

BIRD LIST (Gambia 2005)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Two on Kotu Ponds.

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Two at Tanji on 24th, with many others noted distantly on an offshore island from there on 27th. Six at Pirang.

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*

First noted at Lamin (two in flight); seen on two further dates – most numerous at Pirang.

Long-tailed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus*

Five on Kotu Ponds; one over Abuko rice fields; 10 at Pirang.

African Darter *Anhinga rufa*

Singles at Bonto rice fields, Pirang and Marakissa River Camp.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Noted in small numbers on three dates.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*

Five at Abuko on both visits. Four other sightings of single birds during the week.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Singles at Pirang and Tanji (27th).

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*

Up to five noted on four dates.

Black Egret *Egretta ardesiaca*

One in flight at Pirang was much enjoyed.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

One from the Casino Cycle Track; two at Camaloo Corner; one at Marakissa River Camp. We had several opportunities to compare this species directly with other egrets: we noted the differences in size, structure, leg colour and most importantly the gape line ending under the eye and not extending beyond it as in Great White Egret.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Two on a roadside pool near the Senegambia Hotel; one at Camaloo Corner.

Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis*

Noted on four dates, generally in small numbers. All were dark phase birds and we had some superb views.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Recorded on four dates, max. six at Camaloo Corner.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Widespread – seen every day.

Striated Heron *Butorides striatus*

First seen along the Casino Cycle Track; subsequently up to three noted on five dates.

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*

One at Abuko Forest on both visits; three on the adjacent rice fields; one at Marakissa River Camp. We had excellent views of birds on the ground and in flight.

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*

Six distantly in flight from Bonto rice fields; four gave much better views at Pirang.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*

One in flight at Pirang.

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

Three from the Casino Cycle Track; four at Camaloo Corner; c15 along Old Cape Road; c30 at Pirang, including some young birds: overall, a very good showing.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

First noted at Lamin; subsequently we had good views of up to three birds on each visit to Tanji and also saw one at Pirang.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Two from the Casino Cycle Track; one over Lamin rice fields; further singles along the Farara Banta Bush Track and at Marakissa.

Black (Yellow-billed) Kite *Milvus (migrans) parasitus*

Surprisingly we saw just one – a perched individual by the roadside at Tanji on 27th.

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*

Singles in flight at Pirang and Bijilo were much enjoyed.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*

Very common and widespread. We had our closest views at the Abuko animal orphanage and in the grounds of Senegambia Hotel on our last morning. An interesting bird to have at your garden feeder!

Beaudouin's Snake Eagle *Circaetus beaudouini*

A pair gave prolonged if somewhat distant views at Yarambamba. In contrast to the 'Birds of the Gambia' guide, this and Short-toed Eagle are clearly different species, with Beaudouin's more closely related to the eastern/southern Black-chested Snake Eagle.

Western Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens*

An adult at Tanji on 27th was seen perched on the inland side of the road and, later, watched in flight on the seaward side.

Eurasian Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

One over Lamin rice fields was our only sighting.

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus*

Seen most days, max. four at Marakissa. We saw both adults and immatures: this species has the potential to be 'strung' into a wide variety of other raptors!

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

One perched at Lamin rice fields gave excellent 'scope views.

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

Singles along the Faraba Banta Bush Track, at Marakissa and Yundum – the latter was perched right by the track and gave super views.

Gabar Goshawk *Melierax gabar*

Three sightings: an immature perched at Kotu Ponds, and adults in flight along the Faraba Banta Bush Track and at Tanji on 27th.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

One briefly along the Casino Cycle Track; one at Tanji on 24th with three there on 27th. This is a very 'Sparrowhawk-like' raptor.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*

A magnificent adult at Marakissa was voted *Bird of the Trip*. It gave prolonged views perched in a palm and was also seen in flight.

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*

Two at Brufut; one along the Faraba Banta Bush Track.

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*

A falcon seen along the Casino Cycle Track was considered to be this species rather than African Hobby after much deliberation.

Lanner *Falco biarmicus*

One gave typically brief flight views at Yundum.

Double-spurred Francolin *Francolinus bicalcaratus*

Heard on five dates. We also had brief views of perched birds at the Casino Cycle Track, Tanji, Old Cape Road, Marakissa and Yundum but you had to be in the right place to see them!

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostris*

Two were seen superbly on our first visit to Abuko from the main hide and subsequently from the photographic hide – a real bonus bird as it is normally elusive and hard to see.

