Gambia

A week's birding in Gambia

I have been to the Gambia a couple of times at the end of the dry season in February. Although they were family holidays, I had still a pretty decent Gambia list. However, I wanted to fill in a few notable gaps in my list, but to significantly improve it I would have to go at the end of the wet season and go upriver to do it. I had not been upriver before, and I certainly did not think my family would fancy it. Therefore this would be a birding frenzy with my brother Paul. Frankly if you want a birding buddy for a bit of relentless birding he is your man. He had been to Africa before but was a Gambian virgin. We both produced wanted lists and there was sufficient synergy in them to form a plan.

The beginning of November is the earliest cheap holiday charter of the season and we wanted to be in Gambia as near the rainy season as possible. We booked an 8th November departure from Gatwick with Thomas Cook staying at the Senegambia Hotel. I wanted to stay there because it (barely) meets my minimum standard for a hotel and the gardens are good for birding - not that we planned to be there much!

I contacted Modou Jarju who is the bird guide at the Senegambia Hotel. Modou had been my guide previously and has unbelievable sight and hearing, but.....Anyway he responded with his price and a suggestion of the birds we could see upriver. I decided that we would go with Modou despite my misgivings on the basis of "better the devil you know".

As the trip got near, I was worried that I had not had any tangible itinerary from Modou. Out of desperation I sent a list of potential birding areas to him and got a less than ideal response from him. I was now very worried, but nothing is unrecoverable. I did some more planning! We set a target species list of 250 which seemed a reasonable stretch target for a weeks birding. But in reality my target was 30 – 40 new species for my Gambia list with a couple of "must gets" Egyptian Plover, Red throated and Northern Carmine Bee Eaters, two species of Bunting and an outside chance of Kittlitz's Plover

The flight left on time (both ways) and after a ridiculously cramped flight we arrived at Banjul. Whether it was because it was so early in the season or the Gambian tourist authority is finally getting its act together, but there was virtually no hassle at the airport. In fact we were not hassled at all on the Senegambia strip for the four nights we were there, making the strip a tolerable experience. We waited forever to be transferred to the hotel, but we eventually arrived, checked in, and were immediately greeted by Modou whose money radar was clearly in working order. He suggested that we had a rest! We suggested that he took us to Bijilo. It was a predictably hot 34 degrees when we set off for Bijilo at 16:15. We didn't see the Bijilo specialities but it was good to go out and set the tone for the week. We did pick up White throated and Swallow tailed Bee Eaters. When we got back to the hotel we discussed where we were going tomorrow. Incredibly - but not unexpectedly Modou tried to renegotiate the agreed daily rate. Modou tried to jack the rate up for both coastal birding and the upriver element based on the fact that there as only two in our party. Fortunately I had a print out of the agreed rates which stated that there were only two of us and we stuck with them. There seem to be some doubt as to whether we could go upriver for three nights. Modou had a very animated conversation in Gambian with his partner which was ominous. Eventually Modou agreed we would go upriver on Wednesday for three nights, but he didn't seem happy. We agreed to meet the following morning for a trip to Tujering and Brufut Woods.

(At the end of my ramblings is a table of GPS positions for the independent traveller and following that is a trip list presented by location which is how I prefer to see information presented.)

Tuesday morning broke bright and clear, a quick breakfast, snaffle some food for Modou and off to the gate to meet him. He was not quite ready but by Gambian standards impressively prompt. We travelled in a Merc saloon which was an odd choice for the sandy tracks around Tujering. We headed out and the birds started coming thick and fast, the usual suspects at

first, then breeding plumage Bishops, first Northern then black winged. Breeding plumage – this is the reason I had come in November. A flyover Pin tailed Whydah was a new bird, then came a bunch of Cisticolas, good numbers of Rufus, Siffling, Whistling and Singing along with Red winged Warbler (surely a Cisticola rather than a Warbler). I took really rubbish photographs of these so that I could check the id later. I didn't need to as every picture confirmed the identification which particularly gratifying as there was more than one occasion when my brother and I looked at each other eyebrow raised and noted the camera image number! As I said earlier Modou has exceptional sight and hearing and he never let us down in respect of his id skills. Yellow Penduline, White shouldered Black Tits, Brown backed Woodpecker and Black Scimitarbill covered the best of the rest.



Just before mid-day the birds started drying up, Modou suggested we try our luck at Brufut. We passed by Tanji fishing village on the way but the tide was high and the gull roost area empty. Brufut was very slow and very hot yielding nothing exceptional or new for the trip and we departed after about an hour. As we were travelling back to the hotel Modou stated that he didn't see the point of doing Tujering and Brufut in one day as it was a waste of time. I was speechless, it was his plan - I had wanted to go to Marakissa for the Spotted Honeyguide in the afternoon! Arriving back at the hotel by 14:00was not my idea of a full days birding. However in an attempt to make the most of it we spent a couple of hours mooching around the grounds of the Senegambia. It was surprising to say the least. In previous February visits the grounds were teeming with birds, in this visit the grounds were virtually empty. The species count was there or thereabouts but the quantity was well down. I think it was because the water features were all dried up making the grounds a lot less attractive than previous visits. Anyway, after a quick dip we joined the bird walk round the Senegambia grounds adding Pearl spotted Owlet and Bronze tailed Glossy Starling to my Senegambia list and Paul saw a flyover Violet Turaco which would have been a nice addition to my list - but I dipped.

We ordered takeaway breakfast for our early start on Wednesday. Modou was ready(ish) and we were introduced to his "apprentice" and Moses our driver as we piled into an old 4×4 minibus in the dark. We trundled out of Kololi stopping about an hour later between New Faraba Banta and Sotokai on the South Bank Road. We exited the bus for breakfast; the Gambian crew were hungry so we gave them our packed breakfast. It was already 32c and very cloudy and I wasn't optimistic about birding. Modou claimed that we had stopped here for breakfast as this was a good spot for Brown necked Parrot. Nothing. After they had eaten we birded a track to the north of the road. Despite my misgivings the track through the open woodland produced Greater and Lesser Honeyguide, Vitalline masked Weaver, Fine spotted Woodpecker, Klaas's Cuckoo and a fantastic pair of Red Shouldered Cuckoo Shrike. As we returned to the bus thunder could be heard in the distance.

We stopped again between Samianga and Bulok for another lightly wooded track which opened out into a sandy open area with areas of tall grasses. I cannot remember what we were looking for (it might have been Cut throat) but we had 5 African Green Pigeons, Bearded and Velliot's Barbets before it started raining. Not biblical but quite hard. A check of the temperature and it had dropped to 26c. When we go back to the bus we realised to our horror that the open windows of the bus were actually missing windows, so for now we were getting wet. We trundled on down the tarmac (which eventually ran out) until we reached

Karjending. The rain had stopped but there was a covering of high white cloud as we strolled around the peanut fields. Modou was looking for Coursers but we were looking for whatever we could get. © This was an excellent spot. Female Pin tailed Whydah and a male Village Indigobird, Yellow white Eye, Brubru and Bruce's Green Pigeon were the best of the passerines. Raptors were represented by White Backed Vulture, Bateleur and the sight of a pair of displaying African Hawk Eagles was breathtaking.



Lunch had been ordered in advance and we stopped by the river at Kalagito rest. The stop seemed to take forever with few distractions on the birding front. Paul paid the bill for everyone despite the fact that meals were included in the fees. Eventually we boarded the minibus and headed down the dirt road towards Tendaba. We detoured along a bush track at Wurokang to try for Spotted Thicknee – dipped, but we did get Brown Snake Eagle, Grasshopper Buzzard and Dark Chanting Goshawk. Then we encountered one of those magical trees where a Tchagra was being mobbed by Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Greenbacked Eremomela, Common White Eye, two Melodious Warblers, two Willow Warblers and 3 Pygmy Sunbirds. Eventually we were cajoled away so that we could fit in Tendaba Airport which is another site for Brown necked Parrot. Needles to say, no Brown necked Parrot, but we did slot in Western Banded Snake Eagle and Gabar Goshawk amongst the usual wetland species.

We pulled into Tendaba Camp at about 18:00 utterly filthy, basic room, bed, mosquito net and cold shower was quite acceptable, however no beer! The evening buffet was excellent - bush pig, chicken and fish, did I mention there was no beer?

Thursday dawned and we moved out after breakfast. We bumped along the south bank dirt road towards the Farafenni ferry. The light was still poor when the shout that everyone wants to hear rang out "Egyptian Plover". We were adjacent to Soma wetlands where on the other side of the road were two of these fantastic birds. Photos were taken in the orange early morning light but we were soon ushered back into the minivan – we would see many more and we had to press on. We boarded the ferry after a short wait without fuss, was this really the ferry I had read about? We disembarked on the north bank – what a difference. Masses of people milling about, with a queue of trucks and buses seemingly stretching miles along the worst dirt road we had encountered to date. We eventually bumped into Farafenni town where we stopped to pump up a tyre. While we waited for the air compressor to be started we had good views of three Bearded Barbets. We then watched in fascination as the valve

was removed from the tyre, high pressure air forced in, a finger held over the hole until the valve was screwed back in. Clearly these are relatively low pressure tyres! After waiting around for Modou to blag some hot water for his coffee we moved out onto the North bank road. Tarmac – hurrah!



