

Excursion

TWITCHER'S DELIGHT

2109

Half-day



Since the early twitcher catches the birds we make a predawn start to catch the Dawn Chorus at **CAMALOU** (or Sting) **CORNER**. Here we have a view over open marshy ground with rice paddies, mangroves and mudflats. Usually we can see **Black, Black-headed** and **Squacco Herons** and **Spur-winged Plover** amongst many other varieties.

After some time in this territory we continue to **BUND ROAD** which is considered to be a classic Bird walk. The bund and pumping station were built as part of a drainage scheme to minimise the risk of flooding in Banjul during the rains. The varied environment and the extra nourishment provided by the sewage water in the drains contribute to the rich bird life. A good stop would be made at the pumping station. At low tide we watch **herons** and **waders**. **Reef Herons, Long-tailed Cormorant** and **Cattle Egrets** often perched in the mangroves. There will be **terns** and perhaps a glimpse of a **Malachite Kingfisher**. A lot of small birds come to drink, many of them species that are common in pet shops back home. **Bronze Mannikin, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu, African Silverbill** and Lavender Waxbill amongst others. With luck even the non expert can see close to a hundred different species on one good morning.

We leave this enriching part of Gambia's hinterland and as the morning bird activity wanes we make our way back to the hotels in time for lunch.



A SELECTION OF THE MANY SPECIES WE SHOULD SEE DURING THE TOUR

African Harrier-hawk
 African Jacana
 African Palm Swift
 African Silverbill
 Black Crake
 Black Heron
 Black Kite
 Black-headed Heron
 Black-headed Plover (*pictured*)
 Black-shouldered Kite
 Black-winged Stilt
 Bronze Mannikin
 Caspian Tern
 Cattle Egret
 Goliath Heron
 Grey Kestrel
 Grey-headed Bush-shrike
 Hammerkop
 Lavender Waxbill
 Little Bee-eater
 Long-tailed Cormorant
 Malachite Kingfisher
 Osprey
 Pied Kingfisher (*pictured*)
 Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu
 Sacred Ibis
 Shikra
 Slender-billed Gull
 Spur-winged Plover
 Wattled Plover
 Western Reef-heron
 White-faced Whistling Duck
 Wire-tailed Swallow

NB. Binoculars "Birds of The Gambia and Senegal" Birding Books are available on loan FOC with personal checklists being complimentary.



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