fish- <i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>									X	X					
66.	Eagle, African Hawk- <i>Aquila spilogaster</i>								X	X		X				
67.	Eagle, Beaudouin's <i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>					X				X						
68.	Eagle, Brown Snake- <i>Circaetus cinereus</i>								X							
69.	Eagle, Long-crested <i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>						X		X		X	X				
70.	Eagle, Martial <i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>									X		X				
71.	Eagle, Tawny <i>Aquila rapax belisarius</i>						X									
72.	Eagle, Wahlberg's <i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>						X		X	X	X	X				
73.	Egret, Cattle <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
74.	Egret, Great <i>Egretta alba</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
75.	Egret, Intermediate or Yellow-billed <i>Ardea intermedia</i>							X	X	X	X	X				
76.	Egret, Little <i>Egretta garzetta</i>		X				X	X	X		X	X		X		X
77.	Egret, Western Reef- <i>Egretta gularis</i>		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
78.	Eremomela, Green-backed (Senegal) <i>Eremomela pusilla</i>				X									X		
79.	Falcon, Lanner <i>Falco biarmicus abyssinicus</i>				X							X	X			
80.	Falcon, Red-necked <i>Falco chicquera ruficollis</i>		X		X			X		X						
81.	Finfoot, African <i>Podica senegalensis senegalensis</i>									X						
82.	Firefinch, Red-billed <i>Lagonosticta senegala senegala</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
83.	Flycatcher, African Blue- <i>Elminia longicauda</i>															
84.	Flycatcher, African Paradise- <i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>							X								
85.	Flycatcher, European Pied- <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>				X		X									
86.	Flycatcher, Northern Black- <i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>				X							X	X	X		
87.	Flycatcher, Red-bellied Paradise- <i>Terpsiphone rufiventer rufiventer</i>		X	X	X									X	X	
88.	Flycatcher, Swamp <i>Muscicapa aquatica</i>									X						
89.	Francolin, Ahanta <i>Pternistis achantensis</i>														H	

	SPECIES	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
90.	Francolin, Double-spurred <i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>		X			H		X	X		X			H		
91.	Godwit, Bar-tailed <i>Limosa lapponica lapponica</i>												X	X		
92.	Godwit, Black-tailed <i>Limosa limosa limosa</i>													X		
93.	Gonolek, Common <i>Laniarius barbarus</i>		X	H	X	X		H	H	H	H	H	X		X	
94.	Goose, African Pygmy- <i>Nettapus auritus</i>										X					
95.	Goose, Spur-winged <i>Plectropterus gambensis gambensis</i>												X			
96.	Goshawk, Dark Chanting- <i>Melierax metabates metabates</i>					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
97.	Goshawk, Gabar <i>Melierax gabar</i>			X			X		X	X	X					
98.	Grebe, Little or Dabchick <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis</i>		X							X						
99.	Greenbul or Leaf-love, Yellow-throated <i>Chlorocichla f. lavicollis</i>				X								X		X	
100.	Greenbul, Little <i>Andropadus virens</i>			X	X		X									
101.	Greenshank, Common <i>Tringa nebularia</i>		X	X			X	X	X				X	X	X	X
102.	Gull, Grey-headed, <i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>				X		X						X	X		X
103.	Gull, Kelp or Southern Black-backed <i>Larus dominicanus vetula</i>				X											X
104.	Gull, Lesser Black-backed <i>Larus fuscus graellsii/intermedius</i>				X								X			X
105.	Gull, Slender-billed <i>Larus genei</i>													X		X
106.	Hamerkop <i>Scopus umbretta</i>		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
107.	Harrier, Western or Eurasian Marsh- <i>C. aeruginosus aeruginosus</i>						X		X	X	X					
108.	Harrier-Hawk, African or Gymnogene <i>Polyboroides typus pectoralis</i>			X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
109.	Helmet-Shrike, White <i>Prionops plumatus</i>							X								
110.	Heron, Black <i>Egretta ardesias</i>														X	X
111.	Heron, Black-crowned Night- <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>							X		X						
112.	Heron, Goliath <i>Ardea goliath</i>							X								
113.	Heron, Grey <i>Ardea cinerea</i>		X		X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
114.	Heron, Purple <i>Ardea purpurea</i>			X							X					
115.	Heron, Squacco <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
116.	Heron, Striated or Little <i>Butorides striatus</i>		X	X				X		X	X			X	X	X
117.	Heron, White-backed Night- <i>Gorsachius leuconotus</i>							X								
118.	Hobby, African <i>Falco cuvierii</i>						X									
119.	Honeyguide, Greater <i>Indicator indicator</i>				X										X	
