

ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO THE GAMBIA
A Taste of West Africa

11 – 18 February 2005



Leader: Simon Boyes

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A Personal Diary

Friday, 11 February

We gather at Gatwick South Terminal for the Monarch charter to Banjul, in an Airbus. Take-off is just after 0915, and the flight takes six hours, passing over Gibraltar, the north-west Moroccan coast, and the Sahara. We land at 1530, as there is no time change from GMT. Entry formalities are quick and efficient, but we can't say the same for the luggage retrieval. But eventually it all arrives, and we set off in a coach for the Senegambia Hotel, enjoying a cold drink provided by The Gambia Experience.

The rest of the day is for allocating rooms, changing money, buying bottled water, and in Deborah's case, swimming. We all have rooms in the gardens, in well-placed A and B blocks. The first few birds include Brown and Blackcap Babblers, Red-billed Hornbill and White-crowned Robin-Chat. At 1900 we meet on the terrace for dinner, a tasty buffet. The cool beers hit the spot too. I meet the Gamtours staff, who organize our excursions. An early night is an appealing idea after our early starts.

Saturday, 12 February

Day begins to dawn at 0700, when we meet for breakfast - another buffet with plenty of choice. At 0800 we start a gentle ramble round the gardens, with Barry as our birding guide. (Gambia has many Barrys: this one is Momodou Wurry Barry). All I can mention here are a few highlights: Broad-billed Roller, first bird in the scope; a shrubbery with Gonolek, Puffback and Robin Chat all together; the gaudy Crested Barbet on a swimsuit-drying line outside one of the rooms. A resident Yellow-billed Shrike chases off a wintering Eurasian Hoopoe. We spend time on the many doves common here, including the Vinaceous, whose song is a repeated *pieces-of-eight*.

We walk along the sandy beach to Bijilo Forest Reserve. Grey-headed Gull is the most abundant seabird, with a few terns and one Slender-billed Gull too. This beach had eroded badly in previous years, but has now been reconstituted by a Dutch dredging company at great expense.

Outside Bijilo we stop to watch Black-necked Weaver, Senegal Coucal and a wintering Whitethroat among much else. Both the wood dove species are here, Black-billed and Blue-spotted. Inside the reserve we enjoy Little Bee-eater, Lizard Buzzard and plenty of Grey and Red-billed Hornbills. Green Vervet Monkeys are disappointed that we have no peanuts with us; one Red Colobus keeps a more respectful distance. Barry finds a few moments to tell us about jelly-palms, baobabs and ginger-plums. On the way back through thicker forest we have the smaller Robin Chat (Snowy-crowned) together with an Oriole Warbler, long-billed and long-tailed. Our driver Ali meets us at the gate to drive us the short distance back to base.

Lunch is a three-course meal on the hotel terrace, with tiny Bronze Mannikins busy on the lawn next to us. There is plenty of time for a siesta, although the morning has not been tiring: it is cool and cloudy by Gambian standards.

At 1530 we set out again for a brilliant afternoon in the Kotu Creek area. Again the travel distance is minimal, and we are on foot most of the afternoon. Of course no tour is complete without a sewage pond visit, and Kotu has a good one. White-faced Whistling Duck and Little Grebes enjoy a swim, while Marsh, Wood, Green and Common Sandpipers join Stilts and Greenshank along the margins. We soon walk down to the creek, through harvested millet and maize fields, where three species of similar shape (Piapiac, Long-tailed Starling and Green Woodhoopoe) all turn up together. A row of 10 Senegal Thick-knees together in the scope is a memorable sight.

Whimbrel and Western Reef Heron are at Kotu Bridge, along with many young Gambian bird-guides looking for business. A walk across Fajara Golf Course produces lovely views of Yellow-bellied Parrot and Black-headed Plover. An African Harrier-hawk flies low, hunting. Western Grey Plantain-eaters are common here. An Abyssinian Roller on the way back brings the first day to a fine ending.

Sunday, 13 February

After a slightly early breakfast, we leave for Abuko, to be at the gate when it opens at 0800. A Giant Kingfisher perches on a bridge by the road with a Pied Kingfisher - it fills the scope.

Abuko is a reserve that protects a remnant of the old forest that once covered this part of Gambia. We begin by spending half an hour or more at the Education Centre, with its elevated hide overlooking a shallow lake. Pied Hornbills fly over and perch in view, and an adult Palm Nut Vulture circles above the lake. Violet Turacos display their magenta wings as they fly across. By the water two Black Crakes appear and disappear; while various herons and egrets find food in the shallows. One frustrating sighting is a flight glimpse (by Barry and me only) of a Verreaux's Eagle Owl, pursued by angry crows. Of course it chooses deep cover when it lands.

