

Burkina Faso & Benin 19-29 January 2008



Abyssinian Roller, Mare Darkoye, Burkina Faso, January 2008
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introduction

Where are you going? Where's that, in Latin America? And isn't that dangerous? That's basically how people responded when they heard I was going to Burkina Faso. Well, it's in West Africa and no, despite it belongs to the world's poorest nations, it's one of the safest countries within that region. Burkina is a land-locked nation, bordered by no less than six neighbouring countries: Mali in the north and west, Niger in the east, Ivory Coast in the southwest, Ghana in the south and Togo and Benin in the southeast.



Map 1: Position of Burkina Faso in West Africa

There are three bio-climatic zones in Burkina:

* The Sahelian zone lies in the north of the country. The dry season lasts 8-10 months a year, and the amount of annual rainfall is less than 400 mm. Acacia dominates the shrub and wooded steppes.

* The Sudanian zone, in Central Burkina, has an annual rainfall of less than 900 mm per year. Dry season lasts 7-8 months.

* The Sudano-Guinean sector lies in the west and south of the country. The dry season lasts for 5-6 months and annual rainfall is around 1000 mm. The vegetation is dominated by tree and woodland savannas.

Vogelbescherming Nederland and Naturama, the Dutch and the Burkina BirdLife partners respectively, run a protection programme in Oursi, in the Sahelian north of the country. Around Oursi, there are several large lakes in an otherwise very dry and dusty environment. Large congregations of waterfowl can be found here in winter, including many wintering European birds. These include threatened Dutch breeding birds, like Purple Heron and Black-tailed Godwit. Of the latter species, nowadays classified as Near Threatened, the Netherlands holds a significant part of the world population: reason enough to run a protection programme at the wintering grounds as well. The purpose of this trip was to give members of Vogelbescherming the opportunity to see the work that is done abroad. The trip was organized by the Dutch travel organisation BirdingBreaks. A part of the profit made, is invested in the project. After the visit to Oursi, two localities in the southern savannah zone were visited: Pendjari National Park, just across the border in north Benin, is one of the best places in West Africa for large mammals, and Nazinga Game Ranch, in central Burkina, might be the most rewarding place for birds in Burkina. Seeing as many birds as possible was not the goal of the trip: this was all about visiting the protection programme and having a great West-African experience. Nonetheless we saw 220 species in a land-locked West-African country without any (significant) rainforest. Together with large mammals like elephants and hippo's and all the very friendly people met, plus a little bit of sun during the winter months, turned this trip into a great adventure. We faced some logistical difficulties, however, especially concerning the extension to Benin (it was too far basically). Therefore the programme will be slightly changed in future years. In a birding point of view, the main challenge was that there's virtually no information about the country's avifauna. At the time of writing, this report is probably the most complete source of information available on the net (also see literature below). If you want to see as many West-African specialties, I suggest you go to either Ghana or Cameroon, or wait for Ivory Coast to become safe again. If you want the easiest option in the region, visit the Gambia. But if you are into pioneering, discoveries and willing to add valuable information to one of the most poorly known birding destinations in the world, Burkina is definitely a great choice.

timing

The raining season is generally from May to September. During that period, it's not wise to visit the country for a birding trip. At the end of the dry season, in March-April, a lot of the water holes and lakes have dried up. The coolest months are January-February. A disadvantage is that all weavers are in winter plumage around this time of year. For this family, November is probably better, though it will be hotter!

highlights

The large congregations of wildfowl in Oursi, including many European birds like Garganey, Marsh Harrier, Black-tailed Godwit and Purple Heron; African Finfoot; 28 raptor species, including White-headed Vulture, African Swallow-tailed (or Scissor-tailed) Kite, three snake-eagles, three harriers and six falcons (including Fox Kestrel and African Hobby); two Denham's (or Stanley) Bustards, Chestnut-bellied and Four-banded Sandgrouses; 13 doves and pigeons; three Greyish Eagle Owls; Sudan Golden Sparrow; Sahel *and* Exclamatory Paradise Whydah.



Cut-throat, male, with African Silverbill, near Mare Darkoye, Burkina Faso, January 2008 (© Vincent van der Spek)

missed birds

Black Crowned Crane, Lappet-faced Vulture, Spotted Thick-knee, Bronze-winged Courser, Temminck's Courser, White-bellied and Black-bellied Bustards, Standard-winged Nightjar, Golden Nightjar, Red-necked Buzzard, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, White-throated Bee-eater, Violet Turaco.

