

Trip report Senegal 15 July–5 August 2003

By Willem van der Waal

I was travelling with my family. Our house (of a friend), where we stayed was in the village of Yoff. That is an village of fisherman but very fast growing to a small city. It was not a good place for birding. The Island off Yoff and the Cemetry where the good places for birding in Yoff. And I was the only birder in a group so I had to do all the birding by my self. Happy to score a specie and precise counting and looking for adults or male/female was to much for me as a solist. The landscape was very green because the rainseason was just finished. It was good birding in the Saluomdelta with its mangroves and sandbanks. The Ile des Oiseux was very spectacular. In the Nat. Parc de Saloum was de surrounding of the Bandiala resort very good. A lot of species and a beautyfull lansdscape. Langue de Barbarie was also good for birds and Pointe de Almedie was a good place to observe seabirds. I like to thank Pierre M'Bengue for his hospitality and his knowledge and translation of the language spoken by the local people into Dutch. French is the most spoken laguage in Senegal. Local languages are also spoken and Wolof is the most used. But English can also be used special in and near Dakar and touristic places.

Itinerary

15/7 Amsterdam-Lissabon-Dakar
16/7 Yoff
17/7 Yoff and dakar
18/7 Yoff and Ile de Ngore
19/7 Ile de Madeleine
20/7 Pointe de Almedie
21/7 Yoff to Kaolack
22/7 Kaolack to Nat. Parc de Saloum
23/7 Saloum with Ile d'Oiseux
24/7 Saloum to Yoff
25/7 Ile de Goree
26/7 Yoff
27/7 Yoff and Ile de Yoff
28/7 Yoff
29/7 Yoff and via Lac Rose to St. Louis
30/7 St.Louis with Langue de Barbarie
31/7 St. Louis to Yoff
1/8 Yoff
2/8 Yoff and Ile de Yoff
3/8 Yoff and P. de Almedie
4/8 Yoff and Dakar Airport
5/8 Dakar-Lissabon-Zurich-Amsterdam

Species list

Cape Verde Shearwater: 3+7+1 bird seen at Pointe de Almedie on 3 August.
Red Billed Tropicbird: 9+7+6+4 ad. and one young at nest on Ile de Madeleine on 19 July.
Brown Booby: One ad. seen at Pointe de Almedie on 3 August.
Cape Gannet: 3 ad. flying west at Il de Madeleine on 19 July.
Great Cormorant: comon at the coast.
Long Tailed Cormorant: some birds seen at fresh water, greatest numbers seen near Kaolac.
Great White Pelican: 30/7 35 birds seen at L. de Barbarie.
Pink-Backed Pelican: 21/7 some flying above Mbour; 22–24/7 seen regular (with best number 180) at Saloumdelta; 30/7 450 seen at L. de Barbarie
Cattle Egret: Seen daily in small numbers.
Green-Backed/Striated Heron: 23/7 1 at the Karang ricefields near the Gambian border.
Western Reef Heron: some birds seen in the Saloumdelta and St. Louis and L. de Barbarie. Al birds where blackmorph.
Great White Egret: solitary birds seen at the Saloumdelta
Intermediate Egret: 30/7 one near L. de Barbarie.
Grey Heron: solitary birds seen on Yoff island and near fresh water.
Black-Headed Heron: 3/8 one flying south over Yoff.
Goliath Heron: One ad. on 22/7 in the mangroves at the Saloumdelta.
Hamerkop: one in Sandicouilly ricefield on 24/7.
Sacred Ibis: 22/7 one flying over at the Saloumdelta.