We walk through the forest to the hyena enclosure, where Ali meets us. The early part of the walk is cool, and the forest active. Lavender Waxbills feed on the tiny seeds of a red flower in the canopy - Beautiful Sunbirds feed at the flowers of the same plant. One area of undergrowth has a fine collection of birds: a Grey-headed Bristlebill, African Thrush, Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat, and (best of all) a pair of Western Bluebills, an impressive forest finch with crimson underparts. Both species of Paradise Flycatcher are regularly encountered, with Little Greenbul appearing too. A Common Wattle-eye responds to my tape and offers fine views. Other notable sightings include Yellow-throated Leaf-love and Lesser Honeyguide. A Lanner shares the sky with 40 Hooded Vultures.

Cold drinks in Ali's cooler are a welcome sight. We drive the short distance to Lamin Lodge, a rustic wooden structure overlooking a tributary of the great Gambia River. The construction might give a British building inspector palpitations, but its lack of windows allows cool breezes to blow round us. As we eat, we can watch Sandwich Terns, a Great Cormorant and a Short-toed Eagle over the mangroves. Barry has a surprise for us on our journey back: a tree with three roosting Northern White-faced Owls. The orange eyes look superb in the scope.

We head back to base for a rest. Deborah and I enjoy a swim. At 1615 some of us set out again, while others extend siesta time. Our destination is the fields near Yundum Barracks, where Black-shouldered Kites seem especially common. There are plenty of palearctic migrants, from Marsh Harrier to Whinchat, Wheatear and Woodchat. Blue-bellied Rollers appear singly or in pairs; and one Rufous-crowned Roller adds variety. There are Wattled and Black-headed Plovers, but no coursers in view. The session ends with a gathering of classic "l.b.j.'s": prinia, cisticola and crombec, mostly mobbing a Woodchat. A diminutive Brown-backed Woodpecker shows well too. We are back at sunset, with an hour free before dinner.

Monday, 14 February

We are surprised by rain during the night. After breakfast, we visit Tanji, a beautiful coastal reserve a little way to the south. We begin our walk in cool and breezy conditions, but dry. The habitat is of *Acacia* and ginger-plum scrub, full of sunbirds. We have four species: Beautiful, Splendid, Variable and Copper. Other species of note include Green-backed Eremomela, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, and Vitelline Masked Weaver. A Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird also shows itself well, and an Osprey heads for the sea.

The lagoon has Caspian Tern and Slender-billed Gull at point-blank range. Waders include Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit and Eurasian Oystercatcher. A stop on the way back produces Rufous-crowned Roller, Yellow-billed Shrike and a Mottled Spinetail. We are back at base in time to watch the daily feeding ritual of the Hooded Vultures on the lawn. Siesta follows another excellent Senegambia Hotel lunch.

We set off again at 1530 for an afternoon of wetland exploration. African Spoonbill, Sacred Ibis and Black Egret pose in the same binocular field shortly after leaving the hotel. Along the Bund Road, Pink-backed

Pelicans and Yellow-billed Storks rest on the hull of a sunken ship. An unlikely birding stop is in the docks of bustling Banjul: looking out to sea we find one Mediterranean Gull in breeding plumage perched among hundreds of Grey-headed Gulls: there are also Pomarine and Arctic Skuas flying round harrying the gulls. Red-chested Swallows can be seen in the city streets, but there is nowhere to stop to enjoy views. Next stop on the way back produces Sanderling and Kentish Plover, with Slender-billed Gulls on a sandflat.

The Cape Creek mudflats are disappointing for waders, but a Giant Kingfisher, plus several superb Abyssinian and Blue-bellied Rollers compensate. A few Little Swifts join the abundant Palm Swifts above the market gardens, where the seedlings of cabbage, aubergine and sorrel are growing. This local sorrel produces the red *wonjo* juice served at breakfast. At dinner out on the terrace, fruit bats visit the trees above us. A Gambian musician sings us a quiet song of welcome in Mandinka, skilfully accompanying himself on a 21-string *kora*. This looks like a sitar, partly made of a huge calabash, and plucked with the thumbs.

Tuesday, 15 February

After breakfast we head south for Marakissa. At last the Gambian weather has resumed its normal service. In busy Brikama we stop to collect ice for the cooler. Red-chested Swallows cause the next stop, perching in a leafless baobab; at the same spot is a Lesser Blue-eared Glossy Starling, confidently identified by the experienced Barry on size and eye colour.