African Jacana *Actophilornis africana*

This species can sometimes be elusive but not this year: we had great views at the Casino Cycle Track (two), Kotu Ponds (two), Abuko (pair with chicks on both visits), Camaloo Corner (one) and Marakissa (two).

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Up to two at Tanji on each visit.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

20 at Kotu Ponds; singles at Tanji (24th) and Old Cape Road.

Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis*

Eight at Abuko rice fields; three at Old Cape Road; five at Pirang.

Spur-winged Plover *Vanellus spinosus*

Widespread and fairly common in a variety of habitats, from roadsides to wetlands.

Black-headed Lapwing *Vanellus tectus*

Seen only at Fajara Golf Course – we had excellent views of eight birds.

Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus*

Surprisingly scarce: two along Kotu Stream, two more at Tanji, and singles at Marakissa and Yundum.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

One or two at Kotu Bridge, Tanji, Old Cape Road and Bonto.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

12 at Kotu Bridge; up to two on each visit to Tanji.

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus*

A splendid adult was much studied at Tanji on 24th. The lack of heat haze made this a truly memorable sighting.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

One at Bonto was our only sighting.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Up to five at Tanji on each visit.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Seen on five dates in small numbers in a variety of locations.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata orientalis*

One at Tanji on both visits; another single at Old Cape Road.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Singles at Kotu Ponds and Bridge; two at Old Cape Road.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Singles at Kotu Ponds and Bridge; one on a roadside pool near the hotel; two at Old Cape Road; one at Marakissa River Camp.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Two on Kotu Ponds; one at Abuko on 28th.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Five at Kotu Ponds; one at close range at Abuko rice fields.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

One or two seen on five dates.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Seen in good numbers at Tanji on both visits; also two along Old Cape Road.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Seen in good numbers at Tanji on both visits; also five along Old Cape Road.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

Four adults on Tanji beach on 27th allowed close observation.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Fairly numerous at Tanji on both visits.

Grey-headed Gull *Larus cirrocephalus*

Seen in good numbers on three dates.

Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*

At least one was seen at Pirang, albeit distantly.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

One first-winter bird was noted at Tanji on 27th.

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*

One at Lamin; four at Pirang.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

This cosmopolitan species is always much enjoyed – we first saw it at Lamin and subsequently noted up to 10 at Tanji on each visit, plus 30 at Old Cape Road and one at Pirang.

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*

Five at Tanji on 24th; two there on 27th. Picked out from Royal by the smaller size, subtly darker plumage and shorter legs.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

20 at Tanji on 24th; five there on 27th. Also recorded offshore from the Senegambia Hotel.

Royal Tern *Sterna maxima*

10 at Tanji on 24th; 20 there on 27th.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

30 at Tanji on 24th; two there on 27th.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Four offshore at Tanji on 24th.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Small numbers seen in the Brikama-Marakissa area.

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*

Common – seen very well in the grounds of the Senegambia Hotel.

African Mourning Dove *Streptopelia decipiens*

Recorded on five dates in small numbers – videoed at Lamin rice fields. Mostly seen near mangroves.

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*

Very common and widespread – remember the call “I am a Red-eyed Dove”! Large and dark, with dusky tail corners.

Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea*

Very common, widespread and noisy! Looks and sounds like a Collared Dove.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

Very common and confiding.

Black-billed Wood Dove *Turtur abyssinicus*

This and the following species were heard frequently; in addition we had good views at Brufut, Tanji and Marakissa.

Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer*

Heard more often than seen but we had good looks at birds at Marakissa, Bijilo and Abuko.

African Green Pigeon *Treron calva*

Four at Tanji on 27th – on the inland side of the road – gave superb prolonged views and caused much excitement!

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Small parties were seen on four dates – almost all were ‘fly-overs’.

Brown-necked Parrot *Poicephalus robustus*

Two at Pirang were a little distant but clearly identifiable.

Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus*

We had great views in the grounds of the Senegambia Hotel; subsequently one or two were seen along the Casino Cycle Track, at Abuko rice fields and at Tanji.

Green Turaco *Tauraco persa*

One at Abuko on 23rd gave reasonable views in the top of a tree to those positioned successfully.

Violet Turaco *Musophaga violacea*

This species was more obliging than the preceding one – we had excellent views at Abuko (two on each visit) and Tanji (one on each visit).

Western Grey Plantain-eater *Crinifer piscator*

Fairly common, widespread and obvious.

Levaillant’s Cuckoo *Clamator levaillanti*

One was seen well in flight along the Faraba Banta Bush Track.