Greater Flamingo: 22/7 21 birds seen at the Saloumdelta.
Whit-Faced Whistling Duck: 1 and 3/8 about 20 birds seen at Yoff migrating south.
Spur-Winged Goose: 22/7 two seen flying over at the Saloumdelta.
Osprey: solitary birds seen at the coast.
Swallow-Tailed Kite: 31/7 one ad. seen south of Louga
Yellow-Billed Kite: seen daily in good numbers. Best day was 28/7 when I saw about 9000! birds hunting near Yoff at flying termites.
African Fish Eagle: 21/7 one juv., 22 and 23/7 one ad at the Saloumdelta.
Hooded Vulture: seen at Yoff en south of it in good numbers. Near Bandiala just some birds. North of Thies no Hooded Vultures are seen.
African White-Backed Vulture: 22/7 two ad. at Bandiala, 31/7 three birds between St. Louis and Thies.
Rueppels's Griffon Vulture: 29 and 31/7 four and six birds where seen between St.Louis and Thies.
Lapped-Faced Vulture: 29/7 two ad. soaring above a dead domestic cow south of Louga at the roadcrossing to Lompoul
Western Banded Snake Eagle: one seen at Bandiala at 23/7.
Dark Chanting Goshawk: 23/7 one at Bandiala.
Red-Necked Falcon 19/7 one at Yoff with a cathed prey (a House Sparrow).
African Hobby: 19/7 one hunting in Yoff; 31/7 one near Thies.
Lanner Falcon: 23/7 one ad. Bandiala.
Double-Spurred Francolin: 22;23;24/7 some seen in the fields near Bandiala.
African Jacana: two ad. seen in the Karang ricefields.
Collared Pratincole: seen regurly hunting above the rubbishdump in Yoff. The birds are breeding on Yoff Island. 25 pair with an average of one young. The young birds are able to fly and within a few days they will leave the island.
Senegal Thicknee: 22/7 heard in Bandiala and some were seen on 30/7 at the L. de Barbarie .
Little Ringed Plover: 30/7 some seen at L. de Barbarie.
Kentish Plover: 30/7 some birds seen at L. de Barbarie.
Kittlitz Plover: 24/7 two seen at the muddflats near Foundiougne.
African Wattled Lapwing: one at L. de Barbarie.
Spurwinged Plover: seen regular at green fields and near fresh water.
Knot: 30/7 18 birds seen at L. de Barbarie.
Sanderling: 30/7 some small groups seen at L. de Barbarie.
Bar-tailed Godwit: 23/7 some seen at Saloumdelta; 30/7 150 seen at L.de Barbarie and 2/8 some flocks migrating south over sea at Yoff.
Whimbrel: solitary birds seen regular near the coast en freshwater. At the end of july and early augustus numbers increased.
Eurasian Curlew: 2/8 some migrating south over the coast at Yoff.
Common Redshank: 30/7 small groups seen at L. de Barbarie.
Common Sandpiper: 30/7 solitary birds at L. de Barbarie. On 3/8 and 4/8 more birds are seen at the coast of Yoff, also migrating south.
Ruddy Turnstone: regular seen at the coast.
Artic Skua: 27/7 8 migrating south over Yoff (beach) and on 3/8 21 migrating south over sea at P. de Almedie.
Southpolar Skua: 30/7 one very close at the coast hunting at Sandwich Terns and later back to the open sea at P. de Almedie.
Grey-headed Gull: common in and near the Saloumdelta, St. Louis and L. de Barbarie.
Slender-billed Gull: some seen at L.de Barbarie and near St. Louis.
Kelp Gull: 22/7 two adults seen at the Saloumdelta.
Yellow-legged Gull: 18/7 one first year seen Yoff; 30-31/7 more where seen in difference plumages near St.Louis end L. de Barbarie.
Gull-billed Tern: 30/7 two ad. L.de Barbarie.
Caspian Tern: seen regular at the coast.
Royal tern: common at the coast.
Sandwich Tern: seen regular at sea.
Roseate Tern: 22/7 17 adults seen at the Saloumdelta.
Common Tern: 16/7 8 birds seen at sea Yoff.
Bridled Tern: 16/7 one juv. Near Yoff; 19/7 3 ad. at Il de Madeleine.
Sooty Tern: 20/7 a flock far at sea Pointe de Almedie.
Little Tern: small groups migrating south over sea at Yoff and P. de Almedie.
White-Winged Black Tern: 30/7 3+2 birds seen at St. Louis; 3/8 4 migrating south at Yoff.
Black Tern: Seen regular near sea.
Blue-Spotted Wood Dove: common at Bandiala.
Black-Billed Wood Dove: some birds seen at Bandiala.