120.	Honeyguide, Lesser <i>Indicator minor</i>			X		X	X	X								
121.	Honeyguide, Spotted <i>Indicator maculatus</i>				X											
122.	Hornbill, African Grey- <i>Tockus nasutus nasutus</i>				X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
123.	Hornbill, African Pied- <i>Tockus fasciatus semifasciatus</i>			X											X	
124.	Hornbill, Abyssinian Ground- <i>Bucorvus abyssinicus</i>											X				
125.	Hornbill, Red-billed <i>Tockus erythrorhynchus kemp</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
126.	Hylia, Green <i>Hylia prasina</i>						X									
127.	Ibis, Sacred <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>															X
128.	Indigobird, Village <i>Vidua chalybeata</i>				X	X			X	X	X					
129.	Jacana, African <i>Actophilornis africanus</i>			X			X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
130.	Kestrel, Grey <i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>					X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	
131.	Kingfisher, African Pygmy- <i>Ispidina picta picta</i>				X		X				X					
132.	Kingfisher, Blue-breasted <i>Halcyon malimbica torquata</i>		X		X			X							X	
133.	Kingfisher, Giant <i>Megaceryle maxima maxima</i>		X	X					X	X	X		X		X	X
134.	Kingfisher, Grey-headed <i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>									X						



	SPECIES	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
135.	<b>Kingfisher, Malachite</b> <i>Alcedo cristata galerita</i>		X	X					X	X	X		X		X	X
136.	<b>Kingfisher, Pied</b> <i>Ceryle rudis rudis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
137.	<b>Kingfisher, Shining-blue</b> <i>Alcedo quadibrachys quadibrachys</i>									X						
138.	<b>Kingfisher, Striped</b> <i>Halcyon chelicuti chelicuti</i>					X		H	X							
139.	<b>Kingfisher, Woodland</b> <i>Halcyon senegalensis senegalensis</i>		X				X			X						
140.	<b>Kite, (Yellow-billed) Black</b> <i>Milvus migrans parasiticus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
141.	<b>Kite, Black-winged or shouldered</b> <i>Elanus caeruleus caeruleus</i>				X											
142.	<b>Lapwing, Black-headed</b> <i>Vanellus tectus tectus</i>					X			X	X	X					
143.	<b>Lapwing, Spur-winged</b> <i>Vanellus spinosus</i>		X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
144.	<b>Lapwing, Wattled</b> <i>Vanellus senegallus senegallus</i>	X	X			X	X		X	X	X			X	X	
145.	<b>Lark, Crested</b> <i>Galerida cristata</i>													X		X
146.	<b>Leaf-love</b> <i>Pyrrhurus scandens</i>														X	
147.	<b>Mannikin, Bronze</b> <i>Lonchura cantans</i>		X	X	X			X					X	X	X	
148.	<b>Martin, Northern House-</b> <i>Delichon urbica urbica</i>									X						
149.	<b>Martin, Sand</b> <i>Riparia riparia riparia</i>								X	X						
150.	<b>Martin, African Plain</b> <i>Riparia paludicola</i>									X						
151.	<b>Moorhen, Common</b> <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		X						X							
152.	<b>Nightjar, Long-tailed</b> <i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i>				X											
153.	<b>Nightjar, Standard-winged</b> <i>Macrodipteryx longipennis</i>													X		
154.	<b>Oriole, African Golden-</b> <i>Oriolus auratus</i>					X		X				X			H	
155.	<b>Osprey</b> <i>Pandion haliaetus haliaetus</i>			X	X	X		X	X				X			
156.	<b>Owl, Greyish Eagle-</b> <i>Bubo cinerascens</i>													X		
157.	<b>Owl, Northern White-faced</b> <i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>				X											
158.	<b>Owl, Verreaux's Eagle-</b> <i>Bubo lacteus</i>						X			X						
159.	<b>Owl, African Wood,</b>															
160.	<b>Owlet, Pearl-spotted</b> <i>Glaucidium perlatum perlatum</i>		X													
161.	<b>Oxpecker, Yellow-billed</b> <i>Buphagus africanus africanus</i>								X	X		X		X	X	
162.	<b>Oystercatcher, Eurasian</b> <i>Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus</i>												X			
163.	<b>Parakeet, Ring-necked</b> <i>Psittacula krameri</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
164.	<b>Parrot, Brown-necked or Cape</b> <i>Poicephalus robustus</i>						X									
165.	<b>Parrot, Senegal</b> <i>Poicephalus senegalus senegalus</i>		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			
166.	<b>Partridge, Stone</b> <i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>				X										H	
167.	<b>Pelican, Great White</b> <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>													X		
168.	<b>Pelican, Pink-backed</b> <i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>						X	X	X			X	X	X		X
169.	<b>Pigeon, African Green-</b> <i>Treron calva</i>														X	
170.	<b>Pigeon, Bruce's Green-</b> <i>Treron waalia</i>						X	X	X	X	X	X				