Beyond Marakissa village a sign announces the unofficial reserve, with a 50 *dalasi* entry fee. During our walk we meet the forest warden, a young man on his bicycle, who collects his dues from Barry. This type of local initiative is a great idea for protecting vulnerable areas. Certainly there is a lot to protect: a beautiful variety of trees, palms, shrubs and birds. Common species include noisy Lizard Buzzards, Plantain-eaters and Blue-bellied Rollers. A pair of Green Turacos make a good start, feeding on the fruits of a strangler fig. We have perfect views of Swallow-tailed Bee-eater and African Hobby (nowhere a common bird). Yellow White-eye and Mourning Dove put in first appearances, and a Lanner circles above. By a small pool we find Jacana, Black Crake, and a male Painted-snipe.

The last birds before arriving at Marakissa River Camp are an African Golden Oriole in flight and a Pearl-spotted Owlet perched. The River Camp overlooks a stretch of slow-running river, and makes a perfect spot for a relaxing midday break. From the rooftop viewpoint we watch Senegal Thick-knees and Pied Kingfishers. Some of the group enjoy a cold drink of local Julbrew beer. The small lodge is run by a Dutchman and his Gambian wife, who cooks us a delicious lunch of barracuda, chicken, chips and salad.

After a short siesta on the rooftop loungers, we continue south to Darsilami. The first river crossing produces a well-hidden Blue-breasted Kingfisher. Manoeuvring carefully round, we have perfect views. Across the road is an appalling scene of deforestation. It seems that the President buys land cheaply to establish orchards for the local communities. Such schemes are designed to provide villagers with work; but at present, the vast mahoganies make a pitiful sight felled and uncleared.

The Darsilami wetland is close to the Senegal border. Waders include stilts, Marsh Sandpiper and various plovers; but the raptors are good - several Harrier Hawks, a Palm-nut Vulture and a rapidly disappearing Grey Kestrel. Violet Turacos eat flowers in a tree in Darsilami village, in full view of all. Ali finds us a Long-crested Eagle on the way back, crest billowing in the breeze. At 1615 we arrive back at base, after our longest and hottest day yet. Cups of tea, swims and rest are much enjoyed.

At 1900 we meet at our table on the terrace, with enough daylight to call the log before another fine buffet.

Wednesday, 16 February

This morning's destination is Brufut, another area like Marakissa where WABSA (West African Birds Study Association) is working with the local community to protect good habitat. Pygmy Kingfisher is the first bird, but only Barry and Debbie manage views before it disappears. A roosting Verreaux's Eagle Owl is more static, though even this magnificent predator shuffles along a branch and hides a little behind foliage. Fanti Saw-wing (an all-black swallow) and Scarlet-chested Sunbird are also new to the week's list. The supporting cast is also good: Bearded Barbets by the hide that overlooks a pool, Violet Turaco and Pied Hornbill.

We stop further along the sandy track at Madiana, and explore the shady vegetable gardens and stream bank. Unfortunately it is almost dry, with only a few pools left for Thick-knees, Greenshank and Reef Heron. Lizard Buzzards soar and call like falsetto Fish Eagles. Shikra and Osprey also appear in flight. As the breeze drops and the heat rises, we head back for lunch at the hotel.

Half the group take advantage of a restful afternoon at the hotel, while the rest of us set out at 1530 for Pirang. This area of shrimp farm, mangroves and cultivation is 45 minutes' drive away. The creek around the shrimp ponds has a pair of Malachite Kingfishers, and several pairs of their Pied cousins. White-throated Bee-eaters, attractive with white faces and long tail streamers, are also here. An African Hobby is the second in as many days. Nearby fields are full of hornbills, Grey and Red-billed, with the new additions of Red-billed Quelea and Crested Lark. The journey back includes a short stop in Koloro for Barry to say hello to his family. Two Dark Chanting Goshawks perch up on roadside trees, with a rare mammal too: a Red Patas Monkey.

Tonight is African night, with the hotel courtyard full of stalls, and a barbecue by the pool.

Thursday, 17 February

The return visit to Pirang allows everyone to catch up on good views of Malachite Kingfisher. After an hour wandering round some disused shrimp ponds, the regular pair of Black Crowned Cranes fly in at 1010: very beautiful both in flight, and dancing on the ground. Some years they breed here, but the very low population must be a cause of concern. Palm-nut Vulture and Yellow-bellied Parrot are also obliging, not to mention plenty of Yellow-billed Storks and various herons and egrets. Just as we leave, we come across three Quailfinch feeding on the ground at close quarters: not always an easy one to see well.

The next village is Faraba Banta, where the Lower Basic (primary) School makes a suitable stop for our school visit. We meet the headmaster and leave with him supplies of pens, exercise books and first-aid items we have brought. We have a chance to meet a few of the 880 children, including Barry's daughter.

