



A **Tropical Birding** scheduled tour.

SENEGAL: “Sahelian Specialties with a French Twist”

6th – 22nd January 2024



Thousands of **Scissor-tailed Kites** were seen on *Kousmar Island (Sam Woods)*.

*All photos by the guide **Sam Woods***

INTRODUCTION:

This tour spanned a large swathe of Senegal. We covered from the arid, sparse Sahelian thornscrub of the far north around Richard Toll and Gamadji Sare, (just south of the Sahara and within sight of Mauritania), and extended all the way south to the rich northern Guinea Savanna on red dirt soils in the far southeast of the country around Dindéfelo, within close proximity of the nation of Guinea. The bird list was substantial, with **330 species** recorded that included some real crackers and specialties among them. The tour started by visiting the extreme north of Senegal, just south of the Sahara Desert. Specialties and highlights there included **Savile's and Arabian Bustards, Black Crowned-Crane, Cream-colored and Temminck's Coursers, Quail-plover, Little Gray Woodpecker, Sennar Penduline-Tit, Atlas Wheatear, Fulvous Chatterer, African Green Bee-eater, Cricket Longtail**, and a gorgeous **Golden Nightjar** seen roosting by day. As we moved south, we departed the dry, arid, desert thornscrub of the north, moving into significantly florally-richer Northern Guinea Savanna, which brought with it a whole new swathe of birds. A boat trip in the Saloum Delta produced the hoped-for **White-crested Tiger-Heron**, although completely open views of the bird patrolling the tidal flats, stretching its neck and raising its trademark crest were definitely not expected. A flush of new birds came in the south, like the scarce **Mali Firefinch**, local species like **Yellow-breasted Apalis, Narina Trogon and Sun Lark, Violet and Guinea Turacos**, a pair of mighty **Abyssinian Ground-Hornbills, Blue-bellied Roller, Oriole Warbler**, the gorgeous **Yellow-crowned Gonolek**, two full breeding male **Sahelian Paradise-Whydahs**, and the rare **Neumann's Starling**.

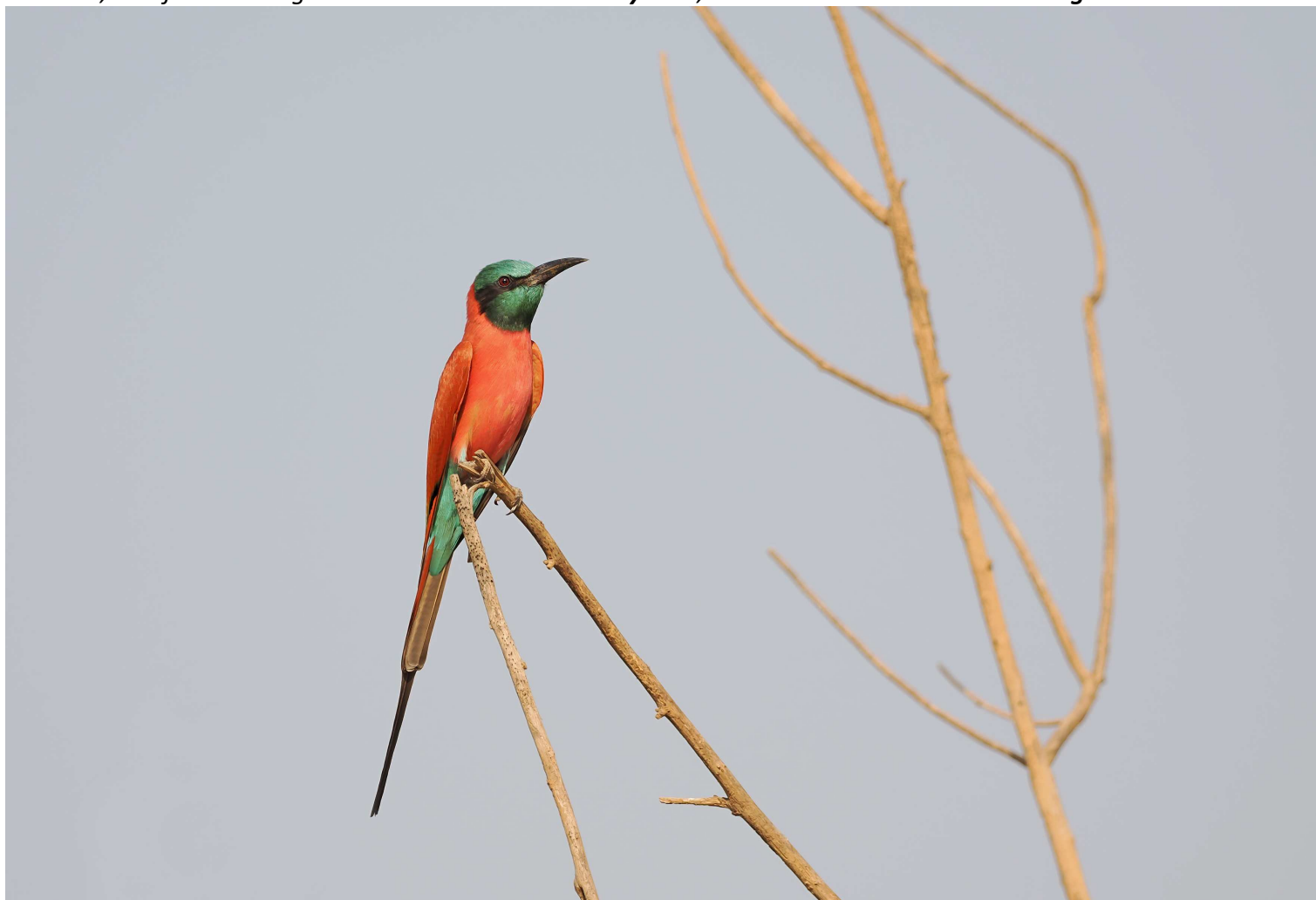


PHOTO PAGE BEFORE: Northern Carmine Bee-eaters were one of a slew of target birds on offer at Wassadou Camp. We also saw Egyptian Plover, African Finfoot, and White-backed Night-Heron there! (Sam Woods).



Egyptian Plover was a much-wanted bird for the entire group at Wassadou Camp. This species is from a monotypic family that is endemic to West Africa (Sam Woods).

Boat trips also yielded other standout birds like **Egyptian Plover**, **Northern Carmine and Red-throated Bee-eaters**, **African Finfoot** and open views of a **White-backed Night-Heron**. We also got 5 species of owl, including **Northern White-faced Owl**, **African Scops-Owl**, and **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl**.

There was no consensus at all on the favorite birds of the trip with no less than 24 different species nominated in the top five choices by the group and guide! Raptors were particularly liked within this group, with 6 species featuring. These were **White-crested Tiger-Heron**, **Black Heron** (seen doing "Dracula" hunting behavior), **Black Crowned-Crane**, **Egyptian Plover**, **Guinea Turaco**, **Northern White-faced Owl**, **Golden Nightjar**, **Long-crested and Martial Eagles**, **African Fish-Eagle**, **Lanner Falcon**, **Shikra**, **Scissor-tailed Kite**, **Bearded Barbet**, **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird**, **Malachite Kingfisher**, **Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill**, **Arabian Bustard**, **Red-throated and Northern Carmine Bee-eaters**, **White Helmetshrike**, **Pygmy and Beautiful Sunbirds**, and **Sahel Paradise-Whydah**.



A party of **Sennar Penduline-Tits** were some of the first birds we saw after lunch in *Richard Toll* (Sam Woods).

TOUR SUMMARY:

Day 1 (of birding): 7th January 2024 – Thies to Podor via Richard Toll.

We all met up the day before at our hotel just south of *Dakar* in *Thies*, when the early arrivers among the group were rewarded with a roosting **Northern White-faced Owl** near there. Our Senegal journey began with the long drive north to *Richard Toll*, stopping for some **African Pygmy-Geese**, **Senegal Thick-knees**, and **Black Crakes** (*photo page 28*) near Saint-Louis on the way. We took lunch there overlooking the *Senegal River*, with *Mauritania* clearly visible just beyond there. Our lunch stop brought us our first **Long-tailed Glossy-Starlings**, and a lonesome **Western Plantain-Eater**. After lunch, the tour started in earnest, as we started targeting specific species typical of the dry, open Sahelian landscape, dominated by *desert thornscrub*, we had now entered. We got off to a bright start with some confiding **Cricket Longtails** (*photo page 6*), some lively **Sennar Penduline-Tits** (*photo above*), and a **Little Gray Woodpecker** paces away from that! An arresting **Brubru** was found nearby too. We then drove a short distance to a regular roosting area for the striking **Long-tailed Nightjar** (*photo next page*), around 8 of which were seen at close quarters in an area that also held our first **Spotted Thick-knees**. With the clock now pushing mid-afternoon, we needed to continue on to *Podor*, to the east of there in pursuit of one of the most highly anticipated birds of the tour. We visited the *Diatar Track*, a famed location for the scarce and local *Golden Nightjar*.



PHOTOS PAGE BEFORE: Our first, full, day in the field proved to be a banner day for *nightjars*, with **Long-tailed Nightjars** seen in *Richard Toll (TOP)* & **Golden Nightjar** near *Podor (Sam Woods)*.