171.	<b>Pigeon, Feral</b> <i>Columba livia feral</i> (introduced)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
172.	<b>Pigeon, Speckled or Rock</b> <i>Columba guinea</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
173.	<b>Pipit, Tree</b> <i>Anthus trivialis</i>															X
174.	<b>Plantain-eater, Western Grey</b> <i>Crinifer piscator</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
175.	<b>Plover, Common Ringed</b> <i>Charadrius hiaticula hiaticula</i> ; <i>C.h.tundrae</i>				X								X	X		X
176.	<b>Plover, Egyptian or Crocodile-Bird</b> <i>Pluvianus aegyptius</i>		X					X								
177.	<b>Plover, Grey or Black-bellied</b> <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>												X	X		X
178.	<b>Plover, Little Ringed</b> <i>Charadrius dubius curonicus</i>													X		X
179.	<b>Plover, White-fronted</b> <i>Charadrius marginatus hesperius</i>												X			

	SPECIES	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
180.	<b>Prinia, Tawny-flanked or Plain</b> <i>Prinia subflava subflava</i>		X		X	X								X	X	
181.	<b>Puffback, Northern</b> <i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>				X										X	
182.	<b>Quailfinch, Black-faced</b> <i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>										X		X	X		
183.	<b>Quelea, Red-billed,</b> <i>Quelea quelea</i>								X	X	X	X				
184.	<b>Redshank, Common</b> <i>Tringa totanus</i>		X				X							X		X
185.	<b>Redstart, Common</b> <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			H		X					H					
186.	<b>Roller, Abyssinian</b> <i>Coracias abyssinica</i>						X	X	X	X	X	X				
187.	<b>Roller, Blue-bellied</b> <i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>		X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
188.	<b>Roller, Broad-billed</b> <i>Eurystomus glaucurus afer</i>	X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X
189.	<b>Roller, Rufous-crowned</b> <i>Coracias naevia naevia</i>					X										
190.	<b>Ruff</b> <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>										X			X		X
191.	<b>Sanderling</b> <i>Calidris alba</i>				X								X			
192.	<b>Sandgrouse, Four-banded</b> <i>Pterocles quadricinctus</i>								X	X						
193.	<b>Sandpiper, Common</b> <i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>		X	X	X			X	X		X			X	X	X
194.	<b>Sandpiper, Curlew</b> <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>													X		X
195.	<b>Sandpiper, Green</b> <i>Tringa ochropus</i>		X						X	X	X			X		
196.	<b>Sandpiper, Marsh</b> <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>								X							
197.	<b>Sandpiper, Wood</b> <i>Tringa glareola</i>		X						X							
198.	<b>Sawwing, Fanti</b> <i>Psaldiprocne obscura</i>			X	X	X						X				X
199.	<b>Scimitar-bill, Black</b> <i>Rhinopotamos aterrimus</i>							X			X				X	
200.	<b>Shikra, or Little Banded Goshawk</b> <i>Accipiter badius sphenurus</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
201.	<b>Shrike, Woodchat</b> <i>Lanius senator</i>											X				
202.	<b>Shrike, Yellow-billed</b> <i>Corvinella corvina</i>		X			X		X	X		X	X				
203.	<b>Silverbill, African</b> <i>Lonchura cantans cantans</i>									X						
204.	<b>Skua or Jaeger, Pomarine</b> <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>															X
205.	<b>Snipe, Common</b> <i>Gallinago gallinago gallinago;</i>										X					
206.	<b>Snipe, Greater Painted-</b> <i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>								X		X					
207.	<b>Sparrow, House</b> <i>Passer domesticus</i>				X								X			
208.	<b>Sparrow, Northern Grey-headed</b> <i>Passer griseus griseus</i>	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
209.	<b>Sparrow-lark, Chestnut-backed</b> <i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>							X	X		X					
210.	<b>Spinetail, Mottled</b> <i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>					X			X							
211.	<b>Spoonbill, African</b> <i>Platalea alba</i>														X	X
212.	<b>Starling, Bronze-tailed Glossy-</b> <i>Lamprotornis chalcurus</i>		X					X	X	X	X	X				
213.	<b>Starling, Greater Blue-eared Glossy-</b> <i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>		X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
214.	<b>Starling, Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-</b> <i>Lamprotornis c. Chloropterus</i>		X			X										
215.	<b>Starling, Long-tailed Glossy-</b> <i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
216.	<b>Starling, Purple Glossy-</b> <i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>						X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
217.	<b>Stilt, Black-winged</b> <i>Himantopus himantopus himantopus</i>		X				X		X	X	X		X	X		X
