



Seawatching at N'Gor Senegal
3-16 October 2005

Manx Shearwater © Björn Johansson

Participants

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Sweden

Travel Info

Four of us booked a return ticket by Air Portugal. We left Arlanda (Stockholm) airport at 15:10 on Sunday 2nd October and after a stopover in Lisbon we arrived to Dakar at 00:55 local time on 3rd. When we were through immigration, luggage pick-up and customs we took a taxi to Club le Calao at N’Gor to the price of 12 Euro. The ride took about 10 minutes. We checked in at Calao and installed ourselves in our pre-booked connected and spacious double bungalows.

The fifth participant, Kristoffer, was not able to go to Senegal until five days later, on 7th October. But, due to bad weather and fog covering Northwest Europe on the 7th most departures was delayed and Kristoffer had to change his flight to the next day. He finally flew from Landvetter (Gothenburg) with Air France late morning on Saturday 8th October and arrived to Dakar at 20:15 local time.

The advantage with Air France – when flying from Sweden – is their more reasonable time schedules for departures and arrivals, compared to Air Portugal, which arrive and leaves Dakar late night. However, on some routes with Air France the stopover in Paris is far too long to be suitable. Check both companies time schedules before booking flight tickets within Scandinavia (and in other countries too).

Kristoffer left Dakar in late evening on 16th and the rest of us a few hours after midnight on 17th October. One of the staff at Calao drove us for free to the airport with their minibus. Don’t forget to confirm your flight back home, the clerk at Calao can help you with this.

We stayed at Club le Calao in two connected double/triple bungalows the whole period.



Accommodation, boat tours and health

We recommend future birders visiting the area to stay at Club le Calao, mainly due to its nice surroundings, closeness to the sea and the terrace and last but not least, it is the cheapest hotel in the area:

Double room bungalow: 41.16 Euro/night (divided on two persons)

Triple room bungalow: 56.41 Euro/night (divided on three persons)

Additional costs: Tourist tax/day/person (0.91 Euro) and continental breakfast (4.57 Euro/person).

All three hotels (Calao, Diarama and N’Gor) in the N’Gor area is own by the very same company and, unfortunately, they are not reachable by e-mail for prices and bookings. Contacts is only possible by phone (+221 8200540/8200908) or fax (+221 8201180). All bungalows have air-condition and make sure your bungalow have a fridge.

For our pelagic trips we chartered a boat on two occasions through the company “Atlantic Evasion”, which is located at N’Gor beach, close to the place from where the boat (Pirog ferry) to Ile N’Gor depart.

Remember to book a boat a few days in advance, especially if you intend to undertake a boat tour during the weekend. It is also possible to make a reservation a few weeks beforehand via e-mail or fax. However, remember that the owner, Eric only speak French, so an answer from him may take some time, but you will get it. Each boat takes up to six birders and the price quoted below is the total for the whole boat:

Full day (8 hours): 293 Euro, but the price varies between type of boat model one choose.

Half day (4 hours): 200 Euro (for example a tour to Isle Madeleine or trawlers off Cap Vert).

Extras: Lunch (including drinks, bread and fruit): c. 5 Euro per person

Contacts by e-mail: info@atlantic-evasion.com

Some kind of Malaria profylax is needed. This serious and potentially fatal disease is spread by mosquito bites and exists year round throughout the country. No place in Senegal (not even the Dakar area!) is completely free from malaria so it is extremely important to avoid mosquito bites and to take tablets to prevent the disease. Plan ahead for getting your vaccinations and consult your doctor.

Further information

You will find more info, such as photo galleries, trip reports, seabird totals, recommended literature and field guides as well as published papers on the subject, on the website "Seawatching in Senegal": <http://senegal.seawatching.net>

Weather and wind

The dry season on the Cap Vert peninsula is between September and May and is dominated by the hot and dry harmattan wind. The temperature in October to December often rises above 30°C in the day and stays just below at the night. The humidity was relatively high, so the cooling effect of the winds along the coast is a welcome delight when you are seawatching. Mostly clear blue sky, but a few days with light overcast.

Weather conditions at 12:00

Date	Temperature	Humidity	Visibility	Wind Direction	Windspeed		Conditions
2005-10-03	86 °F / 30 °C	84%	6.2 miles / 10 km	West	6.9 miles/h / 11.1 km/h	3,1 m/s	Scattered Clouds
2005-10-04	86 °F / 30 °C	84%	6.2 miles / 10 km	North	8.1 miles/h / 13 km/h	3,6 m/s	
2005-10-05	86 °F / 30 °C	74%	6.2 miles / 10 km	N/NW	5.8 miles/h / 9.3 km/h	2,6 m/s	Scattered Clouds
2005-10-06	84 °F / 29 °C	79%	6.2 miles / 10 km	V/NW	5.8 miles/h / 9.3 km/h	2,6 m/s	Scattered Clouds
2005-10-07	84 °F / 29 °C	79%	6.2 miles / 10 km	Variable	3.5 miles/h / 5.6 km/h	1,6 m/s	Partly cloudy
2005-10-08	84 °F / 29 °C	79%	6.2 miles / 10 km	N/NW	9.2 miles/h / 14.8 km/h	4,1 m/s	Partly cloudy
2005-10-09	82°F / 28 °C	79%	6.2 miles / 10 km	N/NE	9.2 miles/h / 14.8 km/h	4,1 m/s	Partly cloudy
2005-10-10	86 °F / 30 °C	79%	-	Variable	3.5 miles/h / 5.6 km/h	1,6 m/s	Cloudy and light rain in the morning, clearing up
2005-10-11	86 °F / 30 °C	84%	6.2 miles / 10 km	S/SW	8.1 miles/h / 13 km/h	3,6 m/s	Scattered Clouds
2005-10-12	86 °F / 30 °C	84%	6.2 miles / 10 km	S/SW	8.1 miles/h / 13 km/h	3,6 m/s	Scattered Clouds
2005-10-13	86 °F / 30 °C	84%	-	S/SW	6.9 miles/h / 11.1 km/h	3,1 m/s	Scattered Clouds, thunderstorm passing, cloudy afternoon
2005-10-14	77 °F / 25 °C	100%	6.2 miles / 10 km	S/SE	6.9 miles/h / 11.1 km/h	3,1 m/s	Clear
2005-10-15	86 °F / 30 °C	84%	6.2 miles / 10 km	NW	5.8 miles/h / 9.3 km/h	2,6 m/s	Partly cloudy
2005-10-16	89 °F / 32 °C	75%	6.2 miles / 10 km	Variable	2.3 miles/h / 3.7 km/h	1,0 m/s	Scattered Clouds

Landbased seawatching

From land we watched and counted the seabirds that passed from Calao's restaurant terrace and on the north side of the tiny island Ile N'Gor. There are two very good sites for seawatching located on the western tip of the Cap Vert peninsula, both in the N'Gor area. In this area there are three places to stay, Hotel Diarama, Hotel N'Gor and Club le Calao. When staying at Club le Calao (recommended) you only have a minute to their excellent restaurant terrace next to the sea, which is a brilliant vantage point for seawatching. The other hotspot is located on the north side of the small island Ile N'Gor, which is accessible by regular boat service from N'Gor Beach, within 10 minutes walking distance from Club le Calao, the two places just lay 1km from each other.