An area to the south of the main road is known as the Faraba Banta bush track: we have time to explore the first few miles. The landscape is pristine savannah dotted with palms and fine old locust-bean trees. Dark Chanting Goshawk and Harrier Hawks are conspicuous among the raptors: one purple patch produces a pair of Vieillot's Barbets, Mosque Swallows, Greater Honeyguides and a trio of Striped Kingfishers. They are involved in a noisy treetop argument, perched with backs vertical and flapping wings in and out in a comical performance. Namaqua Doves are also common here. We turn around near a Grasshopper Buzzard, which stays perched for several minutes. Such a productive and unspoilt area: but can it remain this way when the 880 children grow up and have their own families?

Driving back through Brikama, we take the new highway to Sanyang, on the coast south of Tanji. Lunch is at Rainbow Beach Bar, with a refreshingly cool breeze off the sea. This is a very safe beach for a swim, but only Mary ventures in, ankle-deep. The lunch is a tasty buffet with ladyfish, chicken *yassa*, and another Gambian dish named *benechin* (rice cooked in a vegetable sauce). There are plenty of Grey-headed Gulls about and a few thermalling pelicans, but also of note are four Royal Terns and two Slender-billed Gulls.

Heading back to base, we hear of a beached whale close to Tanji fishing village: a rare occurrence in The Gambia. The unfortunate giant, eight metres or so long, has been lying here in the shallows for three days, but was probably killed in a collision with a ship long before. I believe it is a rorqual - one of the great baleen whales. I will see if it can be identified from photographs, but the head is badly damaged and the dorsal fin under water.

In early evening the hotel garden offers great views of Lavender Waxbills, smart in their Wallcreeper colours. The "bird hide" that overlooks a small pool is an active area: an Oriole Warbler feeds quietly, close to a pair of Black-necked Weavers, a Puffback, and the abundant White-crowned Robin-Chats. A young Harrier Hawk has a favourite roost above the chalets. The evening meal on the terrace is the last we will be enjoying under the stars for a while.

Friday, 18 February

Although Barry and Ali are available for us this morning, the group votes for a relaxing wander round the gardens instead. Black-billed adult Piapiacs lead their red-billed young to the irrigated lawns. Dripping taps attract flocks of Village Weavers and Cordon-bleus. Yellow-crowned Gonoleks win the prize for the most colourful, though many other species give equal pleasure. For character, the noisy Green Woodhoopoes take some beating. These gardens must have been responsible for starting many birding hobbies over the years.

After plenty of time for relaxing and packing, we gather for a last lunch on the terrace. Having a Laughing Dove perched right above the tablecloth turns out to be a bad idea.... We envy Mary and Wendy, who are staying on an extra four days. Barry and Ali join us for lunch, and receive our votes of thanks for an excellent week. Ali drives us to the airport, where we arrive before the Gambia Experience coaches. Take-off is on time, and we land at Gatwick at 2245. The lucky ones get home tonight; the rest of us stay locally.

Post-script from Mary and Wendy

Here are some highlights of our extra days: we found the hole where the Pearl-spotted Owlet is roosting or nesting. We had been looking in the right tree, but not at the right hole. It gave us many good views. On the return trip to Sanyang, we bumped into Barry, enjoying his 40th birthday celebrations. The Lazy Day Cruise had one special highlight: a Goliath Heron flying, as big as an Airbus. Before our return flight, Banjul Airport had run out of fuel. We had to fly back via Tenerife, and refuel there. Despite the re-routing, we arrived back at Gatwick only two hours late.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Gamtours for providing excellent ground arrangements. Ali was always a safe and patient driver, and a good spotter too. Barry guided us very well, showing an encyclopaedic knowledge of Gambian birds. Finally, thanks to all you who participated in the tour, with enthusiasm and good humour at all times. I hope we will meet up again soon.

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March, 2005

Itinerary and Weather

n.b. Most of this week was unusually cool for Gambia in February.

- 11 Feb Arrive Banjul 1630. To Senegambia Hotel, Kololi.
Sunny, 32°C (90°F)
- 12 Feb Senegambia Gardens, Bijilo Forest Reserve. Kotu Ponds and Creek, Fajara Golf Course.
Cloudy, breezy, 22-26°C (72-79°F)
- 13 Feb Abuko Reserve. Lamin Lodge. Yundum Barracks fields.
Mostly sunny, 22-28°C (72-82°F)
- 14 Feb Tanji. Bund Road, Banjul Point, Cape Creek.
Overnight rain; cloudy, dry, 21-24°C (70-75°F)
- 15 Feb Marakissa, Darsilami.
Sunny, 21-28°C (70-82°F)
- 16 Feb Brufut and Madiana. Pirang.
Sunny, 21-28°C (70-82°F)
- 17 Feb Pirang, Faraba Banta. Sanyang Beach. Senegambia Gardens.
Sunny, 21-28°C (70-82°F)
- 18 Feb Senegambia Gardens. Depart Banjul 1655
Sunny, 20-28°C (68-82°F)