The drill here was to scour the bases of the thinly-distributed thorn trees for a roosting bird, though if we did not manage to find it during the daytime, we would remain until dusk to try and find it another way. This is often the case. However, luck was with us this day and David located a daytime **Golden Nightjar** (*photo page 5*), which settled down and remained in position for the entire group to see and entertain another British birding group in the area too. We headed to the hotel before sunset, extremely happy with the successes of our first full day in the field.



Cricket Longtails performed well on the outskirts of *Richard Toll (Sam Woods)*

Day 2: 8th January 2024 – Podor, Mourkadie & Gamadji Sare areas.

Most of this day was spent to the east of *Podor*, in and around the *Mourkadie Track*, just west of the rural settlement of *Gamadji Sare*. The distinctive purring sounds of **Mourning Collared-Doves** provided a regular backdrop to our birding there, where we found one of the scarcer species early on, a male **Atlas Wheatear** (*photo next page*), a wintering Palearctic species.



This solitary male **Atlas Wheatear** was seen near *Gamadji Sare* in the far north of the country (*Sam Woods*)

Other specialties included prominent flocks of **Sudan Golden Sparrows**, considerably less numerous **Black Scrub-Robins**, the odd **African Green Bee-eater**, and another **Little Gray Woodpecker**. We also familiarised ourselves with other more common fare of the *Sahel* in this season, with numerous **Northern Wheatears**, **Abyssinian Rollers**, **Namaqua Doves**, **Western Red-billed Hornbills**, **Eurasian Hoopoes**, **Greater Blue-eared and Chestnut-bellied Starlings**, **Woodchat Shrikes**, and **Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleues**. Among the flocks of weavers and sparrows we found a few **Speckle-fronted Weavers**, the only ones of the tour. We also saw our first, **Black-headed Lapwings**, **Lesser Kestrel**, and **Western Orphean Warbler** (the latter two species also being wintering birds that breed in Europe). Just before lunch we visited the famous colony of **Horus Swifts** in *Gamadji Sare*, which were only discovered in recent years, getting some very close looks over the river that provides the border between *Senegal* and *Mauritania*. The afternoon was much quieter, and we failed to find the hoped for *Fulvous Chatterer* but did find another **Cricket Longtail**.

Day 3: 9th January 2024 – Podor to Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary via Richard Toll.

We had done pretty well from the *Podor/Gamadji Sare* area, and so opted to head back west in the morning to spend further time within the sparsely vegetated landscape around the town of *Richard Toll*. Our motivation for doing so was to find a pair of coursers that we had been tipped off about from a British birding group in the area.

Virtually as soon as we reached the “Courser Plains”, we located the first of 8 **Temminck’s Coursers**, and were stoked to find a singleton of the much scarcer **Cream-colored Courser** there too. A single **Isabelline Wheatear** there proved to be the only one seen on the tour too. Our first **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** and **Senegal Eremomelas** featured then too, as did multiple **Black-crowned Sparrow-Larks**, and we also enjoyed our best views of **Blue-naped Mousebirds** in the area too. Shortly after enjoying the *coursers*, we prepared to leave the area, though were forced to a halt when a group of brown birds were spotted from the van and proved to be the (until then), elusive **Fulvous Chatterers** (*photo below*), which put on an extended show before we departed the area.



One of a party of **Fulvous Chatterers** that were seen near *Richard Toll* (Sam Woods)

We again enjoyed a lunch overlooking the *Senegal River* and *Mauritania*, with the same hotel garden now featuring a handsome **Yellow-crowned Gonolek**. By the mid-afternoon we had arrived at another famed northern *Senegal* birding locale, *Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary*, where we took an extremely productive afternoon walk around the large wetland at the park entrance. Our bird list exploded at this point with numerous waterbirds added, like **White-faced Whistling-Ducks**, **Northern Shovelers**, **Black-winged Stilts**, **Pied Avocets**, **Black-tailed Godwits**, **Little Stints**, **Marsh, Wood, and Green Sandpipers**, **Ruffs**, **Common and Spotted Redshanks**, **Common Ringed, Kentish, and Kittlitz’s Plovers**, **Squacco and Black Herons**, **Eurasian Spoonbills**, and a few **Yellow-billed Storks**. We also got some great close ups with several **Little Bee-eaters** (*photo next page*) and got a local specialty in the form of a hyper-active **River Prinia**. Laurie also spotted our first **Collared Pratincole** resting on an island in the lake. Arguably though, the best find of the afternoon came from *Kebba*, who spotted a male **African Stonechat** perched alongside the marsh.



Little Bee-eaters were positively tame at Djoudj (Sam Woods)

Day 4: 10th January 2024 – Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary.

This day had been earmarked by *Paul* as a red-letter day of the tour. He is a crane fan, and this day promised to be the best chance of finding the *Black Crowned-Crane*, a species that had initiated him signing up for this tour, now that *Ethiopia* has become largely out of bounds in recent years. However, I warned *Paul* that first we would look for a rarer Senegal bird, the *Arabian Bustard*, a species that may number less than 10 individuals in the park, which is the single most reliable place to see it in the country. We formed a line to cover as much ground as possible for the *bustard*, and while doing so a small party of **Black Crowned-Cranes** were located on the ground and the spotting scope quickly trained on them. Our first **Zebra Waxbills** also featured, although they took flight before all could see them, unfortunately. Then *Missy* made light work of the **Arabian Bustard**, which was walking on the ground at some distance and took flight soon after. We came across it once more, then set off in search of yet more birds in this marvellous wetland sanctuary. Plentiful waterbirds were seen, including additions of **Northern Pintail**, **Garganey**, and **Fulvous Whistling-Duck**. A large flock numbering hundreds of **Great Flamingos** was also seen, while a small group of **Little Grebes** were our only ones of the tour, and some **Black-headed Gulls** were identified nearby.

Our *Djoudj* guide led us to a bird blind where a clutch of 10 **Barn Owl** chicks stared up at us from the floor of it. also made light work of locating **Greater Painted-Snipe** around noon, putting us on to a pair near our hotel with ease. The sanctuary is an important wintering ground for numerous Palearctic migrants, and we could attest to that after seeing all the shorebird and other wetland species, as well as plentiful **Western Yellow Wagtails** and thousands upon thousands of **Bank Swallows**.



The boat trip to the **Great White Pelican** colony on *Pelican Island* in *Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary* was a trip highlight (*Sam Woods*)

After lunch back at our base just outside the park (and a short break), we returned for something very special indeed in the late afternoon. The heat was still blistering at that time, and we set off on a boat trip to visit the famous "*Pelican Island*", which is the centrepiece attraction of the sanctuary. It took us a while to reach the port for the island, as we stopped for **Egyptian Geese**, **Yellow-billed Egret**, and a large mixed flock of *spoonbills* that held a handful of Senegal's national bird, **African Spoonbill**, among others. Once on board, we saw hundreds of **African Darters** and got some stellar views of conspicuous **African Fish-Eagles**, which were a big highlight for *David* at least. Once we reached the island, we believed the hype as we saw thousands of **Great White Pelicans** (*photo above*) packed cheek-by-jowl on the island, the ivory-coloured adults contrasting with the sooty black immatures that peppered the island too.

The boat ride was worth it for this alone, although we also took a circuit of the nearby lily-infested borders of the lake to find a couple of **Allen's Gallinule**, a tricky African species that is perhaps easiest to find here in *Senegal*. A good number of **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** (*photo below*) were also seen during our time on board. On the way back to the dock, we were overflown by a constant stream of waterbirds heading to various roosting sites, including a steady trickle of **Collared Pratincoles**, and we also saw a couple of groups of **Knob-billed Ducks** and **Spur-winged Geese** before we retired with a *Gazelle Beer* back at our nearby hotel for one more night.



Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters showed well during the afternoon boat trip in *Djoudj* (*Sam Woods*)

Day 5: 11th January 2024 – Djoudj to Saint-Louis via Trois Marigots.

We reluctantly left *Djoudj* behind and headed to *Saint-Louis* for the night, spending time in the morning and afternoon at *Trois Marigots*, an area of wetlands bordered by dwarf dunes and thornscrub. It was this latter habitat that held our attention, as it was this area in which we were hoping to see a scarce specialty, *Savile's Bustard*. On the way there the backs of cows provided perches for our first **Yellow-billed Oxpeckers**. In the morning, we came up short on that one, though did get our first (and best looks) at **Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin** (*photo next page*).



Trois Marigots (near *Saint-Louis*) provided us with our best looks at **Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin** and our first **Savile's Bustards** (*Sam Woods*)

We also saw two species of thick-knee during our bustard patrols (**Senegal and Spotted Thick-knees**), our last **Blue-naped Mousebirds**, our first **African Gray Woodpecker**, a second **Striped Kingfisher** of the trip, a few migrants from the Western Palearctic, like **Western Subalpine Warbler** and **Greater Whitethroat**, several **Northern Anteater-Chats**, plus plentiful **African Silverbills** (*photo next page*) and **Red-billed Queleas**, and a few **Red-billed Firefinches**, **Cut-throats**, and some good views of some **Zebra Waxbills** (*photo next page*) for everyone this time round. Then, finally, late in the day, *Kebba* ran into a **Savile's Bustard**, which eluded us initially when we reunited with him. However, a further two were seen a little later, which brought relief all round, and had us heading back to *Saint-Louis* for the night.



Some *Trois Marigots* Waxbills: **African Silverbill (TOP)** & **Zebra Waxbill (Sam Woods)**



Day 6: 12th January 2024 – Mbacke to Kaolack.

