

# DOWNLOAD PDF A FIELD GUIDE TO BIRDS OF THE GAMBIA AND SENEGAL

## Chapter 1 : Field guide to the birds of the Gambia and Senegal | Oxfam GB | Oxfam's Online Shop

*This comprehensive book is the first field guide to the birds of The Gambia and Senegal, an area of West Africa popular with birders for its many tropical African birds.*

I had an obsession with dinosaurs at an early age and I guess that it simply evolved from there. I grew up in Leytonstone at the very southern tip of Epping Forest and in those days there seemed little fear of what might happen to little children out alone in the woods and I was free to roam in nearby Bush Wood and Wanstead Park which were my earliest stamping grounds. Their woodlands and lakes held far greater interest for me than the urban sprawl and the bright lights of the east end of London. I was at a very early age when during a railway journey to Swanage on the south coast for a family holiday I was sat clutching a copy of I-Spy Birds and was fortunate that a complete stranger on the train who was sitting next to my family was obviously a keen birder as he proceeded to point out birds to me throughout the journey thus filling in many gaps in the book and introduced the idea of ticking and listing in my mind. I owe thanks to whoever this unknown person was as they definitely inspired me at the time. I remember being lined up with a full coach load of other youths in front of Bert Axell who put the fear of God into us during a rather unwelcoming introductory speech. Here there was a whole new world with views of my first Avocets, Bittern and the like. After that there was definitely no turning back and holidays, particularly in Scotland pointed the way to a world of birds far removed from the local park and a desire to travel further abroad was realised. I studied Art at Wimbledon School of Art and there my main interests were semi-abstract landscape and in particular water effects. I was also interested in Life Drawing – the human figure. Has it been strange to watch it burgeon into a tourist destination? I first visited The Gambia in 1978. The increase in tourism has been astonishing and although much coastal habitat has changed in that time to the detriment of wildlife improved access to other parts of the country has opened up wildlife watching opportunities. The only remaining country in West Africa that is commonly visited is perhaps Cameroon. Gabon might be another possibility. We had been working on Birds of Western Africa from which Birds of Senegal and The Gambia evolved since and The Barlow book was published in so you can see that the books were probably being worked on simultaneously and ours was possibly even conceived earlier. To my mind the two books offer very different insights into the birds of The Gambia. The Barlow book is more of a handbook and our book is most definitely a field guide that covers Senegal comprehensively as well as The Gambia. All major plumages and races are illustrated. The two books complement each other nicely to my mind and it would be great to see the Barlow book updated and expanded in the form of a handbook to the birds of The Gambia. As mentioned before it is highly likely that I was working on many of the plates even before Tony Disley had begun his! I have been travelling in Africa since throughout the continent and my experience of African birds as you can imagine is quite comprehensive. Plate taken from The Birds of Senegal and The Gambia 8 Do you sketch in the field, or work from photographs, descriptions and memory? Originally where I would start from involved translating a personal birding moment into an image and this meant birding, making sketches in the field, taking photographs and bits of habitat home to work from. These days most of my work involves illustration for field guides or commissions from others who have their own magical moments that they wish to have brought to life in a painting or drawing. With the latter I need personal stories, photographs or anything that it takes to help me imagine the scene that is in their mind. For field guide work I am totally dependent on my own field experience, photographs and skins and so numerous visits to the incredible collection in the Natural History Museum at Tring have to be made. The missing species are namely: Not really but I have a soft spot for owls and nightjars and you would find it hard to beat species such as Blue-bellied and Abyssinian Rollers, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill or the bee-eaters generally. Apart from leading birding tours to the Afrotropics for the birding holiday company BirdQuest I am currently updating and revising Birds of Western Africa. We are planning to treat the book in the same format as Birds of Senegal and The Gambia. Posted in Matt Smith Tagged Birdwatching.

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## Chapter 2 : Birds of Senegal and The Gambia (Helm Field Guides) Nik Borrow: Helm

*The Gambia is a popular tourist destination and provides many birders with their first taste of tropical African birds. This small and accessible country shelters a great many migrants from the Western Palearctic from September to April, as well as having a significant list of resident West African.*