The Gambia River

Way down along the Gambia River
Reef Herons fly
Terns, Pelicans and Ospreys linger
Watching the river flow by

England will seem dark and dreary
Cloudy, cold and grey
Not like the blue skies and the smiling faces
On our Gambian holiday

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING TOUR

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| No of days recorded | Location | Abundance Scale (max. seen on 1 day) |
| 1,2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days | G = seen IN Senegambia Gardens >G = seen FROM Senegambia Gardens | 1 = 1 - 4 individuals 2 = 5 - 9 3 = 10 - 99 4 = 100 - 999 |

A few taxonomic notes (←,↑ etc) follow the list.

| SPECIES | No of days recorded | Location | Abundance Scale | SCIENTIFIC NAME |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Little Grebe | 1 | | 1 | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> |
| Great Cormorant | 2 | | 1 | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> |
| Long-tailed Cormorant | 5 | | 3 | <i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i> |
| African Darter | 1 | | 1 | <i>Anhinga rufa</i> |
| Pink-backed Pelican | 3 | | 3 | <i>Pelecanus rufescens</i> |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | 1 | | 1 | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> |
| Squacco Heron | 4 | | 2 | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i> |
| Cattle Egret | 8 | G | 4 | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> |
| Striated Heron | 1 | | 1 | <i>Butorides striatus</i> |
| Black Egret | 3 | >G | 3 | <i>Egretta ardesiaca</i> |
| Western Reef Heron | 6 | | 3 | <i>Egretta gularis</i> |
| Little Egret | 3 | | 2 | <i>Egretta garzetta</i> |
| Intermediate Egret | 3 | | 1 | <i>Egretta intermedia</i> |
| Great Egret | 6 | | 3 | <i>Ardea alba</i> |
| Purple Heron | 1 | | 1 | <i>Ardea purpurea</i> |
| Grey Heron | 5 | | 3 | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> |
| Black-headed Heron | 2 | | 2 | <i>Ardea melanocephala</i> |
| Hamerkop | 2 | | 1 | <i>Scopus umbretta</i> |
| Yellow-billed Stork | 3 | | 3 | <i>Mycteria ibis</i> |
| Sacred Ibis | 1 | | 1 | <i>Threskiornis aethiopica</i> |
| African Spoonbill | 3 | | 2 | <i>Platalea alba</i> |
| White-faced Whistling Duck | 1 | | 3 | <i>Dendrocygna viduata</i> |
| Black-shouldered Kite | 4 | | 2 | <i>Elanus caeruleus</i> |
| Yellow-billed Kite ♂ | 8 | | 3 | <i>Milvus aegyptius</i> |
| Black Kite ♂ | 2 | | 1 | <i>Milvus migrans</i> |
| Palm-nut Vulture | 4 | | 1 | <i>Gypohierax angolensis</i> |
| Hooded Vulture | 8 | | 4 | <i>Neophron monachus</i> |
| Short-toed Eagle | 1 | | 1 | <i>Circaetus gallicus</i> |
| African Harrier Hawk | 6 | G | 2 | <i>Polyboroides radiatus</i> |
| Eurasian Marsh Harrier | 3 | | 1 | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> |
| Dark Chanting Goshawk | 2 | | 1 | <i>Melierax metabates</i> |
| Shikra | 3 | >G | 1 | <i>Accipiter badius</i> |
| Grasshopper Buzzard | 1 | | 1 | <i>Butastur rufipennis</i> |
| Lizard Buzzard | 6 | | 2 | <i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i> |
| Long-crested Hawk Eagle | 1 | | 1 | <i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i> |
| Osprey | 3 | | 1 | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> |
| Common Kestrel | 1 | | 1 | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> |
| Grey Kestrel | 2 | | 1 | <i>Falco ardosiaceus</i> |
| Red-necked Falcon | 2 | | 1 | <i>Falco chicquera</i> |
| African Hobby | 2 | | 1 | <i>Falco cuvieri</i> |
| Lanner Falcon | 3 | | 1 | <i>Falco biarmicus</i> |
| Peregrine Falcon | 1 | | 1 | <i>Falco peregrinus</i> |
| Double-spurred Francolin | 5 | 1h | 1 | <i>Francolinus bicalcaratus</i> |
| Black Crake | 2 | | 1 | <i>Limnecorax flavirostra</i> |
| Black Crowned Crane | 1 | | 1 | <i>Balearica pavonina</i> |
| African Jacana | 3 | | 1 | <i>Actophilornis africanus</i> |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----|----|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Greater Painted-Snipe | 1 | | 1 | <i>Rostratula benghalensis</i> | |