This was one of the more memorable days of the tour, for both good and bad. The good was we made our first try for **Quail-plover** and had it in the bag within 40 minutes of searching (*considerably* less time than it can require). The same uninspiring looking site also provided us with a cooperative **Desert Cisticola** (*photo below*), more **Chestnut-bellied Starlings**, **Abyssinian Rollers**, **Western Red-billed Hornbills**, and **Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleus**, our first proper looks at **White-billed Buffalo-Weavers**, our best views of **Cut-throats** to date, another **Temminck's Courser** spotted way off in the distance by *Laurie*, in addition to our first **Piapiacs** and another **Western Orphean Warbler**. The bad was we were seriously delayed in our journey by some unusual policing, which got solved by the day's end, when we were glad to finally reach *Kaolack* via a **Eurasian Griffon** enroute.



Desert Cisticola featured along with **Quail-plover** at a site near *Mbacke* (*Sam Woods*)

Day 7: 13th January 2024 – Kaolack and Ndiaffate to Toubacouta (including a Saloum Delta boat trip).

Our day opened with some hotel side birding in Kaolack and continued with a walk around the sparse scrubland near the village of *Ndiaffate*, within sight of *Kousmar Island*, which we were to venture to later on the trip. On the back of our hotel large numbers of **Slender-billed Gulls**, and smaller numbers of **Gray-hooded and Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, **Pink-backed Pelicans**, and a few **Lesser Kestrels** were seen. Our hope that morning at *Ndiaffate* was to find one of the *White-bellied Bustards* that *Sam* had seen there shortly before the tour. We came up short on that front though but did upgrade our views of **Savile's Bustard** there with some on the ground scope views obtained this time of one of the two individuals seen.

We also were rewarded with some good looks at a **Red-necked Falcon** and took in our first **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks**. Then we undertook the long drive to *Toubacouta*, timed so that we could take an afternoon boat trip in the *Saloum Delta* that afternoon. Our only **Wire-tailed Swallow** was seen at the dock there. We started by visiting *Sipo Island* in the hope of finding either or both of the rarely seen *Bronze-winged Courser* or *Yellow Penduline-Tit*, neither of which were seen by us or other groups during our visit. However, we did see our first **Senegal Parrots**, another few **Black Scimitarbills**, several **White-rumped Seedeaters**, and a **Rufous-crowned Roller**. With time pushing on, we decided to switch our focus and try and find our primary target in the mangroves there, *White-crested Tiger-Heron*. Sam prepped everyone for the search, advising them that it was both highly “missable” and required very careful surveying of the entangled, dank mangrove roots to see one, and then it might only be pieces of the bird requiring some stealthy repositioning of the boat to ensure everyone could see it. Therefore, it came as a big shock when Sam looked at the entrance to a narrow creek we had been planning to search for the “bittern” and saw a conspicuous **White-crested Tiger-Heron** (*photo below*) standing in the open on the tidal flats, with its trademark crest raised. Chaos and completely uncontained excitement ensued, which culminated in another birding group speeding up to enjoy the bird too, as it incredibly remained in full view on the mudflat, even stretching its neck to full stretch at one stage! Totally and utterly remarkable!



PHOTO PAGE BEFORE: This **White-crested Tiger-Heron** during a boat ride near *Toubacouta* could not have performed better
(*Sam Woods*)

Day 8: 14th January 2024 – Toubacouta to Tambacounda via Maka.



Pearl-spotted Owlets were seen with some regularity on Southern Senegal, like this one in *Toubacouta* (*Sam Woods*)

This was one of the double bill of travel days over this and the next, as we made our way deep into *Southeastern Senegal*. However, whilst a lot of time was spent in the van on both days, we did make some very productive birding stops over them, which turned out to feature some memorable birds as we switched *Northern Senegal* for *Southern Senegal* with its vastly different habitats of *Guinea Savanna*. Near our camp in *Toubacouta* we found a pair of **Pearl-spotted Owlets** (*photo above*), **Bearded Barbets** over breakfast, our first **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbirds** and **Brown Babblers**, and more *beautiful*, **Beautiful Sunbirds** and **Scarlet-chested Sunbirds** (including our first scorching *male*). The long drive was broken up with views of **Pygmy Sunbirds**, **Cut-throats**, and then, at the death, a marvellous male **Sahel Paradise-Whydah** (*photo next page*) posing conspicuously following *Barbara* finding our first one a little earlier.



Fitting finale to a “travel day”: **Sahel Paradise-Whydah** (Sam Woods)

Day 9: 15th January 2024 – Tambacounda to Kedougou via Niokola Koba National Park.

The change to *Southern Senegalese* avifauna, and the rise in diversity in this *Guinean Savanna* habitat was striking on this day as we enjoyed a morning of bumper birds, with a constant stream of new birds coming thick and fast during our first real spell deep within this habitat. Our first stops near *Wassadou* were fantastic, featuring fabulous views of several **Yellow-crowned Gonoleks** (*photo next page*), a fine **Fine-spotted Woodpecker**, a brace of **Brown Snake-Eagles**, a goggle-eyed party of **Purple Starlings**, and a statuesque **Blue-bellied Roller** that was observed at length alongside a glowing yellow **African Golden Oriole**. However, these were arguably all eclipsed by one of Africa’s most enjoyable birds, **White Helmetshrikes** (*photo next page*). A flock containing 11 of these birds with their flashy yellow face wattles and punk-like crest came in very close to mob the call of an *owlet* and quickly became a firm favourite for the group. By the evening, following an uneventful drive through *Niokola Koba National Park*, we arrived in *Kedougou*, our gateway to some excellent birding in *Southeast Senegal* to come in the following days.



PHOTOS PAGE BEFORE: Bushshrikes of *Wassadou* – **White Helmetshrike** & **Yellow-crowned Gonolek** (Sam Woods)

Day 10: 16th January 2024 – Kedougou to Dindéfelo via Segou.



White-shouldered Black Tit near Dindéfelo (Sam Woods)

We were up bright and early, setting off just before dawn for our most southern destination of the tour, the tiny town of *Dindéfelo*, close to the border with *Guinea*. The landscape was strikingly different from where we had been before, with red dirt roads caused by lateritic soils, and a scenic, rocky landscape took over. After meeting with a local guide near *Kedougou*, we did some birding near *Segou*, quickly picking up one of the biggest targets in the area, the near endemic **Mali Firefinch**. A tiny, nearby waterhole acted like a magnet for local songbirds, attracting **Black-faced** and **Black-bellied Firefinches**, **Yellow-mantled Widowbirds**, **Orange-cheeked Waxbills**, and **Black-billed Wood-Dove**, while beside there a pair of striking **White-shouldered Black Tits** (*photo above*) decorated a *Red Silk Cotton Tree*. The roadside birding there was superb, with a bird party holding a much-wanted pair of **Yellow-bellied Hyliotas**. Singles of **Western Violet-backed** and **Copper Sunbirds**, some **Northern Yellow White-eyes**, **Lavender Waxbills**, a brace of **Brown-throated Wattle-eyes**, and a **Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike** were all also noted. A non-breeding **Exclamatory Paradise-Whydah** was found too. It was then time to continue on to *Dindéfelo*, where we were to stay overnight. A late morning walk into some remnant *Monsoon Vine Forest* brought us a number of excellent birds, starting with a smart **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird**, then good views of beautiful **Guinea and Violet Turacos** sharing the same stand of trees, after they had initially

played hard-to-get. The very local **Yellow-breasted Apalis** featured there too, as did **African Paradise-Flycatcher**, and a migrant **Eurasian Pied Flycatcher**. However, a **Narina Trogon** along the same trail topped many of those sightings. We took lunch after this outstanding morning, then went into some grassy wooded *Guinea Savanna* in the afternoon, where it was generally quiet, save for our first boisterous **Blackcap Bblers** and further **Senegal Parrots** resting in the late afternoon sun.



Thirteen **Sun Larks** were seen up on the escarpment near *Dindéfelo* (Sam Woods)

Day 11: 17th January 2024 – Plateau de Dande (Dindéfelo) & Bandafassi Cliffs (Kedougou).

In the morning we climbed up to the *Plateau de Dande*, in pursuit of a suite of birds that inhabit this rocky, lateritic landscape. As we watched over some cliffs in the hope of finding one of these, *Fox Kestrel*, our local guide put us onto a singing **Gosling's Bunting**, which kickstarted our birds list for the day. Moving up higher, the strenuous hike eventually brought us the top, where some more **Lavender Waxbills** and our first **Bronze Mannikins** were seen, along with a smattering of **Familiar Chats**. As we continued on we came to a clearing where a number of birds had gathered to feed on the ground. The majority of them were **Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleus** but among them were our first pair of **Sun Larks** (*photo above*), another target species for this area. By the end of the morning we had seen an impressive number of these (13 to be precise). We were eventually pulled away from these heavily streaked larks when a pair of **Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters** were found nearby. We rested in an area where the rare *Neumann's Starling* can sometimes be found, though predictably did not find any of these, though did find a **Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat** in some nearby gallery forest.