Fatbirder - linking birders worldwide Wildlife Travellers see our sister site: Add to the African endemic species the many European migrants that either pass through The Gambia or spend the winter there, and one can see why the bird list is so large. Because of the proximity of the rain forest to the south and the desert to the north, there is always the chance of spotting something unusual that has overshot on migration, or on a food-finding tour. The climate is very pleasant, although it can be perhaps a little hot inland in the period just before and just after the annual summer rains. However, for many, the big attraction about birding in The Gambia is the attitude of the local population that is friendly, and, for the most part, very helpful. Hotels in The Gambia range from adequate to very good. As in all things, you get what you pay for. The Atlantic Hotel is a little out on a limb being close to the capital Banjul. However, it has its own bird garden, is close to the Bund road. There are several hotels, Kombo Beach, Bungalow Beach and the Badala Park that offer good birding just a short walk from the hotel in the Kotu area. The Senegambia has large grounds with a corresponding large bird population. The Kairaba, a little more expensive than the average is next door. Also nearby is the Kololi Beach Club, time-share, but rooms can be booked here. All these last three are close to and within easy walking distance of the small Bijilo reserve. Almost anywhere in The Gambia is good for birds, especially if you have never been before. The Senegambia in particular is renowned for its bird-garden; however, in Feb they were feeding the vultures and Black Kites on the lawn, which seemed to have driven some of the smaller birds away. The Atlantic Hotel too has a small but effective bird garden and I have some lovely video of a Blue Breasted Kingfisher that took up residence there for a while. The Kairaba has large grounds that attract many species including Wattled Plover, Wood Hoopoe, fine spotted woodpecker and a very tame Whimbrel. In truth, most of the hotels have some grounds around them and you will undoubtedly find birds to enjoy whichever hotel you are staying in. I stayed at the Senegambia and saw 70 species in the grounds! A damp patch on this same piece of ground produced one morning practically every Gambian heron and egret plus spoonbills. A good guide can be a great help, especially if you are looking for a particular bird. The problem in The Gambia is that the local enterprise culture has found that a lot of tourists come to The Gambia to watch birds and that there is money to be made as a guide. If you appear outside your hotel with binoculars around your neck, potential guides will soon surround you. Some are good and really know their stuff, but many know little about bird recognition or where best to find birds. The very best ones, do not hang about outside hotels, you will need to contact them. However, for trips up-country and away from the coastal regions until you have a little experience of the country I would always recommend a guided tour. There are plenty of good sites within easy reach of the hotels. You could walk to many of them from the hotel but, apart from those that are right next to the hotel, it would mean a hot and dusty walk along busy roads. Remember to bargain with your taxi driver, you will usually be able to negotiate a reasonable rate for there and back with a couple of hours waiting. But do agree the price before you start. If you are a really hard nut you can probably get your ride very cheap. I personally like to settle on a price that I think is reasonable for the journey, I get no pleasure in squeezing the last ounce out of someone who is already making do on a minimal income. Often the driver is in a vehicle owned by someone else and has to queue - up to a week - for a fare! He may be supporting a very extended family. I hired a taxi for a week at a rate less than half the cost of a self-drive car in Europe and then gave a large, much appreciated, tip at the end of the week. It was a real bargain for me and like a lottery win for the driver - Fatbirder. Whilst the distances are not great, the poor state of the roads means that what would be a short hour journey within Europe, will take all day in the Gambia and the follow-on from this is that you will need overnight accommodation. Therefore, I repeat my earlier statement; if you are new to

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The Gambia then you are better taking an organised tour to the inland sites and let someone else look after the admin. Finally, here are a few words of advice. Dress Remember The Gambia is a mainly Moslem country. Ladies, when away from the beaches, keep your thighs covered. Save the skimpy shorts for the holiday environs. Begging There are some beggars and scroungers who hang around outside the hotels. They can be a nuisance but be firm and tell them to go away and walk away from them. There are times when the country is troubled and at any time walking about by yourself away from tourist areas and especially in the city is not a good idea. Ask your hotel for advice and follow it. There is no social security in The Gambia and one cannot help but feel sorry for those with grave disabilities. However, once you begin giving you will be treated as the pot that never empties both by the needy and everyone else around. The best way to make a contribution to the local economy is to buy your souvenirs or a service from the Gambians and take with you articles that are useful for education. Hotel staff will be delighted to pass these on. Once you give a child one pen or sweet you will immediately be surrounded by masses more. If you carry an inexhaustible supply of goodies, fine, otherwise! A final finally. Caucasian tourists will be addressed as Toubab apparently a local corruption of two bob. Two bob two shillings in old British money was the going rate for running an errand in the days when The Gambia was a colony. If you think how inflation has changed values, you will realise that it was in fact quite a generous rate. Top Sites Satellite View Abuko Nature Reserve is a managed reserve of remnant rain forest around a small pond that has good water levels all year. There are a number of public hides and for the more serious; a small hide overlooking its own small waterhole near the animal sanctuary in the centre of the reserve can be rented by the day for a small fee. Book in advance at the main entrance. It will take two persons comfortably and three at a pinch. A delightful spot very rewarding first thing in the morning when the gates first open 8 am and again in the late morning after the groups have departed. Has good varied selection of birds including Stone Partridge and is the only place where I have managed to get good close views of white-cheeked bee-eaters. This is a lovely spot with its own speciality of the delightful little Swamp Flycatcher and Hippos in the river there. For me the sight of this bird makes the long journey to Basse worth every bruise on my rear end from the bumpy ride. New accommodation was being built on the opposite side of the river from Basse town when I was last there in October Perhaps, if someone has been up there since its completion, they could let me know what it is like. Also, the Kairaba hotel was starting to build an upcountry site. That too should have benefits for birdwatchers. Bund Road Satellite View Bund Road is a brackish wet area on one side of the road, sea mudflats on the other side, just outside Banjul. Crested Lark, Marsh Harrier etc. Kotu Bridge and Ponds good for thick-knees, hammerkop, waders, herons, egrets pied kingfisher. Kotu Ponds Honey Farm additionally often has ducks and little grebe. Tanji Bird Reserve Satellite View Tanji Bird Reserve is a remarkable narrow strip of land between the sea and the main southbound coastal road. Despite its small size around species of birds have been recorded here including a number of raptors. Seagulls and waders can be seen on the sandbanks just offshore. Not very far out of Banjul, but you will need transport to get there. There is a small entrance fee to help to pay for the wardens that look after the area. Unfortunately, the road bounding the eastern edge of the reserve is in the process of being upgraded from dirt to tarmac. During my last visit in February it appeared that work on the road had not significantly affected the number or variety of birds to be seen here. However, the road had not been completed at that time and was not open for general use. It remains to be seen how much the noise from the increase in traffic will effect the bird population once the road is fully operational and whether there will be increased human disturbance from the improved accessibility that the new road affords. Accommodation is a little more Spartan than at a normal hotel, but, never-the-less, very adequate and the staff as always are very helpful and friendly. Waste Ground between Kairaba Avenue and the sea towards Senegambia Hotel Satellite View The waste Ground between Kairaba Avenue and the sea towards Senegambia Hotel has Black shouldered kite, warblers, Prinia, Tchagra, Oriole Warbler etc A small water-hole at the Palma Rima end of this patch often has a good selection of herons from the end of the wet season to about mid February after which it dries out. An area behind the Palma Rima hotel is good for nightjars, but we have been advised by Gambian Guides that this is not a