The differences between these two places may seem marginal at first, but there are some major differences! You always start the day at Calao's terrace as you eat your breakfast here, in or outside at the terrace, from where you very fast become aware of the wind direction and the numbers of seabirds passing already in the light of dawn. If the conditions seem promising, you can decide to relocate and take the boat to Ile N'Gor. From the terrace you can often follow many seabird species, especially terns, gulls and skuas (e.g. Arctic Skuas) for a rather long period of time. For example, a majority of all Tern species and the smaller Gulls (except Sabine's) pass through the strait (inshore the island Ile N'Gor), and would therefore not be visible from the north side of Ile N'Gor. On the other hand, most seabirds pass closer to the shore at Ile N'Gor, albeit sometimes too close. If you mostly use your scope, a majority of gulls, terns and Arctic Skuas will be missed. Here, you sit a bit higher above the sea than on Calao's terrace, which means you can follow many birds over longer periods. This is important when recording flight action/style and plumage's of some difficult and similar looking seabirds. Smaller species such as Storm-petrels are often easier to detect and follow here than at Calao's terrace, but this vary with wind directions. If you sit on the eastern tip of the island you can discover many seabirds before they pass by, but the eastern tip is not well-suited for larger numbers of birders. The middle of the north side, just west of the 'Wall' is the best spot to seawatch from! If you want to photograph seabirds from land, Ile N'Gor is definitely the best place!

To sum up our experience of seawatching in the area we suggest that seawatching from Calao's terrace is best between dawn to midday and Ile N'Gor in afternoon/evening. However, everyday is indeed a new day, so, according to the strength and direction of the wind, you always have to be flexible and innovative. At last, don't get seduced by the facilities at Calao's terrace!



1. The terrace at Club le Calao, which is a perfect place for seawatching. © Martin Oomen

Pelagic trips

We undertook two pelagic tours during our stay; one full day (8 hrs) on 6th and one half day (4 hrs) on 13th October. Both of them north off the Cap Vert peninsula, except for the end of the full day trip, which was spent around Ile de la Madeleine (south-west of Dakar). We started with a full day at sea on 6th October heading north and seeing many unidentified smaller Storm-petrels on our way out (most of them probably European Storm-petrels) and after 1 ½ hours we sighted a group of four Senegalese trawlers north-east off Cap Vert (knowing foreign trawlers is banned within Senegalese waters since the beginning of 2003). The trawlers were in the same area on both our pelagics, 20 km North of N’Gor at N 14° 56’ 17.0, W 17° 27’ 08.5.

We hired the boats from the game fishing company “Atlantic Evasion”. These boats are usually for rent for sportfishing. On our full day they supplied small fish as bait. This was however used with limited success, mainly attracting Common Terns and not much else. Atlantic Evasion have their office inside a fish restaurant at the beach in N’Gor, just east of where the boats to Ile N’Gor run from. There is an entrance both from Ngor Rue and from the beach. The staff unfortunately don’t speak any English (please visit the “Pelagic trips” section on the website “Seawatching in Senegal” for useful translations if you wish to hire a boat). You can probably get help at the reception at Calao with booking a boat. The sea food in the restaurant is excellent and highly recommended!



2. The left boat was used on our full day at sea, the right on the half day. Right hand picture shows the entrance to Atlantic Evasion from Rue Ngor. © Björn Johansson

Migrating seabirds counted from land and seabirds recorded on the two pelagics

Calao means observed from the terrace at Club le Calao, and Ngor is observations from the north shore of Ile N'Gor. There is an apparent westward migration past this area. See table at the end 1 for daily totals.

Bulwer's Petrel – Spetsstjärtad petrell

Bulweria bulwerii

A total of 30 was recorded from Calao 20 and 10 from Ngor. Excellent close views of one individual from the terrace. One was briefly mobbed by a Long-tailed Skua. This is the highest total ever recorded.

Cory's Shearwater – Gulnäbbad lira

Calonectris diomedea borealis

A single passed Calao on 15th. This bird passed close by enabling us to see bill colour and other details.

One seen among Cape Verde Shearwaters at sea on 6th.



3. Cape Verde Shearwater off N'Gor. © Jan Hägg

Cape Verde Shearwater – Kapverdelira

Calonectris (diomedea) edwardsii

At sea: 300 on 6th and 100 on 13th. When cruising back on the 13th we saw a flock of 20 birds foraging quite close to land. Probably the same flock was later seen from the terrace at Calao.

Cory's/Cape Verde Shearwater

Calonectris sp.

Singles seen from Calao on 4th, 7th and 14th

Sooty Shearwater – Grålira

Puffinus griseus

Calao 5593, Ngor 2461. This is the highest total ever recorded, as well as 1839 on 7th is the highest daily count. At sea: 41 birds on 6th and 13 on 13th.

Manx Shearwater – Mindre lira

Puffinus puffinus

Calao 57, Ngor 45 (seen daily). At sea: 8 on 13th, of which some offered excellent views alongside the boat close to the trawlers.

Little Shearwater – Dvärglira

Puffinus assimilis

A single passing close to N'Gor in the afternoon on 7th.

Wilson's Storm-petrel – Havslöpare

Oceanites oceanicus

A single passing off Calao on 15th. At sea: 14 on 6th and 6 on 13th, of which many were seen close to the boat.

European Storm-petrel – Stormsvala

Hydrobates pelagicus

Two seen from Calao and 3 from Ngor. A total of 9 seen at sea on 6th.

Leach's Storm-petrel – Klykstjärtad stormsvala

Oceanodroma leucohoa

A single seen close to the shore off Calao on 14th.

Madeiran Storm-Petrel – Oceanlöpare

Oceanodroma castro

A single seen at sea on 6th.

Storm-petrel sp. – Obest. Stormsvala

3 seen from Calao and one from Ngor. At least 43 recorded at sea on 6th, of which the majority probably were European S-p's. Also 3 *Oceanodroma*-petrels were seen at sea on 6th October.

Red-billed Tropicbird – Rödnäbbad tropikfågel

Phaeton aethereus

A single passed Calao on 13th. Breeds on Iles de las Madeleine where two were seen on the 6th, occasionally seen around Ngor.