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis*

One was heard at Pirang.

Klaas’s Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

We had super views of a female at Brufut and a juvenile at Yundum, and heard another at Tanji on 24th.

Diederik Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius*

One was heard at Yarambamba.

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*

Noted most days – we had some superb views.

Verreaux’s Eagle Owl *Bubo lacteus*

Two roosting at Abuko on 23rd had to be seen to be believed!

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*

One at Abuko rice fields gave excellent views.

Mottled Spinetail *Telacanthura ussheri*

We saw two at Tanji on both visits.

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

Noted in some numbers on six dates.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Small numbers recorded on three dates.

Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristata*

Singles at Abuko, Old Cape Road and Pirang; three at Marakissa. We had good 'scope views at the last two sites.

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*

One at Brufut was our only sighting.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*

We saw several – one along the Casino Cycle Track, four at Abuko rice fields, two at Tanji, one at Marakissa and one in the grounds of Senegambia Hotel.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica*

Two at Abuko on 23rd showed splendidly; we also saw one at Marakissa.

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*

One at Yundum was a 'heard-only' for a while before finally being pinned down in an Acacia – we had great views.

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*

One at Marakissa River Camp disturbed our siesta!

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Recorded in numbers on three dates after our first sightings at Lamin.

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*

First seen at Kotu Stream; subsequently seen on six dates. Stunning birds!

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus*

Four at Tanji on each visit – we had good 'scope views of perched birds: brighter green above and yellower below, with a longer, turquoise, forked tail.

White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis*

A grand total of seven were located along the coastal section of the green route at Bijilo, much to the leader's incredulity: the best 'find' of the trip, and a truly beautiful bird.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*

At least four were seen in flight at Lamin, but none were very close.

Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinica*

We had great views of three along Old Cape Road; one along the Faraba Banta Bush Track was more distant.

Rufous-crowned Roller *Coracias noevia*

Singles along the Faraba Banta Bush Track and at Yarambamba: less numerous than usual.

Blue-bellied Roller *Coracias cyanogaster*

We had fabulous views of displaying birds along the Casino Cycle Track; most subsequent views were of birds along the roadside south of the hotel, with odd birds elsewhere.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*

Noted every day – our best views were in the grounds of the Senegambia Hotel (often seen at dusk above the swimming pool!).

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*

Up to four recorded at six sites – we had especially good views in palm trees at Tanji on our second visit.

Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus*

Commonly seen in a variety of habitats.

African Pied Hornbill *Tockus fasciatus*

Just one, a showy bird sitting in a palm tree at Brufut.

African Grey Hornbill *Tockus nasutus*

Noted most days in small numbers.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

‘Heard-only’ at Kotu Stream and Lamin rice fields then, finally, one was seen superbly in the grounds of the Senegambia Hotel on 27th: a tiny stripy bird with a golden forehead.

Bearded Barbet *Lybius dubius*

One in the grounds of the Senegambia Hotel on our first evening was our first ‘good bird’. Thereafter up to three were recorded on five dates.

Vieillot’s Barbet *Lybius vieilloti*

Up to two on each visit to Tanji; one at Yarambamba.

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor*

Singles at Abuko on both visits.

Fine-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera punctuligera*

Singles along the Casino Cycle Track and at Tanji (24th).

Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera nivos*

One at Abuko on our last morning was a real bonus. We had great 'scope views.

Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae*

Up to three noted on seven dates: the commonest woodpecker.

Brown-backed Woodpecker *Picoides obsoletus*

Two at Brufut disappeared all too soon.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

At least two were noted at Pirang. This species is very localised in the Gambia.

Red-chested Swallow *Hirundo lucida*

Recorded in flight over the Abuko ricefields (10+) and also at Tanji (27th) where we had fine views of perched birds. Separated from Barn Swallow by a combination of features: shiny blue upperparts and white underparts, extensive white on the underside of the tail, smaller size and with shorter tail streamers.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

We had excellent views at Pirang (10+) and Marakissa River Camp (five).

Pied-winged Swallow *Hirundo leucosoma*

Four at Bonto were well-received.

Mosque Swallow *Hirundo senegalensis*

Two along the Faraba Banta Bush Track were closely observed coming to drink in a puddle; in addition one was seen in flight over the Senegambia Hotel on 27th.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

One at Pirang was our only sighting.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

One at Pirang.

Fanti Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne obscura*

Recorded in small numbers on five dates.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Singles along Bund Road and at Tanji beach (27th).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

At least one was noted at Pirang.