We soon pulled over near Saback Sukoto for a roadside pool. It was busy! African Collared Dove and Black rumped Waxbill, a Northern Crombec within stroking distance. Black Scimitarbill. Red billed Quelia. White fronted Blackchat magnificent and two Exclamatory Paradise Whydahs were the best of the bunch. All too soon were back in the minivan, but before long we were stopping again at another roadside pool between Balanghar Kerr N'derry and Jakau-Ur. This was even better. We immediately found at least 3 of the sought after Cinnamon breasted Bunting. Two (possibly three) Rufus Scrub Robin, a pair of Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark, a male Village Indigobird and up to seven male Exclamatory Paradise Whydah which Modou suggested were two different races. None of the desirable Sudan Golden Sparrow were found so reluctantly returning to the minivan, within 15 minutes we were at Kau-ur Wetlands.

It was 34 degrees without a breath of wind, but it doesn't matter when you are looking at White crowned Plover (11) and Egyptian Plover (2). These were supported by Woodland Kingfisher, 7 Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark, 2 breeding plumage Yellow crowned Bishop and a pair of Bush Petronia. No Kittlitz Plover, so despite having had a superb morning I felt vaguely suicidal as I boarded the minivan. Modou had a timetable and wanted to stick to it. We stopped three more times on the way to the Georgetown Ferry. The "Vulture tree", Njau for Northern Anteater Chat and Wassaufor Northern Carmine Bee-Eater. We had to wait a short time for the Georgetown ferry.



We were at the front of the queue so we knew we would get on the next crossing. As we wandered around to stretch our legs we were accosted by hordes of young men trying to coerce us into "sponsoring" local football teams. It wasn't particularly intimidating, but it was incessant. Soon enough we boarded the ferry, the crossing was short and uneventful and we rolled into Boabolong Camp. Paul had said as we were leaving Tendaba that we would look forward to the luxury of the Senegambia. Looking round the camp we would look forward to the luxury of Tendaba!

After a quick check in to our rooms we were introduced to another guide Junkung Jadama known as "JJ" and his client "Toni" a photographer from Barcelona. We were to share a boat trip with them. Our slightly enlarged party strolled down to the jetty to board the boat at about 16:00 pausing to photograph Bruce's Green Pigeon and GabarGoshawk. We gently cruised west along the north bank of the river pulling little nuggets out of the bank vegetation. Oriole Warbler then Yellow backed Weaver – lots of them, then, JJ found a female African Finfoot. We had brief but excellent views until it found refuge in the mangroves leaving just a red foot on view. Swamp Flycatchers we abundant as the boat continued west, incredibly Modou pointed out a second Finfoot, a male. This one was a little showier than the female, but none



the less disappeared all too soon. We continued onwards collecting Fish African Eagle, Hadada Red Ibis, Falcon necked and European Turtle Dove. family of Hippopotamus were spotted further downriver and we. continued on until we go close, in fact, far to Pictures were close. secured and we set off back to camp. As we neared the Modou spotted a pair of

Red-throated Bee Eaters and in a final flourish a small flock of Four banded Sandgrouse flew across the river calling quietly in the gathering gloom. What a fantastic river trip.

The camp was quiet as we were the first visitors to arrive this season; a much needed cold shower was taken as we were filthy again. A buffet dinner of chicken and rice was taken with JJ, his colleague (whose name also escapes me) and Toni. The conversation was unexpectedly lively and interesting as we discussed habitat decline, species reintroductions and the limitations of the Gambian field guide. I made up my mind there and then that when I return to Gambia I will use the services of JJ and his colleague. Toni held back as he felt his English was not sufficient, however it was more than good enough to discuss football and his beloved Barcelona. Unfortunately once again there was no beer, cold or otherwise. However we could reflect on a great day as we hit the sack.

Friday breakfast was taken a little later than ideal, but by 08:00 we were moving on to Brikama Ba in convoy with JJ. A brief stop for Red throated Bee Eater, followed by a tyre change at FullaBantang which fortuitously was by a tree teeming with Maribou Stork and a couple of White-rumped Seed Eaters. We arrived at the roosting site for Verreaux's Eagle Owl. JJ and Toni were already there. Pictures were duly taken and we headed off to the rice fields. Modou and JJ led the way pointing out Black Crake and several Winding Cisticola. Yellow crowned Bishops were next, then Modou found 2 Quailfinch – top man! The more common waders and egrets were spotted as we walked around the rice fields and as a finale 3 Cotton Pygmy Goose.

We moved off and headed to Kudang for another go at Spotted Thick-Knee. Modou had us spread out and was soon lost to sight. Four banded Sandgrouse were frequently being

flushed, JJ motioned to come across, Toni was already there taking pictures of two settled Sandgrouse. No Spotted Thick Knee, we circled back to the road. JJ's companion had heard Green winged Pytilia and pretty soon we had it in sight. Although this bird was on both my

and Paul's "want" list, I had not really thought that much about it. But there it was, absolutely perfect and for me by far the best bird of the trip. Modou turned up a bit later, he seemed bent out of shape that JJ was finding birds for us. We boarded the minivan and trundled towards Tendaba on the south bank road. JJ and Toni stopped at a roadside pool. We just kept on driving. Eventually we stopped at 13:45 in a town not far short of Tendaba. Modou and his crew wanted to pray and we were left standing in a pile of rubbish for 45 minutes while they did their thing. I checked the temperature as we boarded the bus again and it was 39c. We rattled on and pulled into Tendaba camp before 3pm. We checked in quickly but Modou did not want to go out before 5pm. We idled around for a couple of



hours until our arranged meeting time, a period made more difficult as once again there was no beer! We were told of a pair of Black Crowned Cranes that had been seen at Tendaba airfield that morning which had since left. Despite our protests, Modou was adamant that we should go to the airfield. We trudged around but needless to say they had not returned. We did get lucky and bump into a pair of Grey headed Bush Shrikes on the way back to camp. I was furious with Modou as we had wasted a good portion of the day and blown our chances of Nightjar in his personal quest for the Cranes. Once again we had dinner with JJ and Toni and Modou. Modou Colley had turned up and he joined us as well.. By now the camp was full of visitors and supplies had arrived, therefore I was finally able to buy Toni a beer! JJ was surprised that we had not stopped at the "usual" sites and regaled us with stories of seeing the Red winged Pytilia at the "usual "place – aargh. The discussion amongst the guides was that although it was early in the season, few guides had many or even any bookings.

Saturday morning broke bright and clear, and after the usual breakfast fare Modou blagged places on a small boat that a couple had already booked for a river trip. We set off grateful that we didn't have to share a packed long boat with what appeared to be a large group of ladies looking for an African experience rather than dedicated birders. The trip to the north bank was uneventful and we were soon amongst the mangroves. Whimbrel and Common Sandpiper were plentiful at the muddy fringes. As we penetrated deeper into the creek we could see the exposed nests of Mouse-brown Sunbird. Eventually the birds themselves, we recorded seven but there were many more. Modou asked if we had a "tape" as the only way we would see African Blue flycatcher was by luring it out. I did have one but not in my "river bag". A single Goliath Heron was another new bird for the trip. Different birds were more frequent now with Woolly-necked and Yellow-billed Storks. Modou heard a Diederik Cuckoo, and sure enough, there it was, an excellent view. Modou called for quiet as we approached the spot for White backed Night Heron, we drifted slowly peering deep into the dark Mangroves. Needless to say Modou spotted it first and eventually everyone got onto it albeit with some difficulty. We paused again, this time looking at a Marshall Eagle nest and sure enough Modou pointed out an adult bird which was surprisingly difficult to see. Well done again Modou! We cruised back along the creeks seeing Gull-billed Tern and at least 10 Hamerkop. Another excellent river trip. Back in camp by 11:00 we paid our bills eager to get back on the road.

A short drive took us to the Batteling Bush Track. A flyover Mottled Spinetail captured out attention but it was 32c and the raptors were up. African Hawk Eagle, Brown Snake Eagle and Short toed Eagle preceded an adult and juvenile Bateleur. We reached the spot where Brown Rumped Bunting can be found. Modou imitated the call of the Pearl spotted Owlet and

called in a Yellow White Eye, Yellow fronted Tinkerbird, Yellow fronted Canary, Green backed Eromomela and even a Brown backed Woodpecker. Modou (as usual) heard the target species. I really wanted this one, so setting my conscience aside I admitted having an MP3 with me. Soon enough after a couple of blasts we had 3 Brown-Rumped Bunting, one very showy one which posed for photographs. We wandered on eventually coming to some more peanut fields where Modou wanted to look for Ground Hornbill. However I suspect he was really looking for very early Courser because you really do not have to look that close to see Ground Hornbill in a field! We saw neither, but we did see a perched Grasshopper Buzzard.



Back in the minivan we passed swiftly along the sandy track until Modou call a halt again. Once again being in the back, Paul and I had no idea why we had stopped. However, Modou had spotted an African Cuckoo and we were soon onto it. While we were admiring the Cuckoo Modou got the scope on a White-headed Vulture. I got a brief glimpse but Paul didn't. When we reached the south bank road Moses (the driver) declared that a tyre needed air. Since we had already used the spare we had to stop at a village. We were then treated to a moment of pure comedy. The valve was removed from the tyre, a rubber tube connected to a bicycle pump was held against the hole. Pumping commenced! After a while it was clear that nothing was

happening inflation wise. Modou stepped up to take charge barking out instructions and handling the pump himself. Eventually common sense prevailed. Moses changed the wheels for the better inflated tyres and we would wait while he limped off to find air.