acknowledgements

Barend van Gernerden from Vogelbescherming Nederland provided his data from bird observations made during work-related visits in 2005 and 2006. This was a very valuable document, as virtually nothing is known about the avifauna of this country. After our trip, Bernd de Bruijn sent me the bird observations made by a Vogelbescherming delegation that visited Burkina in the same week we did. Some of these observations are included in this report as well, as all sightings add valuable information to the country's avifauna. Barend and Bernd, as well as Fred Wouters, are also thanked for their hospitality during the last evening of my stay in Ouaga. Ed and Laurens from BirdingBreaks.nl are thanked for sending me to this spectacular destination. Last but not least The Kings of Leon are thanked for their *Because of the Times* album. Their music and the landscape blended surprisingly well: a life-saver during the long rides.

logistics

Burkina Faso has no embassy in the Netherlands, but there is one in Brussels, Belgium. My visa was arranged two weeks before departure by one of the commercial visa services (just pick one), for € 76,-. In January 2008 a visa could also be obtained at the Ouagadougou airport. If you want to save the hassle and money of arranging it before departure (in Burkina it was cheaper), check in advance if this is still possible. Make sure you bring three photographs. The visa for Benin was bought at the border, for 10.000 CFA (about € 15,-).

The logistics were arranged by BirdingBreaks.nl. They cooperated with the local travel agency l'Agence du Tourisme (website in French only).

Take cash along (euros or dollars), as it is almost impossible to withdraw money from an ATM. The very few ATM's only accept Visa-cards (MasterCards are **not** accepted). At the

time of writing €1,- was worth 655 CFA. These Central African Francs can be used in a large part of West Africa, including Benin.



Waterhole at Pendjari NP, Benin, 23 January 2008
(© Vincent van der Spek)

literature

At the time of writing, there was only one usable trip report for Burkina Faso, written by T. Louvel, from a trip in January 2004. Check out www.travellingbirder.com. The downside is that this report is in French. The only spot we both visited, is Nazinga. Both field guides mentioned below are excellent and often complementary, so I recommend you use them both on any trip to West-Africa. The mentioned Dutch Birding article is very useful, but not available on the net. Old Malimba-issues can be downloaded from their website.

Tripreports:

- * T. Louvel. Burkina Faso et Mali, January 2004 (in French)

Books:

- * A Guide to the Birds of Western Africa – Nick Borrow & Ron Demeijer
- * A Field Guide to the birds of the Gambia and Senegal – Clive Barlow & Tim Warcher
- * Raptors of the world - James Ferguson Lees & David A. Christie
- * The Kingdon pocket guide to African mammals - Jonathan Kingdon

Articles:

- * Portier, B., C. Lungren & G.H. Oueda (2002). Burkina Faso, more than just bird watching. Dutch Birding 2002: 3, p. 127-141
- * Green, A.A. & J.A. Sayer (1979). The Birds of the Pendjari and Arli National Parks. Malimbus 1, p14-19.



African Elephants, Nazinga Game Ranch, Burkina Faso,
28 January 2008 (© Vincent van der Spek)

equipment

I used a Zeiss diascope (20-60x) and Swarovski 8x42.5 bins. A Canon PowerShot A530 was used for some hand-held digiscoping, and a Nikon D50 with a Nikon 300mm AD AF was used for some 'proper' photography. Even though there's an excellent CD-set for the birds in West Africa, I did not use any equipment to lure in birds.

itinerary

- 19 January:** transfer Ouagadougou – Oursi; night in Oursi campement
- 20 January:** Oursi area (Mare d'Oursi & Yomboli); night in Oursi campement
- 21 January:** Oursi area (Mare Darkoye, Mare Markoye and birding in sahel landscape south of Gorom Gorom); night in Oursi campement
- 22 January:** transfer Oursi – Tagou/Kompienga; night in Tagou Bush Hotel
- 23 January:** Pendjari (Benin); night in Fagou Hotel
- 24 January:** Pendjari (Benin); night in Fagou Hotel
- 25 January:** Pendjari (Benin); night in Porga Bush Hotel
- 26 January:** transfer Pendjari – Ouagadougou; night in Les Palmiers Hotel
- 27 January:** morning transfer Ouagadougou – Nazinga Game Ranch; afternoon Nazinga; night in Nazinga Game Ranch
- 28 January:** Nazinga Game Ranch; night in Nazinga Game Ranch
- 29 January:** morning Nazinga Game Ranch; afternoon transfer back to Ouagadougou; night in Les Palmiers Hotel



Map 2: Burkina Faso - the numbers match the areas visited (see below)

1. Ouagadougou
2. Oursi
3. Tagou
4. Pendjari
5. Nazinga Game Ranch

birding spots

1 Ouagadougou (Sudanian sector)

We did not spend much time in Ouagadougou, but in future years this might change. Naturama will start an educational programme about nature/birds in the large city park of the capitol, the Parc Urbain de Bangré Weogo (or: Ouagadougou Classified Forest). The entrance is in front of hotel Sofitel Simnadé (Portier 2002). Around 200 species have been reported within the boundaries of this park. The boys from Vogelbescherming Nederland birded here and, amongst others, saw Lizard Buzzard, Black Crake, Western Plantain-eater, Common Wattle-eye, Woodland Kingfisher and many Snowy-crowned Robin-chats. Some night birding (permission required) provided Bronze-winged Courser