| Eurasian Oystercatcher | 1 | | 1 | <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> | |
| Black-winged Stilt | 3 | | 3 | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> | |
| Senegal Thick-knee | 3 | | 3 | <i>Burhinus senegalensis</i> | |
| Ringed Plover | 2 | | 2 | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> | |
| Kentish Plover | 1 | | 2 | <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> | |
| Grey Plover | 2 | | 1 | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> | |
| Wattled Plover | 6 | | 2 | <i>Vanellus senegallus</i> | |
| Black-headed Plover | 4 | | 2 | <i>Vanellus tectus</i> | |
| Spur-winged Plover | 7 | >G | 3 | <i>Vanellus spinosus</i> | |
| Sanderling | 1 | | 2 | <i>Calidris alba</i> | |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | 1 | | 1 | <i>Limosa lapponica</i> | |
| Whimbrel | 6 | >G | 1 | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> | |
| Eurasian Curlew | 1 | | 1 | <i>Numenius arquata</i> | |
| Common Redshank | 2 | | 1 | <i>Tringa totanus</i> | |
| Marsh Sandpiper | 2 | | 1 | <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> | |
| Common Greenshank | 5 | 1h | 2 | <i>Tringa nebularia</i> | |
| Green Sandpiper | 1 | | 1 | <i>Tringa ochropus</i> | |
| Wood Sandpiper | 2 | | 2 | <i>Tringa glareola</i> | |
| Common Sandpiper | 3 | | 3 | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> | |
| Ruddy Turnstone | 2 | | 3 | <i>Arenaria interpres</i> | |
| Pomarine Skua | 1 | | 1 | <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i> | |
| Arctic Skua | 1 | | 1 | <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i> | |
| Mediterranean Gull | 1 | | 1 | <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> | |
| Grey-headed Gull | 6 | | 4 | <i>Larus cirrocephalus</i> | |
| Slender-billed Gull | 3 | | 3 | <i>Larus genei</i> | |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | 4 | | 3 | <i>Larus fuscus</i> | |
| Gull-billed Tern | 4 | | 1 | <i>Sterna nilotica</i> | |
| Caspian Tern | 4 | | 2 | <i>Sterna caspia</i> | |
| Royal Tern | 2 | | 1 | <i>Sterna maxima</i> | |
| Lesser Crested Tern | 1 | | 1 | <i>Sterna bengalensis</i> | |
| Sandwich Tern | 3 | | 3 | <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> | |
| African Green Pigeon | 2 | | 1 | <i>Treron calva</i> | |
| Blue-spotted Wood Dove | 2 | | 1 | <i>Turtur afer</i> | |
| Black-billed Wood Dove | 5 | | 3 | <i>Turtur abyssinicus</i> | |
| Namaqua Dove | 3 | | 1 | <i>Oena capensis</i> | |
| Speckled Pigeon | 8 | G | 4 | <i>Columba guinea</i> | |
| Feral Pigeon | 3 | | 2 | <i>Columba livia</i> | |
| Red-eyed Dove | 8 | G | 4 | <i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i> | |
| African Mourning Dove | 2 | | 1 | <i>Streptopelia decipiens</i> | |
| Vinaceous Dove | 7 | 1h | G | 3 | <i>Streptopelia vinacea</i> |
| Laughing Dove | 8 | | G | 4 | <i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i> |
| Yellow-bellied Parrot | 6 | | G | 1 | <i>Poicephalus senegalus</i> |
| Rose-ringed Parakeet | 3 | 1h | | 2 | <i>Psittacula krameri</i> |
| Green Turaco | 1 | | | 1 | <i>Tauraco persa</i> |
| Violet Turaco | 3 | | | 3 | <i>Musophaga violacea</i> |
| Western Grey Plantain-eater | 8 | | G | 3 | <i>Crinifer piscator</i> |
| Senegal Coucal | 8 | | G | 2 | <i>Centropus senegalensis</i> |
| Northern White-faced Owl ♀ | 1 | | | 1 | <i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i> |
| Verreaux's Eagle Owl | 1 | | | 1 | <i>Bubo lacteus</i> |
| Pearl-spotted Owllet | 1 | 3h | G | 1 | <i>Glaucidium perlatum</i> |
| Mottled Spinetail | 2 | | | 2 | <i>Telacanthura ussheri</i> |
| African Palm Swift | 6 | | >G | 4 | <i>Cypsiurus parvus</i> |
| Little Swift | 1 | | | 1 | <i>Apus affinis</i> |
| Blue-breasted Kingfisher | 1 | | | 1 | <i>Halcyon malimbica</i> |
| Striped Kingfisher | 1 | | | 1 | <i>Halcyon chelicuti</i> |
| African Pygmy Kingfisher | 1 | | | 1 | <i>Ceyx picta</i> |
| Malachite Kingfisher | 2 | | | 1 | <i>Alcedo cristata</i> |
| Giant Kingfisher | 2 | | | 1 | <i>Megaceryle maxima</i> |
| Pied Kingfisher | 6 | | | 3 | <i>Ceryle rudis</i> |
| Little Bee-eater | 4 | | | 2 | <i>Merops pusillus</i> |