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*

We had excellent views of three at dusk near the football pitch along Old Cape Road.

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*

Two at Lamin ricefields gave prolonged 'scope views: one of the most exciting 'finds' of the trip.

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

Abundant. Often seems to be able to change colour and plumage for a split second before you realise it is 'just another bulbul'!

Little Greenbul *Andropadus virens*

One at Abuko on our first visit.

Grey-headed Bristlebill *Bleda canicapilla*

One at Abuko on our first visit gave splendid views.

African Thrush *Turdus pelios*

Noted daily in small numbers.

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*

Seen well at Yundum and Yarambamba, with others heard at Tanji, Faraba Banta Bush Track and Marakissa.

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis*

At Yundum we had good views of one singing bird and heard at least three more.

Zitting Cisticola (Fan-tailed Warbler) *Cisticola juncidis*

Recorded in small numbers on five dates, with the best views obtained at Bonto.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*

Noted most days; we had super views along the Casino Cycle Track and at Yundum. This species is mostly found in dry grassy areas.

Red-winged Prinia *Prinia erythroptera*

Four along the Faraba Banta Bush Track, with further singles at Kotu Stream, Yundum and Yarambamba.

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*

At least one was seen at Abuko on each visit, usually high up in the canopy; others were heard.

Moho (Oriole Warbler) *Hypergerus atriceps*

Heard at Tanji and in the grounds of the Senegambia Hotel on 24th; a pair were seen very well at the entrance to Bijilo on 26th; another was seen well in the hotel grounds on 27th; finally, one was seen at Abuko on 28th going to its nest opposite the photographic hide. A very good showing!

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brachyura*

First noted along the Casino Cycle Track where we had good views of a pair; one or two were also noted at Brufut, Abuko, Tanji and in the grounds of the Senegambia Hotel.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

One was located at Yarambamba.

Green-backed Eremomela *Eremomila pusilla*

We had excellent views of a pair at Yundum, whilst another pair showed briefly in bushes by the taxi rank outside our hotel. Sounds like a Blue Tit!

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*

Singles at Lamin rice fields and on our first visit to Tanji. We had reasonably good views of the latter. This is a strange nuthatch-like warbler.

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina*

At least one was seen and heard at Abuko on our first visit – some had super views.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Singles at Abuko and Yarambamba.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

One at Tanji on our first visit.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

Singles at Tanji and Yarambamba.

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edoloides*

One at Tanji on 24th had us guessing for a while; another was seen on wires from the bus en route to Tanji on 27th.

Snowy-crowned Robin-chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*

We had good views at Abuko (both visits), Marakissa and Bijilo.

White-crowned Robin-chat *Cossypha albicapilla*

Three pairs were seen splendidly in the hotel grounds every day – we found no others elsewhere!

Common Wattle-eye *Platysteira cyanea*

We had superb views of both males and females at Abuko on both visits; one at Tanji on 27th was heard-only.

Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufiventer*

We saw three at Brufut, two on our first visit to Abuko and one in Faraba Banta village. Note that the white line on the wing, incorrectly assigned to a hybrid in the Barlow guide, is in fact typical of the Gambian subspecies *rufiventer*.

Blackcap Babbler *Turdioides reinwardtii*

Seen daily – usually in ones and twos. We had great views in the grounds of the Senegambia Hotel.

Brown Babbler *Turdioides plebejus*

Common and noisy – seen daily in several places.

Western Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes longuemarei*

A pair at Brufut showed all too briefly.

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris*

A male at Tanji on our second visit was distant, but a male (plus two immatures) at Abuko on our last morning were more co-operative if a little high in the tree.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Nectarinia senegalensis*

Seen at Brufut (two), Lamin (one), Marakissa (two) and Yundum (one) – we had several excellent views.

Beautiful (Long-tailed) Sunbird *Nectarinia pulchella*

Seen every day and much enjoyed.

Splendid Sunbird *Nectarinia coccinigastra*

Singles at Abuko rice fields, Tanji (both visits) and Marakissa.

Variable Sunbird *Nectarinia venusta*

Perhaps the commonest sunbird – first seen along the Casino Cycle Track then recorded on five dates.

Copper Sunbird *Nectarinia cuprea*

Singles at Abuko on both visits disappeared far too quickly.

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus*

One at Abuko on our first visit was seen well by some; another was heard at Marakissa; finally, two showed well at Tanji on our second visit, one in flight and one perched.