(new bird for the park), Rufous-necked Nightjar, and, in previous years, Standard-winged Nightjar. Close to the capitol, about half an hour drive to the east, on the road to Fada N’Gourma, Gonsée Classified Forest has even more birds than the city park, including Senegal and Savile’s Bustards, Spotted Thick-knee, Four-banded Sandgrouse, Long-tailed and Standard-winged Nightjars and White-throated Bee-eater (Portier et al 2002): also a very good option for future visits. Birds we saw around our hotel (the recommended Palmiers Hotel) include Hooded Vulture, Laughing Dove, House Swift, African Palm Swift, Red-billed Fire-finch and Village Indigobird.



Sahelian landscape at Mare Yomboli, Oursi, 20 January 2008
(© Vincent van der Spek)

2 Oursi area (Sahelian sector)

From Ouagadougou it takes about six hours to reach Oursi village, in the far northeast of the country. To Dori, the good road is paved. After Dori, there’s a reasonably well maintained gravel road to Gorom Gorom. Between Gorom Gorom and Oursi the unpaved road is also reasonable, though less well maintained. In Oursi we slept in traditional Touareg tents, but small 'bungalows' are available as well. Keep in mind that it gets chilly at night in the Sahel. It is extremely dusty around here, so make sure you pack your equipment well (plastic bags around your photo equipment; pack your stuff immediately after using it et cetera). In this area there are several large lakes (also see introduction). We visited Oursi, Darkoye, Markoye and Yomboli. Other lakes in the area are Tin Edia, Kouyéra, Kisi and Bangao. Thousands of waterfowl occur here, including many European breeding birds like Garganey, Marsh Harrier and Black-tailed Godwit. Naturama and Vogelbescherming Nederland have installed a local site support group. Two of their team members joined us to show us the way to the Darkoye and Yomboli lakes. These are very difficult, if not impossible, to find without assistance. Especially Oursi and Darkoye are exceptionally good for birding. Water birds that are represented in good numbers at Oursi and/or Darkoye include Spur-winged Goose, White-faced (very common) and Fulvous (smaller numbers) Whistling Ducks, Garganey, Comb (or Knob-billed) Duck, Squacco, Grey, Purple and Black-headed Herons, Black and, in smaller numbers, Sacred Ibises. Commonly recorded waders are African Jacana, Collared Pratincole, Spur-winged Plover, Wood Sandpiper, Little Ringed and Kittlitz’s Plovers and Little Stint. Scarcer birds we found were some Lesser Moorhens, a single Whiskered Tern and a Eurasian Curlew (a vagrant according to the map in our field guide). Red-billed Queleas are very common, and move around in huge flocks. A good species that is easy to find here, is the beautiful

Sudan Golden Sparrow. The scrub around the lakes offers good birding, with African birds as well as wintering European ones. Amongst others we saw Black Scrub Robin (2), Common Redstart, Subalpine Warbler (male), Common Whitethroat, Bonelli's Warbler (2), Western Olivaceous Warbler, Northern Crombec and dozens of Turtle Doves. This area is great for seedeaters as well. Try to find small drinking pools near human settlements, sit down and enjoy the very common African Silverbills, Red-cheeked Cordonbleus, Red-billed Firefinches and Village Indigobirds, the less common White-rumped Canaries (during this trip, only seen here), Sudan Golden and Northern Grey-headed Sparrows and the occasional Cut-throat or Sahel Paradise Whydah coming in for a drink! Oursi lake is situated next to sand dunes. At dawn hundreds of Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouses can be seen flying by. We had fly-by's of the sandgrouses in smaller numbers everywhere in the area, and eventually found a perched bird near Gorom Gorom. The night time can be interesting as well: in the base camp in Oursi a White-faced Scops Owl was calling, and a Golden Nightjar – a difficult bird to get by anywhere – was seen by the Vogelbescherming team here as well, but was unfortunately missed by us. We had great views of a Wild Cat at Oursi Lake, just before dusk on the 20th. Overgrazing is a problem, but do try to find an undisturbed area of Sahelian landscape: we found quite a large patch east of Gorom Gorom. Raptors are common here and include Pallid Harrier (several males seen), African Swallow-tailed Kite, Booted Eagle (several), Short-toed Snake Eagle, Grey Kestrel and Lanner Falcon (in all five seen). Price birds in the Oursi area that are not easy to see include White-backed Duck, African Pygmy Goose, Black Crowned Crane, Greater Painted Snipe and the rare Kordofan Lark. The guys from Vogelbescherming Nederland saw two Black Crowned Cranes at the far northern side of Mare d'Oursi.