Northern Gannet – Havssula

Morus bassanus

1 first year bird off Calao on 5th. This species is more numerous later in autumn and especially during winter.

Red Phalarope – Brednäbbad simsnäppa

Phalaropus fulicarius

Calao 59 and from Ngor 56. Several flocks and single birds seen settled at sea, especially off N'Gor.

"Great" Skua sp. – Stor labb

Catharacta sp.

Calao 144, Ngor 27. At sea: 12 on 6th and 7 on 13th. Little variation in plumage, no birds looked like adult Great Skua. Several birds were moulting inner primaries. Bill seemed thin. Seems more likely to be one of the southern hemisphere species but further research is needed.

Pomarine Skua – Bredstjärtad labb

Stercorarius pomarinus

Calao 482, Ngor 210. At sea: 25 on 6th and 36 on 13th, several dark phase adults were seen. Numbers increased toward the end of our stay, which was to be expected. No juveniles were identified, also as expected. Many adults still had tail projection.



4. Pomarine Skua harassed by Sabine's Gull.
© Jan Hägg.

Arctic Skua – Kustlabb

Stercorarius parasiticus

Calao 1417, Ngor 459. At sea: 12 on 6th and 5 on 13th. Approximately less than 50% was juvenile and immature birds. This is the highest total recorded ever.



5. Adult Long-tailed Skua. © Björn Johansson.

Long-tailed Skua – Fjällabb

Stercorarius longicaudus

Calao 168, Ngor 102. 1 adult and at least 5 juvenile/immature at sea on 6th. The total of 270 is the highest ever, as well as 90 birds on 15th is the highest daily count ever. These numbers must be hard to beat anywhere in the world, especially during landbased observations. Approx. 10% were adults.

Skua sp. – Obest labb

Stercorarius sp

293 birds in total. And some additional very distant birds not counted.

Audouin's Gull – Rödnäbbad trut

Larus audouinii

77 in total. Only one or two adult were seen, the others were birds moulting to first winter. Larger margin of error in the total number since they were not so apparently migrating birds.

Kelp Gull (Cape Gull) – Dominikanertrut

Larus dominicanus vetula

Calao 1.

Lesser Black-backed Gull – Silltrut

Larus fuscus

34 in total. Most were of *graellsii* type.

Grey-headed Gull – Gråhuvad mås

Larus cirrocephalus

Calao 13, one first year bird, all others adult, 3 in breeding plumage. All passing through the strait inside Ile N'Gor.

Slender-billed Gull – Långnäbbad mås

Larus genei

Calao 10, all were adults, except one first year bird.



6. Adult Sabine's Gull. © Björn Johansson.

Sabine's Gull – Tärnmås

Larus sabini

Calao 1539, Ngor 361. Many flocks were distant, of the closer birds seen not more than 10% were first year birds. The second highest total recorded.

At sea: At least 70 on 6th (one flock of 20 birds lying on sea close, also heard calling) and 15 on 13th.

Gull-billed Tern – Sandtärna

Sterna nilotica

Calao 2. Both passing through the strait inside Ile N'Gor on the 3rd.

Caspian Tern – Skräntärna

Sterna caspia

131 in total, almost exclusively seen from the terrace at Calao. The highest total recorded ever.

(African) Royal Tern – Kungstärna*Sterna maxima albididorsalis*

Calao 393, Ngor 39. Numbers are somewhat misleading. There's always a few birds feeding along the coast. At the end of our stay we started counting more thoroughly. Separation from Lesser Crested Tern is very difficult. A few at sea at the trawlers, but no total estimated

Lesser Crested Tern – Iltärna*Sterna bengalensis emigrata*

Calao 755, Ngor 70. See comment above on Royal Tern.

Sandwich Tern – Kentsk tärna*Sterna sandvicensis*

Calao 7317, Ngor 522. Quite a few at sea at the trawlers, but no total estimated. The highest total recorded ever.

Roseate Tern – Rosentärna*Sterna dougallii*

Calao 19. One first year bird and the rest adults. All passing through the strait inside Ile N'Gor.

Common/arctic tern – Fisk/silvertärna*Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*

Calao 4256, Ngor 1243. The vast majority was Common tern. Several hundred around the trawlers at sea.

Arctic Tern – Silvertärna*Sterna paradisaea*

Calao 343, Ngor 151. Only few adult birds. Small numbers at sea around the trawlers.

Little Tern – Smätärna*Sterna albifrons*

Calao 253, Ngor 27. The highest total recorded ever.

Bridled Tern – Tygeltärna*Sterna anaethetus*

Calao 1, Ngor 1. Breeds on Ile de la Madeleine.

Black Tern – Svarttärna*Chlidonias niger*

Calao 1830, Ngor 896. Many at sea at the trawlers. We expected higher number, perhaps they had already peaked.

Landbirds and species recorded at Technopole

All observations concerning the 'land-birds' listed below was only a resultant of each species occurrence, which mean that we didn't search for them actively, except for our visits to Technopole in the morning on 10th and 16th October. We recorded 35 species at the Technopole not seen elsewhere.

Technopole is an area located 16 kilometre east of N'Gor, along the main road leading inland off the peninsula. In light traffic it takes approx. 20 minutes by car from Calao. In rush hours on weekday mornings it can take considerably longer. We paid 10-12.000 CFA for a taxi with the driver waiting for three hours while we birded. Just inside the entrance is a lake to the east. Taking the road further north is a Science Centre on your left hand. After 1.6 km you reach Dakar Golf Club. There are waterbirds and waders all around the area. During weekends there are quite a few golfers.



7. View from the Technopole area. © Björn Johansson

Little Grebe – Smådopping

Tachybaptus ruficollis

At Technopole: 4 on 10th and 6 on 16th

Great Cormorant – Storskarv

Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus

Several seen daily at Calao and Ngor. 300 at Ile de Madeleine on 6th, where they breed.

Long-tailed Cormorant – Långstjärtad skarv

Phalacrocorax africanus

Two flying west at Calao on 9th and 20-25 at Technopole on both visits.



8. Long-tailed Cormorant. © Martin Oomen.

Grey Heron – Gråhäger *Ardea cinerea*

Singles seen almost daily at Calao, 50-100 at Technopole.

Purple Heron – Purpurhäger *Ardea purpurea*

1 at Calao on 15th and 4 at Technopole on both visits.

Great Egret – Ägretthäger

Ardea alba

At Calao 4 13th, 2 15th, and 50 at Technopole on both visits.

Intermediate Egret – Mellanhäger

Egretta intermedia

1 at Technopole 16th

Western Reef-Heron – Revhäger

Egretta gularis

75-100 at Technopole and up to 100 daily in mornings and evenings at Calao.



