

Trip Report
Seawatching at N’Gor – Senegal
13-27 October 2003

Compiled by Niklas Holmström & Dan Mangsbo

Participants

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Travel Info

We booked a return ticket by Air France. We left Arlanda airport 11:20 on 13 October and arrived at Charles de Gaulle (Paris) about 14:00. The plane to Dakar left at 15:55 and landed at 19:45 local time. When we got off the plane the warm humidity was a bit of shocking. When we were through immigration, baggage pick-up and customs, we took a taxi to Club le Calao at N’Gor at a cost of 10 Euro. The ride only took 5-10 minutes. We checked in at the Calao and we installed ourselves in a spacey connected double bungalow. Then we took a short walk down to the restaurant terrace for a tasty dinner and a cold beer. The seawatching bonanza had just begun ...

The advantage with Air France is that the plane home (Paris) leaves Dakar at midnight, 23:55 to be precise, which allows you to bird all day long with plenty of time after the sunset to pack your things and have a nice dinner before taking the taxi to the airport. Don’t forget to confirm your flight home, which the clerk at Calao will help you do. We left Dakar at midnight on 27 October and arrived in a cold Sweden next day, though Dan Mangsbo and Göran Ekström already had left Dakar on 19 October.

Weather and wind

The dry season on the Cap Vert peninsula is between late 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 afternoons with light overcast.

Between 14 and 20 October the winds were moderate to brisk from a northerly direction, including one day with the most wanted NW wind on 15 October. On 21 and 22 October the winds came from a southerly direction and it was raining on both nights and a few sprinkles of rain on one day. On the rest of the period a steady north-east wind was blowing and we then stayed at Calao’s terrace as it allowed good shelter from that wind direction.

Seawatching and pelagics

From land we watched the passing seabirds at Calao’s restaurant terrace and on the north side of the tiny island Isle N’Gor, see the web site senegal.seawatching.net for more detailed information on these two sites. We were out on three pelagic tours and two of them (one full and one half day) on the open sea in a wide area north-west to north off N’Gor. One apparently productive route is to travel about two hours towards north-west from the N’Gor Beach, staying there for a while, then head further north and then

eastwards (north of the peninsula), circling around there and ending up with a slow (or high speed, depending on time left) return back to N’Gor. We started with a full day at sea on 15 October and two days later we took a half day, both days were very productive even though there weren’t any trawlers in sight. Trawling is banned within Senegalese waters since the beginning of 2003.

On our third boat tour, we travelled along the coast southwards to the islands called Madeleine. The main reason to this tour was to see Red-billed Tropicbird and Bridled Tern, which breed on the islands, though we didn’t see the latter species. This route rarely produces any seabirds, except a few skuas, gulls and terns.

Seabirds – species list

All birds counted from land passed towards south-west, unless otherwise is stated. However, their true direction is doubtless south, distorted by the angle of the Cap Vert peninsula, which juts five mile out in the Atlantic..

Note: Hundreds of unidentified shearwaters and skuas that passed very distantly were not counted!

Bulwer’s Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*

A total of 18 birds were recorded, max 10 on 16 October. This is the highest total for a seawatching period during autumn ever recorded. This all-dark petrel is easy to miss as it travels close to the surface. Therefore it’s not surprising that the majority were seen from Isle N’Gor, where one sits higher above the sea compared to Calao’s terrace and can follow smaller seabirds over longer periods.

Cape Verde Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea edwardsii*

Only 63 were seen, 52 from land and 11 at sea. All birds were travelling in different directions, which also is true for all unidentified *Calonectris* shearwaters off N’Gor.

The reason for the low numbers is of course the absence of trawlers, which is banned since the beginning of year 2003. The highest total for a single day is 6.000 and 6.500 at sea on 4 and 6 November 1998 respectively, of course in vicinity of trawlers.

Scopoli’s Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea diomedea*

Two singles passed very close along the shore of Isle N’Gor on 17 October and allowed excellent views, which is the reason they could be positively identified.

Cory’s/Cape Verde/Scopoli’s Shearwater *Calonectris d. borelais/diomedea/edwardsii*

A total of 1.439 was seen, of which the majority of them probably were Cape Verde Shearwaters, travelling in different directions, mostly south-west or north. All of those that came close to shore were of the mentioned species.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

A total of 2.429 were counted, of which 19 were seen at sea. The highest daily count was 651 on 18 October. The species is difficult to count correctly as the majority pass well away from shore and are hard to detect when flying low against a dark sea as backdrop. Singles and loose groups of 3-5 birds were most common, which make a hand-counter most needed when counting this species, if you don’t like to write a lot...