Namaqua Dove: good numbers seen between Tivaoune and Louga.
Speckled Pigeon: common (seen daily).
Red-Eyed Dove: some seen at Bandiala.
African Mourning Dove: 3/7 one seen at the bank of the Senegal river near L. de Barbarie.
Vinaceous Dove: 2/3 seen at Bandiala.
Adamawa Turtle Dove: 24/7 one seen at Bandiala.
Laughing Dove: Seen daily in good numbers, very common.
Brown-necked Parrot: 23/7 15 seen while waiting at a parrots sleepingroost in Bandiala.
Senegal Parrot: quite common in Bandiala; 4/8 6 birds flying over Yoff.
Rose-Ringed Parakeet: seen regular at Bandiala; 25/7 in Dakar; 28 and 29/7 in St. Louis and the first days of Augustus in Yoff.
Jacobin Cuckoo: 28/7 one at Yoff/Dakar Airport.
Senegal Coucal: seen regular at Bandiala and on 26/7 at Yoff Cemetery.
African Scops Owl: 22-24/7 one ad. seen at daylight in his roosttree.
Barn Owl: seen at dusk and calling while flying on 20 and 21/7 Yoff Cemetery.
Pearl-Spotted Owlet: 22/7 heard at night in Bandiala.
Mottled Spintail: some seen on 17/7 above Dakar; 23-24/7 seen at Bandiala.
African Palm Swift: 21-24/7 seen near Kaolack; Bandiala; Karang and Fatic. Where you see palmtrees you see Afr. Palm Swifts.
Pallid Swift: 16/7 some at Yoff; 17/7 more at Dakar and 3/8 at P. de Almedie.
Common Swift: 16/7 One migrating south over Yoff; 2-3/8 some birds going south and 4/8 dozens migrating south over Yoff.
Little Swift: seen daily in all kinds of landscapes, common.
Bleu-Napped Mousebird: 19 two ad. seen at the harbourgarden of Madeleine.
Woodland Kingfisher: 23/7 one at Tivaoune.
Striped Kingfisher: 29/7 one at Lac Rose and some between Thies and Louga; 30/7 some seen on the way back at the same road.
Pied Kingfisher: 22 and 24/7 some at the Saloumdelta; 30/7 some in St. Louis.
Little Bee-Eater: 23/7 some seen near Bandiala.
Blue-Cheeked Bee-Eater: 23-24/7 some seen at Bandiala; 30/7 some at the Nat. Parc Barbarie office and 31/7 some near Louga.
Roufous-Crowned Roller: 23/7 Some at Bandiala, 29/7 one at Lac Rose; 31/7 some at the Nat. Parc Barbarie office.
Abyssinian Roller: 22-24/7 some at Bandiala; 29-31/7 some on the way North to St. Louis and back and at the Nat. Parc Barbarie office.
Broad-Billed Roller: 22-24/7 some at Bandiala.
Green Wood-Hoopoe: 24/7 a small group at Bandiala.
Black Wood-Hoopoe: 24/7 a group near Keur Sambel.
Red-Billed Hornbill: common at the wooded areas, seen regular.
African Grey Hornbill: common at the wooded areas, not as common as the Red-Billed.
Viellot's Barbet: 23/7 two seen at Bandiala.
Bearded Barbet: 23 and 24/7 seen at Bandiala, more common than Viellot's.
Spotted Honeyguide: 23-24/7 two seen at Bandiala.
Fine-Spotted Woodpecker: 24/7 one seen at Bandiala.
Grey Woodpecker: 23/7 two seen at Bandiala.
Crested Lark: 24/7 some between Foundiougne and Fatic, 29/7 some at Lac Rose, 30/7 some at Louga, 3/8 some ad. with fledglings at Il de Yoff.
Fanti Saw-Wing: 24/7 some at Sokone.
Mosque Swallow: 24/7 some at Sokone.
Wire-Tailed Swallow: 24/7 some at Foundiougne.
Red-chested Swallow: 21/7 a lot nesting in a colony of Little Swifts in Mbour, 22-23/7 seen at Bandiala.
Grey-Headed Bristlebill: 23/7 seen at Bandiala.
Common Bulbul: quite common in gardens, parks and wooded areas.
Snowy-Crowned Robin Chat: 23/7 one male seen at Bandiala.
Northern Antaeater Chat: 23/7 one male at Bandiala, 31/7 some seen on the way south between Louga and Tivaouane.
Zitting Cisticola: 22 and 24/7 some heard at Saloum, 30/7 at L. de Barbarie, 3/8 P. de Almedie.
Tawney-Flanked Prinia: 23-24/7 heard and seen at Bandiala, 29/7 Lac Rose.
Grey-Backed Camaroptera: 23/7 seen at Bandiala.
Green-Backed Eremomela: 23/7 seen at Bandiala.
Northern Black Flycatcher: 23/7 seen at Bandiala.