The same habitat also held more **Guinea Turacos**, and we had further views of **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** and **Spotted Thick-knee** too. Some **Dark Chanting Goshawks** were also seen within a grassy landscape peppered with “mushrooms”; rock hard earth structures created by the tenacious ants in the area. After lunch in *Dindefelo*, we headed back towards *Kedougou*, spending some time with some **Red-throated Bee-eaters** are a small colony on the way back, while also seeing a **Grasshopper Buzzard** on the journey. After getting some welcome soft drinks and checking back into our lodging in *Kedougou*, we headed out to another red rock site, *Bandafassi Cliffs* in the late afternoon. This proved to be an inspired choice. Not only was it close to our hotel but it produced some significant avian goods during this short afternoon visit. *Missy* started us off by finding a **Lanner Falcon** perched on the cliffs, then *Kebba* followed this up by finding a distant **Fox Kestrel**. Better still, a large group of starlings appeared on the rock face, and as they flew from tree to tree, or rock to rock, they revealed themselves to have massive flashes of rufous in the wings – **NEUMANN’S STARLINGS!** Then, as we prepared to leave the final piece de resistance was a party of FOUR **Mocking Cliff-Chats** hopping across the rocks. We then tried for **Standard-winged Nightjar**, which *David* was well placed to see as it flew by him much to his astonishment. Sadly though we could not relocate this male bird shortly after that, and so retired back to our base once more.



Wassadou Camp was wonderful. Our two boat trips there produced **Northern Carmine Bee-eaters**, **Red-throated Bee-eaters**, **White-backed Night Heron**, **African Finfoots**, and **White-crowned Lapwings**, and **Egyptian Plovers**. We also saw FOUR species of owl there: **Northern White-faced Owl**, **Africa Scops Owl**, **Verreaux’s Eagle-Owl**, and **Pearl-spotted Owlet** (*Sam Woods*)



Egyptian Plover was a much wanted species, (and new bird family), for many on the tour at *Wassadou* (*Sam Woods*)

Day 12: 18th January 2024 – Bandafassi Cliffs (Kedougou) to Wassadou Camp via Niokola Koba National Park.

We started out where we had left off the day before, overlooking some cliffs close to our *Kedougou* camp, adding little new except for a **Singing Cisticola** and migrant **Melodious Warbler**, and obtaining further sightings of **Hooded Vultures**, a **Violet Turaco**, **Lavender Waxbills**, a **Northern Puffback**, **White Helmetsrikes**, **Senegal Eremomelas**, and **Northern Crombecs**. We then drove back westwards to *Wassadou Camp*, passing through *Niokola Koba National Park* (where it is not permitted to stop) as we did so. The group was on high alert there for **Abyssinian Ground-Hornbills**, as this arguably offered our best chance at finding it on the tour. A little under an hour had gone by in the park, when *David* brought our attention to pair of these massive birds walking through the grassy understory. Superb! Then *Missy* had us stopping for the first of the two **Bateleurs** she spotted, which were the only ones of the entire trip. We had a late lunch after arrival at *Wassadou Camp* and immediately started seeing birds in the camp, like **Broad-billed Roller** (which was new), and **Hamerkop** (which was not). At 3:30pm we headed out on the water, cruising the nearer parts of the *Gambie River*, which was thronging with exciting possibilities, bird-wise. Flocks of **Red-throated Bee-eaters** lined up next to their nesting burrows, a **Palm-nut Vulture** (*photo next page*), rested on an odorous, bloated cow carcass in the water, and a grebe-like bird swimming right out into the open was an easier **African Finfoot** than we had expected.

PHOTO NEXT PAGE: Raptors of *Wassadou* – **Brown Snake-Eagle** (TOP) & **Palm-nut Vulture**



A couple of arresting **White-crowned Lapwings** and **Hadada Ibis** foraged on the riverbank too, a threesome of **Greater Painted-Snipes** scurried out into the open as we approached one of the islands dotting the river, and two **African Pied Wagtails** (the only ones of the tour), was seen on another islet. A brace of **Brown Snake-Eagles** (*photo page before*) had also come down to the river edge to drink in the sweltering afternoon heat, (it was considerably more humid heat in the south of Senegal compared with the drier heat of the north). Two more **African Fish-Eagles** were also seen during this frenetic two-hour boat trip. *Kingfishers* were also a major feature of *Wassadou* and this cruise illustrated this perfectly, with four kingfisher species, three of which were new, the gigantic **Giant Kingfisher**, blistering **Blue-breasted Kingfisher** and several **Gray-headed Kingfishers**, one of which was seen with frogs legs dangling from its bill. As we cruised back towards camp, we got some amazing looks at an amazing bird for which this was our only site, the spectacular **Northern Carmine Bee-eater** (*photo page 21*). Then, arguably better still was a long session with the “Crocodile Bird”, or **Egyptian Plover** (*photo page 22*) feeding on the bank as we watched from our canoe close by. A small group of **Red-chested Swallows** came low at one point around the boat, and a **White-crowned Robin-Chat** was surprised into view by the approach of our boat and remained in the open for all to see from on the water. Following the boat ride, a short walk in camp produced two more new birds, **Pale Flycatcher** and another Palearctic migrant in the form of a single **Common Redstart**. Just before dusk a few of us watched the river late on and were tickled to see another **African Finfoot** boldly swim from one bank of the river to the other. After dinner and some more *Gazelle* beer, we headed out on the entrance road to look for owls, finding an **African Scops-Owl** fairly quickly though were given the run around by a **Northern White-faced Owl**, which only *Sam* got to see (*Sam, Missy and David* vowed to return to that beast the next night!)



We were very fortunate to have open views of a **White-backed Night Heron** on a boat trip at *Wassadou*

Day 13: 19th January 2024 – Wassadou Camp.

Wassadou is arguably the best birding locale in *Senegal* and so we had another full day there to explore the area, before we continued our trajectory north-westwards. We spent the morning, and some of the afternoon, birding the entrance road, and then took a later afternoon boat trip at the end of the day. The morning around the camp itself and entrance road was thrilling, with many exciting species and more than 60 species tallied for then alone. Near the restaurant, after breakfast, we completed the quintet of cover birds for the latest *Senegal* and *The Gambia* field guide, with a fine **Oriole Warbler** (the other four being **Egyptian Plover**, **Scissor-tailed Kite**, **Yellow-crowned Gonolek**, and **Cricket Longtail**). A **Klass's Cuckoo** was also seen there too. After a time, we finally located an “Adam and Eve” Dove, A.K.A. **Adamawa Turtle-Dove**, another target species for *Wassadou*. Various small flocks of songbirds held **Northern White-eyes**, **Black-faced Firefinches**, non-breeding plumage **Northern Red Bishops**, and **Black-rumped Waxbills**, **Senegal Batis**, and another male **Yellow-bellied Hyltiota**. A hyperactive **African Blue Flycatcher** was also seen, as was a group of **Green Woodhoopoes**. During the afternoon walk the highlight was a bold pair of **Gray-headed Bush-shrikes**.



FOUR owl species were seen at *Wassadou*: This **Northern White-faced Owl**, plus **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, **African Scops-Owl**, and **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** (*Sam Woods*)

Just before settling on to the boat once more, we admired some **Hippos** with a calf off of the dock. Once we got out on the boat again for another two-hour session we started by being shown a nearly fully grown young **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** at a nest site. Then we focused on finding a roosting **White-backed Night Heron** ([photo page 24](#)) and were stunned to see on sitting in a wide open hole in the vegetation rather than having to assemble the bird, piece-by-piece as it was mostly hidden within the dense vegetation. We were very fortunate indeed. We tried locating a *Shining-blue Kingfisher*, which is regular in the area too but did not manage to find one. We did see more **White-crowned Lapwings**, and then waited patiently at dusk for **Four-banded Sandgrouse** to come down to drink at the river's edge, around half a dozen of which gradually drifted in and out. A **Long-tailed Nightjar** was also seen hawking over the water's surface as dusk fell. After dinner, *Sam, Missy, and David* went out again in pursuit of the **Northern White-faced Owl** ([photo page 25](#)) we had heard the night before. This time though we came up trumps and were awarded winning views of this orange-eyed owl in the spotlight.

Day 14: 20th January 2024 – Wassadou Camp to Kaolack & Kousmar Island.



Thousands of **Scissor-tailed Kites** were seen on *Kousmar Island* (*Sam Woods*)

This day involved largely a long drive back northwest to the town of *Kaolack*. We had a final short period of birding at *Wassadou Camp*, before we drove to *Kaolack*, arriving there for a late lunch. Other birds seen there included **Shikra**, **Green Woodhoopoe**, **Pied Kingfisher**, **Red-throated Bee-eater**, **Northern Carmine Bee-eater**, **African Gray Woodpecker**, **Northern Yellow White-eye**, **Scarlet-chested** and **Beautiful Sunbirds**, as well as the **Hippopotamuses** again and a pair of **Marsh Mongooses**.

The rest of the morning and early afternoon was taken up with the long drive. However, in the afternoon we had a major birding highlight planned, as we visited *Kousmar Island* to see the massive *Scissor-tailed Kite* roost that was discovered there fairly recently. The trip over there involved a wade through shin-high tidal mud at times in bare feet, and a short boat trip sandwiched in between this. Once we reached the island we saw our first **African Green Bee-eater** for a while now that we were biogeographically back in *northern Senegal*. Then the first **Scissor-tailed Kites** (*photo below and page 26*) were seen way up high when they resembled flocks of high flying *hirundines* (swallows) rather than kites due to the sheer number of them. *Thousands* of kites spent time flying gradually lower, calling constantly, before plummeting like raptor missiles into the nearby trees, some of which held hundreds of kites at a time. It was an amazing experience, and by the time we were heading back sun was setting on the island just as the first small numbers of **Lesser Kestrels** started coming to the island too. We had seen **Scissor-tailed Kites**, *three* of them, around *Ndiaffate* earlier on the tour, though there was no substitute for seeing them in these numbers and this close up, it was utterly brilliant.