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

A total of 37 were counted, of which 2 were seen at sea. Max 14 birds on 16 October. Perhaps the species is more numerous in September?

Wilson’s Storm-petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

The total of 819 birds is the highest ever for a seawatching period during autumn. Of these 658 were seen from land and 161 at sea. The majority of the birds seen from land were recorded off Isle N’Gor, as they come closer to shore and are easier to follow over longer periods here. Add to this 503 unidentified Wilson’s/European S-p, of which the majority of them doubtless were Wilson’s.

European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

A total of 59 European S-p's may sound low, but in fact it's the highest total ever. Between 1995 and 1997 (a total of four seawatching periods) British birders only saw this species on their pelagic trips, with a highest total of 14 birds on 5 tours/days at sea 1995. Of the 2003 total 52 were seen at sea and 7 from land at Isle N'Gor. It seems that you have to coincide with the right period and also a lucky day within the period to see this species side by side with Wilson's.

Wilson's/European Storm-petrel *Oceanites oceanicus/Hydrobates pelagicus*

A total of 503 unidentified Wilson's/European S-p's were seen.

All of them from land and the majority at Calao's terrace, where you sit lower and the storm-petrels pass more distant here compared to Isle N'Gor. Of course we probably miss many birds and sometimes we didn't care to count them when closer species of other seabirds passed.

Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

The total of 33 birds were all seen at sea on two pelagics. The majority of the 91 unidentified *Oceanodroma*-petrels were probably of this species. All of the *Oceanodroma*-petrels turned up about 1 ½ hours travel from land. Only five unidentified birds were seen from land, of which two show a flight style (recalling a Black Tern or Nightjar) suggesting Leach's.

Madeiran (Band-rumped) Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma castro*

The total of 19 birds were all seen at sea on two pelagics. Some part of the unidentified *Oceanodroma*-petrels certainly were of this species, but only those who came close and seen in good conditions and for longer periods allowed a positive identification. The often very quick observations were the great disadvantage to distinguish these two larger storm-petrels. Three of the five unidentified seen from land were probably Madeiran as they had a more shearwater-like flight style and travelled closer to the surface.

Leach's/Madeiran Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa/Oceanodroma castro*

In all 96 unidentified *Oceanodroma*-Storm-petrels were seen, of which 91 at sea. The majority were probably Leach's Storm-petrel.

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus*

At least two were seen at Iles de la Madeleine, four kilometres south-west of Dakar. One bird was seen briefly when we arrived at the islands and another for about five minutes circling above a high cliff, which allowed excellent views from where we were sitting.

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

A total of five birds passed towards the south-west, all of them were juveniles. The total seem was normal for a seawatching period in October-November, but the species is more numerous during winter.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicaria*

A total of 96 birds were seen. In addition we saw 30-40 presumed and distant Grey Phalarope's in the beginning of the period, at that time we didn't realise what species we were dealing with. We also had two nice mixed flocks with Grey Phalarope and Black Terns! All birds were recorded between 23 and 27 October, max 63 on 26 October.

"Great" Skua *Catharacta sp.*

A total 363 were recorded, divided on 353 seen from land and 10 at sea, max 64 on 18 October. Not a single one was positive identified and all were noted as unidentified *Catharacta* skuas. The total is highest ever during a seawatching period in autumn since 1995, when the more regular seawatch counting started. The British birders who have visited N'Gor over many years are not sure, but suspect many to be South Polar Skua or subspecies within Brown Skua. Perhaps future DNA-samples of captured birds can solve the issue and give some answers of which species is involved off Senegal.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

A total of 2.254 passed off N'Gor, divided on 2.194 seen from land and 60 at sea, max 411 on 14 October. Compared to Arctic Skua the majority of all Poms normally passed in larger flocks at varying altitudes normally 1-2 kilometres off the coast, whereas most Arctic pass closer inshore in groups of 3-5 birds. About 90% of all passing birds in October to mid November are adults, some 5-8% immatures and 1-2% juveniles. Most Poms passed in the morning and during the two last hours before dusk.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