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| Swallow-tailed Bee-eater | 2 | | 1 | <i>Merops hirundineus</i> | |
| White-throated Bee-eater | 1 | | 1 | <i>Merops albicollis</i> | |
| Blue-cheeked Bee-eater | 5 | >G | 3 | <i>Merops persicus</i> | |
| European Bee-eater | 1 | | 2 | <i>Merops apiaster</i> | |
| Rufous-crowned Roller | 4 | | 1 | <i>Coracias naevia</i> | |
| Blue-bellied Roller | 4 | | 2 | <i>Coracias cyanogaster</i> | |
| Abyssinian Roller | 4 | | 1 | <i>Coracias abyssinica</i> | |
| Broad-billed Roller | 2 | G | 1 | <i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i> | |
| Green Woodhoopoe | 5 | G | 3 | <i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i> | |
| Eurasian Hoopoe | 1 | G | 1 | <i>Upupa epops</i> | |
| Red-billed Hornbill | 8 | G | 3 | <i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i> | |
| African Pied Hornbill | 4 | | 1 | <i>Tockus fasciatus</i> | |
| African Grey Hornbill | 6 | G | 3 | <i>Tockus nasutus</i> | |
| Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird | 1 | 1h | G | 1 | <i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i> |
| Vieillot's Barbet | 1 | | 1 | <i>Lybius vieilloti</i> | |
| Bearded Barbet | 4 | | G | 1 | <i>Lybius dubius</i> |
| Greater Honeyguide | 1 | | 1 | <i>Indicator indicator</i> | |
| Lesser Honeyguide | 2 | | G | 1 | <i>Indicator minor</i> |
| Buff-spotted Woodpecker | 1 | | 1 | <i>Campethera nivosa</i> | |
| Grey Woodpecker | 5 | | G | 1 | <i>Mesopicos goertae</i> |
| Brown-backed Woodpecker | 1 | | 1 | <i>Picoides obsoletus</i> | |
| Crested Lark | 2 | | 2 | <i>Galerida cristata</i> | |
| Fanti Saw-wing | 1 | | 1 | <i>Psalidoprocne obscura</i> | |
| Mosque Swallow | 1 | | 1 | <i>Hirundo senegalensis</i> | |
| Wire-tailed Swallow | 3 | | 2 | <i>Hirundo smithii</i> | |
| Red-chested Swallow | 4 | | 3 | <i>Hirundo lucida</i> | |
| Yellow Wagtail | 2 | | 1 | <i>Motacilla flava</i> | |
| White Wagtail | 2 | | 2 | <i>Motacilla alba</i> | |
| Little Greenbul | 1 | | 1 | <i>Andropadus virens</i> | |
| Yellow-throated Leaf-love | 1 | | 1 | <i>Chlorocichla flavicollis</i> | |
| Grey-headed Bristle-bill | 1 | | 1 | <i>Bleda canicapilla</i> | |
| Common Bulbul | 8 | | G | 3 | <i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i> |
| Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat | 2 | | 1 | <i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i> | |
| White-crowned Robin-Chat | 8 | | G | 2 | <i>Cossypha albicapilla</i> |
| Whinchat | 1 | | 1 | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> | |
| Northern Wheatear | 1 | | 2 | <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> | |
| African Thrush | 7 | | G | 2 | <i>Turdus pelios</i> |
| Western Olivaceous Warbler | 3 | | G | 1 | <i>Hippolais opaca</i> |
| Singing Cisticola | 1 | | 1 | <i>Cisticola cantans</i> | |
| Zitting Cisticola | 2 | | 1 | <i>Cisticola juncidis</i> | |
| Tawny-flanked Prinia | 2 | | 2 | <i>Prinia subflava</i> | |
| Grey-backed Camaroptera | 2 | | 1 | <i>Camaroptera brachyura</i> | |
| Green-backed Eremomela | 3 | | 1 | <i>Eremomela pusilla</i> | |
| Northern Crombec | 3 | | 1 | <i>Sylvietta brachyura</i> | |
| Oriole Warbler (Moho) | 2 | | G | 1 | <i>Hypergerus atriceps</i> |
| Common Whitethroat | 1 | | 1 | <i>Sylvia communis</i> | |
| Northern Black Flycatcher | 2 | | G | 1 | <i>Melaenornis edolioides</i> |
| Common Wattle-eye | 3 | | 1 | <i>Platysteira cyanea</i> | |
| Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher | 3 | | 1 | <i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i> | |
| African Paradise Flycatcher | 1 | | 1 | <i>Terpsiphone viridis</i> | |
| Brown Babbler | 8 | | G | 2 | <i>Turdoides plebejus</i> |
| Blackcap Babbler | 8 | | G | 3 | <i>Turdoides reinwardii</i> |
| Scarlet-chested Sunbird | 1 | | 1 | <i>Nectarinia senegalensis</i> | |
| Variable Sunbird | 6 | | G | 1 | <i>Nectarinia venusta</i> |
| Copper Sunbird | 1 | | 1 | <i>Nectarinia cuprea</i> | |
| Splendid Sunbird | 3 | | G | 1 | <i>Nectarinia coccinigaster</i> |
| Beautiful Sunbird | 6 | | G | 2 | <i>Nectarinia pulchella</i> |
| Yellow White-eye | 1 | | 1 | <i>Zosterops senegalensis</i> | |
| African Golden Oriole | 2 | 2h | 1 | <i>Oriolus auratus</i> | |
| Yellow-billed Shrike | 7 | | G | 3 | <i>Corvinella corvina</i> |
| Woodchat Shrike | 4 | | 2 | <i>Lanius senator</i> | |