Shrike Flycatcher: 23/7 seen at Bandiala.
African Paradise Flycatcher: 23/7 Seen at Bandiala.
Brown Babbler: 22-24/7 seen at Bandiala.
Balckcap Babbler: 23/7 seen at Bandiala.
White-Shoulddered Black Tit: 23/7 seen at Bandiala.
Scarlet-Chested Sunbird: 23/7 seen at Bandiala.
Beautiful Sunbird: 22-23/7 seen at Bandiala.
Sulphur-Breasted Bush-Shrike: 22-23/7 seen at Bandiala.
Northern Puffback: 23-24/7 seen at Bandiala.
Yellow-Crowned/Common Gonolek: seen regular at the Yoff cemetry and 22-24/7 at Bandiala.
African Golden Oriole: 23/7 seen at Bandiala.
Fork-Tailed Drongo: 22-24/7 seen at Bandiala.
Pied Crow: Seen everywhere in good numbers but the only place where they'r not seen was at Bandiala.
Piacpiac: 24/7 seen at Keur Sambel.
Purple Glossy Starling: 21-24/7 on the route Dakar-Kaolack when we pass by Mbour they are seen along the road. Common in Bandiala. And on the way to St. Louis and back also seen.
Chesnut Bellied Starling: 24-/7 seen at Bandiala; 26-7 at Yoff cemetry and 29/7 at Lac Rose.
Violet-Backed Starling: 24-/7 seen at Bandiala.
Yellow-Billed Oxpecker: 24/7 one seen at Keur Sambel on the back off a domestic cow in a herd that was grazing along the roadside.
House Sparrow: seen everywhere in good numbers but absent in Bandiala.
NorhernGrey-headed Sparrow: seen everywhere in small numbers and also absent in Bandiala.
Sudan Golden Sparrow: 2/8 about 15 birds seen at P. de Almedie;3/8 25 birds seen at Yoff Island.
Speckle Fronted Weaver:20/7 a mall group seen at P. de Almedie.
White-Billed Buffalo Weaver; 23-24/7 some seen at Bandiala.
Viteline Masked Weaver:17/7 a flock in Dakar;18/7 a flock on Ile de Ngore; 20/7 at Yoff Cemetry;21/7 at P. de Almedie; 24/7 in Bandiala.
Village Weaver: common and seen regular but not in St.Louis.
Yellow Backed Weaver: 2/8 some at Yoff Island.
Yellow-Crowned Bishop: 2/8 6 birds at Yoff Island.
Northern Red Bishop: 3/8 some at Yoff Island.
Red Billed Quelea: regular a flock at Yoff cemetry;2/8 at Yoff Island; 3/8 at P. de Almedie.
Red Billed Firefinch: 19/7 a group at the harbour of the Il de Madeleine office; 3/8 a group at P. de Almedie.
Red Cheeked Cordon Bleu: 24/7 seen at Bandiala; 3/8 seen at P. de Almedie.
African Silverbill: 45 birds seen at P.de Almedie.
Cut-troat: 31/7 a group seen near Louga.
Village Indigobird: some males seen on 23/7 in Bandiala; and some males seen near Louga at on 31/7.
Pin-Tailed Whydah: 3/8 two males and one female seen at P. de Almedie.
Yellow-Fronted Canary: 23-24/7 seen at Bandiala; 2/8 seen at Il de Yoff; 3/8 seen at p. de Almedie.

Non-birds

Giant Fruitbat: 29-31/7 180 seen in St. Louis flying in the dusk and by daylight roosting in a tree in the centre off town.
Monitor Lizzard: 30/7 one more than 2 mtrs long at the bank off the Senegalriver near L. de Barbarie.
Green Colobusmonkey: seen regular at Bandiala.
Red Colobusmonkey: some seen at Bandiala. Not as easy as the Green Colobus Monkeys, they are very shy.
Patas monkey: several times a familygroup seen in Bandiala, very shy.
Maxwell Duiker: one male seen at Bandiala.

Amsterdam November 2003

Willem van der Waal, Binnenkadijk 274, 1018 ZJ Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Email: willemvanderwaal@planet.nl