A total of 1.640 passed off N'Gor, divided on 1.625 seen from land and 15 at sea, max 308 on 18 October. This is the highest total ever and the second highest is from 1996 (6-16 October) when 1.099 were recorded. Normally most Arctic Skuas pass in smaller groups close to the coast and this migration is best witnessed from Calao's terrace. On Isle N'Gor, the Arctics often pass too close and are easy to miss if you scan the sea with the scope all the time. In 2003 the ratio of ages was the same as for Pomarine Skua, with adults in absolute majority.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

A total of 168 passed off N'Gor, divided on 163 seen from land and 5 at sea, max 61 on 16 October. This is the highest total ever, followed by 166 on 6-16 October 1996. Perhaps the species is more numerous in September, especially in the second half. The majority (about 60%) were juveniles and 40% were adults (including a few immatures) that had moulted into a characteristic winter plumage and all adults seen had lost their tail-streamers. Singles or small groups of 2-3 birds were seen, sometimes together with Pomarine or Arctic Skuas.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

A total of 630 were recorded, divided on 608 seen from land and 22 at sea, max 286 on 16 October. Add to this a total of 80 Sabine's that landed on the sea and never were seen again. The vast majority are adults in winter plumage, juveniles only accounting for 20-30%. The highest total ever was 3.356 passing Isle N'Gor and 144 seen at sea on 6-16 October 1996. Probably most numerous from mid September to mid October.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

One adult in winter plumage passed through the strait between the mainland and Isle N'Gor on 22 October.

Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*

Three adults in winter plumage passed through the strait between the mainland and Isle N'Gor on 22 October.

Grey-headed Gull *Larus cirrocephalus*

A total of 8 birds passed through the strait between the mainland and Isle N'Gor, of which six were adults in winter plumage, one adult still in summer plumage and one 2nd cal year.

Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*

This species was difficult to count correctly as many flew in different directions along the shore. In all 59 passed towards the south-west and were recorded as migrants. Add to this the birds that flew towards the east or north-east or seemed to be stationary in the area, max 20 were seen on a single day. Juveniles moulting to first-winter plumage were commonest, followed by 2nd cal and 3rd cal year birds. Only one adult was recorded.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

At least 10 singles were seen passing by in different directions off N'Gor.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus intermedius/graelsii*

Only 12 were recorded passing towards the south-west and at least a total of 22 singles towards the north-east.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

A total of 20 were recorded passing along the shore off the N'Gor area. All birds were older immatures and presumed adults. The jizz of this species resemble much of Great Black-backed Gull, you rarely think of a Lesser Black-backed Gull when seeing it in field.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

A total of 51 were recorded and 49 of these passed through the strait between the mainland and Isle N'Gor, with only two off Isle N'Gor. The totals during each period between 1995 and 2001 varies from 0 to 9 birds only. The main reason for the low numbers may be that the British birders have counted from the north side of Isle N'Gor.

(African) Royal Tern *Sterna maxima albididorsalis*

A total of 115 were recorded, of which two were seen at sea. Up to 30 non-migrating birds were seen daily off the N'Gor area, foraging with Lesser Crested and Sandwich Terns. The majority was adults in winter plumage and only a few juveniles.

This race breed along the West African coast and are regularly seen in Morocco. Its smaller and slimmer than the American race *maxima*. Furthermore the birds of race *albididorsalis* have generally paler upperparts and slightly more slender bill compared to *maxima*. This could make it difficult to distinguish from Lesser Crested Terns in certain conditions, especially in hard light and without direct comparison to well-known tern species.

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis emigrata*

A total of 96 were recorded, of which six were seen at sea. About 20-30 non-migrating birds were seen daily off the N'Gor area in October 2003, but the numbers vary between the days.

This race breed along the Libyan coast in the Mediterranean Sea and winters along the West African coast. The race is slightly paler than the eastern races between East Africa and India; *Sterna bengalensis bengalensis* (Red sea) and *S. t. torresii* (Persian Gulf).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

A total of 2.100 were recorded, divided on 2.052 seen from land and 48 at sea, max 434 on 14 October. The total is highest ever during a seawatching period in autumn since 1995, when the more regular seawatch counting started. Besides the true migrators, up to 150 were seen foraging off the terrace at Calao every afternoon.