Day 15: 21st January 2024 – Ndiaffate to Saly (Dakar area) via Somone Natural Reserve.

In the morning we returned to *Ndiaffate* (on the other side of the water from *Kousmar Island*), to try and find a *White-bellied Bustard*. Soon after arrival we found some more **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks**, and a few **Western Bonelli's Warblers**, the latter of which were new for some of the group.

Some final **Senegal Thick-knees** were seen there too. We did also see *bustards*, with first a **Saville's Bustard** (incredibly our fifth of the tour), then a fine group of three **White-bellied Bustards**. After that, we headed back in the direction of *Dakar*, taking a last citrus-infused, *chicken Yassa* lunch in a restaurant along the way. Our final stop of the tour was in *Somone*, about 30 minutes from our final hotel. We visited there for the chance of coastal species in a large lagoon there, which might well add some new species, one of which was a West African specialty. New shorebirds there included **Eurasian Curlew**, **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Sanderling**, and **Eurasian Oystercatcher**. We also saw **Black-bellied and Common Ringed Plovers** there. The dominant birds were *gulls* though, with **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** being the most numerous, numbering in the hundreds, with smaller numbers of **Gray-hooded and Slender-billed Gulls**. We also found a handful of **Audouin's Gulls**, our only ones of the trip, some of which were breeding plumage adults. Several **Ospreys** also patrolled the area. However, it was the terns that mostly held our attention, as the group had not seen *West African Crested Tern*. The dominant tern there were **Caspian Terns**, reaching three figures, and a few **Sandwich and Lesser Crested Terns** were also new for us there. Finally, we found a handful of **West African Terns**, which was our cue to leave and go to our hotel arriving there at around 5pm, with plenty of time before *Paul* flew out that night, while the rest of us left the next day.



A pair of **Black Crakes** from *Trois Marigots* (Sam Woods)



Blue-breasted Kingfisher (TOP) from Wassadou & Brown-throated Wattle-eye from Kedegou (Sam Woods)





Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark (TOP) from Ndiaffate & Green Monkey from the Saloum Delta (Sam Woods)



CHECKLIST:

The taxonomy of the bird list follows **Clements, James F., White, Anthony W., and Fitzpatrick, John W.** *The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World*. Cornell, 2007. *This list is up to date with changes published by Cornell in October 2023.*

(H) - INDICATES A SPECIES THAT WAS HEARD ONLY.

(GO) – INDICATES A SPECIES RECORDED BY THE GUIDE ONLY.

BIRDS**Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)**

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*: Hundreds of individuals were seen during our full day in Djoudj.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*: 42 birds were seen at Djoudj.

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*: Just over 40 birds were seen in Djoudj.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*: Around 50 birds were seen at Djoudj.

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*: 3 small flocks were seen in flight, at Djoudj and Trois Marigots.

African Pygmy-Goose *Nettapus auratus*: Two sightings at Trois Marigots.

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*: Hundreds were seen on our full day in Djoudj.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*: Extremely common and numerous at Djoudj.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*: Hundreds were seen during our day in Djoudj.

Numididae (Guineafowl)

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*: Only three sightings, including at Wassadou.

Odontophoridae (New World Quail)

Stone Partridge *Ptilopachus petrosus*: Several were seen in Dindéfelo and Wassadou.

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*: 1 was flushed during the Quail-plover search at Mbacke.

Double-spurred Spurfowl (Francolin) *Pternistis bicalcaratus*: Regularly encountered (on at least 9 days).

Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*: Recorded on 2 days (e.g. hundreds in Djoudj).

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*: A few were seen in Djoudj.

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*: A small group was seen in Djoudj.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

Rock (Feral) Pigeon (Dove) *Columba livia*: Regularly recorded in urban areas throughout.

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*: Recorded on at least 11 days of the tour.

Adamawa Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia hypopyrrha*: A single bird was seen along the entrance road at Wassadou.

African Collared-Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea*: 1 or 2 were seen at Mourkadié in Northern Senegal.

Mourning Collared-Dove (African Mourning Dove) *Streptopelia decipiens*: Regularly recorded, especially on the north.

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*: Just a few were seen in Dindéfelo the Southeast.

Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea*: Regularly encountered on the tour.

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*: One of the most common birds of the tour, seen every day.

Black-billed Wood-Dove *Turtur abyssinicus*: Recorded on about 5 days in the south (e.g. Wassadou).

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*: Very commonly encountered in the north.

Bruce's Green-Pigeon *Treron waalia*: A single pair was seen on the drive to Kedougou, near Wassadou.

Pteroclididae (Sandgrouse)

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus*: Seen at two sites in the north (Richard Toll and Ndiaffate).

Four-banded Sandgrouse *Pterocles quadricinctus*: 6 or so came in to drink from the Gambie River at dusk (near Wassadou).

[Otididae \(Bustards\)](#)

Arabian Bustard *Ardeotis arab*: Missy found a singleton at Djoudj.

White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis*: 3 birds were seen near Ndiaffate.

Savile's Bustard *Lophotis savilei*: 5 different birds were seen, 3 at Trois Marigots near Saint-Louis & 2 near Ndiaffate.

[Musophagidae \(Turacos\)](#)

Guinea (Green) Turaco *Tauraco persa*: Several were seen around Dindefelo.

Violet Turaco *Musophaga violacea*: A few were seen in Dindefelo and at Bandafassi.

Western (Grey) Plantain-eater *Crinifer piscator*: Recorded on 8 days of the tour (quite common in the south).

[Cuculidae \(Cuckoos\)](#)

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*: Regularly recorded throughout the tour.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*: A single bird was seen at Wassadou Camp.

[Caprimulgidae \(Nightjars and Allies\)](#)

Standard-winged Nightjar *Caprimulgus longipennis*: A male was seen at dusk near Kedougou by David and Kebba.

Golden Nightjar *Caprimulgus eximius*: A smashing roosting bird was found by David just east of Podor.

Long-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus climacurus*: 8 roosting birds in Richard Toll and 1 at dusk from the boat at Wassadou.

[Apodidae \(Swifts\)](#)

Mottled Spinetail *Telacanthura ussheri*: 2 were seen in Sipo Island and 2 more were seen in Wassadou.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*: A few were seen around Gamadji Sare.

Horus Swift *Apus horus*: 5 birds or so were seen in Gamadji Sare.

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*: The most regularly encountered swift, seen on at least 11 days.

[Rallidae \(Rails, Gallinules, and Coots\)](#)

Eurasian (Common) Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*: Recorded on 3 days of the tour (e.g. numerous in Djoudj).

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni*: 2 birds were seen during our boat trip to "Pelican Island" in Djoudj.

African (Purple) Swampfen *Porphyrio madagascariensis*: Seen near Saint-Louis and at Djoudj.

Black Crake *Zapornia flavirostra*: A pair showed very well near Saint-Louis.

[Heliornithidae \(Finfoots\)](#)

African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis*: Quite visible during our time in Wassadou, when a single was seen on our first boat trip, then others were seen from the camp on 3 separate occasions too.

[Gruidae \(Cranes\)](#)

Black Crowned-Crane *Balearica pavonine*: A party of 5 were seen in Djoudj and then 2 flew over Trois Marigots.

[Burhinidae \(Thick-knees\)](#)

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*: Seen on 3 occasions (Richard Toll, Trois Marigots & Dindefelo).

Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis*: Seen on 5 different days of the tour (e.g. Trois Marigots).

[Pluvianidae \(Egyptian Plover\)](#)

Egyptian Plover *Pluvianus aegyptius*: 2 were seen on our first boat ride at Wassadou and another from the camp there.

[Recurvirostridae \(Stilts and Avocets\)](#)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*: Recorded on at least 5 days of the tour.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avocetta*: Around 10 birds were seen in Djoudj.

[Haematopodidae \(Oystercatchers\)](#)

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*: Barbara found one at Somone.

[Charadriidae \(Plovers and Lapwings\)](#)

Black-bellied (Grey) Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*: A few were seen in the Saloum Delta and also in Somone.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*: Recorded on 5 days of the tour (e.g. Djoudj).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*: A couple were seen in Djoudj and in Richard Toll.

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*: A common Senegalese shorebird, recorded on at least 10 days.

Black-headed Lapwing *Vanellus tectus*: Recorded on 5 days in Northern Senegal.

White-crowned Lapwing *Vanellus albiceps*: A cracking pair was seen on both boat trips in Wassadou.

(African) Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus*: Encountered on 5 days (e.g. Sipo, Wassadou).

Kittlitz's Plover *Anarhynchus pecuarius*: A couple of parties were seen in Djoudj.

Kentish Plover *Anarhynchus alexandrinus*: 2 birds were seen on 2 days in Djoudj.

Rostratulidae (Painted-Snipes)

Greater Painted-Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*: A pair was seen at Djoudj and 3 on one boat ride in Wassadou.

