Seawatching at N'Gor Senegal
3–16 October 2005

Participants
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Sweden

Latest updated on 28th November 2005
Travel Info
Four of us booked a return ticket by Air Portugal. We left Arlanda (Stockholm) airport at 15:10 on Sunday 2nd October and after a stopover in Lisbon we arrived to Dakar at 00:55 local time on 3rd October. When we were through immigration, luggage pick-up and customs we took a taxi to Club le Calao at N’Gor to the price of 12 Euro. The ride took about 10 minutes. We checked in at Calao and installed ourselves in our pre-booked connected and spacious double bungalows.

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

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

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

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

Accommodation, boat tours and health
We recommend future birders visiting the area to stay at Club le Calao, mainly due to it’s nice surroundings, closeness to the sea and the terrace and last but not least, it is the cheapest hotel in the area:
Double room bungalow: 41.16 Euro/night (divided on two persons)
Triple room bungalow: 56.41 Euro/night (divided on three persons)
Additional costs: Tourist tax/day/person (0.91 Euro) and continental breakfast (4.57 Euro/person).
All three hotels (Calao, Diarama and N’Gor) in the N’Gor area is own by the very same company and, unfortunately, they are not reachable by e-mail for prices and bookings. Contacts is only possible by phone (+221 8200540/8200908) or fax (+221 8201180). All bungalows have air-condition and make sure your bungalow have a fridge.

For our pelagic trips we chartered a boat on two occasions through the company “Atlantic Evasion”, which is located at N’Gor beach, close to the place from where the boat (Pirog ferry) to Ile N’Gor depart.
Remember to book a boat a few days in advance, especially if you intend to undertake a boat tour during the weekend. It is also possible to make a reservation a few weeks beforehand via e-mail or fax. However, remember that the owner, Eric only speak French, so an answer from him may take some time, but you will get it. Each boat takes up to six birders and the price quoted below is the total for the whole boat:
Full day (8 hours): 293 Euro, but the price varies between type of boat model one choose.
Half day (4 hours): 200 Euro (for example a tour to Isle Madeleine or trawlers off Cap Vert).
Extras: Lunch (including drinks, bread and fruit): c. 5 Euro per person
Contacts by e-mail: info@atlantic-evasion.com

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

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

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

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**Landbased seawatching**

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. The left boat was used on our full day at sea, the right on the half day. Right hand picture shows the entrance to Atlantic Evasion from Rue Ngor. © Björn Johansson
Migrating seabirds counted from land and seabirds recorded on the two pelagics
Calao means observed from the terrace at Club le Calao, and Ngor is observations from the north shore of Ile N’Gor. There is an apparent westward migration past this area. See table at the end 1 for daily totals.

**Bulwer’s Petrel – Spetsstjärtad petrell**
*Bulweria bulwerii*
A total of 30 was recorded from Calao 20 and 10 from Ngor. Excellent close views of one individual from the terrace. One was briefly mobbed by a Long-tailed Skua. This is the highest total ever recorded.

**Cory’s Shearwater – Gulnäbbad lira**
*Calonectris diomedea borealis*
A single passed Calao on 15th. This bird passed close by enabling us to see bill colour and other details.
One seen among Cape Verde Shearwaters at sea on 6th.

**Manx Shearwater – Mindre lira**
*Puffinus puffinus*
Calao 57, Ngor 45 (seen daily). At sea: 8 on 13th, of which some offered excellent views alongside the boat close to the trawlers.

**Little Shearwater – Dvärglira**
*Puffinus assimilis*
A single passing close to N’Gor in the afternoon on 7th.

**Wilson’s Storm-petrel – Havslöpare**
*Oceanites oceanicus*
A single passing off Calao on 15th. At sea: 14 on 6th and 6 on 13th, of which many were seen close to the boat.

**European Storm-petrel – Stormsvala**
*Hydrobates pelagicus*
Two seen from Calao and 3 from Ngor. A total of 9 seen at sea on 6th.