Common/Arctic Tern *Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*

A total of 10.846 were recorded, of which 291 were seen at sea. Approximately 95% were Common Terns and the rest Arctic Terns. When seawatching at N'Gor in September/October there is no time for separating and counting the sometimes endless stream of 'Comic' Terns passing by, but as you search many flocks for Roseate Tern you soon estimate the distribution between Common and Arctic Terns. Some days we didn't recognise any Arctic Terns at all, but on peak days for Common Terns the ratio varied from 5 to 10%.

At Isle N'Gor we certainly missed hundreds of thousands 'Comic' Terns as they pass very close and on different altitudes. That's life and you simply have to accept it as you probably are more interested of seabirds such as shearwaters, storm-petrels and skuas.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

A total of 17 were recorded, of which one were seen at sea. The majority passed through the strait between the mainland and Isle N'Gor. The largest total ever counted is 143 birds passing on 6-16 October 1996. Probably a more numerous migrant in September.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

A total of 10.918 were recorded, of which 124 were seen at sea, max 3.056 and 3.370 on 16 and 18 October. The highest figure ever recorded is 23.923 Black Terns passing south-west on 6-16 October 1996, with 12.645 on 12 October.

Dense flocks of up to 100 birds were seen on several occasions in 2003. At midday many flocks often gather off shore to forage for a while.

Other species seen during our stay at N’Gor

All observations concerning the ‘land-birds’ listed below was only a result of each species’ occurrence, which means that we didn’t search for them at all. However, many of these species were a colourful contribution to the surroundings when we seawatched or moved to and from Isle N’Gor. The Club le Calao area held many species with its lush growth of vegetation.

Great (White-breasted) Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus*

A few seen daily flying towards west off N’Gor, probably heading to Iles de la Madeleine. At least 300 on the cliffs of Iles de la Madeleine 19/10. The flight action is more reminiscent of Shag than the nominate race of Great Cormorant; flight altitude low to the surface, fast with stiff and ground wing beats.

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Three domestic wing clipped birds were present in the western end of N’Gor Beach and one bird on the beach east of Calao. However, this species is possible to see in wild state as well, though we didn’t see any. For example Betsy Hopkins saw a flock of several hundred flying high over the Belair beach on the port side of the peninsula in mid September 2003.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

A few present in the area of N’Gor were seen now and then, but not everyday.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

A few present in the area of N’Gor were seen now and then, but not daily. At least 10 birds on Iles de la Madeleine 19/10.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

3 towards east over Calao 18/10.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

A few were seen at Calao during the second week.

Western Reef Egret *Egretta gularis*

Fairly common and seen daily, flying along the coast in both directions, max 25 15/10. The dark form in clear majority. Most birds seen in late afternoon.

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

Common and seen daily. 30-40 birds was present all the time, soaring around the Diarama Hotel and many at the dump in the village of N’Gor and along the shores. Still treated as subspecies of Black Kite.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Singles were seen daily fishing in the area and a few were ringed.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes moachus*

1 soaring over Diarama 17/10, 4 west of Dakar 19/10 and 3 at N’Gor throughout the second week (5 23/10).

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

Observed on six occasions, all in Calao’s garden area.

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*

One bird at Calao 22/10, which allowed long and excellent views, one at Isle N’Gor 23/10 and one at Calao’s restaurant terrace 27/10. A very beautiful falcon the size of a Hobby, but with rounder hand.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

One adult female was present throughout the whole period. The bird used the high Diarama building as a look-out and seem to acquire a taste for 'Comic' Terns, which it hunted off the restaurant terrace of Calao. These regularly acrobatic shows was truly something for a change! On a few occasions the female was accompanied by a smaller male bird, which was chased away quickly.

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

A total of 119 towards SW, max 44 14/10. A few stationary along the shores were seen now and then.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus palliatus*

1 at the beach east of Club le Calao 18/10.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

A total of 25 towards SW. Singles and small groups were seen in the area during the whole period.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

2 towards SW in a flock with Black Terns off Isle N'Gor 16/10. 3 18/10 and 1 24/10 towards SW.