9. Western Reef Heron. © Jan Hägg.

Little Egret – Silkeshäger

Egretta garzetta

200 at Technopole on 10th and 16th.

Squacco Heron – Rallhäger

Ardeola ralloides

12 and 2 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.

Cattle Egret – Kohäger

Bubulcus ibis

120 at Calao 5th & 8th, 10 at Technopole on both visits

Striated Heron – Mangrovehäger

Butorides striata

Singles at Calao on several days, 10 at Technopole on 10th and 16th.

Eurasian Spoonbill – Skedstork

Platalea leucorodia

6 at Technopole on 16th, one colour-ringed first year bird. Hatched ca. 100 days earlier 4000 km away in the Netherlands.

Greater Flamingo – Större flamingo

Phoenicopterus roseus

9 and 5 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.



10. White-faced Whistling Duck. © Martin Oomen.

White-faced Whistling-Duck – Vithuvad visseland

Dendrocygna viduata

40 and 20 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.

Blue-winged Teal – Blåvingad årta

Anas discors

1 first year male at Technopole on 10th

Osprey – Fiskgjuse

Pandion haliaetus

5-10 seen daily.



11. Black Kite. © Martin Oomen.

Black Kite – Brun glada

Milvus migrans parasitus

Abundant, especially at Technopole, but 100's seen soaring above N'Gor area on several occasions.

Hooded Vulture – Kappgam

Necrosyrtes monachus

Common, especially at Technopole.

Western Marsh-Harrier – Brun kärrhök

Circus aeruginosus

At Calao: 2 4th, 6 5th, 1 10th, 2 16th. All were first year birds.

Shikra

Accipiter badius

Singles around Calao on 2-3 days and 2-3 at Technopole



12. Shikra. © Martin Oomen.

Eurasian Kestrel – Tornfalk

Falco tinnunculus

1 Ile de Madeleine 6th, 1 Calao 9th, 13th & 14th

Red-necked Falcon – Rödhuvad falk

Falco chicquera

1-2 Seen at Ngor and Calao on 5 days

Eurasian Hobby – Lärkfalk

Falco subbuteo

2 Technopole on 10th

Peregrine – Pilgrimsfalk

Falco peregrinus

1 male seen daily. Nighttime roost on Hotel N'Gor.

Black Crane – Korprall

Amaurornis flavirostris

1 at Technopole on both visits.

Purple Swamphen – Purpurhöna

Porphyrio porphyrio

2 Technopole on 10th

Common Moorhen – Rörhöna

Gallinula chloropus

1 Technopole on 10th



13. African Jacana. © Björn Johansson.

African Jacana

Actophilornis africanus

30 and 20 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.

Oystercatcher – Strandskata

Haematopus ostralegus

Seen daily at Calao, maximum 43

Black-winged Stilt – Stytlöpare

Himantopus himantopus

25 at Technopole on both visits.

Senegal Thick-knee – Senegaltjockfot

Burhinus senegalensis

50 & 100 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.

Spur-winged Plover – Sporrvipa

Vanellus spinosus

Singles seen at Calao on several days, common at Technopole.

American Golden-Plover – Amerikansk tundrapipare

Pluvialis dominica

1 first year bird at Technopole on both visits.



14. American Golden Plover. © Jan Hägg.

Grey Plover – Kustpipare

Pluvialis squatarola

Seen at Calao on 4 days with a maximum of 20.

Common Ringed Plover – Större strandpipare

Charadrius hiaticula

Small flocks seen daily, max 30 at Calao, 100 at Technopole.

Little Ringed Plover – Mindre strandpipare

Charadrius dubius

20 at Technopole on 10th

Kittlitz's Plover – Kittlitzstrandpipare

Charadrius pecuarius

1 male at Technopole on 10th



15. Kittlitz Plover. © Martin Oomen.

Common Snipe – Enkelbeckasin

Gallinago gallinago

1 at Technopole on 16th

Bar-tailed Godwit – Myrspov

Limosa lapponica

Seen daily, max 45, singles at Technopole

Whimbrel – Småspov

Numenius phaeopus

Seen daily, max 66, singles at Technopole

Eurasian Curlew – Storspov

Numenius arquata

4 at Calao on 5th and 1 on 16th

Common Redshank – Rödbena

Tringa totanus

2 Point de Almadies 10th, 1 at Calao 9th, 20 and 8 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.

Marsh Sandpiper – Dammsnäppa

Tringa stagnatilis

1 at Technopole on 16th

Common Greenshank – Gluttsnäppa*Tringa nebularia*6 Calao 8th, 2 9th, 1 11th, 1 15th, 25 & 10 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.**Green Sandpiper – Skogssnäppa***Tringa ochropus*10 at Technopole on 10th**Wood Sandpiper – Grönbena***Tringa glareola*

40 at Technopole on both visits

Common Sandpiper – Drillsnäppa*Actitis hypoleucos*

Singles daily at Calao, 30 at Technopole on both visits

Ruddy Turnstone – Roskarl*Arenaria interpres*Singles seen daily at Calao and Ngor, 10 & 4 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively (on the green!)**Red Knot – Kustsnäppa***Calidris canutus*

2-17 seen on 4 days at Calao

Sanderling – Sandlöpare*Calidris alba*

Seen daily at Calao and Ngor, max 44, and 10 at Technopole

Little Stint – Småsnäppa*Calidris minuta*5 at Calao on 9th, 3 on 15th, and 10 at Technopole**Temminck's Stint – Mosnäppa***Calidris temminckii*2 at Technopole on 10th**Curlew Sandpiper – Spovsnäppa***Calidris ferruginea*4 Calao 9th & 10th, 7 14th, 40 & 25 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively**Dunlin – Kärrsnäppa***Calidris alpina*

Seen daily at Calao, max 30, and 25-50 at Technopole on both visits.

Ruff – Brushane*Philomachus pugnax*10 & 5 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.**Black-headed Gull – Skrattmåå***Larus ridibundus*3 at Technopole on 10th**Gull-billed Tern – Sandtärna***Sterna nilotica*13 & 10 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.**Little Tern – Småtärna***Sterna albifrons*5 and 20 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.**White-winged Tern – Vitvingad tärna***Chlidonias leucopterus*3 at Technopole on 10th**Black Tern – Svarttärna***Chlidonias niger*

Large numbers at Technopole on both visits.

Feral Pigeon – Tamduva*Columba livia domesticus*

Singles seen on several occasions

Speckled Pigeon*Columba guinea*

15 at Ile de la Madeleine, seen on 5 days at Calao with max 15, and 5 at Technopole

African Mourning Dove – Sorgduva*Streptopelia decipiens*3 at Technopole on 10th**Laughing Dove – Palmduva***Streptopelia senegalensis*

Common

Rose-ringed Parakeet – Halsbandsparakit*Psittacula krameri*

Seen on most days, max 25

Senegal Parrot*Poicephalus senegalus*2 at Calao flying out to Ile Ngor on three days, 7 & 2 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.**16. Western Grey Plantain-eater.**

© Björn Johansson.