We strolled up the road looking for likely habitat. A scrubby area with a dried up watercourse produced typical passerines. A slightly deeper forested area attracted African Oriole and a noisy party of White-crested helmet Shrike. But the best part of the two hour wait was the raptors. We had excellent views of Whalberg's Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Grasshopper Buzzard and a juvenile White headed Vulture. Moses eventually turned up. He was embarrassed at the inconvenience we had suffered but he should not have worried. To make up time he kept his foot down on the dirt road towards the coast and as we banged and crashed our way down the road the dust in the back of the minivan was unbelievable. As we neared the coast we reached the tarmac road which lessened the dust slightly. Moses kept stopping to buy a sack of charcoal but never actually completed a transaction. The sacks cost about £3 so I told him that I would buy the charcoal. We stopped again and he loaded 3 sacks on the roof. I paid up feeling good about myself. That represented 3 months cooking fuel for Moses and his family. We eventually pulled into the Senegambia at about 19:30. I looked across at Paul where the dust had settled about half an inch thick on him, he didn't look amused! We didn't think we would see Modou's apprentice again so Paul presented him with a brand new copy of Birds of the Gambia. He had lugged the scope and tripod about wherever we were - even in the forest where there is only a very small chance of using them and he deserved his gift. We walked through the lobby of the Senegambia hotel amid the stares of the other guests. I could understand it as we were covered from head to foot in red dust. We had planned on having a couple of cups of tea, a hot shower and dinner down the strip. However we soon discovered that the safe was not working with our stuff inside and the safe man had gone home for the evening. We had insufficient cash in pocket for dinner so I went to reception. They claimed that they could not get the safe man back at night so I demanded that the duty manager lent me 2000 dalasi for our dinner. Not surprisingly the safe man turned up after about 30 mins! We wandered out to the gate of the hotel to agree with Modou tomorrows itinerary. We would go to Farasutu Forest and Bonto Rice fields. Once again Modou jacked up the price by about £10 and reduced it to a long half day. Our options were limited at this late hour so we agreed.

Sunday morning was slightly cloudy with a north westerly breeze. We secured breakfast for Modou and Moses who turned up on time. Moses must have spent all night cleaning the minibus as it was spotless as we boarded. We set off for Farasutu unexpectedly picking up Modou's apprentice at the airport entrance. The forest was very quiet at first so we went to an adjacent pool where a pair of White-backed Night Heron was easily viewed. Four Blue-



cheeked Bee Eater flew overhead as did two Black Egret. plunged back into the forest and found Green headed Sunbird and Yellow breasted Apalis. Reaching the area where Leaflove can be found Modou spoke the words I was dreading "MP3". We spent the next 30 minutes trying to lure a Leaflove into view. succeeded in seeing a Grey headed Bristlebill feeding a juvenile. Modou suggested that Leaflove sometimes respond to Bristlebill calls, so he gave it a go. Bingo a pair of Leaflove right away. Too dark for a picture but seen well enough to identify. We

picked up a few more forest species, Wattle-eye, both Turaco and a Common Redstart. Leaving the forest Modou heard a Sulphur-breasted Bush-Shrike. He imitated an Owlet for a while then stared intently at a tree in the distance. After a short while said "there it is". Paul and I scanned for a while without success until Modou found it with the scope. And there it was exactly where Modou said it was. Time was getting on (for a long half day) and I reminded Modou were going to Bontoas I wanted Yellow Shouldered Widowbird. We trundled down the road to Bonto and pulled up by the police building. Modou suggested I didn't take pictures as the police didn't like it. Fair enough. Within minutes Modou had found a Yellow-throated Longclaw on the radio mast wires. Top bird. While we were scoping that Modou discovered a breeding male Yellow Shouldered Widowbird – fantastic. As we walked back to the minibus two more Yellow-throated Longclaw flew over our heads landing in the rice fields and Yellow crowned Bishop rounded the morning off nicely. Modou was quite animated as he hadn't seen any Yellow-throated Longclawhere for three years. We drew stumps and returned to the hotel by 14:00. Paul and I debated walking down to Kotu Creek but Modou reasoned we would not get anything we hadn't already seen.Fair point.

We decided that we would chill by the pool and later have an evening mooch around the grounds. Sitting at the beach pool bar consuming our lunch and a well earned beer we still managed to add Grey headed Gull, Arctic Skua, Royal and Lesser Crested Terns to our list. We even became tourists for a couple of hours and had a swim in both the sea and the pool. Our final mooch around the grounds added Olivaceous Warbler and flyover White-faced Whistling Duck to our Senegambia list. We took Modou out for a pizza dinner (his choice) and we agreed that on our final morning we would go to Abuko, then be dropped off at the airport. Once again he wanted to charge extra and as we had no real options we agreed. We were very mindful of the fact that we needed to get to the airport on time. We paid the hotel bill that evening and packed ready for our departure.

We arrived at Abuko in bright sunshine. Shunning the pool we plunged into the forest. As usual we had no idea what we were searching for. With a flash of wings an African Goshawk erupted in front of us seeking the security of the higher canopy. Apparently that was what we were looking for. As we tried to position ourselves for a better view there was a shout of "ants". We had blundered upon an area of ant activity and they were angry. After a



couple of minutes of getting ants out of our pants we were off again. While searching for Snowy-crowned Robin Chat, Little Greenbul seemed comparatively abundant. Two African Paradise Flycatchers were found while searching for Collared Sunbird. A good deal of time was well spent looking for Western Bluebill and Orange-cheeked Waxbill. Frankly Abuko was slow and hard work so we called it a day and headed for the airport.

In summary it was a brilliant week. We achieved the target 256 speciesfor the week and I added 96 to my Gambian list. We didn't find it particularly challenging or relentless and I feel that we could have achieved a bit more. I am probably not a great candidate for being guided but to maximise the benefit from a week in the Gambia having a guide is essential. If for nothing else it helps with the numerous checkpoints to get upriver. In one village close to the Senegal border (whose name I can't remember) we had to stop 3 times in 300 meters. Police, Army and Customs, each was "greased" to ensure a smooth and swift passage. There must be at least thirty between Kololi and Georgetown.

I am still a few birds short of a full Gambian set. I intend to return to the Gambia in the future with my family for a "human" holiday and I will attempt to complete the set hopefully when the roads are finished. Would I go with Modou? – no, he did a job but it could have been so much better. The itinerary which was made up on the hoof by negotiation was good but he charged top rates but provided the worst transport imaginable. He never told us why we were stopping or what we were looking for which was very frustrating. At every opportunity he tried to jack the price up.

I would however seek out JJ's services. In the short time we spent with him and his colleague he was a good companion and an excellent bird guide. Very considerate of what his client wanted and even considerate of our needs and we weren't paying him! Top bloke and he had his own decent transport.

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The Waypoints and species accounts follows.

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Gambia Waypoints

	North	East
Senegambia Beach Hotel	13 26.601	-16 43.356
Bijilo	12 26.122	-16 43.598
Tujering	13 17.778	-16 47.391
Brufut Woods	13 22.164	-16 46.185
Sotokai	13 14.406	-16 30.475
Bulok	13 11.048	-16 25.729
Sibanor	13 12.476	-16 12.026
Karjending	13 13.960	-15 59.579
Kalagi	13 15.109	-15 49.940
Mutaro Kunda Forest Park	13 21.865	-15 49.400
Wurokang	13 23.132	-15 49.240
Tendaba "Airport"	13 25.244	-15 48.042
Soma	13 26.267	-15 32.817
Yelitenda	13 30.358	-15 34.003
Farafenni	13 34.283	-15 35.750
Saback Sukoto	13 33.832	-15 32.786
Jakau-Ur	13 40.972	-15 22.803
Kau-Ur Wetlands	13 42.246	-15 21.419
Medina-Duisi	13 43.095	-15 16.624
Njau	13 44.644	-15 12.045
Wassau	13 40.814	-14 52.433
Janjanbureh	13 32.402	-14 45.448
Youo Beri Kunda	13 30.165	-14 45.315
Fulla Bantang	13 29.950	-14 50.017
Brikama Ba (Owl roost)	13 52.530	-14 55.406
Brikama Ba (Rice Fields)	13 33.022	-14 56.302
Kudang	13 39.312	-15 03.081
Bumari	13 24.217	-15 46.585
Batteling Bush track	13 24.682	-15 48.919
	13 22.475	-15 48.555
Farasutu Forest	13 17.791	-16 33.922
Bonto rice Fields	13 17.670	-16 33.124
Abuko	13 23.353	-16 38.530