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*

Seen on several occasions flying to and fro along the coast, max 40 roosting at the beach east of Calao 18/10.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

A total of 89 towards SW off Isle N'Gor and Calao.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

One towards SW with Sanderlings at Isle N'Gor 18/10.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

A total of 25 towards SW.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Singles passing towards SW on three occasions; 18, 20 and 26/10.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

A total of 49 towards SW.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

4 15/10 and 1 18/10 towards SW.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

2 towards SW 17/10. Also observed with 1 18/10 and 6 19/10 at the beach east of Calao.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Seen daily along the shores with up to 20 birds a day. Together with Turnstone the commonest wader present in the area.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

A total of 46 towards SW. Seen daily along the shores with up to 20-30 birds a day.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Fairly common, but not seen everyday, though we didn't search for it at all.

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*

Seen on four occasions in the N'Gor area and at least 20 birds on Iles de la Madeleine 19/10.

African Mourning Dove *Streptopelia decipiens*

1 in a garden close to Hotel Diarama 17/10.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

Common and seen daily.

Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus*

Seen on four occasions in adjacent gardens to Hotel Diarama, with max 3 birds.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

A present flock of 7 birds was seen on four occasions at Calao and Isle N'Gor.

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*

1 15/10, 2 20/10 and 1 22/10. All birds in adjacent gardens between Calao and Hotel Diarama.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*

2 with Little Swifts over Isle N'Gor and 1-2 near Hotel Diarama on 14 October.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Many breeding pairs, some nesting on window shelves on Hotel Diarama. Numerous and dense flocks were seen when they for a unknown reason gathered in the evening. These high-flying flocks was always detected by the concert of calls. Seen daily with up to 100 birds or more.

Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus*

1-2 at Calao throughout the whole period and 2 on Iles de la Madeleine 19/10.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

2 present on Isle N'Gor and 2 on the beach area east of Calao 19/10.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

5-6 at the Village N'Gor 23/10.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

1 on the dump at N'Gor 18/10.

Common Bulbul *Pycnotos barbatus*

Fairly common. Seen and heard daily.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

2-3 seen on several occasions at Isle N'Gor throughout the whole period.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

1 on Iles de la Madeleine 19/10.

Unidentified Sunbird

Probably Collared Sunbird, but it only appeared quickly for a few seconds.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

Common and seen daily in all habitats, especially in high number at the N'Gor dump.

Long-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis caudatus*

Seen then and now, but not every day, max 10 14/10 in the garden area between Calao and Hotel Diarama.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common and seen daily.

Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

Only seen on Isle N'Gor with up to 10 birds each time we visited the island for seawatching.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

Common and seen daily.

Yellow-backed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus*

1 male at Isle N'Gor 20/10.

Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*

In the N'Gor only seen on Isle N'Gor with up to 10 birds on each occasion. About 10 birds west of Dakar 19/10 and 5 on Iles de la Madeleine 19/10.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

Fairly common and seen daily in the Diarama and Calao area.

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata*

Common and seen daily.

African Silverbill *Lonchura cantans*

Seen on several occasions, especially in the gardens of Calao.

Bronze Munia *Lonchura cucullata*

Seen on several occasions, especially in the gardens of Calao.

Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*

Common and seen daily.

White-rumped Seedeater *Serinus leucopygius*

Fairly common and seen daily in the Diarama and Calao area.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Serinus mozambicus*

Common and seen daily.

NON-BIRDS

Cetaceans

Long-beaked Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

Hundreds were seen on our two pelagic tours north-west to north-east off N'Gor. On our half day many dolphins came very close to the boat and we even heard them. It was an incredible feeling to be in the middle of these large schools of feeding dolphins, bow-riding and jumping ones here and there.

Unidentified Dolphins

We saw many unidentified dolphins from land during the whole period. The majority were probably Common Dolphins, but many possible Striped and Bottle-nose Dolphins were seen.

Bats

Singles of a 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. It was a big species and the Straw-coloured have a wingspan of about 85 cm and pale underparts. There is a somewhat funny story about these bats seen at the terrace: When we first saw them on our first night, sweeping rapidly and silent over the pool in the dusk we first believe it to be a Barn Owl, but it didn't feel correct. Then someone shouted Cory's Shearwater! But we soon realised it was a bat and we didn't order another beer that night.

Fishes

Flying Fish

Flying fishes were seen daily and especially large numbers on our two pelagics off N'Gor. They are lovely to see, but somewhat annoying as you always react on them (in corner of one's eye) automatically to be a small seabird at first, but shortly "just another flying fish..."