Jacaniidae (Jacanas)

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*: Around 35 were seen during our boat ride in Djoudj. Also seen in Trois Marigots.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

(Eurasian) Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*: Seen in the Saloum Delta and also in Somone.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*: 2 were seen in Somone.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*: A few were seen on the last day in Somone.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*: Lots were present in Djoudj.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*: Recorded on 3 days of the tour.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*: Seen at 3 locales, Richard Toll, Trois Marigots & Djoudj.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*: Seen in Djoudj and Trois Marigots.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*: Recorded on 4 days.

Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus*: Singletons were seen in Trois Marigots and Djoudj.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*: 2 birds were seen in Djoudj.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*: Noted on 6 days of the tour.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*: Only seen in Somone on the final day.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*: Noted on 3 days (Trois Marigots and Djoudj).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*: 10 or so birds were seen at Somone.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*: A handful were seen in Djoudj.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*: Recorded on 4 days of the tour with triple figures seen in Djoudj.

Turnicidae (Buttonquail)

Quail-plover *Ortyxelos meiffrenii*: We were thankful that it only took 40 minutes to see one of these much wanted birds at Mbacke, where we had several views on the ground too.

Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)

Cream-colored Courser *Cursorius cursor*: A single bird was seen in Richard Toll.

Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii*: 8 birds were seen at Richard Toll and a singleton was seen in Mbacke.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincole*: About 70 birds flew over the boat in the late afternoon in Djoudj.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*: Recorded on at least 4 days with hundreds seen around Kaolack and Somone.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*: Several were seen in Djoudj.

Gray-hooded (-headed) Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*: Recorded on at least 5 days of the tour.

Audouin's Gull *Ichthyaetus audouinii*: 10 birds were seen at Somone near Dakar.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*: Recorded around Kaolack and around 400 were seen in Somone.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*: Seen on at least 4 days of the tour (e.g. Djoudj & the Saloum Delta).

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*: Recorded on at least 6 days, with hundreds seen at Somone being the highest count.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*: Seen regularly in Djoudj.

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*: 1 was seen near Saint-Louis.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*: A few were seen in Kaolack and Somone.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*: 5 birds were seen at Somone.

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*: Around 20 birds were seen at Somone near Dakar.

West African Crested (African Royal) Tern *Thalasseus albididorsalis*: Sam saw 1 in the Saloum Delta, then 7 in Somone.

Ciconiidae (Storks)

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*: 2 singles were seen around Djoudj.

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*: A few were seen in and around Djoudj only.

[Phalacrocoracidae \(Cormorants and Shags\)](#)

Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus*: Recorded on at least 6 days (e.g. Djoudj).

Great (White-breasted) Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*: Seen on at least 9 days of the tour (e.g. Djoudj).

[Pelecanidae \(Pelicans\)](#)

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*: We took a boat trip out to Pelican Island in Djoudj, which was a tour highlight, seeing thousands of pelicans crammed on to one island.

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*: Recorded on 5 days of the tour (e.g. in Kaolack).

[Scopidae \(Hamerkop\)](#)

Hamerkop *Scopus umbrette*: Noted on 7 tour days, being seen the most regularly around Wassadou.

[Ardeidae \(Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns\)](#)

White-crested Tiger-Heron *Tigriornis leucolopha*: One of the highlights of the tour was seeing one of these rare herons standing out on the open mud, during our Saloum Delta boat ride.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*: Regularly seen around Wassadou Camp.

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca*: 1 was seen in Trois Marigots, and a few others were seen in Djoudj. One of the highlights for *Barbara* and *Laurie* was seeing this species doing its “Dracula” display in Djoudj.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: Noted on at least 5 days of the tour.

Western Reef-Heron (-Egret) *Egretta gularis*: Recorded on at least 8 days of the tour.

White-backed Night Heron *Calherodius leuconotus*: We were extremely fortunate to have one sitting in a relatively open area at Wassadou during our second boat trip.

Striated (Green-backed) Heron *Butorides striata*: 2 singles were seen in Wassadou.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*: Recorded on at least 4 days of the tour, with 70 or so seen in Djoudj.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: Commonly recorded (on at least 12 days).

Great Egret *Ardea alba*: Regularly recorded at wetland sites through the tour.

Yellow-billed (Intermediate) Egret *Ardea brachyrhyncha*: At least 1 was seen in Djoudj.

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea*: Recorded on at least 9 days of the tour.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*: A handful were seen in Richard Toll and Djoudj.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* (GO): 1 flew over Sam at Wassadou Camp.

[Threskiornithidae \(Ibises and Spoonbills\)](#)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*: Around 20 were seen in Djoudj.

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*: A handful was seen in Djoudj.

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*: Only recorded at Wassadou Camp, where a few were seen on both days there.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*: 30 or so was the highest count in Djoudj.

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*: 5 were found in a mixed flock of spoonbills in Djoudj. **SENEGAL’S NATIONAL BIRD.**

[Pandionidae \(Osprey\)](#)

(Western) Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*: Recorded on 4 days of the tour (e.g. Djoudj & Somone).

[Accipitridae \(Hawks, Eagles, and Kites\)](#)

Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite *Elanus caeruleus*: Only a single bird was seen at Djoudj.

(African Swallow-tailed) Scissor-tailed Kite *Chelictinia riocourii*: We first saw 3 birds hunting in the morning over Ndiaffate. Then, on the penultimate afternoon, we visited the famous kite roost on Kousmar Island, where we saw 2000+!

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus*: Recorded on 3 days of the tour in Southern Senegal (e.g. Wassadou).

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*: A single was seen on both boat rides in Wassadou.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*: 5 sightings in Southern Senegal.

Eurasian Griffon (Griffon Vulture) *Gyps fulvus*: Two singles were seen (e.g. Bandafassi).

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*: *Missy* found two of these during one drive through Niokolo-Koba National Park.

Short-toed Snake-Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*: 1 was seen over Gamadji-Sare.

Brown Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*: A few around Wassadou, with our best views coming on a boat ride there.

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*: *Laurie* found a perched immature in Ndiaffate.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*: *Sam* spotted one of these striking raptors just outside Kedougou.

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraetus wahlbergi*: 1 was seen in the Wassadou area.

Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus*: 1 was seen at Mourkadie east of Podor in Northern Senegal.

African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster*: *Kebba* put us on to one of these eagles along the entrance road at Wassadou.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*: 5 sightings in Southern Senegal.

Dark Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax metabates*: Sighted on at least 6 days, mostly in the south (e.g. Dindéfelo).

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*: 1 flew by the boat during our second boat ride at Wassadou.

Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis*: 3 were seen in the south, including around an active burn in Niokolo-Koba.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*: One of the most commonly encountered raptors, seen on at least 6 days.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* (**GO**): *Sam* saw one of these near Trois Marigots.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*: At least 5 sightings in the south (e.g. Wassadou, Kedougou).

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: Regularly encountered on the tour.

Black (Yellow-billed) Kite *Milvus migrans parasitus*: Particularly prominent during our boat trip in the Saloum Delta.

African Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga vocifer*: Some great looks during the boat trips in Djoudj and Waddadou.

Buzzard species *Buteo sp.*: A single buteo buzzard was seen near Podor, which could not be identified to species.

[Tytonidae \(Barn-Owls\)](#)

(Western) Barn Owl *Tyto alba*: A clutch of 10 chicks was seen in one of the blinds in Djoudj.

[Strigidae \(Owls\)](#)

African Scops-Owl *Otus senegalensis*: 1 was found near the entrance road after dinner one night at Wassadou.

Northern White-faced Owl *Ptilopsis leucotis*: 1 was found roosting close to our starting hotel in Thies by *Kebba*, which was seen on the arrival day by most of the group. *David* and *Missy* caught up with this bird at night at Wassadou Camp.

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Ketupa lacteal*: A nesting bird was seen close to the dock at Wassadou Camp.

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*: Our first was a pair outside our camp in Toubacouta, and another 4 or more were seen near Wassadou Camp.

[Coliidae \(Mousebirds\)](#)

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*: Recorded on 6 days in Northern Senegal; seen best at Richard Toll.

[Upupidae \(Hoopoes\)](#)

Eurasian (Common) Hoopoe *Upupa epops epops*: This migrant form from Europe was seen near Maka.

Eurasian (Central African) Hoopoe *Upupa epops senegalensis*: A few of were seen around Mourkadie, east of Podor.

[Phoeniculidae \(Woodhoopoes and Scimitarbills\)](#)

Green Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*: Seen at least 5 times in the south (e.g. Dindéfelo, Wassadou).

Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*: 3 sightings in Mourkadie, Sipo Island & on the journey to the Saloum Delta.

[Bucorvidae \(Ground-Hornbills\)](#)

Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus*: *Missy* spotted a fine pair of these massive birds as they paced near the road during our second drive through Niokolo-Koba National Park.

[Bucerotidae \(Hornbills\)](#)

African Gray Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus*: Commonly encountered throughout the tour (i.e. 11 days).

Western Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus kempii*: A regular feature on the tour, occurring on at least 13 days).

[Alcedinidae \(Kingfishers\)](#)

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus*: 3 sightings, at Trois Marigots, Djoudj, and in Wassadou.

Gray-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*: Only seen at Wassadou, where a few were seen during both boat trips.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica*: This gorgeous kingfisher was seen 3-4 times from the boats at Wassadou.

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*: Seen on 3 occasions (e.g. Mourkadie, Trois Marigots).

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*: 2 birds were seen during our first boat ride from Wassadou Camp.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*: Recorded on 8 days of the tour, most regularly at Wassadou.