The Gambia 2010

Event period: 08-Nov-2010 to 15-Nov-2010

Senegambia Beach Hotel (Western Division Gambia)	, The	Tujering (Western Division, The Gambia) 09/11/2010 08:15 to09/11/2010 11:45	
08/11/2010		34c, sunny	
34c, sunny		Black-headed Heron (Ardea melanocephala)	1
Cattle Egret [sp] (Bubulcus ibis)	1	Osprey [sp] (Pandion haliaetus)	1
Wattled Lapwing [sp] (Vanellus senegallus)	2	Black-shouldered Kite [sp] (Elanus caeruleus)	1
Speckled Pigeon [sp] (Columba guinea)	1	Black Kite [sp] (Milvus migrans)	1
Laughing Dove [sp] (Streptopelia senegalensis)	1	Hooded Vulture (Necrosyrtes monachus)	1
Western Grey Plantain-Eater (Crinifer piscator)	1	African Harrier-hawk [sp] (Polyboroides typus)	1
Pearl-spotted Owlet [sp] (Glaucidium perlatum)	1	Shikra [sp] (Accipiter badius)	3
Broad-billed Roller [sp] (Eurystomus glaucurus)	3	Grey Kestrel (Falco ardosiaceus)	1
Yellow-crowned Gonolek (Laniarius barbarus barbarus)	1	Black-billed Wood Dove (Turtur abyssinicus)	2
,		Western Grey Plantain-Eater (Crinifer piscator)	1
Common Bulbul [sp] (Pycnonotus barbatus)	2	Klaas's Cuckoo (Chrysococcyx klaas)	1
		Senegal Coucal [sp] (Centropus senegalensis)	1
Bijilo Forest Park (Western Division, The Ga	mbia)	African Pygmy Kingfisher [sp] (Ispidina picta)	1
08/11/2010 16:15 to08/11/2010 17:50	illibia)	Striped Kingfisher [sp] (Halcyon chelicuti)	1
34c, sunny		Little Bee-eater [sp] (Merops pusillus)	c.20
Rhun Palm forest and coastal scrub		Swallow-tailed Bee-eater [sp] (Merops hirundineus)	1
	2	Abyssinian Roller (Coracias abyssinicus)	1
Long-tailed Cormorant [sp] (Phalacrocorax africanus)	2	Rufous-crowned Roller [sp] (Coracias naevius)	1
Shikra [sp] (Accipiter badius)	2		c.5
Grey Kestrel (Falco ardosiaceus)	1	Blue-bellied Roller (Coracias cyanogaster)	
Whimbrel [sp] (Numenius phaeopus)	1	Black Woodhoopoe [sp] (Rhinopomastus aterrimus)	2
Royal Tern [sp] (Thalasseus maximus)	1	Red-billed Hornbill [sp] (Tockus erythrorhynchus)	1
Sandwich Tern [sp] (Thalasseus sandvicensis)	1	Vieillot's Barbet [sp] (Lybius vieilloti)	2
Red-eyed Dove (Streptopelia semitorquata)	1	Cardinal Woodpecker [sp] (Dendropicos fuscescens)	2
Vinaceous Dove (Streptopelia vinacea)	1	African Grey Woodpecker [sp] (Dendropicos goertae)	2
Laughing Dove [sp] (Streptopelia senegalensis)	1	Brown-backed Woodpecker [sp] (Dendropicos	1
Senegal Parrot [sp] (Poicephalus senegalus)	1	obsoletus)	_
Senegal Coucal [sp] (Centropus senegalensis)	c.3	Senegal Batis (Batis senegalensis)	2
Mottled Spinetail [sp] (Telacanthura ussheri)	1	Black-crowned Tchagra [sp] (Tchagra senegalus)	c.3
African Palm Swift [sp] (Cypsiurus parvus)	1	African Golden Oriole [sp] (Oriolus auratus)	1
Blue-breasted Kingfisher [sp] (Halcyon malimbica)	1	Pied Crow (Corvus albus)	1
Little Bee-eater [sp] (Merops pusillus)	2	Red-chested Swallow [sp] (Hirundo lucida)	1
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater [sp] (Merops hirundineus)	7	Pied-winged Swallow (Hirundo leucosoma)	2
White-throated Bee-Eater (Merops albicollis)	1	Fanti Saw-Wing (Psalidoprocne obscura)	2
Green Woodhoopoe [sp] (Phoeniculus purpureus)	9	White-shouldered Black Tit (Melaniparus guineensis)	2
Red-billed Hornbill [sp] (Tockus erythrorhynchus)	c.5	Yellow Penduline Tit [sp] (Anthoscopus parvulus)	1
African Grey Hornbill [sp] (Tockus nasutus)	c.2	Common Bulbul [sp] (Pycnonotus barbatus)	1
African Grey Woodpecker [sp] (Dendropicos goertae)	1	Willow Warbler [sp] (Phylloscopus trochilus)	2
Yellow-crowned Gonolek (Laniarius barbarus barbarus)		Common Chiffchaff [sp] (Phylloscopus collybita)	1
Tellow crowned corrolet (Earliands barbards barbards)	۷	Melodious Warbler (Hippolais polyglotta)	1
Red-bellied Paradise-flycatcher [sp] (Terpsiphone	1	Grey-backed Camaroptera [sp] (Camaroptera	1
rufiventer)		brachyura)	_
Piapiac (Ptilostomus afer)	c.11	Singing Cisticola [sp] (Cisticola cantans)	c.5
Pied Crow (Corvus albus)	c.7	Whistling Cisticola [sp] (Cisticola lateralis)	c.2
Northern Crombec [sp] (Sylvietta brachyura)	1	Short-winged Cisticola [sp] (Cisticola brachypterus)	1
White-crowned Robin-chat [sp] (Cossypha albicapilla)	1	Rufous Cisticola (Cisticola rufus)	c.2
African Thrush [sp] (Turdus pelios)	1	Tawny-flanked Prinia [sp] (Prinia subflava)	1
Blackcap Babbler [sp] (Turdoides reinwardtii)	3	Red-winged Warbler [sp] (Prinia erythroptera)	c.5
Brown Babbler [sp] (Turdoides plebejus)	c.5	Senegal Eremomela (Eremomela pusilla)	1
Long-tailed Glossy Starling (Lamprotornis caudatus)	3	Northern Crombec [sp] (Sylvietta brachyura)	1
Grey-headed Sparrow [sp] (Passer griseus)	2	Whinchat (Saxicola rubetra)	1
Red-billed Firefinch [sp] (Lagonosticta senegala)	2	Scarlet-chested Sunbird [sp] (Chalcomitra senegalensis)	2
1	-	Beautiful Sunbird [sp] (Cinnyris pulchellus)	1
			2
		Variable Sunbird [sp] (Cinnyris venustus)	2