Western Plantain-eater*Crinifer piscator*2 close to the entrance at Technopole on 10th**Senegal Coucal – Senegalsporrgök***Centropus senegalensis*

10 at Technopole on both visits

African Palm-Swift – Afrikansk palmseglare

Cypsiurus parvus

4 from the terrace at Calao on the 11th

Pallid Swift – Blek tornseglare

Apus pallidus

1 at Calao and at least 3 at Hotel N’Gor on 14th

Little Swift – Stubbstjärtseglare

Apus affinis

Breeds at Hotel N’Gor, 50 seen daily

Blue-naped Mousebird

Urocolius macrourus

Seen daily around Calao, max 8



17. Blue-naped Mousebird. © Björn Johansson.

Malachite Kingfisher/ African Pygmy-Kingfisher

Alcedo cristata /Aspidina picta

1 only seen flying at Technopole on both visits.

Grey-headed Kingfisher – Gråhuvad kungsfiskare

Halcyon leucocephala

3 at Technopole on 10th, and 1 on 16th

Pied Kingfisher – Gråfiskare *Ceryle rudis*

Common at Technopole.



18. Pied Kingfisher. © Jan Hägg.

Little Bee-eater – Liten biätare

Merops pusillus

Small numbers seen on several days at Calao, 10 at Technopole

Abyssinian Roller – Savannblåkråka

Coracias abyssinica

2 birds on several days around Calao, 3 birds outside N’Gor on the road to Technopole on both visits



19. Green Woodhoopoe. © Björn Johansson.

Green Woodhoopoe

Phoeniculus purpureus

3 at Technopole on 16th



20 Displaying Red-billed Hornbill. © Björn Johansson.

Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus*

A resident pair at Calao and 2 at Technopole

Gray Woodpecker

Dendropicos goertae

1 female just outside Calao on 13th

Crested Lark – Tofslärka

Galerida cristata

Common at Technopole



21. Crested Lark. © Jan Hägg.

Barn Swallow – Ladusvala

Hirundo rustica

2 Calao on 12th and 14th

White Wagtail – Sädesärla

Motacilla alba

Singles at Technopole on both visits

Yellow Wagtail – Gulärla

Motacilla flava

200 & 50 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively, a few *flavissima* identified.

Plain-backed Pipit

Anthus leucophrys

1 at Technopole on both visits.



22. Plain-backed Pipit. © Jan Hägg.

Common Bulbul – Trädgårdsbulbyl

Pycnonotus barbatus

Is indeed common

Zitting Cisticola – Grässångare

Cisticola juncidis

20 at Technopole

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*

Singles seen at Calao on several days

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens*

Singles seen at Calao on several days

Willow Warbler – Lövsångare

Phylloscopus trochilus

1 at Technopole on 10th

Subalpine Warbler – Rödstrupig sångare

Sylvia cantillans

1 male at Technopole on both visits

Northern Wheatear – Stenskvätta

Oenanthe oenanthe

2 at Ile N’Ggor 4th, 1 7th & 1 16th

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus*

1 at Calao on 10th

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus*

1 at Technopole on 10th and 1 at Calao on 13th

Pied Crow – Svartvit kråka

Corvus albus

Common

Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling

Lamprotornis chalybaeus

2-3 seen on 5 days at Calao



23. Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling.
© Martin Oomen.

Long-tailed Glossy-Starling

Lamprotornis caudatus

Up to 10 seen at Calao almost daily

Chestnut-bellied Starling

Lamprotornis pulcher

1 outside N'Gor on 10th

Village Weaver

Ploceus cucullatus

Small number seen daily



24. Male Village Weaver. © Björn Johansson.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

1 Calao, 1 Technopole 10th

Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer*

1-2 males at Technopole on 10th and 1 male at Technopole on 16th.

Northern Red Bishop also known as Orange Bishop

Euplectes franciscanus

1 male Ngor 7th , 1 Calao 9th , 1 Ngor 11th

Red-billed Firefinch – Rödnäbbad amarant

Lagonosticta senegala

Small number seen daily



25. Male Red-billed Firefinch. © Björn Johansson.

Red-cheeked Cordonbleu

Uraeginthus bengalus

Small number seen daily



26. Red-cheeked Cordonbleu. Björn Johansson.

African Silverbill – Afrikansk silvernäbb

Euodice cantans

15-30 seen daily



27. African Silverbill. © Björn Johansson.



28. Bronze Manakin. © Björn Johansson.

Bronze Mannikin (Also known as Bronze Munia)

Lonchura cucullatus

Spermestes cucullatus

Small number seen daily

Village Indigobird*Vidua chalybeate*

Small number seen daily

**29. Male Village Indigobird. © Björn Johansson.****Pin-tailed Whydah***Vidua macroura*

Singles seen on several days at Calao, several beautiful males.

White-rumped Seedeater*Serinus leucopygius*

Singles seen on several days at Calao

Yellow-fronted Canary*Serinus mozambicus*1 seen at Calao on 9th**House Sparrow – Gråsparv***Passer domesticus*

Seen daily

Gray-headed Sparrow*Passer griseus*

Singles at Calao on two days

**30. Male Pin-tailed Whydah. © Björn Johansson.****NON-BIRDS**

Besides our keen seawatching counts we also recorded many sightings of cetaceans and other animals. And these sightings are, of course, a highly valuable bonus when scanning the sea for about 12 hours a day! In fact, some of the sightings of the cetaceans (Dolphins and Killer Whales) would perhaps be a greater memory than the sight of many seabirds. As said, the sightings of all cetaceans is indeed a great bonus, compared to all the seabirds counted during the trip, good or bad days!

Cetaceans**Blue or Fin Whale** *Balaenoptera musculus/physalus* – Blå- eller sillvalOne seen (from land) surfacing about 1km off Ile N'Gor on 4th October. Its enormous size, blue-grey upperside colour and no visible dorsal fin suggests Blue Whale.**Sperm Whale** *Physeter macrocephalus* – KaskelotTwo were seen surfacing a few kilometres off the terrace at Calao on 12th and probably two more seen briefly during the day.**Killer Whale/Orca** *Orcinus orca* – SpäckhuggareAt least one male and one female/young were seen off Ile N'Gor on 4th. The huge dorsal fin of the male was an amazing sight! On 15th October a few small pods were observed off Calao's terrace, which of course could have been one and the same group feeding/moving in the area. At midday on 15th many seabirds such as terns, skuas and Sabine's Gulls gathered in a certain area off Calao and soon there was a

small pod of Killer Whales seen “feeding” in the area for about half an hour. Great views of the male, which also breached on two occasions! What a memorable sight of this huge and very beautiful animal!

Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* – Öresvin

Small schools, mostly 10-20 animals, were noted on seven days during the period, but seen on several occasions each day. Max 30-40 in one group on 5th. Not as playful and gregarious as Common, but seen performing high jumps regularly.

Long-beaked Common Dolphin *Delphinus capensis* – Kapspringare

The most commonly seen dolphin during our seawatch sessions, and most of the unidentified dolphins seen probably belongs to this species. At least 100-150 (divided on many schools) were seen on one occasion during our full day pelagic tour off N’Gor on 6th October; bowriding in front of the boat as well as performing incredible high jumps around the boat. A great show, which lasted for about 15 minutes!

Unidentified smaller Dolphins

Several (and sometimes numerous) schools of smaller unidentified dolphins (probably Common) were seen off Calao and Ile N’Gor almost daily.

Sea Turtles

A total of 16 unidentified sea turtles were seen inshore at Calao and Ile N’Gor during the whole period. Probably several more were seen, but not booked. The majority were seen from land under calmer wind conditions, paddling at surface relatively close to the shore.

Fishes

Flying Fish

Flying fishes were seen daily, both from land and during our two pelagic trips off N’Gor. They are lovely to see, but somewhat annoying as you always react on them (in corner of one’s eye) automatically assuming them to be small seabirds in first hand, gliding along the wave troughs, but shortly “just another flying fish, again...”

Blue Marlin *Makaira nigricans*

Marlins performing one to three jumps (sideways) were seen almost daily off Calao and N’Gor. Max a total of 7 recorded on 11th and “many” on 15th October. This species is the largest among all Marlins and can reach the length of 4,3 m and a weight up to 900 kilos!

Reptiles

Many unidentified species of lizards were seen, from small Geckos to large Monitors. At Technopole we observed several huge unidentified Monitors swimming in the lagoons on 10th and 16th October. Small frogs were commonly seen in the Calao area and around our bungalows.

Bats

Several of an unidentified bat species (probably Straw-coloured Fruit Bat) were seen every evening at Calao’s terrace, when they drank fresh water from the pool in flight, and also in the whole Calao area. Up to 50 were seen and heard at dusk over the village N’Gor on several occasions. A few seen in broad daylight, hanging in Palm Trees. It was a big species and, for example, the Straw-coloured has a wingspan of about 85 cm and pale underparts. Several small unidentified bats were also observed in the evening at Calao’s terrace and its surroundings.

Butterflies

Many unidentified and very colourful species were seen, especially one very large and yellow butterfly were seen daily!

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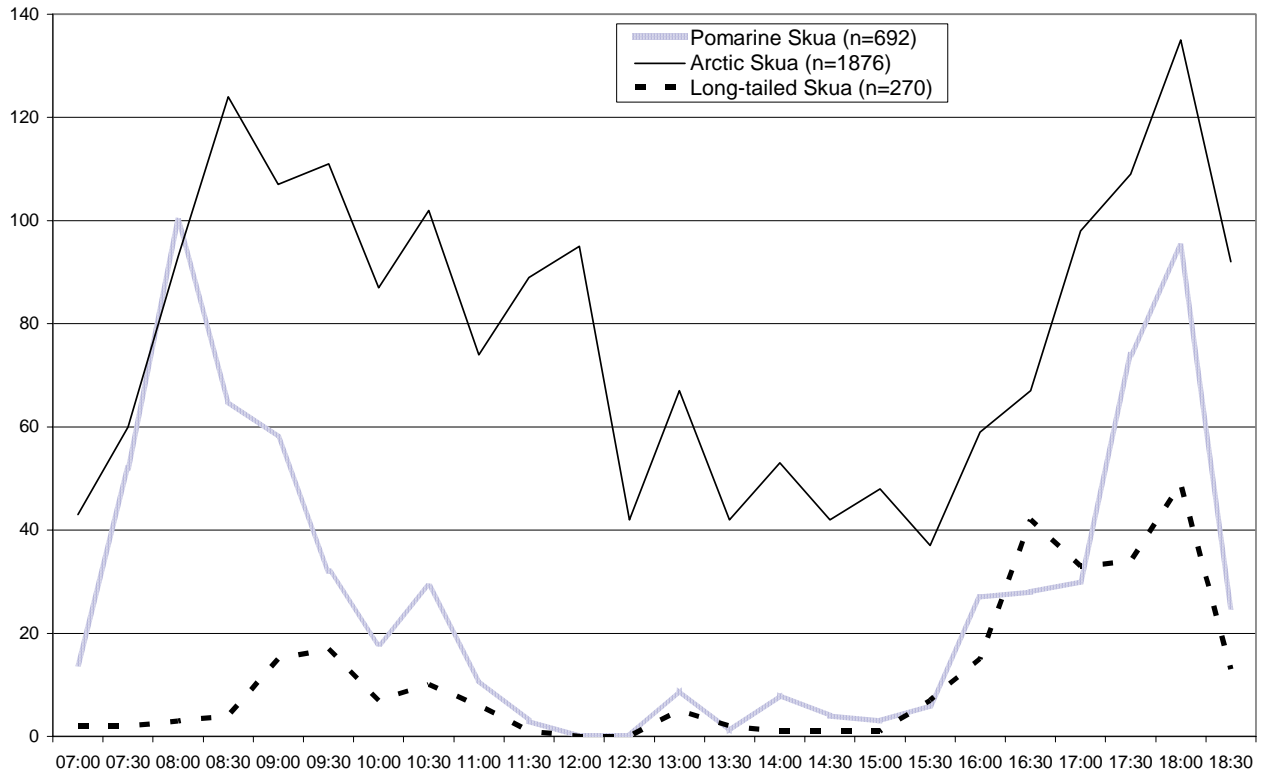
Kristoffer Nilsson, Sweden, E-mail: kristoffer-nilsson@privat.utfors.se