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|-----------------------------------|---|----|---|----------------------------------|
| Northern Puffback | 4 | G | 1 | <i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i> |
| Yellow-crowned Gonolek | 7 | G | 2 | <i>Laniarius barbarus</i> |
| Fork-tailed Drongo | 5 | | 2 | <i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i> |
| Piapiac | 7 | G | 3 | <i>Ptilostomus afer</i> |
| Pied Crow | 8 | G | 4 | <i>Corvus albus</i> |
| Purple Glossy Starling | 8 | G | 3 | <i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i> |
| Lesser Blue-eared Glossy Starling | 1 | | 1 | <i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i> |
| Long-tailed Glossy Starling | 8 | G | 3 | <i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i> |
| Yellow-billed Oxpecker | 1 | | 3 | <i>Buphagus africanus</i> |
| House Sparrow | 1 | | 1 | <i>Passer domesticus</i> |
| Grey-headed Sparrow | 6 | G | 3 | <i>Passer griseus</i> |
| White-billed Buffalo Weaver | 2 | | 3 | <i>Bubalornis albirostris</i> |
| Black-necked Weaver | 3 | G | 2 | <i>Ploceus nigricollis</i> |
| Vitelline Masked Weaver | 3 | | 1 | <i>Ploceus velatus</i> |
| Village Weaver | 7 | G | 4 | <i>Ploceus cucullatus</i> |
| Red-billed Quelea | 2 | | 3 | <i>Quelea quelea</i> |
| Northern Red Bishop | 5 | | 3 | <i>Euplectes franciscanus</i> |
| Western Bluebill | 1 | | 1 | <i>Spermophaga haematina</i> |
| Red-billed Firefinch | 5 | G | 3 | <i>Lagonosticta senegala</i> |
| Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu | 5 | G | 2 | <i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i> |
| Lavender Waxbill | 4 | G | 2 | <i>Estrilda caerulescens</i> |
| Quail-finch | 1 | lh | 1 | <i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i> |
| Bronze Mannikin | 6 | G | 3 | <i>Lonchura cucullata</i> |
| Yellow-fronted Canary | 1 | | 3 | <i>Serinus mozambicus</i> |

TAXONOMIC NOTES

← The yellow-billed resident form of kite is now split from the migrant Black Kite of Europe.

↑ This owl has been removed from the genus *Scops*, and split from the southern African form.

℞ Olivaceous Warbler has been split into two species.

MAMMALS

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Green Vervet Monkey | 4 | G | 3 | <i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i> |
| Red Colobus Monkey | 2 | | 1 | <i>Colobus badius</i> |
| Red Patas Monkey | 1 | | 1 | <i>Erythrocebus patas</i> |
| Bushbuck | 1 | | 1 | <i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i> |
| Gambian Sun Squirrel | 4 | | 1 | <i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i> |
| Western Ground Squirrel | 1 | | 1 | <i>Euxerus erythropus</i> |
| Whyte's (Crawshaw's) Hare | 1 | | 1 | <i>Lepus whytei</i> |
| Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat | 4 | G | 1 | <i>Epomops gambianus</i> |

OTHER ANIMALS included Nile Monitor, various lizards including *Agama sp*, frogs, etc.

This list represents those birds and other animals seen by party members of this tour.