Tujering (Western Division, The Gambia) 09/11/2010 08:15 to09/11/2010 11:45		Senegambia Beach Hotel (Western Division, Gambia)	The
34c, sunny		09/11/2010 17:00 to09/11/2010 18:20	
Copper Sunbird [sp] (Cinnyris cupreus)	c.2	34c, sunny	- 4
Yellow-fronted Canary [sp] (Serinus mozambicus)	1 1	African Grey Hornbill [sp] (Tockus nasutus)	c.4
Grey-headed Sparrow [sp] (Passer griseus) Bush Petronia (Petronia dentata)	1	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird [sp] (Pogoniulus chrysoconus)	ı
Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver (Plocepasser	c.10	African Grey Woodpecker [sp] (Dendropicos goertae)	1
superciliosus)	0.10	Yellow-billed Shrike [sp] (Corvinella corvina)	1
Little Weaver (Ploceus luteolus)	1	Piapiac (Ptilostomus afer)	8
Vitelline Masked Weaver [sp] (Ploceus vitellinus)	1	Pied Crow (Corvus albus)	2
Village Weaver [sp] (Ploceus cucullatus)	c.20	Mosque Swallow [sp] (Cecropis senegalensis)	1
Orange Bishop (Euplectes franciscanus)	3	Common Bulbul [sp] (Pycnonotus barbatus)	c.5
Black-winged Bishop (Euplectes hordeaceus)	2	Oriole Warbler (Hypergerus atriceps)	2
Red-cheeked Cordonbleu [sp] (Uraeginthus bengalus)	c.20	Northern Black Flycatcher [sp] (Melaenornis edolioides)	3
Pin-tailed Whydah (Vidua macroura)	1		
		White-crowned Robin-chat [sp] (Cossypha albicapilla)	2
Brufut Woods (Western Division, The Gamb	ia)	African Thrush [sp] (Turdus pelios)	1
09/11/2010 12:00 to09/11/2010 13:00	,	Bronze-tailed Glossy Starling [sp] (Lamprotornis chalcurus)	c.30
34c, hazy cloud		Long-tailed Glossy Starling (Lamprotornis caudatus)	3
Osprey [sp] (Pandion haliaetus)	1	Beautiful Sunbird [sp] (Cinnyris pulchellus)	1
Lizard Buzzard [sp] (Kaupifalco monogrammicus)	1	Variable Sunbird [sp] (Cinnyris venustus)	2
Vinaceous Dove (Streptopelia vinacea)	1	Grey-headed Sparrow [sp] (Passer griseus)	2
Black-billed Wood Dove (Turtur abyssinicus)	1	Village Weaver [sp] (Ploceus cucullatus)	c.100
Little Bee-eater [sp] (Merops pusillus)	1	Red-billed Firefinch [sp] (Lagonosticta senegala)	1
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird [sp] (Pogoniulus chrysoconus)	1	Bronze Mannikin [sp] (Spermestes cucullatus)	6
No. 11. 12. 12. 14. 14. 14. 14. 14. 14. 14. 14. 14. 14			•
Vieillot's Barbet [sp] (Lybius vieilloti)	1	Satakai (Wastarn Division, The Gambia)	
Northern Puffback [sp] (Dryoscopus gambensis)	2	Sotokai (Western Division, The Gambia)	
Black-crowned Tchagra [sp] (Tchagra senegalus)	1	10/11/2010 07:30 32-26c, cloudy, and thundery	
Fork-tailed Drongo [sp] (Dicrurus adsimilis)	1	Open woodland between FB and Sotokai on the S	outh Bank
Melodious Warbler (Hippolais polyglotta)	1	Road	outh built
Singing Cisticola [sp] (Cisticola cantans)	1	Yellow-billed Kite [group] (Milvus migrans	1
Whistling Cisticola [sp] (Cisticola lateralis)	1	aegyptius/parasitus)	•
Senegal Eremomela (Eremomela pusilla) Brown Babbler [sp] (Turdoides plebejus)	c.5	Hooded Vulture (Necrosyrtes monachus)	1
Splendid Sunbird (Cinnyris coccinigastrus)	2	Spur-winged Lapwing (Vanellus spinosus)	1
Variable Sunbird [sp] (Cinnyris venustus)	2	Rose-ringed Parakeet [sp] (Psittacula krameri)	c.7
Yellow-fronted Canary [sp] (Serinus mozambicus)	1	Senegal Parrot [sp] (Poicephalus senegalus)	7
Grey-headed Sparrow [sp] (Passer griseus)	1	Klaas's Cuckoo (Chrysococcyx klaas)	1
Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver (Plocepasser	3	Pearl-spotted Owlet [sp] (Glaucidium perlatum)	2
superciliosus)	-	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird [sp] (Pogoniulus chrysoconus)	1
Little Weaver (Ploceus luteolus)	1	1 11	
Village Weaver [sp] (Ploceus cucullatus)	c.10	Lesser Honeyguide [sp] (Indicator minor)	1
		Greater Honeyguide (Indicator indicator)	1
Senegambia Beach Hotel (Western Division	. The	Fine-spotted Woodpecker [sp] (Campethera punctuligera)	1
Gambia)	,	Northern Puffback [sp] (Dryoscopus gambensis)	1
09/11/2010 17:00 to09/11/2010 18:20		Red-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike (Campephaga	2
34c, sunny		phoenicea)	
Cattle Egret [sp] (Bubulcus ibis)	1	Yellow-billed Shrike [sp] (Corvinella corvina)	1
Black Kite [sp] (Milvus migrans)	1	African Golden Oriole [sp] (Oriolus auratus)	5
Hooded Vulture (Necrosyrtes monachus)	c.20	Square-tailed Drongo [sp] (Dicrurus ludwigii)	1
African Harrier-hawk [sp] (Polyboroides typus)	1	Fork-tailed Drongo [sp] (Dicrurus adsimilis)	1
Speckled Pigeon [sp] (Columba guinea)	3	Piapiac (Ptilostomus afer)	12
African Mourning Dove [sp] (Streptopelia decipiens)	1	Common Bulbul [sp] (Pycnonotus barbatus)	1
Red-eyed Dove (Streptopelia semitorquata)	1	Grey-backed Camaroptera [sp] (Camaroptera	1
Western Grey Plantain-Eater (Crinifer piscator)	1	brachyura)	
Senegal Coucal [sp] (Centropus senegalensis)	4	Red-winged Warbler [sp] (Prinia erythroptera)	c.5
Pearl-spotted Owlet [sp] (Glaucidium perlatum)	1	Brown Babbler [sp] (Turdoides plebejus)	1
Little Swift [sp] (Apus affinis)	c.3	Lesser Blue-eared Glossy Starling [sp] (Lamprotornis chloropterus)	5
African Palm Swift [sp] (Cypsiurus parvus)	1	Beautiful Sunbird [sp] (Cinnyris pulchellus)	1
Blue-breasted Kingfisher [sp] (Halcyon malimbica)	1	Variable Sunbird [sp] (Climyris venustus)	2
Broad-billed Roller [sp] (Eurystomus glaucurus)	1	Little Weaver (Ploceus luteolus)	1
			-

Sotokai (Western Division, The Gambia)		Karjending (Western Division, The Gambia)	
10/11/2010 07:30		10/11/2010 11:40 to10/11/2010 13:00	
32-26c, cloudy, and thundery		30c, White cloud	
Open woodland between FB and Sotokai on the	South Bank	Peanut fields with occasional trees and scrub	
Road		European Bee-Eater (Merops apiaster)	1
Black-necked Weaver [sp] (Ploceus nigricollis)	2	Abyssinian Roller (Coracias abyssinicus)	1
Vitelline Masked Weaver [sp] (Ploceus vitellinus)	2	Rufous-crowned Roller [sp] (Coracias naevius)	1
Orange Bishop (Euplectes franciscanus)	2	Green Woodhoopoe [sp] (Phoeniculus purpureus)	1
Lavender Waxbill (Estrilda caerulescens)	c.4	Red-billed Hornbill [sp] (Tockus erythrorhynchus)	1
Black-rumped Waxbill (Estrilda troglodytes)	1	Brubru [sp] (Nilaus afer)	2
Red-billed Firefinch [sp] (Lagonosticta senegala)	1	African Yellow White-eye [sp] (Zosterops senegalensis)	1
Dulah (Mastan Pinisian The Cambia)		Greater Blue-eared Glossy Starling [sp] (Lamprotornis	1
Bulok (Western Division, The Gambia)		chalybaeus)	
10/11/2010 10:00 26c, raining		Lesser Blue-eared Glossy Starling [sp] (Lamprotornis chloropterus)	1
open scrub with wide track between Samianga a	nd Bulok on	Variable Sunbird [sp] (Cinnyris venustus)	2
the south bank road		British Yellow Wagtail (Motacilla flava flavissima)	2
Palm-nut Vulture (Gypohierax angolensis)	1	Red-cheeked Cordonbleu [sp] (Uraeginthus bengalus)	1
Wattled Lapwing [sp] (Vanellus senegallus)	1	Pin-tailed Whydah (Vidua macroura)	1
Black-billed Wood Dove (Turtur abyssinicus)	2	Village Indigobird [sp] (Vidua chalybeata)	1
African Green Pigeon [sp] (Treron calvus)	c.5		
Vieillot's Barbet [sp] (Lybius vieilloti)	1	Kalagi (Wastern Division The Cambia)	
Bearded Barbet (Lybius dubius)	1	Kalagi (Western Division, The Gambia) 10/11/2010 14:00 to10/11/2010 15:20	
Greater Honeyguide (Indicator indicator)	1	30c, sunny with white cloud	
Brown Babbler [sp] (Turdoides plebejus)	1	Lunch stop by river	
Vitelline Masked Weaver [sp] (Ploceus vitellinus)	4	Spur-winged Goose [sp] (Plectropterus gambensis)	3
Orange Bishop (Euplectes franciscanus)	1	Great Egret [sp] (Ardea alba)	1
Black-winged Bishop (Euplectes hordeaceus)	1	Little Egret [sp] (Egretta garzetta)	1
Red-cheeked Cordonbleu [sp] (Uraeginthus bengalus)	c.10	Hamerkop [sp] (Scopus umbretta)	1
		Osprey [sp] (Pandion haliaetus)	1
Sibanor (Western Division, The Gambia)		Senegal Thick-Knee (Burhinus senegalensis)	c.5
10/11/2010 10:40		Spur-winged Lapwing (Vanellus spinosus)	1
28c, White cloud		Common Sandpiper (Actitis hypoleucos)	1
Brif roadside stop on edge of town		Speckled Pigeon [sp] (Columba guinea)	c.10
Levaillant's Cuckoo (Clamator levaillantii)	1	Malachite Kingfisher [sp] (Alcedo cristata)	1
		Pied Kingfisher [sp] (Ceryle rudis)	3
Gebangar (Western Division, The Gambia)		Abyssinian Roller (Coracias abyssinicus)	2
10/11/2010 11:15		Red-billed Hornbill [sp] (Tockus erythrorhynchus)	1
30c, white cloud		Long-tailed Glossy Starling (Lamprotornis caudatus)	1
Water body by South Bank Road			
Shikra [sp] (Accipiter badius)	1	Mutaro Kunda Forest Park (Lower River Dvis	sion, The
Long-crested Eagle (Lophaetus occipitalis)	1	Gambia)	
African Jacana (Actophilornis africanus) Malachite Kingfisher [sp] (Alcedo cristata)	6 1	10/11/2010 16:00 to10/11/2010 16:05	
Malachite Kinghsher [sp] (Alcedo chstata)	1	30c, sunny	
		Brief roadside stop	4
Karjending (Western Division, The Gambia) 10/11/2010 11:40 to10/11/2010 13:00)	White Helmetshrike [sp] (Prionops plumatus)	4
30c, White cloud			
Peanut fields with occasional trees and scrub		Wurokang (Lower River Dvision, The Gambi	a)
Pink-backed Pelican (Pelecanus rufescens)	1	10/11/2010 16:15 to10/11/2010 17:00 32C Sunny	
African White-backed Vulture (Gyps africanus)	2	bush track	
Bateleur (Terathopius ecaudatus)	1	Brown Snake Eagle (Circaetus cinereus)	1
African Harrier-hawk [sp] (Polyboroides typus)	1	Dark Chanting Goshawk [sp] (Melierax metabates)	1
African Hawk-Eagle (Aquila spilogaster)	2	Grasshopper Buzzard (Butastur rufipennis)	1
Grey Kestrel (Falco ardosiaceus)	1	Namaqua Dove [sp] (Oena capensis)	2
Black-headed Lapwing [sp] (Vanellus tectus)	3	Rose-ringed Parakeet [sp] (Psittacula krameri)	7
Laughing Dove [sp] (Streptopelia senegalensis)	1	Greater Honeyguide (Indicator indicator)	1
Namaqua Dove [sp] (Oena capensis)	1	Brown-backed Woodpecker [sp] (Dendropicos	1
Bruce's Green Pigeon (Treron waalia)	c.3	obsoletus)	
Mottled Spinetail [sp] (Telacanthura ussheri)	1	Black-crowned Tchagra [sp] (Tchagra senegalus)	1
African Palm Swift [sp] (Cypsiurus parvus)	1	Rufous-chested Swallow [sp] (Cecropis semirufa)	1
Striped Kingfisher [sp] (Halcyon chelicuti)	1	Willow Warbler [sp] (Phylloscopus trochilus)	2