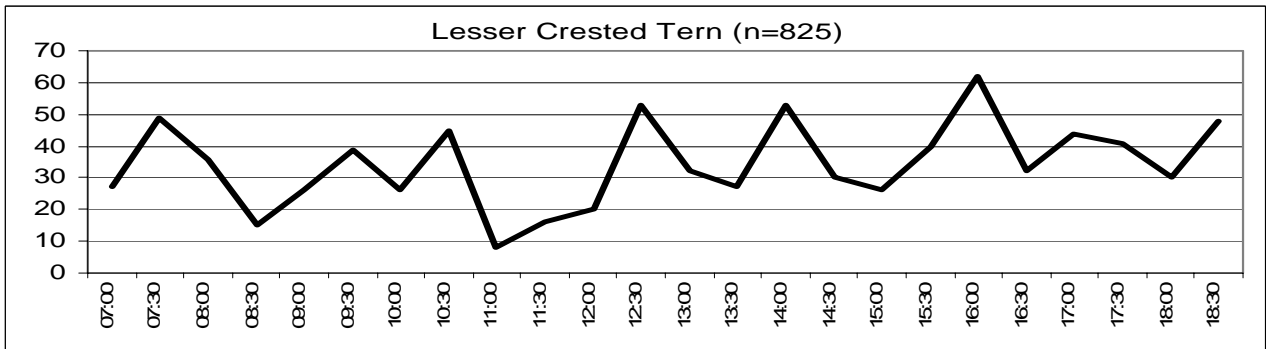
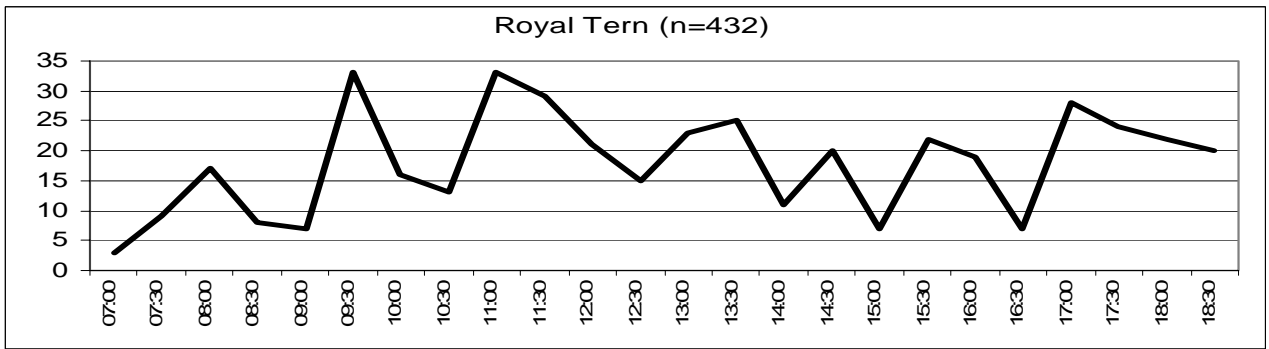
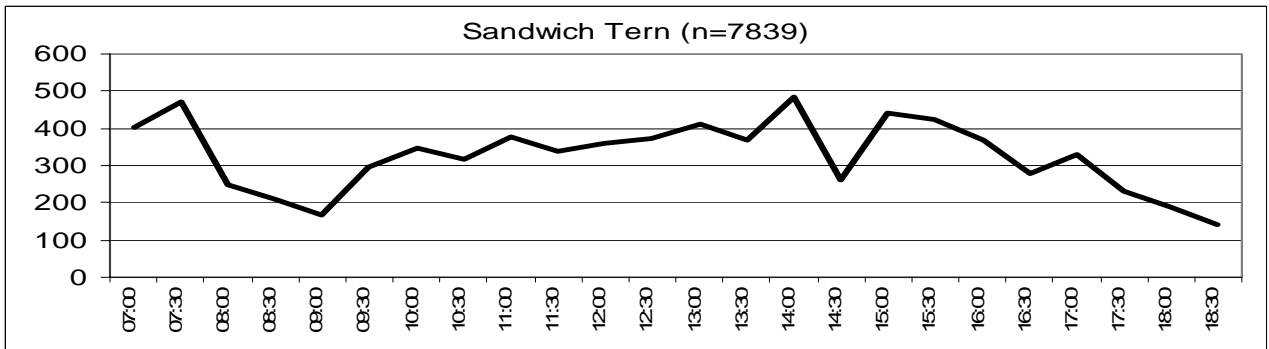
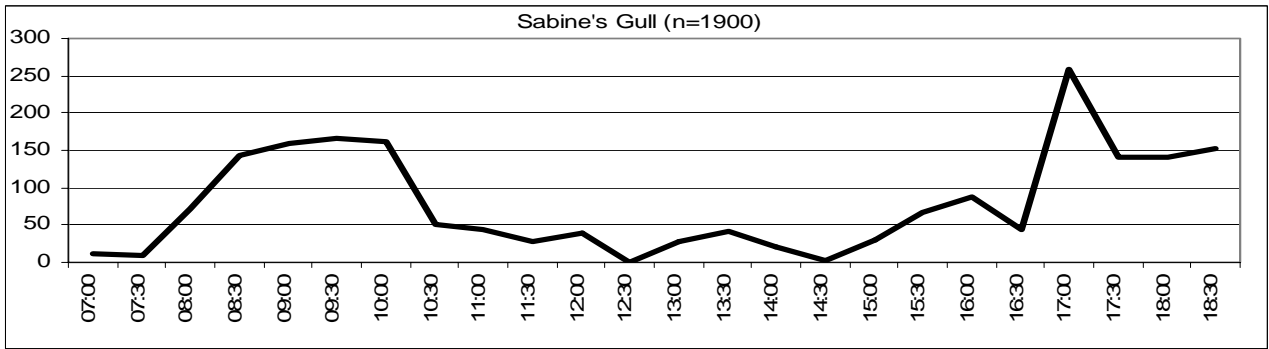
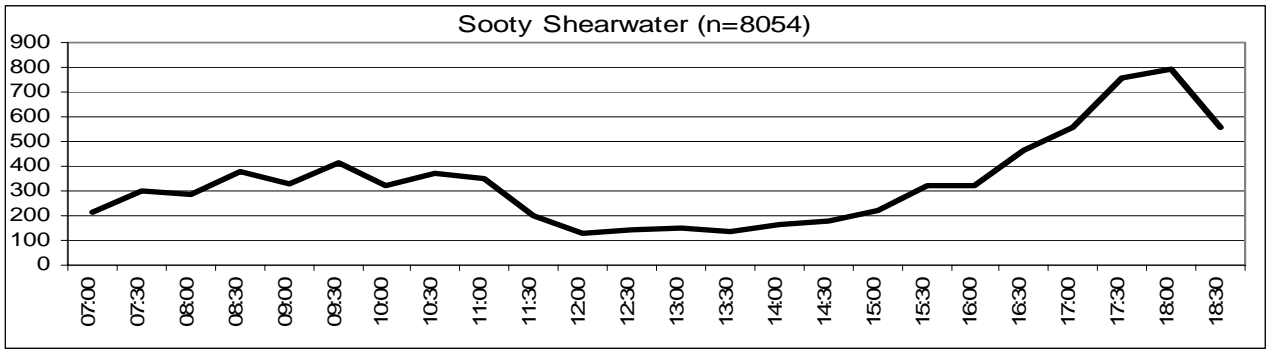
Martin Oomen, Sweden, E-mail: martin_oomen@hotmail.com