Blue Marlin *Makaira nigricans* (commonly called sword fish)

Two close sunbathing Blue Marlins were seen on our pelagics off N'Gor, which made our skipper Gabriel happy and furious talking rapidly in his communication radio to tell other game fishing boats in the area. We also saw four more marlins in high jumps from the terrace at Calao. Strange, but all four jumped exactly three times each. This species is the largest among all Marlins, which 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 one metre long varan look-alikes.

Butterflies

Many unidentified and mostly colourful species were seen, especially one very big and yellow butterfly!

Acknowledgements

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Landbased seawatching from Isle N'Gor and Club le Calao's restaurant terrace off Dakar on 14-27 October 2003

Date:	14.10	15.10	16.10	17.10	18.10	19.10	20.10	21.10	22.10	23.10	24.10	25.10	26.10	27.10	Totals
Hours:	7,10	1,40	9,05	10,00	9,15	4,20	7,10	9,20	11,20	9,00	10,35	9,05	11,10	10,25	
Wind direction:	NNW	NW	N	N	N	N	NNE	SE	SW/W	NNE	NNE	NNE	NE	NNE	
Bulwer's Petrel	4	1	10										1		16
Cory's/Cap Verde/Scopoli's			4	1	9		552	128	134	4	69	154	308	76	1439
Cape Verde Shearwater					8							20	13	11	52
Scopoli's Shearwater				2											2
Sooty Shearwater	116	112	436	128	651	113	174	2	123	143	73	37	246	56	2410
Manx Shearwater	6	2	14	1	4		1				3	2	1	1	35
Wilson's Storm-petrel			224	1	90	18	45	6	4	21	107	122	15	5	658
European Storm-petrel			2		3							2			7
Wilson's/European S-p	14	6	18	7	67	35	165		11	49	33	59	27	12	503
Leach's/Madeiran S-p			1		1	2		1							5
Northern Gannet					1							2	1	1	5
Grey Phalarope										5	1	9	63	18	96
"Great" Skua	16	5	50	36	64	29	17		20	34	32	24	15	11	353
Pomarine Skua	411	90	302	74	241	118	278	19	26	53	197	119	232	34	2194
Arctic Skua	178	123	258	125	308	77	136	18	37	48	80	87	115	35	1625
Long-tailed Skua			61	14	48	5	2	8		2	9	5	8	1	163
Sabine's Gull	2	21	286	81	69	5	20				44	45	32	3	608
Grey-headed Gull								1	5	1		1			8
Black-headed Gull									1						1
Slender-billed Gull									3						3
Audouin's Gull	13		1	3			4	8	6	5	4	3	9	3	59
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2		3				1				2	2	1	1	12
Kelp Gull			1	1	7	2	7	2							20
Caspian Tern	2		3	3	4		3	2	25	8		1			51
African Royal Tern	19	1	10	19	19		4	4	9	11	4	7	8		115
Lesser Crested Tern	31	12	20	4	9	2	3	2	3	3	1				90
Sandwich Tern	434	182	206	114	199	43	126	172	227	95	41	79	78	56	2052
Common/Arctic Tern	205	833	2327	1460	2070	410	125	117	520	197	314	894	837	246	10555
Little Tern	2		4	2						4		4		1	17
Black Tern	6	92	3056	1600	3370	134	11	27	220		67	1085	988	138	10794

Pelagic tours off Dakar/Cap Vert Peninsula 2003

Date:	15.10	17.10	19.10	Totals
Hours:	8	4	4	
Bulwer's Petrel	1	1		2
Cape Verde Shearwater	1	10		11
Sooty Shearwater	9	10		19
Manx Shearwater		2		2
Wilson's Storm-petrel	119	42		161
European Storm-petrel	46	6		52
Leach's Storm-petrel	11	22		33
Madeiran Storm-petrel	14	5		19
Leach's/Madeiran S-p	46	45		91
Red-billed Tropicbird			2	2
"Great" Skua	9	1		10
Pomarine Skua	49	8	3	60
Arctic Skua	8		7	15
Long-tailed Skua	5			5
Sabine's Gull	22			22
African Royal Tern			2	2
Lesser Crested Tern			6	6
Sandwich Tern			48	48
Common/Arctic Tern	97	82	112	291
Little Tern	1			1
Black Tern	90	34		124

On 19 October the Isle Madeleine south-west off Dakar was visited and there was no seabirds to be seen during the trip southwards.