**Leach’s Storm-petrel – Klykstjärtad stormsvala**
*Oceanodroma leucocoa*
A single seen close to the shore off Calao on 14th.

**Madeiran Storm-Petrel – Oceanlöpare**
*Oceanodroma castro*
A single seen at sea on 6th.

**Storm-petrel sp. – Obest. Stormsvala**
At least 43 recorded at sea on 6th, of which the majority probably were European S-p’s. Also 3 *Oceanodroma*-petrels were seen at sea on 6th October.

**Red-billed Tropicbird – Rödnäbbad tropikfågel**
*Phaeton aethereus*
A single passed Calao on 13th. Breeds on Iles de las Madeleine where two were seen on the 6th, occasionally seen around Ngor.

**Northern Gannet – Havssula**
*Morus bassanus*
1 first year bird off Calao on 5th. This species is more numerous later in autumn and especially during winter.

**Red Phalarope – Brednäbbad simsnäppa**
*Phalaropus fulicarius*
Calao 59 and from Ngor 56. Several flocks and single birds seen settled at sea, especially off N’Gor.

**”Great” Skua sp. – Stor labb**
*Catharacta sp.*
Calao 144, Ngor 27. At sea: 12 on 6th and 7 on 13th. Little variation in plumage, no birds looked like adult Great Skua. Several birds were moulting inner primaries. Bill seemed thin. Seems more likely to be one of the southern hemisphere species but further research is needed.
Pomarine Skua – Bredstjärtad labb
Stercorarius pomarinus
Calao 482, Ngor 210. At sea: 25 on 6th and 36 on 13th, several dark phase adults were seen. Numbers increased toward the end of our stay, which was to be expected. No juveniles were identified, also as expected. Many adults still had tail projection.


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


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

Skua sp. – Obest labb
Stercorarius sp
293 birds in total. And some additional very distant birds not counted.

Audouin's Gull – Rödnäbbad trut
Larus audouinii
77 in total. Only one or two adult were seen, the others were birds moulting to first winter. Larger margin of error in the total number since they were not so apparently migrating birds.

Kelp Gull (Cape Gull) – Dominikanertrut
Larus dominicanus vetula
Calao 1.

Lesser Black-backed Gull – Silltrut
Larus fuscus
34 in total. Most were of graellsii type.

Grey-headed Gull – Gråhuvad mås
Larus cirrocephalus
Calao 13, one first year bird, all others adult, 3 in breeding plumage. All passing through the strait inside Ile N’Gor.

Slender-billed Gull – Långnäbbad mås
Larus genei
Calao 10, all were adults, except one first year bird.


Sabine's Gull – Tärnmås
Larus sabini
Calao 1539, Ngor 361. Many flocks were distant, of the closer birds seen not more than 10% were first year birds. The second highest total recorded. At sea: At least 70 on 6th (one flock of 20 birds lying on sea close, also heard calling) and 15 on 13th.

Gull-billed Tern – Sandtärna
Sterna nilotica
Calao 2. Both passing through the strait inside Ile N’Gor on the 3rd.

Caspian Tern – Skräntärna
Sterna caspia
131 in total, almost exclusively seen from the terrace at Calao. The highest total recorded ever.
(African) Royal Tern – Kungstärna  
*Sterna maxima albididorsalis*  
Calao 393, Ngor 39. Numbers are somewhat misleading. There’s always a few birds feeding along the coast. At the end of our stay we started counting more thoroughly. Separation from Lesser Crested Tern is very difficult. A few at sea at the trawlers, but no total estimated.

Lesser Crested Tern – Itärna  
*Sterna bengalensis emigrata*  
Calao 755, Ngor 70. See comment above on Royal Tern.

Common/artic tern – Fisk/silvertärna  
*Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*  
Calao 4256, Ngor 1243. The vast majority was Common tern. Several hundred around the trawlers at sea.