Land-based counts of migrating seabirds October 2005

Date	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Total
Wind direction	W / NW	N / NE	N/NW	N/NW	W	N/NW	N	N/NE	Mainly W	S / SW	S / SW	Mainly SE	W/NW	W/SW	
Observation hours	12	10,5	12	2,5	10,5	12	9,5	5	10	12	5	10,5	12	11	135
Bulwer's Petrel	10	8	2		1	5						3	1		30
Cory's Shearwater													1		1
Sooty Shearwater	406	405	1191	438	1839	1467	341	154	346	178	38	478	529	244	8 054
Manx Shearwater	12	18	17	3	26	5	1	3	6	1		6	2	2	102
Little Shearwater					1										1
Wilson's Storm-petrel													1		1
European Storm-petrel			1	1	3										5
Leach's Storm-petrel												1			1
Storm-petrel sp							1		1		2				4
Red-billed Tropicbird											1				1
Northern Gannet			1												1
Red Phalarope	46	50	13		6										115
"Great" Skua sp	6	3	5	7	5	20	5	9	21	15	2	37	19	17	171
Pomarine Skua	6	6	7	6	46	86	1	21	132	22	7	169	130	53	692
Arctic Skua	148	189	340	56	253	256	36	51	80	39	28	121	215	64	1 876
Long-tailed Skua	3	50	25	12	16	23	0	0	9	2	1	37	90	2	270
Skua sp	17	12	47	21	32	16	6	16	30	8	5	38	35	10	293
Audouin's Gull	10	7	11		4	13	8	1	3	1	6	8		5	77
Kelp Gull		1													1
Lesser Black-backed Gull			3		1	1	3	1	2	7	3	3	7	3	34
Grey-headed Gull				1			5	2			1	1	3		13
Slender-billed Gull	3	1					4			1			1		10
Sabine's Gull	450	93	136	232	24	201	0	2	150	4		344	247	17	1 900
Gull-billed Tern	2														2
Caspian Tern	15		21	1	1	8	7	6	18	8	4	8	21	13	131
Royal Tern	21	9	25	8	7	12	11	3	10	42	44	122	75	43	432
Lesser Crested Tern	143	11	26	13	9	51	23	42	86	74	61	98	139	49	825
Sandwich Tern	1078	216	1311	147	327	905	436	226	316	493	114	614	1036	620	7 839
Roseate Tern	12		2					1				1	1	2	19
Common/Arctic Tern	1238	988	1451	128	284	400	7	168	186	7		41	432	169	5 499
Arctic Tern	44	25	54	18	21	86	0	6	39	4		88	100	9	494
Little Tern	62	12	55		9	45	10		14	5	2	27	28	11	280
Bridled Tern	1	1													2
Black Tern	480	791	553	25	97	221	180	188	47	26	8	41	66	3	2 726

The graphs below show the migration pattern during the day in 30 minute intervals from our landbased observations at Club le Calao and Ile N'Gor.





Land-based totals of migrating seabirds at N'Gor

Year	1995	1996	1997		1998	2001	2003	2004	2005
Observation days	14	11	8 ¹	8 ²	5	8	14	7	13
Period	12-25 Oct	6-16 Oct	4-11 Oct	28 Oct-4 Nov	1-8 Nov	13-22 Oct	14-27 Oct	22-29 oct	3-16 Oct
Bulwer's Petrel	1	6	9	0	0	3	16		30
Cape Verde Shearwater					4				
Scopoli's Shearwater							2		
Cory's Shearwater									1
Cape Verde/Scopoli's/Cory's	186	1 604	0	4 585	789		1 439	686	0
Great Shearwater	2					1			
Sooty Shearwater	1 716	4 802	1 031	3 701	321	3 437	2 410	284	8 054
Manx Shearwater	17	24	55		6	19	35	22	102
Balearic Shearwater	2	1	1						
Little Shearwater	17	56	2	16		1			1
Wilson's Storm-petrel	1	48	2	63		39	658	11	1
European Storm-petrel							7		5
Wilson's/European S-p.							503		
Leach's Storm-petrel				40					1
Madeiran Storm-petrel				1					
Leach's/Madeiran S-p.							5		
White-faced Storm-petrel						1			
Storm-petrel sp									4
Red-billed Tropicbird			2	3	1				1
Brown Booby	2	1		3	2				
Northern Gannet	3	21	4	25	236	1	5	1	1
Grey Phalarope	2	158	72	3	6	137	96	67	115
"Great" Skua sp	145	180	10	125	10	213	353	198	171
Pomarine Skua	3 025	3 740	119	6 233	1 239	2 500	2 194	3 235	692
Arctic Skua	814	1 093	669	476	72	544	1 625	191	1 876
Long-tailed Skua	10	162	144	55	6	58	163	53	270
Skua sp	209								293
Audouin's Gull	132	280		20	50		59	1	77
Kelp Gull					4	3	20	57	1
Yellow-legged Gull		1			2				
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2	12	4		1	1	12		34
Grey-headed Gull			2				8		13
Black-headed Gull		1			6		1		0
Slender-billed Gull							3	2	10
Sabine's Gull	824	3 356	235	245	440	651	608	543	1 900
Little Gull		1			1				
Gull-billed Tern									2
Caspian Tern	3	9	2	1	2		51		131
Royal Tern	169	65	51		50	10	115	no count	432
Lesser Crested Tern	30	6	194	10	1	14	90	no count	825
Sandwich Tern	901	126	1 206	68	no count	185	2 052	no count	7 839
Roseate Tern		29	13	7		3		no count	19
Common/Arctic Tern	3 554	511					10 555	no count	5 499
Common Tern	508	2 049	6 454	450	84	1 555			
Arctic Tern	47	1 446	355	239	3	81			494
Little Tern	28	143	18	14	2		17		280
Bridled Tern		6						1	2
Black Tern	4 303	23 923	4 849	892	41	2 076	10 794	no count	2 726

Observers

1995: Duncan Brooks, Dick Newell & Richard Porter

1996: Robin Joliffe, Tony Marr, Dick Newell & Richard Porter

1997 1: Tony Marr & WildWings Tour

1997 2: Robin Joliffe & Richard Porter

1998: Björn Johansson on WildWings Tour w. T Marr & D Newell

2001: Dick Newell et. Al.

2003: Göran Ekström, Niklas Holmström, Dan Magnsbo & Dan Zetterström

2004: Bengt Andersson, Leif Dehlin, Alf Petersson & Johans Stenlund

2005: Niklas Holmström, Jan Hägg, Björn Johansson, Martin Oomen, Kristoffer Nilsson