Sahel Paradise Whydah, male, near Darkoye, Oursi, Burkina Faso,
21 January 2008 (© Vincent van der Spek)



Sudan Golden Sparrow, male, near Mare Darkoye, Burkina Faso,
21 January 2008 (© Vincent van der Spek)

3 Tagou/Kompienga (Sudano-Guinean sector)

Kompienga is an artificial lake situated in the southeast, near the Benin and Togo borders. The total water mass comprises 2 million m³, and 20.000 waterbirds are believed to winter here (Portier et al 2002). We only used this area as a stop-over to Benin. We stayed at the lovely Tagou Bush Hotel, situated on a rocky outcrop at the lake's edge. To get to Tagou, take the Fada N'Gourma - Benin border road. A warning: avoid driving the border road in the dark, as robberies have occurred during the nightly hours. During the day you should be safe. The area east of the road is a large presidential hunting area. There we saw the first five elephants of the trip at a waterhole, right next to the road. Once you reach Pama, the only notable settlement along the road, enter the 8 km dirt road to the west to reach the hotel (there are signs indicating the hotel). Though we did not spend much time here, the area around the hotel was beautiful and tranquil, though the expected large numbers of waterfowl were not seen: around 250 White-faced Whistling Ducks, some Grey Herons and a Long-tailed Cormorant was all we could find. A Grey Kestrel and an African Hobby showed well, some Bearded Barbets were seen, and the only White Wagtail of the trip was ticked off. Around the nice bungalows, Western Olivaceous Warbler and Northern Crombec were found in the scrub. The best was yet to come: a Rock Hyrax was seen at the 'top' of the hotel complex. At dusk, the animal was accompanied by Greyish Eagle Owl! Eventually, the hyrax chased away the eagle owl (I bet he wouldn't dare to do so with a Eurasian Eagle Owl!). The owl was heard hooting all night. Next morning I was surprised to find another owl in the same area: a perched Barn Owl was seen fifty metres away from the spot where the Greyish Eagle Owl was calling the night before.



Grey Kestrel, Tagou Bush Hotel, Burkina Faso, 22 January 2008
(© Vincent van der Spek)

4 Pendjari national park: Fagou & Porga (Sudano-Guinean sector)



Hartebeest, male, Pendjari NP, Benin, 24 January 2008
(© Vincent van der Spek)

This park is situated in North Benin and is named after the Pendjari River, which forms the border between Benin and Burkina. Hardly any information can be found about the birds in this park, though for instance Black Crowned Crane and Pel's Fishing Owl are known to occur. The National Parks of Pendjari, Arly and W together form a large protected area in Southeast Burkina Faso, North Benin and Southwest Niger. From the Tagou Bush Hotel it was about a one and a half hour drive to the park's entrance at Porga, including border formalities. We opted for a transit visa, valid for three days. The Pendjari river forms the border between Benin and Burkina. Big game has become very scarce in West Africa. Pendjari NP is one of the best places to see some of the last remaining big mammals in the region. Mammals are not as common as they are in the more famous parks in other parts of Africa, but are encountered regularly. Throughout the park we saw the following species: Hippopotamus (35), African Elephant (6), Wild Buffalo (50), Warthog (common), Kob (common), Hartebeest (14), Roan Antelope (19),