218.	<b>Stint, Little</b> <i>Calidris minuta</i>													X		
219.	<b>Stork, Marabou</b> <i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>										X					
220.	<b>Stork, Woolly-necked</b> <i>Ciconia episcopus</i>							X	X			X				
221.	<b>Stork, Yellow-billed</b> <i>Mycteria ibis</i>							X	X					X		
222.	<b>Sunbird, Beautiful</b> <i>Nectarinia pulchella</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
223.	<b>Sunbird, Collared</b> <i>Anthreptes collaris</i>						X									
224.	<b>Sunbird, Green-headed</b> <i>Nectarinia verticalis</i>						X									
225.	<b>Sunbird, Mouse-brown</b> <i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>							X								



	SPECIES	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
226.	Sunbird, Pygmy <i>Anthreptes platurus</i>							X	X	X	X	X				
227.	Sunbird, Scarlet-chested <i>Nectarinia senegalensis</i>					X		X			X	X				
228.	Sunbird, Splendid <i>Nectarinia coccinigaster</i>		X	X										X	X	
229.	Sunbird, Variable or Yellow-bellied <i>Nectarinia venusta</i>				X	X		X				X		X	X	
230.	Swallow, Mosque <i>Hirundo senegalensis senegalensis</i>							X	X	X	X					
231.	Swallow, Pied-winged <i>Hirundo leucosoma</i>					X						X	X			
232.	Swallow, Red-chested or Gambia <i>Hirundo lucida lucida</i>					X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		
233.	Swallow, Red-rumped <i>Hirundo daurica</i>								X	X	X			X		X
234.	Swallow, Wire-tailed <i>Hirundo smithii smithii</i>		X	X					X		X			X		X
235.	Swamphen, (African) Purple <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>												X			
236.	Swift, African Palm- <i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	X	X	X					X	X		X	X	X	X	
237.	Swift, Little <i>Apus affinis</i>		X					X	X	X	X	X	X			X
238.	Tchagra, Black-crowned <i>Tchagra senegala</i>				H	X			H							
239.	Tern, Caspian <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		X		X				X				X	X		X
240.	Tern, Common <i>Sterna hirundo hirundo</i>												X			
241.	Tern, Gull-billed <i>Sterna nilotica nilotica</i>							X	X					X		X
242.	Tern, Lesser Crested <i>Sterna bengalensis torresii</i>				X											
243.	Tern, Little <i>Sternula albifrons guineae</i>													X		
244.	Tern, Royal <i>Sterna maxima albidorsalis</i>				X	X							X			
245.	Tern, Sandwich <i>Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis</i>					X							X			
246.	Thick-knee, Senegal <i>Burhinus senegalensis senegalensis</i>		X	X				X	X	X	X			X	X	
247.	Tinkerbird, Yellow-fronted <i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>									H	H		X	X		
248.	Turaco, Guinea or Green <i>Tauraco persa buffoni</i>			X	X										X	
249.	Turaco, Violet <i>Musophaga violacea</i>			X			X								X	
250.	Turnstone, Ruddy <i>Arenaria interpres interpres</i>				X								X	X		
251.	Vulture, Hooded <i>Necrosyrtes monachus monachus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
252.	Vulture, Palm-nut <i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>			X			X			X	X			X	X	
253.	Vulture, White-backed <i>Gyps africanus</i>						X			X	X	X				
254.	Wagtail, White <i>Motacilla alba</i>				X				X							X
255.	Wagtail, Yellow <i>Motacilla flava</i>								X		X	X		X		X
256.	Warbler, Melodious <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>													X		
257.	Warbler, Oriole (Moho) <i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>				X									X		
258.	Warbler, Red-winged <i>Heliolais erythroptera</i>				H									H		
259.	Warbler, Subalpine <i>Sylvia cantillans</i>			X										X		
260.	Warbler, Western Bonelli's <i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>											X				
261.	Warbler, Western Olivaceous <i>Hippolais opaca</i>					X		X			X		X			
262.	Warbler, Willow <i>Phylloscopus trochilus trochilus</i>					X						X				
263.	Wattle-eye, Common <i>Platysteira cynea</i>			X			X	X						X		
264.	Waxbill, Black-rumped <i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>								X	X	X			X		
265.	Waxbill, Lavender <i>Estrilda caerulescens</i>	X			X	X										
266.	Waxbill, Orange-cheeked <i>Estrilda melpoda melpoda</i>				X									X	X	
267.	Weaver, African (Vitelline) Masked- <i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>				X	X		X								
268.	Weaver, Black-headed <i>Ploceus melanocephalus melanocephalus</i>									X						
269.	Weaver, Black-necked <i>Ploceus nigricollis brachypterus</i>		X	X	X		X	X					X	X	X	
270.	Weaver, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow- <i>Plocepasser superciliosus</i>					X										
271.	Weaver, Heuglin's Masked- <i>Ploceus heuglini</i>				X	X		X								

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