[Meropidae \(Bee-eaters\)](#)

Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bullocki*: A West African specialty, see around Dindéfelo and Wassadou.

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*: Recorded on 6 days of the tour. Particularly numerous around Djoudj.

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus*: A pair was seen at Plateau de Dande.

African (Little) Green Bee-eater *Merops viridissimus*: 3 sightings in Northern Senegal (Richard Toll, Mourkadie, Kousmar).
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*: 15 were seen on the boat trip in Ddoudj. Another was seen at Trois Marigots.
Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus*: Double figures were seen during our stay at Wassadou Camp.

[Coraciidae \(Rollers\)](#)

Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus*: A wonderfully common species, with sightings on at least 10 days.
Rufous-crowned (Purple) Roller *Coracias naevius*: 3 sightings (Sipo Island, Maka and at Plateau de Dande).
Blue-bellied Roller *Coracias cyanogaster*: Only a few seen, the best seen near Wassadou.
Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*: Only recorded at Wassadou, where a few were seen each day there.

[Lybiidae \(African Barbets\)](#)

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*: 2 sightings around Dindefelo, including 1 up on the plateau there.
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*: 5 sightings around Toubacouta, Dindefelo & Wassadou.
Vieillot's Barbet *Lybius vieilloti*: A few were seen on the tour (e.g. Mourkadie, Dindefelo).
Bearded Barbet *Pogonornis dubius*: A dramatic barbet, seen from the restaurant at Toubacouta and again in Dindefelo.

[Indicatoridae \(Honeyguides\)](#)

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*: A male was seen in Dindefelo.

[Picidae \(Woodpeckers\)](#)

Little Gray Woodpecker *Dendropicos elachus*: 2 sightings in the far north, 1 at Richard Toll and another at Mourkadie.
African Gray Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae*: 6 sightings (Trois Marigots, Sipo Island, Bandafassi & Wassadou).
Fine-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera punctuligera*: 1 was seen near Wassadou.

[Falconidae \(Falcons and Caracaras\)](#)

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*: Recorded on 4 days (Trois Marigots, Mourkadie, Kaolack & Kousmar Island).
Eurasian (Common) Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*: Just the one was seen during the drive from Tambacounda to Kedougou.
Fox Kestrel *Falco alopex*: A distant bird was seen at Bandafassi Cliffs, near Kedougou in the Southeast.
Gray Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*: Just 2 seen, 1 near Kedougou and another at Wassadou.
Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*: Seen on 4 occasions, with some good views at Ndiaffate.
Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*: A surprise sighting of a male that flew low over our boat at Wassadou.
Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*: A cliff resting bird was seen at Bandafassi; another was seen at Ndiaffate.

[Psittacidae \(New World and African Parrots\)](#)

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula kramera*: An introduced species seen on 7 different days (e.g. Richard Toll, Dindefelo).
Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus*: Seen 5 times in the south, at Sipo Island, Toubacouta, Dindefelo & Wassadou.

[Campephagidae \(Cuckooshrikes\)](#)

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea*: 2 were seen in the Dindefeloa area, a male and female.

[Oriolidae \(Old World Orioles\)](#)

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus*: 1 shared a tree with a **Blue-bellied Roller** near Wassadou.

[Platysteiridae \(Wattle-eyes and Batises\)](#)

Brown-throated (Common) Wattle-eye *Platysteira cyanea*: A pair near Segou (Kedougou). Also heard in Wassadou.
Senegal Batis *Batis senegalensis*: Several were seen around Dindefelo and Wassadou.

[Vangidae \(Vangas, Helmetshrikes, and Allies\)](#)

White (-crested) Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus*: Seen twice around Wassadou, with others at Bandafassi.
Brubru *Nilaus afer*: Seen twice in the far north, at Richard Toll & Mourkadie.
Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*: 5 sightings in Southern Senegal (e.g. Dindefelo, Wassadou).
Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*: 6 records (e.g. Richard Toll, Trois Marigots, Sipo, Maka & Dindefelo).
Yellow-crowned Gonolek *Laniarius barbarous*: Seen first in Richard Toll, though more common in the south (e.g. Wassadou).

Sulphur-breasted (Orange-br.) Bushshrike *Telophorus sulfureopectus* (GO): *Kebba* saw one in Dindefelo.

Gray-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*: A confiding pair was seen along the entrance road to Wassadou Camp.

[Dicruridae \(Drongos\)](#)

Fork-tailed (Glossy-backed) Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*: 5 sightings on the tour (Mourkadie, Maka & Wassadou).

[Monarchidae \(Monarch Flycatchers\)](#)

African Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*: 2 different males were seen in the Dindéfelo area.

[Laniidae \(Shrikes\)](#)

Great Gray Shrike *Lanius excubitor*: 3 sightings in the far north (e.g. Podor, Mourkadie & Richard Toll).

Yellow-billed Shrike *Lanius Corvinus*: Recorded on 4 days (Sipo, Maka & Wassadou).

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*: 5 sightings in Northern Senegal (Mourkadie, Trois Marigots & Ndiaffate).

[Corvidae \(Crows, Jays, and Magpies\)](#)

Piapiac *Ptilostomus afer*: Seen 6 times in the south (e.g. Wassadou).

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*: Recorded on 11 days of the tour.

[Hyliotidae \(Hyliotas\)](#)

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster*: This was a new family for Paul and others. A pair was seen at Sedegou (near Kdegou), and another pair was seen in Wassadou Camp.

[Stenostiridae \(Fairy Flycatchers\)](#)

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*: This handsome sprite was seen at Wassadou Camp.

[Paridae \(Tits, Chickadees, and Titmice\)](#)

White-shouldered Black-Tit *Melaniparus guineensis*: A pair was found at Sedegou near Kedegou.

[Remizidae \(Penduline-Tits\)](#)

Sennar Penduline-Tit *Anthoscopus punctifrons*: 3 were seen at the first attempt near Richard Toll.

Yellow Penduline-Tit *Anthoscopus parvulus*: 1 was seen near Toubacouta by Sam and only a 1 or 2 others.

[Alaudidae \(Larks\)](#)

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis*: Only recorded at Ndiaffate, where a few were seen on both visits.

Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix nigriceps*: Double figures were seen in Richard Toll.

Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*: 1 was seen in Djoudj.

Sun Lark *Galerida modesta*: A long walk up on the Plateau de Dande produced sightings of 13 of these larks.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*: The most regularly encountered lark, on at least 6 days (e.g. Djoudj, Trois Marigots).

[Macrosphenidae \(African Warblers\)](#)

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*: Recorded on 7 days of the tour (e.g. Richard Toll, Sipo, Dindéfelo, Bandafassi).

[Cisticolidae \(Cisticolas and Allies\)](#)

Senegal Eremomela *Eremomela pusilla*: A common specialty seen on at least 10 different days.

Green-backed (Gray-backed) Camaroptera *Camaroptera brachyura*: Recorded 6 times (e.g. Dindéfelo & Wassadou).

Cricket Longtail (Warbler) *Spiloptila clamans*: A group of 2 were seen at Richard Toll and another at Mourkadie.

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*: This local species was seen at Dindéfelo.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*: Seen 3-4 times in Southern Senegal.

River Prinia *Prinia fluviatilis*: 1 was seen during our first afternoon at Ddoudj.

Oriole Warbler *Hypergerus atriceps*: Several were heard and 1 seen at Wassadou Camp.

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*: 2 singles were seen at Kedegou and Bandafassi.

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus*: Just the one was seen in the north.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*: Several were seen at Richard Toll, Trois Marigots & Ndiaffate.

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus*: A pair was seen at the **Quail-plover** site in Mbacke.

[Acrocephalidae \(Reed Warblers and Allies\)](#)

Western Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna opaca*: Sam saw 1 at Richard Toll and the rest caught up with this in Wassadou.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglottal*: 1 was seen at Bandafassi near Kedegou.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*: A handful was seen during the boat trip in Djoudj.

Common Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*: A few were seen around Trois Marigots and Djoudj.

Greater Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus rufescens* (H): Heard during the boat ride in Djoudj.

[Hirundinidae \(Swallows\)](#)

Bank Swallow (Common Sand Martin) *Riparia riparia*: Thousands were seen in Djoudj.

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* (GO): Sam saw some distant birds circling a cliff face at Dindéfelo.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: Scattered sightings throughout, seen on at least 5 days.

Red-chested Swallow *Hirundo lucida*: A small group were seen during a boat ride at Wassadou.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*: A single bird was seen at the dock in the Saloum Delta.

Western (Common) House-Martin *Delichon urbicum*: 1 was seen during the drive to Kedegou.

[Pycnonotidae \(Bulbuls\)](#)

Yellow-throated Greenbul (Leaflove) *Atimastillas flavicollis*: 1 was seen within the camp at Dindefelo by Missy and Paul.

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*: One of the most regularly encountered songbirds (on at least 11 days).

[Phylloscopidae \(Leaf Warblers\)](#)

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*: A handful were seen in Ndiaffate and on Kousmar Island.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*: 2 calling birds were seen at Mourkadie and another at Wassadou Camp.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*: Just a few were seen in the far north.

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*: A chiffchaff seen at Mbacke looked good for this hard to identify species.

[Sylviidae \(Sylviid Warblers and Allies\)](#)

Western Orphean Warbler *Curruca hortensis*: Two singles were seen in the north, at Mourkadie and Mbacke.