Arctic Tern – Silvertärna  
*Sterna paradisaea*  
Calao 343, Ngor 151. Only few adult birds. Small numbers at sea around the trawlers.

Little Tern – Smätärna  
*Sterna albifrons*  
Calao 253, Ngor 27. The highest total recorded ever.

Sandwich Tern – Kentsk tärna  
*Sterna sandvicensis*  
Calao 7317. Ngor 522. Quite a few at sea at the trawlers, but no total estimated. The highest total recorded ever.

Bridled Tern – Tygeltärna  
*Sterna anaethetus*  
Calao 1, Ngor 1. Breeds on Ile de la Madeleine.

Roseate Tern – Rosentärna  
*Sterna dougallii*  
Calao 19. One first year bird and the rest adults. All passing through the strait inside Ile N’Gor.

Landbirds and species recorded at Technopole  
All observations concerning the ‘land-birds’ listed below was only a resultant of each species occurrence, which mean that we didn’t search for them actively, except for our visits to Technopole in the morning on 10th and 16th October. We recorded 35 species at the Technopole not seen elsewhere. Technopole is an area located 16 kilometre east of N’Gor, along the main road leading inland off the peninsula. In light traffic it takes approx. 20 minutes by car from Calao. In rush hours on weekday mornings it can take considerably longer. We paid 10-12,000 CFA for a taxi with the driver waiting for three hours while we birded. Just inside the entrance is a lake to the east. Taking the road further north is a Science Centre on your left hand. After 1.6 km you reach Dakar Golf Club. There are waterbirds and waders all around the area. During weekends there are quite a few golfers.

7. View from the Technopole area. © Björn Johansson
Little Grebe – Smådopping
*Tachybaptus ruficollis*
At Technopole: 4 on 10th and 6 on 16th.

Great Cormorant – Storskarv
*Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus*
Several seen daily at Calao and Ngor. 300 at Ile de Madeleine on 6th, where they breed.

Long-tailed Cormorant – Långstjärtad skarv
*Phalacrocorax africanus*
Two flying west at Calao on 9th and 20-25 at Technopole on both visits.

Grey Heron – Gråhäger
*Ardea cinerea*
Singles seen almost daily at Calao, 50-100 at Technopole.

Purple Heron – Purpurhäger
*Ardea purpurea*
1 at Calao on 15th and 4 at Technopole on both visits.

Great Egret – Ägretthäger
*Ardea alba*
At Calao 4 13th, 2 15th, and 50 at Technopole on both visits.

Intermediate Egret – Mellanhäger
*Egretta intermedia*
1 at Technopole 16th

Western Reef-Heron – Revhäger
*Egretta gularis*
75-100 at Technopole and up to 100 daily in mornings and evenings at Calao.

Little Egret – Silkeshäger
*Egretta garzetta*
200 at Technopole on 10th and 16th.

Squacco Heron – Rallhäger
*Ardeola ralloides*
12 and 2 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.

Cattle Egret – Kohäger
*Bubulcus ibis*
120 at Calao 5th & 8th, 10 at Technopole on both visits

Striated Heron – Mangrovehäger
*Butorides striata*
Singles at Calao on several days, 10 at Technopole on 10th and 16th.

Eurasian Spoonbill – Skedstork
*Platalea leucorodia*
6 at Technopole on 16th, one colour-ringed first year bird. Hatched ca. 100 days earlier 4000 km away in the Netherlands.

Greater Flamingo – Större flamingo
*Phoenicopterus roseus*
9 and 5 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.
White-faced Whistling-Duck – Vituvad visseland  
*Dendrocygna viduata*  
40 and 20 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.

Blue-winged Teal – Blåvingad årta  
*Anas discors*  
1 first year male at Technopole on 10th

Osprey – Fiskgjuse  
*Pandion haliaetus*  
5-10 seen daily.