Waterbuck (1), Bushbuck (1), Velvet Monkey (four, at Porga), Patas Monkey (nine), Olive Baboon (common) and Honeybadger (1). Unfortunately, hunting is an important source of income. It is not allowed to shoot elephants or any of the predators (lions and even cheetahs still occur in the park), but if you pay enough, it *is* possible to, for instance, shoot a Hippopotamus or Buffalo. The mammals, even the monkeys, are therefore rather shy. Unfortunately a lot of the savannah is burnt down especially for the visitors, as it makes hunting and game watching easier: not a pretty sight. I really hope eco-tourism will become more popular, so hunting can be banned in the same way it happened in other parts of Africa. The roads in Pendjari turned out to be very poorly maintained: in fact it was one of the worst roads I have driven been on. Little did we know when we entered the park early in the morning: the drive to the hotel ("campement"), about 90 kilometres, would take us a full day! The area with the (good) cabins is called Fagou – not to be confused with the already mentioned Tagou. We slept here for two nights and, on our last day in Benin, spent another night at Porga. Walking around is allowed in Pendjari, though be careful for elephants, buffaloes, honeybadgers or lions. Night drives are unfortunately forbidden: drivers will get a steep fine for violation of this rule. So there was no night birding to be done for us! The calling Barn Owl in the camp was the only night bird of our stay. Within very short to reasonable driving distance four waterholes can be reached from the hotel grounds at Fagou. Just south of the area there's the large Mare Fagou and just northwest of the base camp, there's the equally large Mare Diwouni: both are less than fifteen minutes away from the camp. More to the west, on the road to the park's entrance at Porga, there are Mare Sacrée (with a great observatory; 45 minutes) and another one I forgot the name of (oops!; one hour). Common and regular birds around the waterholes included Spur-winged Goose, White-faced Whistling and Comb Ducks (Fagou), Woolly-necked Stork, Hamerkop, African Fish Eagle, Marsh Harrier, African Jacana, Marabou Stork (1 at Fagou and a single and a group of 30 at Sacrée), Hadada Ibis, Pied, Blue-breasted, Malachite, and Giant Kingfishers and Swamp Flycatcher. Reportedly Mare Bali, in the centre of the park, is very good. After unexpectedly driving for day within the park to reach the camp a day earlier, we decided to skip this spot. Scarcer birds seen included a Black Stork (one at Sacrée: a scarce bird in West Africa) and two Goliath Herons (one at Fagou and one at the water hole with the forgotten name...). Red-throated Bee-eaters are common throughout the park. A very good spot for birding was the Pendjari river itself. We especially liked the area just northeast of the camp: from the dirt along side it, there are several spots from where the river can be seen. The best bird found was a female African Finfoot. Other birds included African Green Pigeon, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Lesser Honeyguide, African Thrush and Blackcap Babbler. Three Four-banded Sandgrouses came in at dusk to drink. We also birded along the river at the Porga side. A very nice, tranquil place, though not many specialties were seen. Good birds were a Western Banded Snake Eagle and Tawny Eagle, but the highlight was an African Moustached Warbler, a trip exclusive. The savannah in the park was very good for birds, including several species we did not get to see in Burkina Faso. Saddle-backed Stork proved to be quite common (in all 12 seen) and two Denham's (or Stanley) Bustards, just west of the camp, were great birds to watch. Rather cynically, the already mentioned burning of grass proved to be very fruitful for birding. Freshly burnt or still burning patches has an immediate effect on (large) insects, as they start fleeing from the flames. This attracts many birds: good numbers of Northern Carmine Bee-eaters (over 25 around several burnt patches; only five more were seen at other spots), Abyssinian Rollers (high numbers: tens seen), Grasshopper Buzzard (around ten seen; only one more bird seen at another spot) and Fox Kestrel (a pair; another bird was seen at a 'non-burning spot' as well). Raptors were common at the savannah and included quite a lot of White-backed Vultures, White-headed Vulture (5), African Hawk Eagle, Tawny Eagle (2), Bateleur (common), Montagu's Harrier (4), Pallid Harrier, Grey Kestrel (small numbers) and Red-necked Falcon (only one). Heuglin's Wheatear – probably the most boring *Oenanthe* on earth – is common. Other common birds include Helmeted Guineafowl (100s), Double-spurred Francolin (10s) and Pygmy, Scarlet-chested and Beautiful Sunbirds. Scarcer birds included White-shouldered Black Tit (3), African Yellow White-eye (3), Black and Green Woodhoopoes

(several), Little Bee-eater (4), Orange-cheeked Waxbill (dozens) and Exclamatory Paradise Whydah. A pair of Four-banded Sandgrouse gave amazing views, relying on their camouflaging feathers, only two metres away from the jeep. Trip exclusives included Rock Partridge (two birds right at the Porga entrance gate and one just outside the base camp), a Woodland Kingfisher (Porga entrance gate), Bar-breasted Firefinch (5 near Mare Sacrée) and Red-winged Pytilia (2, at the base camp).