Wurokang (Lower River Dvision, The Gambi 10/11/2010 16:15 to10/11/2010 17:00 32C Sunny	a)	Banbatenda (North Bank Division, The Gam 11/11/2010 09:00 29c, sunny	bia)
bush track		Palm-nut Vulture (Gypohierax angolensis)	1
Melodious Warbler (Hippolais polyglotta)	2	Senegal Thick-Knee (Burhinus senegalensis)	2
Senegal Eremomela (Eremomela pusilla)	1	African Grey Woodpecker [sp] (Dendropicos goertae)	1
African Yellow White-eye [sp] (Zosterops senegalensis)	1	[2]	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker [sp] (Buphagus africanus)	3	Farfenni (North Bank Division, The Gambia)	
Pygmy Sunbird (Hedydipna platura)	3	11/11/2010 09:15	
Scarlet-chested Sunbird [sp] (Chalcomitra senegalensis) 1	29c, sunny	
	,	Waiting for a tyre repair	_
Copper Sunbird [sp] (Cinnyris cupreus)	2	Bearded Barbet (Lybius dubius)	3
Tendaba "airport" (Lower River Dvision, The 10/11/2010 17:15 to10/11/2010 18:00 32c, sunny	e Gambia)	Saback Sukuto (North Bank Division, The G 11/11/2010 09:40 32c, sunny	
Flat expanse of mud and wetlands		Pool adjacent to North Bank Road on south side.	_
Pink-backed Pelican (Pelecanus rufescens)	c.12	with bushes and track passing through nearby scr	ub
Great Egret [sp] (Ardea alba)	1	African Collared Dove [sp] (Streptopelia roseogrisea)	1
Little Egret [sp] (Egretta garzetta)	1	Little Green Bee-eater [sp] (Merops orientalis)	2
Western Banded Snake Eagle (Circaetus cinerascens)	1	Black Woodhoopoe [sp] (Rhinopomastus aterrimus)	1
Gabar Goshawk [sp] (Micronisus gabar)	1	African Grey Hornbill [sp] (Tockus nasutus)	1
Senegal Thick-Knee (Burhinus senegalensis)	5	Yellow-crowned Gonolek (Laniarius barbarus barbarus)	1
Wattled Lapwing [sp] (Vanellus senegallus)	1		
Black-winged Stilt (Himantopus himantopus)	4	African Golden Oriole [sp] (Oriolus auratus)	1
Common Greenshank (Tringa nebularia)	c.10	Common Bulbul [sp] (Pycnonotus barbatus)	1
Bruce's Green Pigeon (Treron waalia)	1	Willow Warbler [sp] (Phylloscopus trochilus)	2
Senegal Parrot [sp] (Poicephalus senegalus)	C.	Senegal Eremomela (Eremomela pusilla)	1
Senegal Coucal [sp] (Centropus senegalensis)	1	Blackcap [sp] (Sylvia atricapilla)	1
Abyssinian Roller (Coracias abyssinicus)	2	Northern Crombec [sp] (Sylvietta brachyura)	1
Red-billed Hornbill [sp] (Tockus erythrorhynchus)	1	White-fronted Black Chat [sp] (Myrmecocichla albifrons)	1
African Grey Woodpecker [sp] (Dendropicos goertae)	2		
Yellow-billed Shrike [sp] (Corvinella corvina)	1	Greater Blue-eared Glossy Starling [sp] (Lamprotornis chalybaeus)	1
Square-tailed Drongo [sp] (Dicrurus ludwigii)	1	Lesser Blue-eared Glossy Starling [sp] (Lamprotornis	3
Brown Babbler [sp] (Turdoides plebejus)	c.3	chloropterus)	3
Lesser Blue-eared Glossy Starling [sp] (Lamprotornis	1	Yellow-fronted Canary [sp] (Serinus mozambicus)	1
chloropterus)	•	Red-billed Quelea [sp] (Quelea quelea)	1
Purple Glossy Starling [sp] (Lamprotornis purpureus)	1	Orange Bishop (Euplectes franciscanus)	c.8
Long-tailed Glossy Starling (Lamprotornis caudatus)	1	Black-rumped Waxbill (Estrilda troglodytes)	c.12
, ,		Long-tailed Paradise Whydah (Vidua interjecta)	2
Soma (Lower River Dvision, The Gambia)		,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	
11/11/2010 07:20		Jakau-ur (Central River Division, The Gamb	ia\
29c sunny		11/11/2010 10:15 to11/11/2010 11:30	,
Wetland area, causeway crossing		32c, sunny	
Egyptian Plover (Pluvianus aegyptius)	2	Pool adjacent to North Bank Road on south side. with bushes general scrubby area.	Fringed
Valitanda (Lawer Biver Dvision The Combin		Eurasian Marsh Harrier [sp] (Circus aeruginosus)	1
Yelitenda (Lower River Dvision, The Gambia	1)	Namaqua Dove [sp] (Oena capensis)	2
11/11/2010 07:45 29c, sunny		Chestnut-backed Sparrow-lark [sp] (Eremopterix	2
Rice paddy and river crossing		leucotis)	-
	15	Rufous Scrub Robin [sp] (Cercotrichas galactotes)	3
Spur-winged Goose [sp] (Plectropterus gambensis)	15	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting [sp] (Emberiza tahapisi)	c.3
Western Reef Egret [sp] (Egretta gularis)	2 1	Grey-headed Sparrow [sp] (Passer griseus)	1
Squacco Heron (Ardeola ralloides)		Orange Bishop (Euplectes franciscanus)	c.10
Osprey [sp] (Pandion haliaetus)	1	Black-rumped Waxbill (Estrilda troglodytes)	c.20
Common Sandpiper (Actitis hypoleucos)	1	Red-cheeked Cordonbleu [sp] (Uraeginthus bengalus)	c.10
Senegal Parrot [sp] (Poicephalus senegalus)	1	Long-tailed Paradise Whydah (Vidua interjecta)	c.7
Blue-breasted Kingfisher [sp] (Halcyon malimbica)	1	Village Indigobird [sp] (Vidua chalybeata)	1
Red-rumped Swallow [group] (Cecropis daurica [daurica-group])	1		
Village Weaver [sp] (Ploceus cucullatus)	c.30		