Black Kite – Brun glada  
*Milvus migrans parasitus*  
Abundant, especially at Technopole, but 100’s seen soaring above N’Gor area on several occasions.

Hooded Vulture – Kappgam  
*Necrosyrtes monachus*  
Common, especially at Technopole.

Western Marsh-Harrier – Brun kārrhök  
*Circus aeruginosus*  
At Calao: 2 4th, 6 5th, 1 10th, 2 16th. All were first year birds.

Shikra  
*Accipiter badius*  
Singles around Calao on 2-3 days and 2-3 at Technopole


Eurasian Kestrel – Tornfalk  
*Falco tinnunculus*  
1 Ile de Madeleine 6th, 1 Calao 9th, 13th & 14th

Red-necked Falcon – Rödhuvad falk  
*Falco chicquera*  
1-2 Seen at Ngor and Calao on 5 days

Eurasian Hobby – Lärkfalk  
*Falco subbuteo*  
2 Technopole on 10th

Peregrine – Pilgrimsfalk  
*Falco peregrinus*  
1 male seen daily. Nighttime roost on Hotel N’Gor.

Black Crane – Korprall  
*Amaurornis flavirostris*  
1 at Technopole on both visits.

Purple Swamphen – Purpurhōna  
*Porphyrio porphyrio*  
2 Technopole on 10th

Common Moorhen – Rōrhōna  
*Gallinula chloropus*  
1 Technopole on 10th
African Jacana
*Actophilornis africanus*
30 and 20 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.

Oystercatcher – Strandskata
*Haematopus ostralegus*
Seen daily at Calao, maximum 43

Black-winged Stilt – Styltlöpare
*Himantopus himantopus*
25 at Technopole on both visits.

Senegal Thick-knee – Senegaltjockfot
*Burhinus senegalensis*
50 & 100 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.

Spur-winged Plover – Sporrvipa
*Vanellus spinosus*
Singles seen at Calao on several days, common at Technopole.

American Golden-Plover – Amerikansk tundrapipare
*Pluvialis dominica*
1 first year bird at Technopole on both visits.

Grey Plover – Kustpipare
*Pluvialis squatarola*
Seen at Calao on 4 days with a maximum of 20.

Common Ringed Plover – Större strandpipare
*Charadrius hiaticula*
Small flocks seen daily, max 30 at Calao, 100 at Technopole.

Little Ringed Plover – Mindre strandpipare
*Charadrius dubius*
20 at Technopole on 10th

Kittlitz's Plover – Kittlitzstrandpipare
*Charadrius pecuarius*
1 male at Technopole on 10th


Common Snipe – Enkelbeckasin
*Gallinago gallinago*
1 at Technopole on 16th

Bar-tailed Godwit – Myrspov
*Limosa lapponica*
Seen daily, max 45, singles at Technopole

Whimbrel – Småspov
*Numenius phaeopus*
Seen daily, max 66, singles at Technopole

Eurasian Curlew – Storspov
*Numenius arquata*
4 at Calao on 5th and 1 on 16th

Common Redshank – Rödbena
*Tringa totanus*
2 Point de Almadies 10th, 1 at Calao 9th, 20 and 8 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.

Marsh Sandpiper – Dammsnäppa
*Tringa stagnatilis*
1 at Technopole on 16th
Common Greenshank – Gluttnäppa
Tringa nebularia
6 Calao 8th, 2 9th, 1 11th, 1 15th, 25 & 10 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.

