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Seabird counts at N’Gor, Senegal, in November 2006

During a visit to Senegal in 2006 we spent seven days (10–14 and 25–26 Nov) at N’Gor on the north end of the Cap Vert peninsula to watch the migration of seabirds. We mostly observed from north of Dakar airport, close to N’Gor island, with a view to the north which gave reasonably good views of the WSW-migrating seabirds, even when the winds were moderate. During 10 Nov we counted Cory’s Shearwaters *Calonotris diomedea* passing per minute in different periods; on the other days we counted all passing birds. The mornings were mostly clear and good numbers of seabirds passed within 1000 m, with the first two hours the best of the day. As the day proceeded, the visibility and greater distance to the birds made it less profitable to watch. The evenings were also good, especially on 25 Nov when the wind was more from the north than northeast and with wind speed exceeding 10 ms⁻¹. Observations are summarized in Table 1.

Many Cory’s Shearwaters passed southwest during days with northeast winds, with means of 50 per min. in the morning and 10–15 in the afternoon. On several occasions we had >100 per min. in the morning and some flocks of several hundreds passing. A low estimate of the number of Cory’s Shearwater passing N’Gor during 10 Nov is at least 15000 birds. We did not observe any Cape Verde Shearwaters *C. (diomedea) edwardsii*, despite close attention. The prevailing northeast winds might have prevented them from reaching the coast during the period, or they might not occur regularly at this season. The number of migrating Cory’s Shearwater peaks at the Cap Vert peninsula in Nov, with the largest number reported being 3146 in 1 h, in Nov 1991 (Sauvage & Rodwell 1998). Our 4500 birds in 1h 20 min. on 10 Nov therefore a new highest count.

The observations of Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*, a rarely observed passage migrant (Brown *et al.* 1982, Sauvage & Rodwell 1998, Borrow & Demey 2004),

Table 1. Numbers of passing seabirds at N'Gor, Senegal 10–14 and 25–26 Nov 2006. * = juvenile birds.

Date	10	10	11	12	13	13	14	25	25	26	26
	8h30–9h50	13h30–19h30	7h05–9h05	6h55–19h00	7h30–8h15	16h20–18h30	7h05–12h00	7h05–10h05	17h00–18h50	7h00–7h40	8h15–9h40
Totals	4500	3500	801	866	182	259	551	76	376	112	850
<i>Calonectris diomedea</i> Cory's Shearwater	4	14	27	45	1	7	4	51	43	4	15
<i>Puffinus griseus</i> Sooty Shearwater											
<i>P. gravis</i> Great Shearwater											
<i>Morus bassanus</i> Northern Gannet				1*					8		3
<i>Catharacta</i> sp. larger skuas		3		3					12*	1*	1*
<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i> Pomarine Skua	6	54	68	49		99	12	22	55	1	33
<i>S. parasiticus</i> Arctic Skua	1*	29	7	5		1*	1*	7	7	1*	51
<i>S. longicaudus</i> Long-tailed Skua				1*							1
<i>Larus sabini</i> Sabine's Gull		59*	10*	16*					10*		95
<i>L. fuscus</i> Lesser Black-backed Gull	1*	3*	1*	2*							7
<i>L. audouinii</i> Audouin's Gull			11	15			2				28

during the evening of 25 Nov and morning 26 of Nov, were made during north winds of 10–12 ms⁻¹. The passage off W Europe is mainly Aug–Oct (Harrison 1983) but the majority of observations in Senegal are made in Nov (*e.g.* Sauvage & Rodwell 1998).

Several observations were made of larger skuas *Catharacta* sp., possibly South Polar Skuas *C. maccormicki*. They were all dark with no rufous coloration showing in the plumage (as often showed by juvenile Great Skuas *C. skua*) even in very good light.

All Sabine's Gulls *Larus sabini* that passed during our visit were juveniles, which may be explained by the late date.

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Baumann's Greenbul *Phyllastrephus baumanni*, new to Cameroon

While studying understorey birds in primary forest, secondary forest, cocoa, coffee and annual crops in the area of Abat-Mgbegati-Basu (5°21'–5°25'N, 9°9'–9°13'E), near Korup National Park in SW Cameroon, at *c.* 250 m altitude, from 16 January to 7 March 2006, we mist-netted four greenbuls, within small (*c.* 100 m in diameter) annual crop farms left fallow for at least two years. These still held cassava plants but were overgrown by *Chromolaena odorata* of *c.* 2.5 m height. The birds (photographed) were slightly bigger than Little Greenbul *Andropadus virens*, dark olive-brown above but with the tail more rufous-brown, light brown-grey below but with a paler throat. They had brown-orange eyes, grey-brown sides of the head with light streaks and supercilium, olive-brown eye-stripes, black whiskers and dark grey feet. The lower mandible was paler than the upper mandible, which was dark grey.