Kau-ur Wetlands (Central River Division, Th	ne Gambia)	Janjanbureh (Georgetown) (Central River Di	ivision, The
11/11/2010 11:40 to11/11/2010 12:15 34c, sunny		Gambia) 11/11/2010 16:00 to11/11/2010 18:32	
Grass fringed lake with scattered trees, drying ou	it. Plovers at	34c, sunny	
the Jamwilli end of water.		Boat trip west for a couple of miles skirting the n	orth bank of
Grey Heron [sp] (Ardea cinerea)	1	the River Gambia. Dense vegitation and Mangro	
Great Egret [sp] (Ardea alba)	c.50	Marabou Stork (Leptoptilos crumeniferus)	1
Black Kite [sp] (Milvus migrans)	1	African Fish Eagle (Haliaeetus vocifer)	1
Senegal Thick-Knee (Burhinus senegalensis)	c.100	Palm-nut Vulture (Gypohierax angolensis)	1
Spur-winged Lapwing (Vanellus spinosus)	c.20	Gabar Goshawk [sp] (Micronisus gabar)	1
Black-headed Lapwing [sp] (Vanellus tectus)	c.9	Red-necked Falcon [sp] (Falco chicquera)	1
White-headed Lapwing (Vanellus albiceps)	11	African Finfoot [sp] (Podica senegalensis)	2
Black-winged Stilt (Himantopus himantopus)	2	Senegal Thick-Knee (Burhinus senegalensis)	10
Common Sandpiper (Actitis hypoleucos)	1	Spur-winged Lapwing (Vanellus spinosus)	c.15
Wood Sandpiper (Tringa glareola)	1	Four-banded Sandgrouse (Pterocles quadricinctus)	2
Ruff (Philomachus pugnax)	1	European Turtle Dove [sp] (Streptopelia turtur)	1
Egyptian Plover (Pluvianus aegyptius)	2	African Collared Dove [sp] (Streptopelia roseogrisea)	2
Mottled Spinetail [sp] (Telacanthura ussheri)	5	Bruce's Green Pigeon (Treron waalia)	2
Woodland Kingfisher [sp] (Halcyon senegalensis)	2	Malachite Kingfisher [sp] (Alcedo cristata)	1
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-lark [sp] (Eremopterix	7	Grey-headed Kingfisher [sp] (Halcyon leucocephala)	4
leucotis)		Woodland Kingfisher [sp] (Halcyon senegalensis)	2
British Yellow Wagtail (Motacilla flava flavissima)	c.6	Blue-breasted Kingfisher [sp] (Halcyon malimbica)	1
Bush Petronia (Petronia dentata)	2	Pied Kingfisher [sp] (Ceryle rudis)	c.3
Yellow-crowned Bishop [sp] (Euplectes afer)	2	Red-throated Bee-eater [sp] (Merops bulocki)	2
		Bearded Barbet (Lybius dubius)	2
Medina - Duisi (Central River Division, The	Gambia)	Oriole Warbler (Hypergerus atriceps)	1
11/11/2010 12:30 to11/11/2010 12:35	ŕ	Swamp Flycatcher [sp] (Muscicapa aquatica)	8
34c, sunny		Black-headed Weaver [sp] (Ploceus melanocephalus)	c.15
Open savannah with scattered trees between Med	dina and	Black-rumped Waxbill (Estrilda troglodytes)	10
Duisi north of the North Bank Road.			
Hooded Vulture (Necrosyrtes monachus)	1	Youo Beri Kunda (Central River Division, Th	ne Gambia)
African White-backed Vulture (Gyps africanus)	5	12/11/2010 08:10 to12/11/2010 08:15	,
Rueppell's Griffon [sp] (Gyps rueppellii)	4	32c, sunny	
Eurasian Griffon [sp] (Gyps fulvus)	2	trees adjacent to crossroad.	
		African Harrier-hawk [sp] (Polyboroides typus)	1
Njau (Central River Division, The Gambia)		Red-throated Bee-eater [sp] (Merops bulocki)	3
11/11/2010 12:45			
34c, hazy cloud with light easterly breeze		Fulla Bantang (Central River Division, The G	amhia)
Open country lightly farmed		12/11/2010 08:25 to12/11/2010 08:45	Jambiaj
Little Green Bee-eater [sp] (Merops orientalis)	2	34c, sunny	
Northern Anteater Chat [sp] (Myrmecocichla aethiops)	3	village with large "roosting" tree	
		Marabou Stork (Leptoptilos crumeniferus)	11
Wassau (Central River Division, The Gambi	a)	White-rumped Seedeater [sp] (Serinus leucopygius)	2
11/11/2010 13:40 to11/11/2010 13:50	aj	(comme careful)	
34c, hazy cloud, slight easterly breeze		Britana Ba (Cantral Biver Division The Can	mbia)
brief roadside stop in open savannah country		Brikama Ba (Central River Division, The Gar	пріа)
Wattled Lapwing [sp] (Vanellus senegallus)	2	12/11/2010 09:00 to12/11/2010 09:15 36c, sunny	
Northern Carmine Bee-Eater (Merops nubicus)	2	Isolated trees on the edge of a small village	
,		Eurasian Marsh Harrier [sp] (Circus aeruginosus)	1
lawianh wash (Caannatawn) (Cantral Biven B	iniaian Tha	Verreaux's Eagle-Owl (Bubo lacteus)	2
Janjanbureh (Georgetown) (Central River D	ivision, The	Northern House Martin [sp] (Delichon urbicum)	c.100
Gambia)		White-rumped Seedeater [sp] (Serinus leucopygius)	1
11/11/2010 16:00 to11/11/2010 18:32 34c, sunny		write rumped decacater [3p] (defined ledeopyglus)	•
Boat trip west for a couple of miles skirting the r	orth bank of		
the River Gambia. Dense vegitation and Mangro		Brikama Ba (Central River Division, The Gar	nbia)
Spur-winged Goose [sp] (Plectropterus gambensis)	14	12/11/2010 09:30 to12/11/2010 11:12	
		36c, sunny	C
Long-tailed Cormorant [sp] (Phalacrocorax africanus) Grey Heron [sp] (Ardea cinerea)	2	Rice fields, sown and unsown, wet and dry, bush	
Squacco Heron (Ardeola ralloides)	4	White-faced Whistling Duck (Dendrocygna viduata)	c.40
Striated Heron [sp] (Butorides striata)	4 c.11	African Pygmy Goose (Nettapus auritus)	3
Hadada Ibis [sp] (Bostrychia hagedash)	1	Darter [sp] (Anhinga melanogaster)	1
Hamerkop [sp] (Scopus umbretta)	3	Grey Heron [sp] (Ardea cinerea)	2
Tamomop [op] (Goopao ambrotta)	3	Black-headed Heron (Ardea melanocephala)	1

Brikama Ba (Central River Division, The Gar 12/11/2010 09:30 to12/11/2010 11:12	mbia)	Katchang (North Bank Division, The Gambia 13/11/2010 08:00 to13/11/2010 11:00)
36c, sunny		28c, sunny	
Rice fields, sown and unsown, wet and dry, bush Purple Heron [sp] (Ardea purpurea)	y fringes 1	River trip from Tendaba Camp amongst mangrove the north bank of the River Gambia	e creeks of
Great Egret [sp] (Ardea alba)	c.10	Grey Heron [sp] (Ardea cinerea)	c.10
			1
Intermediate Egret [sp] (Mesophoyx intermedia)	3	Goliath Heron (Ardea goliath)	
Little Egret [sp] (Egretta garzetta)	1	Great Egret [sp] (Ardea alba)	c.5
Cattle Egret [sp] (Bubulcus ibis)	c.10	Little Egret [sp] (Egretta garzetta)	c.5
Squacco Heron (Ardeola ralloides)	3	Western Reef Egret [sp] (Egretta gularis)	c.10
Marabou Stork (Leptoptilos crumeniferus)	1	Squacco Heron (Ardeola ralloides)	c.5
Eurasian Marsh Harrier [sp] (Circus aeruginosus)	2	White-backed Night Heron (Gorsachius leuconotus)	1
Lanner Falcon [sp] (Falco biarmicus)	1	Hamerkop [sp] (Scopus umbretta)	c.10
Black Crake (Amaurornis flavirostra)	2	Woolly-necked Stork [sp] (Ciconia episcopus)	c.6
Senegal Thick-Knee (Burhinus senegalensis)	2	Yellow-billed Stork (Mycteria ibis)	4
Black-headed Lapwing [sp] (Vanellus tectus)	3	Osprey [sp] (Pandion haliaetus)	1
Black-winged Stilt (Himantopus himantopus)	4	Black Kite [sp] (Milvus migrans)	1
African Jacana (Actophilornis africanus)	c.10	Short-toed Eagle (Circaetus gallicus)	1
Common Greenshank (Tringa nebularia)	1	Martial Eagle (Polemaetus bellicosus)	1
Wood Sandpiper (Tringa glareola)	2	Common Kestrel [sp] (Falco tinnunculus)	1
, ,	c.7	Peregrine Falcon [sp] (Falco peregrinus)	1
Common Snipe [sp] (Gallinago gallinago)			
Winding Cisticola sp. [sp] (Cisticola galactotes)	5	Common Sandpiper (Actitis hypoleucos)	c.20
Yellow-crowned Bishop [sp] (Euplectes afer)	4	Common Greenshank (Tringa nebularia)	1
Black-faced Quailfinch [sp] (Ortygospiza atricollis)	4	Common Redshank [sp] (Tringa totanus)	1
		Whimbrel [sp] (Numenius phaeopus)	c.30
Kudang (Central River Division, The Gambia	a)	Gull-billed Tern [sp] (Gelochelidon nilotica)	2
12/11/2010 11:45 to12/11/2010 12:25	,	Red-eyed Dove (Streptopelia semitorquata)	1
36c, sunny		Bruce's Green Pigeon (Treron waalia)	2
Scrubby area with sandy tracks		Dideric Cuckoo (Chrysococcyx caprius)	1
Western Banded Snake Eagle (Circaetus cinerascens)	1	Malachite Kingfisher [sp] (Alcedo cristata)	1
- · ·		Grey-headed Kingfisher [sp] (Halcyon leucocephala)	c.5
Four-banded Sandgrouse (Pterocles quadricinctus)	c.6	Pied Kingfisher [sp] (Ceryle rudis)	c.6
Green-winged Pytilia [sp] (Pytilia melba)	1	European Bee-Eater (Merops apiaster)	c.10
		Abyssinian Roller (Coracias abyssinicus)	c.4
Bumari (Lower River Dvision, The Gambia)		Woodchat Shrike [sp] (Lanius senator)	1
12/11/2010 13:00		Red-chested Swallow [sp] (Hirundo lucida)	
39c, sunny			8
Double-spurred Francolin [sp] (Francolinus bicalcaratus	s) 1	Wire-tailed Swallow [sp] (Hirundo smithii)	1
	•	Northern House Martin [sp] (Delichon urbicum)	c.20
Bateleur (Terathopius ecaudatus)	1	Greater Blue-eared Glossy Starling [sp] (Lamprotornis chalybaeus)	3
		Mouse-brown Sunbird (Anthreptes gabonicus)	c.7
Tendaba "airport" (Lower River Dvision, The	e Gambia)		
12/11/2010 17:00		Batteling (Lower River Dvision, The Gambia)	1
38c, sunny		13/11/2010 11:45 to13/11/2010 13:00	•
Airfield and track		32c, sunny	
Hamerkop [sp] (Scopus umbretta)	1	Bush track through open woodland	
African Hobby (Falco cuvierii)	1	Black Kite [sp] (Milvus migrans)	1
Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola)	1		1
Royal Tern [sp] (Thalasseus maximus)	1	Short-toed Eagle (Circaetus gallicus)	
Rose-ringed Parakeet [sp] (Psittacula krameri)	c.10	Brown Snake Eagle (Circaetus cinereus)	1
Senegal Parrot [sp] (Poicephalus senegalus)	c.7	Bateleur (Terathopius ecaudatus)	2
Abyssinian Roller (Coracias abyssinicus)	2	African Hawk-Eagle (Aquila spilogaster)	1
Red-billed Hornbill [sp] (Tockus erythrorhynchus)	1	Mottled Spinetail [sp] (Telacanthura ussheri)	1
	2	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird [sp] (Pogoniulus chrysoconus)	2
Grey-headed Bushshrike [sp] (Malaconotus blanchoti)		Brown-backed Woodpecker [sp] (Dendropicos	1
Katchang (North Bank Division, The Gambia	a)	obsoletus)	4
13/11/2010 08:00 to13/11/2010 11:00		Senegal Eremomela (Eremomela pusilla)	1
28c, sunny		African Yellow White-eye [sp] (Zosterops senegalensis)	1
River trip from Tendaba Camp amongst mangrov	ve creeks of		_
the north bank of the River Gambia		Brown-rumped Bunting [sp] (Emberiza affinis)	3
Spur-winged Goose [sp] (Plectropterus gambensis)	5	Yellow-fronted Canary [sp] (Serinus mozambicus)	1
Pink-backed Pelican (Pelecanus rufescens)	c.20		
Dartor [cp] (Appings malanagestar)	0.20		