5 Nazinga Game Ranch (Sudano-Guinean sector)

This excellent birding spot, situated about 200 km south of Ouagadougou (35 km north of the Ghanan border), is easy to reach. From Ouagadougou, drive south to the town of Po (three hours). Take the good gravel road (to the west) to the park entrance (17 km). From the entrance it's some 20 km to the ranch. The park is 91.300 ha in size and eleven dams have been built to create permanent waterholes. We visited four of these water bodies, and they all had good observatories. The facilities in Nazinga are good. The gravel roads in the park are in a good shape. At the ranch's cabins, electricity is provided from dusk to 21.00 or 22.00 o'clock: just enough time to recharge your batteries. The cabins themselves are very reasonable. A big bonus: the restaurant faces a huge waterhole, where elephants bath and drink every morning. Nazinga is used for the reintroduction of antelopes. Elephants are common in the park, and Wild Buffaloes, Roan Antelopes, Waterbucks and Kobs occur, as well as Velvet Monkeys and Olive Baboons. Apart from the buffaloes, all these animals were actually seen by us, albeit in small numbers. Just like in Pendjari, hunting is also a source of income for the reserve. The hunting and game viewing areas are separated. Common birds throughout the park include Helmeted Guineafowl, Double-spurred Francolin, Hamerkop, Grey Heron, Hadada Ibis, Spur-winged Plover, African Jacana, Malachite Kingfisher, Pied Kingfisher, Pygmy, Scarlet-chested and Beautiful Sunbirds and Purple Glossy Starling. We mainly birded around the waterholes, though without a doubt there are many good birds to be found at the savannah as well. A good waterhole is Barrage Kozougou, on the main road, half way between the entrance gate and the ranch. It has a comfortable observatory. Good birds at Kozougou included Saddle-backed Stork, Senegal Thick-knee (two, with four more seen at other sites in the park), Black Crake (3), African Hobby, Grey Kestrel (2), Four-banded Sandgrouse (2; two more were seen elsewhere in Nazinga), Giant and Blue-breasted Kingfishers (several more at other spots in the park), a Fine-spotted Woodpecker, a Yellow-crowned Gonolek (several more at other spots in the park) and African Oriole. In the rainy season, this is a good spot for White-backed Night-heron. Keep an eye out for raptors throughout the park. We e.g. saw several Dark Chanting Goshawks, African Fish Eagles, White-backed Vultures, Bateleurs, Shikra's and one Beaudouin's Snake Eagle. Many more raptors occur in the area. Other goodies to be found in the more wooded areas include Bruce's Green Pigeon, Rufous-crowned Roller, Senegal Batis, Green & Black Wood-hoopoes and White-shouldered Black Tit. The grounds of the campement (the ranch) hold good birds as well. Apart from the obvious water birds around the waterhole, seedeaters are common and include Yellow-headed Canary (common) and Lavender Waxbill (scarce). Other birds seen: Western Grey Plantain-eater, a flock of four White Helmetcrests, Greater Honeyguide (a few more seen throughout the park), Brown Babbler (common throughout), Red-winged Warbler and, surprisingly, the only Northern Puffback of the trip. Unfortunately, like at Pendjari, night spotting was not allowed in Nazinga. One time we returned at the ranch too late, and we immediately saw two Greyish Eagle Owls along the road! Long-tailed Nightjars (at least three seen) occur around the ranch, where an African Scops Owl was calling both nights. To my surprise, I found yet another Wild Cat while (illegally) spotlighting around the camp. A proper night drive must be brilliant around here.



Greyish Eagle Owl, Nazinga Game Ranch, Burkina Faso,
28 January 2008 (© Vincent van der Spek)



Four-banded Sandgrouse, male, Pendjari NP, Benin,
23 January 2008 (© Vincent van der Spek)

triplist



Saddle-billed Stork, immature, Pendjari NP, Benin, January 2008
(© Vincent van der Spek)

birdnames and systematics

The trends and systematics of Clements (2007) are followed. Proposed splits by other sources are mentioned. For practical purposes the English bird names of Fieldguide to the birds of Western Africa (Borrow & Demey, 2004) are used. Alternative names are given as well. English instead of American spelling is used.

* West African endemic
HO= heard only

birds		
1.	Long-tailed Cormorant	nine at Mare Markoye, Oursi, one at Kompienga lake and one at Nazinga
2.	Grey Heron	small numbers at all wetlands throughout
3.	Black-headed Heron	small numbers at Oursi area, with more than ten seen at Darkoye lake; two seen <i>en route</i> between Ouagadougou and Oursi
4.	Green-backed Heron	regularly seen in small numbers at Nazinga
5.	Purple Heron	small numbers at Oursi wetlands and Nazinga
6.	Goliath Heron	one at Mare Fagou and one at Mare Sacrée, Pendjari
7.	Black-crowned Night Heron	one at Oursi and five at Kozougou Barrage, Nazinga
8.	Cattle Egret	common throughout
9.	Little Egret	small numbers throughout; a large group was seen <i>en route</i> between Oursi and Pendjari
10.	Intermediate Egret	a few seen at Oursi, Nazinga and Pendjari
11.	Great (White) Egret	three in the Pendjari river, right at the Burkina-Benin border, were the only birds seen during the entire trip
12.	Squacco Heron	small numbers in suitable habitat throughout
13.	Hamerkop	small numbers in suitable habitat throughout; highest daycount approx. 25, <i>en route</i> between