Western Subalpine Warbler *Curruca iberiae*: Seen 3-4 times in the north, at Richard Toll and Trois Marigots.

Greater (Common) Whitethroat *Curruca communis*: 4 sightings in the north, at Richard Toll, Trois Marigots and Mbacke.

[Zosteropidae \(White-eyes, Yuhinas, and Allies\)](#)

Northern (African) Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis*: 3 sightings in the southeast, at Kedegou and Wassadou.

[Leiothrichidae \(Laughingthrushes and Allies\)](#)

Fulvous (Babbler) Chatterer *Argya fulva*: A group of 7 birds were seen in Richard Toll.

Brown Babbler *Turdoides plebejus*: Recorded 6 times in the south (e.g. Wassadou & Dindefelo).

Blackcap Babbler *Turdoides reinwardtii*: Several were seen in Dindefelo & Wassadou.

[Buphagidae \(Oxpeckers\)](#)

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*: Only seen twice, with the best views coming between Djoudj & Saint-Louis.

[Sturnidae \(Starlings\)](#)

Neumann's Starling *Onychognathus neumanni*: We were extremely fortunate to get prolonged views of 11 of these rare starlings late in the afternoon at Bandafassi Cliffs.

Long-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis caudatus*: A common and striking species, noted on at least 11 days.

Chestnut-bellied Starling *Lamprotornis pulcher*: Commonly encountered in Northern Senegal, seen on at least 7 days.

Lesser Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus*: Several were seen over two days in the Dindefelo area.

Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*: Regularly encountered in the north (e.g. Mourkadie).

Purple (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis purpureus*: Regularly encountered around Wassadou & Dindefelo.

Bronze-tailed (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis chalcurus*: A handful were seen on both boat rides in Wassadou.

[Muscicapidae \(Old World Flycatchers\)](#)

Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica*: 1 was seen during a boat ride at Wassadou.

Pale Flycatcher *Agricola pallidus*: 1 was seen near Kedegou, and another in Wassadou Camp.

Northern Black-Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides*: Several were seen around Wassadou and Dindefelo.

Black Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas podobe*: A target in the north, seen at Richard Toll, Mourkadie and Trois Marigots.

Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*: 3 sightings, at Trois Marigots, Mbacke & Maka.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*: 2 birds were seen during the long walk on Plateau de Dande.

White-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha albicapillus*: Everyone got to see one of 2 birds on a boat ride in Wassadou.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*: 1 was seen by some in Djoudj.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*: A few were seen in Dindefelo and Wassadou.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*: 2 females were seen at Wassadou.

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*: A single male was seen at Djoudj.

Mocking Cliff-Chat *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*: 4 birds were seen at Bandafassi Cliffs.

Northern Anteater-Chat *Myrmecocichla aethiops*: Seen on 2 days in the north, at Richard Toll and Trois Marigots.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe Oenanthe*: Numerous and conspicuous in the north (e.g. Mourkadie & Richard Toll).

Atlas (Seebhom's) Wheatear *Oenanthe seebohmi*: A male was found at Mourkadie.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabelline*: 1 was found in Richard Toll.

Familiar Chat *Oenanthe familiaris*: A few were seen up on the Dande Plateau.

[Nectariniidae \(Sunbirds and Spiderhunters\)](#)

Western Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes longuemarei*: 1 was seen at Segou, near Kedegou.

Pygmy Sunbird *Hedydipna platura*: Recorded on 6 different days (e.g. Ndiaffate, Dindefelo & Bandafassi).

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis*: Paul and Missy saw one of these scarce sunbirds at our camp in Dindefelo.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis*: A regularly encountered sunbird, seen on 8 different days.

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus*: The most regularly noted sunbird (on at least 11 days).

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus*: 2 birds were seen in Dindefelo.

Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus*: 1 was seen in a mixed melee that responded to an owlet recording near Kedegou.

[Ploceidae \(Weavers and Allies\)](#)

White-billed Buffalo-Weaver *Bubalornis albirostris*: Only seen on around 4 days in the north (e.g. Mbacke, Ndiaffate).

Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis*: 2 birds were seen in Mourkadie.

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus*: Good numbers were seen in the far north (e.g. Richard Toll, Mourkadie).

Olive-naped (Black-necked) Weaver *Ploceus brachypterus*: 1 came in to mob the call of an owlet in Wassadou Camp.

Vitelline Masked-Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*: Some were seen around Ddoudj, including 1 male near breeding plumage.

Heuglin's Masked-Weaver *Ploceus heuglini* (GO): Sam saw 1 of these in Wassadou Camp.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*: Regularly encountered around Dindefelo and Wassadou in Southern Senegal.

Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus*: Seen beside a wetland in Djoudj.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*: One of the most numerous birds, often in flocks of hundreds (recorded on 11 days).

Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*: A couple of flocks of non-breeding plumaged birds were seen in Wassadou.

Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer*: Some large groups were seen around a wetland one afternoon in Ddoudj.

Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes macroura*: 3 birds were seen coming to a waterhole in Segou, Kedegou.

[Estrildidae \(Waxbills and Allies\)](#)

Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullate*: 2 flocks were seen on the Dande Plateau.

African Silverbill *Euodice cantans*: Seen on 3 days in the north (e.g. Mourkadie, Richard Toll, Trois Marigots).

Lavender Waxbill *Glaucostrepera caerulea*: Seen on 3 days in the southeast (e.g. Dindefelo, Bandafassi).

Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda*: Seen twice around Dindefelo and Kedegou.

Black-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda troglodytes*: Around 8 birds were seen along the entrance road to Wassadou.

Cut-throat (Finch) *Amadina fasciata*: Seen on 3 days (Trois Marigots, Mbacke & Maka).

Zebra Waxbill *Amandava subflava*: 1 group was seen in Djoudj, with others seen at Trois Marigots.

Red-cheeked Cordonbleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*: Regularly seen (on at least 9 days of the tour).

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba*: 1 was seen on Kousmar Island.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*: The most regularly noted firefinch, on 7 days.

Mali Firefinch *Lagonosticta virata*: A single group were seen near a waterhole in Segou (near Kedegou).

Black-bellied Firefinch *Lagonosticta rara*: 2 came in to a waterhole to drink at Segou (Kedegou area).

Black-faced Firefinch *Lagonosticta larvata*: Some came in to a drink at a waterhole near Kedegou, and others were seen along the entrance road at Wassadou.

[Viduidae \(Indigobirds\)](#)

Sahel Paradise-Whydah *Vidua orientalis*: Barbara found a full breeding male at Maka, then another was seen in Yoman.

Exclamatory Paradise-Whydah *Vidua interjecta*: Two non-breeding plumaged birds were seen near Kedegou.

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeate*: Recorded on 6 days of the tour.

[Passeridae \(Old World Sparrows\)](#)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: Recorded on 8 different days of the tour, mostly in urban areas.

Northern Gray-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*: Recorded on at least 7 days of the tour.

Sudan Golden Sparrow *Passer luteus*: Flocks of hundreds were seen in the north (e.g. Mourkadie, Richard Toll).

Sahel Bush Sparrow (Bush Petronia) *Gymnoris dentata*: Just a few groups were seen in the Southeast (e.g. Dindefelo).

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

Western Yellow Wagtail (Yellow) *Motacilla flava flavissima*: Recorded on at least 6 days; numerous at Ddoudj.

Western Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed) *Motacilla flava flava*: This form seen at Trois Marigots and Richard Toll & Djoudj.

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*: 2 birds were seen on our first boat trip in Wassadou.

White Wagtail (White-faced) *Motacilla alba alba*: Regular in the far north (e.g. Richard Toll, Djoudj).

Fringillidae (Finches, Euphonias, and Allies)

White-rumped Seedeater *Crithagra leucopygia*: 2 seen at Gamadji-Sare, Djoudj & Sipo Island.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica*: Seen regularly around Dindefelo only.

Emberizidae (Old World Buntings)

Gosling's Bunting *Emberiza gosling*: A singing bird was seen before we reached the top of the Dande Plateau.

MAMMALS

Rock Hyrax *Procavia capensis*: 1 was seen at Bandafassi Cliffs.

Guinea Baboon *Papio papio*: Noted in Niokolo-Koba NP and Wassadou.

(Common) Patas Monkey *Erythrocebus patas*: A few were seen at Trois Marigots and in Wassadou.

Green Monkey *Chlorocebus sabaeus*: Seen at Toubacouta and Wassadou.

Senegal Lesser Galago *Galago senegalensis*: 1 was seen while owling in Wassadou.

Striped Ground Squirrel *Xerus erythropus*: Seen on 4 different days (e.g. Dindefelo, Wassadou).

Four-toed (African) Hedgehog *Atelerix albiventris*: 1 was seen by Sam and Laurie at our Kaolack hotel.

African (Golden) Wolf *Canis lupaster*: Several were seen on 2 days in Djoudj.

Marsh Mongoose *Atilax paludinosus*: Seen during the boat trip in the Saloum Delta and again from Wassadou Camp.

Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo*: A few were seen from Wassadou Camp.

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*: Recorded on 3 days (e.g. Djoudj).

(Common) Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius*: Up to 3 were seen from Wassadou Camp, including a calf.

Waterbuck *Kobus ellipsiprymnus*: Sam saw 1 in Niokolo-Koba NP.

OTHERS

Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*: Seen by some in Djoudj.

Nile Monitor *Varanus niloticus*: A few were seen on the tour (e.g. Wassadou).