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recommended area to visit without local assistance. I have never heard them say that of anywhere else in The Gambia, so I would heed the warning. Yundum Airport Satellite View Near Yundum Airport there is a patch of open countryside on the right hand side of the main road between Serrekunde and Brikama just past the runway and on the opposite side of the road from the runway at Yundum.

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## Chapter 3 : Birds of Senegal and The Gambia - BirdGuides

*The Gambia has long been a popular destination for birders from Western Europe to visit but, until now, there were only a few, relatively incomplete, guides available to assist with field identification, status and other issues.*

Note a revised Second Edition is due in September Traduction de "Field guide to the birds of West Africa". Good supplement for this difficult group. A Field Guide Softback, Useful especially for species in flight for this difficult group. Covers most species that occur in Senegal. It generally has more plumage details than African guides. Svensson is probably the most complete and best. Traduction de "Collins Bird Guide". Follow the links to "Revised country checklists" here. Nearly complete and available as a convenient pdf download. Les Oiseaux de Senegambie. Notices et cartes de distribution. Softback, Out of Print, but second hand at e. Useful starter, though now out of date for some species. A supplement to Morel and Morel, with records listed by one degree square, for the years This is the most recent published distribution data for Senegal. An annotated check-list of birds occurring at the Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj in Senegal, Available from Birdlife International for free download. An introduction to the avifauna and key sites for bird conservation. Chappuis and the British Library. Recordings, free to download, as a part of a voluntary project to make available world bird sounds.

## Chapter 4 : Birdwatching Holidays | Holiday Ideas

*This is a list of the bird species recorded in the calendrierdelascience.com avifauna of the Gambia include a total of species, one of which has been introduced by humans and two of which are globally threatened.*

## Chapter 5 : Other resources - Senegal Wildlife

*A Field Guide to Birds of The Gambia and Senegal by Clive Barlow, Tim Wacher, Tony Disley This comprehensive book is the first field guide to the birds of The Gambia and Senegal, an area of West Africa popular with birders for its many tropical African birds.*

## Chapter 6 : A Field Guide to Birds of The Gambia and Senegal by Clive Barlow

*About Birds of the Gambia and Senegal The Gambia is a top birding destination, combining a terrific diversity and concentration of species with a good tourist infrastructure. It is the perfect introduction to African birding.*

## Chapter 7 : Birds of The Gambia and Senegal: Clive Barlow, Tim Wacher and Tony Disley | NHBS Book S

*As an avid birder living in Senegal, I had seen a guide to birds of Senegal and Gambia in the hands of a local ornithologist and fell in love. Unfortunately I hadn't counted on there being two distinct Helm guides to birds of Senegal and Gambia.*

## Chapter 8 : Birds of The Gambia and Senegal [Please read rules] | Flickr

*This field guide covers the area of the Gambia, a country which is very popular with a large number of birders. The Gambia shelters many migrants from the Western Palearctic, from September to April, as well as having a significant list of resident West African birds.*

## Chapter 9 : Books About Birds: The Gambia

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*About Birds of Senegal and The Gambia Birds of Senegal and The Gambia - the definitive field guide to the birds of this magical corner of West Africa - just got even better. This enhanced fixed-format version of the book - featuring songs and calls - is set to change birding, forever.*