Green Sandpiper – Skogssnäppa
Tringa ochropus
10 at Technopole on 10th

Wood Sandpiper – Grönbena
Tringa glareola
40 at Technopole on both visits

Common Sandpiper – Drillsnäppa
Actitis hypoleucos
Singles daily at Calao, 30 at Technopole on both visits

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

Red Knot – Kustsnäppa
Calidris canutus
2-17 seen on 4 days at Calao

Sanderling – Sandlöpare
Calidris alba
Seen daily at Calao and Ngor, max 44, and 10 at Technopole

Little Stint – Småsnäppa
Calidris minuta
5 at Calao on 9th, 3 on 15th, and 10 at Technopole

Temminck’s Stint – Mosnäppa
Calidris temminckii
2 at Technopole on 10th

Curlew Sandpiper – Spovsnäppa
Calidris ferruginea
4 Calao 9th & 10th, 7 14th, 40 & 25 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively

Dunlin – Kärrsnäppa
Calidris alpina
Seen daily at Calao, max 30, and 25-50 at Technopole on both visits.

Ruff – Brushane
Philomachus pugnax
10 & 5 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.

Black-headed Gull – Skrattmås
Larus ridibundus
3 at Technopole on 10th

Gull-billed Tern – Sandtärna
Sterna nilotica
13 & 10 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.

Little Tern – Småtärna
Sterna albifrons
5 and 20 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively.

White-winged Tern – Vitvingad tärna
Chlidonias leucopterus
3 at Technopole on 10th

Black Tern – Svarttärna
Chlidonias niger
Large numbers at Technopole on both visits.

Feral Pigeon – Tamduva
Columba livia domesticus
Singles seen on several occasions

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

African Mourning Dove – Sorgduva
Streptopelia decipiens
Common

Laughing Dove – Palmduva
Streptopelia senegalensis

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

Western Grey Plantain-eater.
© Björn Johansson.

Western Plantain-eater
Crinifer piscator
2 close to the entrance at Technopole on 10th

Senegal Coucal – Senegalsporrgök
Centropus senegalensis
10 at Technopole on both visits
African Palm-Swift – Afrikansk palmseglare  
*Cypsiurus parvus*  
4 from the terrace at Calao on the 11th

Pallid Swift – Blek tornseglare  
*Apus pallidus*  
1 at Calao and at least 3 at Hotel N’Gor on 14th

Little Swift – Stubbstjärtseglare  
*Apus affinis*  
Breeds at Hotel N’Gor, 50 seen daily

Blue-naped Mousebird  
*Urocolius macrourus*  
Seen daily around Calao, max 8

Malachite Kingfisher/ African Pygmy-Kingfisher  
*Alcedo cristata/Ispidina picta*  
1 only seen flying at Technopole on both visits.

Grey-headed Kingfisher – Gråhuvad kungsfiskare  
*Halcyon leucocephala*  
3 at Technopole on 10th and 1 on 16th

Pied Kingfisher – Gråfiskare  
*Ceryle rudis*  
Common at Technopole.

Little Bee-eater – Liten biätare  
*Merops pusillus*  
Small numbers seen on several days at Calao, 10 at Technopole

Abyssinian Roller – Savannblåkråka  
*Coracias abyssinica*  
2 birds on several days around Calao, 3 birds outside N’Gor on the road to Technopole on both visits

Green Woodhoopoe  
*Phoeniculus purpureus*  
3 at Technopole on 16th

Red-billed Hornbill  
*Tockus erythrorhynchus*  
A resident pair at Calao and 2 at Technopole
Gray Woodpecker
*Dendrocopos goertae*
1 female just outside Calao on 13th

Crested Lark – Tofslärka
*Galerida cristata*
Common at Technopole

Crested Lark. © Jan Hägg.

Barn Swallow – Ladusvala
*Hirundo rustica*
2 Calao on 12th and 14th

White Wagtail – Sädesårla
*Motacilla alba*
Singles at Technopole on both visits

Yellow Wagtail – Gulärla
*Motacilla flava*
200 & 50 at Technopole on 10th and 16th respectively, a few *flavissima* identified.

Plain-backed Pipit
*Anthus leucophrys*
1 at Technopole on both visits.

Plain-backed Pipit. © Jan Hägg.