		Ouagadougou and Nazinga
14.	Black Stork	one flying over Pendjari NP, at Mare Sacrée: Black Stork is a rare bird in West Africa
15.	Woolly-necked Stork	in all eight birds seen throughout Pendjari NP
16.	Saddle-billed Stork	in all twelve seen throughout Pendjari and one in Nazinga; only three adult-type birds were seen
17.	Marabou Stork	only seen at Pendjari: one at Mare Fagou and a single plus a group of 15 at Mare Sacrée
18.	Glossy Ibis	common at Oursi, where tens were seen
19.	Hadada Ibis	singles or pairs were regularly encountered at Pendjari and Nazinga
20.	Sacred Ibis	small numbers at Oursi
21.	White-faced Whistling Duck	the most common duck: many hundreds seen at Oursi; a group of 120 seen in a small lake <i>en route</i> ; a group of 250 seen at Kompienga and a pair was observed at Fagou (Pendjari)
22.	Fulvous Whistling Duck	not all whistling ducks at Oursi were checked, but only ten Fulvous were noted; should be more common than this
23.	Knob-billed (or Comb) Duck	common at Oursi area; three at Mare Fogou, Pendjari
24.	Spur-winged Goose	common at Oursi area; about 20 throughout Pendjari
25.	Garganey	tens seen in the Oursi area
26.	African Fish Eagle	singles regularly seen in Pendjari (about six birds) and Nazinga (about three)
27.	Bateleur	regularly seen in Pendjari and Nazinga
28.	Hooded Vulture	very common throughout, mainly near human settlements
29.	White-headed Vulture	in all five singles seen at Pendjari, including a nice perched bird
30.	(African) White-backed Vulture	about ten in Pendjari and five in Nazinga
31.	Black Kite (possible split: Yellow-billed Kite)	common throughout near human settlements, so scarce inside the protected areas: ssp <i>parasites</i> is by some taxonomists regarded as a full species: Yellow-billed Kite; apart from the all yellow bill, the birds are more greyish and less striped than the nominate ssp.
32.	Marsh Harrier	small numbers at all marshy lakes throughout; in Pendjari mainly males were seen
33.	Pallid Harrier	only males seen: two adult males and an immature male at Oursi and an adult male at Pendjari; a distant immature bird at Oursi was probably also a Pallid Harrier
34.	Montagu's Harrier	only seen in Pendjari, where three adult males and an adult female were seen in open areas of the park; perhaps Pallid is more common in the Sahel zone, while Montagu's is more confined to the savanna zone
35.	Short-toed (Snake) Eagle	one in the Oursi area, just outside Goram

		Goram
36.	(Western) Banded Snake Eagle	one at Porga, Pendjari, near the river
37.	Beaudouin's Snake Eagle	one at Nazinga
38.	Black-shouldered Kite	one at Mare d'Oursi
39.	African Swallow-tailed (or Scissor-tailed) Kite	this stunner was only seen once, in an undisturbed Sahel landscape just outside Goram Goram, in the Oursi area
40.	Shikra	in all two seen at Pendjari and three at Nazinga
41.	Gabar Goshawk	in all three to four seen in the Oursi area
42.	Dark Chanting-goshawk	one seen <i>en route</i> between Ouagadougou and Oursi and three in Nazinga
43.	Grashopper Buzzard	about ten birds seen at Pendjari, all but one near burnt patches
44.	Tawny Eagle	two at Mare d'Oursi and two at Pendjari
45.	Wahlberg's Eagle	only one seen, <i>en route</i> between Ouagadougou and Oursi
46.	Booted Eagle	three singles seen in the Oursi area, all pale morph birds
47.	African Hawk Eagle	one at Mare Sacrée, Pendjari
48.	Common Kestrel	two seen <i>en route</i> in the Sahel region
49.	Fox Kestrel	this long-winged <i>Falco</i> was only seen in Pendjari, where a pair and a single bird were noted
50.	Grey Kestrel	seen at all visited areas, with a total of eleven birds seen throughout
51.	Red-necked Falcon	only one seen, near Fagou camp, Pendjari: should be more common than this
52.	African Hobby	one at Tagou / Kompienga and one at Nazinga (Kozougou water hole)
53.	Lanner Falcon	in all three birds in the Oursi area: two near Gorom Gorom and one at Mare Yomboli
54.	Helmeted Guineafowl	very common at Pendjari, where the largest group contained 80 birds; a few groups seen at Nazinga
55.	Double-spurred Francolin	common at both Pendjari and Nazinga, where small groups were regularly encountered
56.	Stone Partridge	two at the Porga entrance of National Park Pendjari
57.	Black Crake	in all three seen at Barrage Kozougou, Nazinga
58.	Lesser Moorhen	at least five at Mare d'Oursi and one at Darkoye, all in the Oursi area
59.	Purple Swamphen	common at Mare d'Oursi and Mare Darkoye
60.	African Finfoot	one of the highlights of the trip: a female was seen in the Pendjari river, near the Fagou camp
61.	Denham's (or Stanley) Bustard	two seen, both in the savanna near the Fagou camp, Pendjari
62.	African Jacana	small numbers were seen at all wetlands
63.	Senegal Thick-knee	in all six seen in Nazinga, all at the edges of the water pools; calls of a flying thick-knee at

