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northern Guinea savanna, and Sambisa is a Guinea savanna outlier within the Sudan zone. This distribution roughly fits into the narrow latitudinal band (9°30'N–11°30'N), which Walsh (1991) regarded as the main wintering zone for the Black Stork in W Africa.

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Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* in The Gambia

In the late afternoon of 17 Jan 2002, at Bund Road, Banjul, The Gambia, my companions and I had good views from the raised road over the sea and mud-flats below. The tide was low, and Slender Billed Gulls *Larus genei*, Grey Headed Gulls *L. cirrocephalus*, Caspian Terns *Sterna caspia* and Royal Terns *S. maxima* were present on the mud. I noticed a different-looking gull, with white crescents above and below the eye, and a black half-hood. Direct comparison with the other gulls suggested Franklin's Gull *L. pipixcan*. The mantle was quite light compared with my memory of a Franklin's Gull seen twice in Holland, in February 2000, but my companions agreed on the determination. It was an adult in winter plumage, and the mantle seemed

lighter because of the rather low sun shining over the back of the gull and making the colours seem less intense. It was identified by the following characteristics: rather small and sturdy, with a short dark bill; clear white crescents above and below the eyes; half black hood, mainly on the back of the head, the front edge of the hood smudged with paler black; forehead white; mantle rather dark, with the limit between grey and white in the neck rather vague, but sharp on the wings; broad white band between mantle and black wingtips; two large white tips of primaries in the black wingtips; wings below white; dark legs.

Winter-plumaged adult Franklin's Gull is most likely confused with Laughing Gull *L. atricilla* and Mediterranean Gull *L. melanocephalus*. It was distinguished from Laughing Gull by the shorter bill, more white in the wingtips, and by being smaller and more sturdy. Mediterranean Gull has a light-grey mantle, a heavier bill that is not completely black, and the half black hood is not so clear on the back of the head.

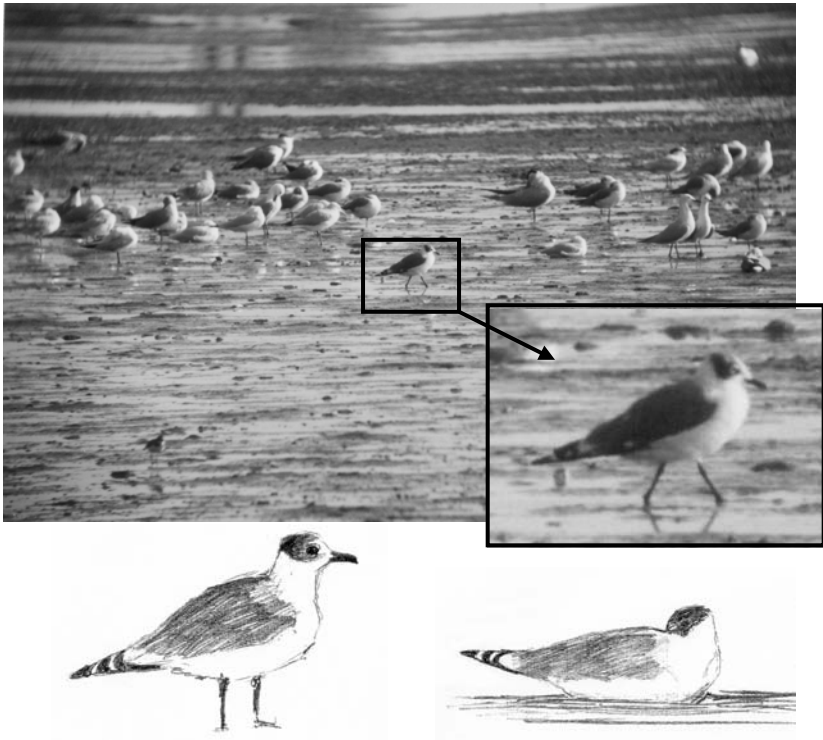


Figure 1. Drawings (by LvW) and photograph (by Oane Tol) of Franklin's Gull, The Gambia, 17 Jan 2002.

We watched the bird at a distance of about 100 m for about 1 h 15 min., using telescopes. During that time the bird rested, sometimes with its head in its feathers, sometimes sitting. It also cleaned itself, took short walks now and then, and stretched its wings. Drawings and photographs were made (Fig. 1).

Previous records of Franklin's Gull in Africa include two records at Beira, Mozambique, and four on the South African coast, plus the following W African records: one paired with a Grey-headed Gull and nesting in the Saloum Delta, Senegal, May 1983; one at Bund Road, Banjul, 1984; a first-winter bird at Ile de Gorée, Senegal, Jan 1986; an adult in the Siné-Saloum NP, Senegal, Apr 1986; an adult at Hann, Senegal, Dec 1988; a first-winter at Hann, Feb 1991 (Urban *et al.* 1986, Baillon & Dubois 1992). It seems that Franklin's Gull is a not uncommon vagrant to Senegambia.

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A major range extension of Locust Finch *Ortygospiza locustella* in West Africa

The Locust Finch *Ortygospiza locustella* has two distinct sub-species with the nominate in southern Africa and *uellensis* with a scattered distribution in east and central Africa. It was only recently found in W Africa, with 20 seen near the Benoué National Park in 1998 (S. de Kort pers. comm.) and in the extreme south of Cameroon (Dowsett & Dowsett-Lemaire 2000), probably part of the Congo Basin population. However, on 27 Oct 2002, a pair with three fledged young was found at Rockwater Fish Farm, Jos, on the Jos Plateau in central Nigeria (9°53'N, 8°52'E).

The birds appeared to be of the race *uellensis*, the male showing a plain dark greyish back with no white spots, flanks plain charcoal grey with no white barring, upper breast, neck, ear coverts, lores and supercilium bright orange-red, and rump and wings similarly reddish. The female showed red only on wings and rump, pale fawn