Yellow-billed Shrike *Corvinella corvina*

Commonly seen, sometimes in flocks.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegala*

Heard along the Faraba Banta Bush Track then seen remarkably well at Yundum (at least two) and Yarambamba.

Yellow-crowned Gonolek *Laniarius barbarus*

Noted daily in the grounds of the Senegambia Hotel, where the views were stunning, and also recorded in a number of other locations.

Sulphur-breasted Bush-Shrike *Malaconotus sulfureopectus*

One at Tanji on our first visit (seaward side of the road) was heard frequently and eventually seen by some, albeit only in flight.

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

One or two noted at Kotu Stream, Brufut, Tanji (both visits) and Faraba Banta.

Piapiac *Ptilostomus afer*

Fairly common – we saw both adults and immatures.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

Abundant.

Greater Blue-eared Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

At least two in the grounds of the Senegambia Hotel were closely scrutinised during the week. Both Blue-eareds are smaller than Bronze-tailed with a more turquoise-green gloss and small black mask, and they have longer tails.

Lesser Blue-eared Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus*

Just one was confirmed, at Brufut – we probably missed others.

Bronze-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis chalcurus*

A flock in the grounds of the Senegambia Hotel was well-watched, and we had other sightings elsewhere.

Purple Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis purpureus*

Noted most days – we studied this species carefully in a number of locations.

Long-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis caudatus*

Very common and widespread.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*

One at Pirang on the back of a cow was seen very well – a real highlight.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Noted on two dates in villages. This species is a recent introduction to the Gambia.

Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

Widespread and common.

White-billed Buffalo-weaver *Bubalornis albirostris*

Our first ‘good’ bird of the morning was seen well at a nesting colony at the start of the Casino Cycle Track. We saw others similarly at Yundum.

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus*

One was seen briefly at Yarambamba; another was seen slightly better just outside the entrance to the Senegambia Hotel on 27th.

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*

Recorded on five dates – we had good views at Abuko, Tanji and Bijilo in particular.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

Abundant.

Yellow-backed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus*

We found at least three along Old Cape Road.

Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer*

At least five at Camaloo Corner; one at Bonto; two at Pirang.

Black-winged Red Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*

Much less common than the following species, but we recorded up to three at Bonto, Faraba Banta, Marakissa and Yarambamba.

Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*

First seen along the Casino Cycle Track then noted daily. This bright species is much enjoyed by birders and non-birders alike.

Yellow-shouldered Widowbird *Euplectes macrourus*

Two stunning males at Bonto made our detour a highly successful one!

Western Bluebill *Spermophaga haematina*

Three adults at Abuko on 23rd; three more there on 28th included two juveniles. The views of this special bird were memorable.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

Recorded most days in small numbers.

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*

Noted on five dates – we enjoyed several great views.

Lavender Waxbill *Estrilda caerulescens*

Surprisingly scarce – just one in Faraba Banta village, two at Yundum and two in the grounds of Senegambia Hotel on 27th.

Black-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda troglodytes*

Four in Faraba Banta village – we had great views of drinking/bathing birds.

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata*

First seen along the Casino Cycle Track, then noted daily in small numbers.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Serinus mozambicus*

Two at Lamin rice fields; two more at Yarambamba.

201 species

BUTTERFLY LIST

Narrow Green-Banded Swallowtail *Papilio nireus nireus*
Citrus Swallowtail *Papilio demodocus demodocus*
African Tiger (African Monarch) *Danaus chrysippus chrysippus*
African Emigrant (African Migrant) *Catopsilia florella*
Common Grass Yellow *Eurema hecabe solifera*
Creamy Small White *Dixeia orbona orbona*
Small Orange Acraea *Acraea eponina eponina*
Diadem *Hypolimnus misippus*
Dark Blue Pansy *Junonia oenone oenone*
Guineafowl *Hamanumida daedalus*
Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui cardui*
Pea Blue *Lampides boeticus*
African Grass Blue *Zizeeria knysna*
Common Hairstreak *Hypolycaena philippus philippus*

14 species

OTHER SPECIES

Mudskipper *Periophthalmus koelreuteri*
Fiddler Crab *Uca tangeri*

Gambian Epauletted Fruit-Bat *Epomophorus gambianus*

Green Vervet (Callitrix) Monkey *Cercopithecus aethiops sabaesus*
Patas (Red) Monkey *Erythrocebus patas*
Western Red Colobus Monkey *Colobus badius temmincki*
Gambian Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus gambianus*

Agama (or Rainbow) Lizard *Agama agama*
Nile Monitor Lizard *Varanus niloticus*