Common Bulbul – Trädgårdsbulbyl
*Pycnonotus sinensis*
Is indeed common

Zitting Cisticola – Grässångare
*Cisticola juncidis*
20 at Technopole

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*
Singles seen at Calao on several days

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens*
Singles seen at Calao on several days

Willow Warbler – Lövsångare
*Phylloscopus trochilus*
1 at Technopole on 10th

Subalpine Warbler – Rödstrupig sångare
*Sylvia cantillans*
1 male at Technopole on both visits

Northern Wheatear – Stenskvätta
*Oenanthe oenanthe*
2 at Ile N’Ggor 4th, 1 7th & 1 16th

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus*
1 at Calao on 10th

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus*
1 at Technopole on 10th and 1 at Calao on 13th

Pied Crow – Svartvit kråka
*Corvus albus*
Common

Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling
*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*
2-3 seen on 5 days at Calao


Long-tailed Glossy-Starling
*Lamprotornis caudatus*
Up to 10 seen at Calao almost daily

Chestnut-bellied Starling
*Lamprotornis pulcher*
1 outside N’Gor on 10th

Village Weaver
*Ploceus cucullatus*
Small number seen daily

Red-cheeked Cordonbleu
*Uraeginthus bengalus*
Small number seen daily


Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*
1 Calao, 1 Technopole 10th

Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer*
1-2 males at Technopole on 10th and 1 male at Technopole on 16th.

Northern Red Bishop also known as Orange Bishop
*Euplectes franciscanus*
1 male Ngor 7th, 1 Calao 9th, 1 Ngor 11th


Red-billed Firefinch – Rödnäbbad amaranth
*Lagonosticta senegala*
Small number seen daily


African Silverbill – Afrikansk silvernäbb
*Euodice cantans*
15-30 seen daily


Bronze Mannikin (Also known as Bronze Munia)
*Lonchura cucullatus*
*Spermestes cucullatus*
Small number seen daily
Village Indigobird
_Vidua chalybeate_
Small number seen daily

House Sparrow – Gråsparv
_Passer domesticus_
Seen daily

Gray-headed Sparrow
_Passer griseus_
Singles at Calao on two days

Pin-tailed Whydah
_Vidua macroura_
Singles seen on several days at Calao, several beautiful males.

White-rumped Seedeater
_Serinus leucopygius_
Singles seen on several days at Calao

Yellow-fronted Canary
_Serinus mozambicus_
1 seen at Calao on 9th

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

Cetaceans
**Blue or Fin Whale** _Balaenoptera musculus/physalus_ – Blå- eller sillval
One seen (from land) surfacing about 1km off Ile N’Gor on 4th October. Its enormous size, blue-grey upperside colour and no visible dorsal fin suggests Blue Whale.

**Sperm Whale** _Physeter macrocephalus_ – Kaskelot
Two were seen surfacing a few kilometres off the terrace at Calao on 12th and probably two more seen briefly during the day.

**Killer Whale/Orca** _Orcinus orca_ – Späckhuggare
At least one male and one female/young were seen off Ile N’Gor on 4th. The huge dorsal fin of the male was an amazing sight! On 15th October a few small pods were observed off Calao’s terrace, which of course could have been one and the same group feeding/moving in the area. At midday on 15th many seabirds such as terns, skuas and Sabine’s Gulls gathered in a certain area off Calao and soon there was a
small pod of Killer Whales seen “feeding” in the area for about half an hour. Great views of the male, which also breached on two occasions! What a memorable sight of this huge and very beautiful animal!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Land-based counts of migrating seabirds  October 2005

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Observers
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1997 2: Robin Joliffe & Richard Porter
1998: Björn Johansson on WildWings Tour w. T Marr & D Newell
2003: Göran Ekström, Niklas Holmström, Dan Magnsbo & Dan Zetterström
2004: Bengt Andersson, Leif Dehlin, Alf Petersson & Johans Stenlund
2005: Niklas Holmström, Jan Hägg, Björn Johansson, Martin Oomen, Kristoffer Nilsson