c.10

Darter [sp] (Anhinga melanogaster)

oia)	Farasutu Forest (Western Division, The Gam 14/11/2010 08:45 to14/11/2010 10:30	nbia)
		n grave
1		2
2	Northern Puffback [sp] (Dryoscopus gambensis)	1
1	Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike [sp] (Telophorus	1
1	• •	
1		1
11	Leaf-love [sp] (Phyllastrephus scandens)	2
1	Grey-headed Bristlebill [sp] (Bleda canicapillus)	2
1	Willow Warbler [sp] (Phylloscopus trochilus)	1
	Yellow-breasted Apalis [sp] (Apalis flavida)	c.4
hio\	Senegal Eremomela (Eremomela pusilla)	1
ibia)	Common Redstart [sp] (Phoenicurus phoenicurus)	1
	Green-headed Sunbird [sp] (Cyanomitra verticalis)	c.6
	Beautiful Sunbird [sp] (Cinnyris pulchellus)	1
4	Village Weaver [sp] (Ploceus cucullatus)	c.20
	Red-cheeked Cordonbleu [sp] (Uraeginthus bengalus)	c.10
1		3
ıbia)	Donto (Mastern Division The Combis)	
•	•	
Enforced stop		
-	•	
1		1
1		0
1		3
		8
•		4
	Yellow-shouldered Widowbird [sp] (Euplectes macroura)	1
	Senegambia Beach Hotel (Western Division,	The
2	Gambia)	
1	14/11/2010 14:20 to14/11/2010 18:00	
	32c, 15NW, sunny with clouds	
•	White-faced Whistling Duck (Dendrocygna viduata)	19
0.20	Osprey [sp] (Pandion haliaetus)	1
	Black Kite [sp] (Milvus migrans)	3
ambia)		1
		10
	,,,,,,,,,	-
rom gravel	Royal Tern [sp] (Thalasseus maximus)	1
		1
2		c.10
2		2
2		1
1		1
3	, , ,	1
		1
		1
1		1
c.7	Broad-billed Roller [sp] (Eurystomus glaucurus)	2
J.,	Red-billed Hornbill [sp] (Tockus erythrorhynchus) Northern Puffback [sp] (Dryoscopus gambensis)	1
2	Northarn Putthack Ignl (I)ryngconus gamhangig)	4
2		
1	Yellow-crowned Gonolek (Laniarius barbarus barbarus)	1
1 3	Yellow-crowned Gonolek (Laniarius barbarus barbarus)	
1 3 1	Yellow-crowned Gonolek (Laniarius barbarus barbarus) Piapiac (Ptilostomus afer)	9
1 3 1 4	Yellow-crowned Gonolek (Laniarius barbarus barbarus) Piapiac (Ptilostomus afer) Pied Crow (Corvus albus)	9 19
1 3 1 4 6	Yellow-crowned Gonolek (Laniarius barbarus barbarus) Piapiac (Ptilostomus afer) Pied Crow (Corvus albus) Mosque Swallow [sp] (Cecropis senegalensis)	9 19 2
1 3 1 4	Yellow-crowned Gonolek (Laniarius barbarus barbarus) Piapiac (Ptilostomus afer) Pied Crow (Corvus albus)	9 19
	2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 Brown-throated Wattle-eye [sp] (Platysteira cyanea) 2 Northern Puffback [sp] (Dryoscopus gambensis) 3 Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike [sp] (Telophorus sulfureopectus) 1 Common Bulbul [sp] (Pycnonotus barbatus) 1 Leaf-love [sp] (Phyllastrephus scandens) 1 Grey-headed Bristlebill [sp] (Bleda canicapillus) 1 Willow Warbler [sp] (Phylloscopus trochilus) 1 Willow-breasted Apalis [sp] (Apalis flavida) 2 Senegal Eremometa (Eremometa pusilla) 2 Common Redstart [sp] (Phoenicurus phoenicurus) 3 Green-headed Sunbird [sp] (Cyanomitra verticalis) 3 Beautiful Sunbird [sp] (Cinnyris pulchellus) 4 Village Weaver [sp] (Ploceus cucullatus) 1 Red-cheeked Cordonbleu [sp] (Uraeginthus bengalus) 1 Red-billed Firefinch [sp] (Lagonosticta senegala) 1 Al/11/2010 13:00 to14/11/2010 13:30 34c, 10NW, Sunny with clouds 3 Rice fields by radio mast 4 Yellow-billed Kite [group] (Milvus migrans aegyptius/parasitus) 1 Yellow-throated Longclaw (Macronyx croceus) 2 Orange Bishop (Euplectes franciscanus) 3 Yellow-shouldered Widowbird [sp] (Euplectes macroura) 4 Yellow-shouldered Widowbird [sp] (Euplectes macroura) 4 Yellow-shouldered Widowbird [sp] (Euplectes macroura) 5 Senegambia Beach Hotel (Western Division, Gambia) 1 14/11/2010 14:20 to14/11/2010 18:00 3 3c, 15NW, sunny with clouds 6 C.20 White-faced Whistling Duck (Dendrocygna viduata) 0 Osprey [sp] (Pandion haliaetus) 1 Black Kite [sp] (Milvus migrans) 1 Hooded Vulture (Necrosyrtes monachus) 1 Grey-headed Gull [sp] (Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus) 1 Royal Tern [sp] (Thalasseus sandvicensis) 2 Lesser Crested Tern [sp] (Thalasseus bengalensis) 3 Arctic Skua (Stercorarius parasiticus) 2 Speckled Pigeon [sp] (Columba guinea) 4 Vinaceous Dove (Streptopelia vinacea) 3 Senegal Parrot [sp] (Poicephalus senegalus) 4 Western Grey Plantain-Eater (Crinifer piscator) 1 Pearl-spotted Owlet [sp] (Glaucidium perlatum) 8 Blue-breasted Kingfisher [sp] (Halcyon malimbica)

02/12/2010 22:29:26

Senegambia Beach Hotel (Western Division, The Gambia)

14/11/2010 14:20 to14/11/2010 18:00 32c, 15NW, sunny with clouds

Northern Black Flycatcher [sp] (Melaenornis edolioides) 1

White-crowned Robin-chat [sp] (Cossypha albicapilla) 1
Long-tailed Glossy Starling (Lamprotornis caudatus) 1
Beautiful Sunbird [sp] (Cinnyris pulchellus) 2
Red-billed Firefinch [sp] (Lagonosticta senegala) 1

Senegambia Beach Hotel (Western Division, The Gambia)

15/11/2010 07:30 30c, sunny

House Sparrow [sp] (Passer domesticus)

Abuko Nature Reserve (Western Division, The Gambia)

1

15/11/2010 08:30 to15/11/2010 12:00

30c, sunny Gallery Forest

White-breasted Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus) 1 African Goshawk [sp] (Accipiter tachiro) Guinea Turaco [sp] (Tauraco persa) c.2 Violet Turaco (Musophaga violacea) c.3 Western Grey Plantain-Eater (Crinifer piscator) 1 Giant Kingfisher [sp] (Megaceryle maximus) 1 Bearded Barbet (Lybius dubius) 1 3 Brown-throated Wattle-eye [sp] (Platysteira cyanea) African Paradise-flycatcher [sp] (Terpsiphone viridis) 2 2 Fanti Saw-Wing (Psalidoprocne obscura) Little Greenbul [sp] (Andropadus virens) c.5 Senegal Eremomela (Eremomela pusilla) 1 Snowy-crowned Robin-chat [sp] (Cossypha niveicapilla) 2

African Thrush [sp] (Turdus pelios) c.2
Collared Sunbird [sp] (Hedydipna collaris) 1
Variable Sunbird [sp] (Cinnyris venustus) 1
Orange-cheeked Waxbill (Estrilda melpoda) c.4
Western Bluebill [sp] (Spermophaga haematina) c.4
Red-billed Firefinch [sp] (Lagonosticta senegala) 6
Bronze Mannikin [sp] (Spermestes cucullatus) 20