		night, heard at the Nazinga camp, fitted Spotted Thick-knee better than this species
64.	Black-winged Stilt	common at marshy areas, especially around Oursi
65.	Collared Pratincole	a few birds at several points at Mare d'Oursi
66.	Common Snipe	one at Mare d'Oursi
67.	Black-headed Lapwing	only two seen, near a waterhole at Nazinga
68.	Spur-winged Lapwing	common near water throughout
69.	(African) Wattled Lapwing	eight around Mare Diwouni, Pendjari and three or four at Nazinga
70.	Kittlitz's Plover	only seen at Oursi, where about ten of these smart looking plovers were noted
71.	Little Ringed Plover	small numbers at Mare d'Oursi
72.	Black-tailed Godwit NT	only three birds seen at Mare d'Oursi
73.	Eurasian Curlew	according to Borrow and Demey (2004) a vagrant in Burkina: we saw a bird at Mare d'Oursi; according to George Oueda, from Naturama, they are seen more often here
74.	Little Stint	common at Oursi
75.	Green Sandpiper	small numbers seen in riverine habitat (Pendjari) and a group of flying birds heard at night in Ouagadougou
76.	Wood Sandpiper (1 picture)	common near water (not rivers), mainly in and around Oursi
77.	Marsh Sandpiper	a few at Oursi
78.	Common Greenshank	only one seen, at the Pendjari river near Porga
79.	Common Sandpiper	small numbers seen in riverine habitat (Pendjari) and at the smaller waterholes at Nazinga
80.	Ruff	a few at Mare d'Oursi and a flock of 80 birds at Mare Markoye
81.	Whiskered Tern	an adult winter plumage at Mare d'Oursi; probably a scarce bird in Burkina
82.	Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	several small groups seen flying by in the morning in the Oursi area (in all ca. 25), where one bird was found perched and seen very well during the day, just south of Goram Goram; the Dutch BirdLife team saw 300 flying by at dawn at the eastern part of Mare d'Oursi; we tried the same spot at dusk and saw none!
83.	Four-banded Sandgrouse (1 picture)	a male and a female seen extremely well right next to the car at Pendjari; at the Pendjari river, three birds came in to drink at dusk; four more fly-by's were seen at dusk at Nazinga: a pair near the Game Ranch and two singles at Barrage Kozougou
84.	Bruce's Green Pigeon	three and two birds seen at Nazinga
85.	African Green Pigeon	a group of five seen at the Pendjari river, near Fagou
86.	Speckled Pigeon	small numbers throughout, including Goram Goram village

87.	(European) Turtle Dove	tens at Oursi, often gathered in groups
88.	African Collared Dove	common in the Sahel, e.g. around Oursi
89.	African Mourning Dove	small numbers
90.	Red-eyed Dove	ought to be common, but only seen <i>en route</i> between Ouagadougou and Nazinga (three) and at the Kozougou waterhole at Nazinga (four birds)
91.	Vinaceous Dove	common at the savanna zone
92.	Laughing Dove	common, mainly near human sttlements
93.	Namaqua Dove	common throughout
94.	Blue-spotted Wood Dove	only one bird was securely identified, somewhere <i>en route</i> between Ouagadougou and Fada 'n Gourma
95.	Black-billed Wood Dove	very common in the Savanna throughout; none seen at the Sahel region
96.	Senegal Parrot	small numbers in savanna habitat
97.	Rose-ringed Parakeet	small numbers throughout
98.	Western Grey Plantain-eater	very little seen, with two birds at Porga, Pendjari and two at the Nazinga Game Ranch
99.	Senegal Coucal	seen daily in small numbers
100.	Barn Owl	a beautiful bird seen in daylight at Tagou/Kompienga and a bird heard at night at the Fagou camp at Pendjari
101.	African Scops Owl	mainly heard and briefly seen in the Nazinga camp
102.	White-faced Scops Owl HO	heard at the Oursi camp; members of Vogelbescherming Nederland, the Dutch BirdLife partner, found the bird in the same week, roosting in a large tree during the day
103.	Greyish Eagle Owl (split from Spotted Eagle Owl by Clements)	one at the small hill at the Tagou-resort at Kompienga and two in the dark at Nazinga (of which one was sitting on the road); other authorities regard this species as a ssp. of Spotted Eagle Owl; the main difference with the latter is that this (sub)species has a dark instead of an orange iris
104.	Long-tailed Nightjar	three around the Nazinga camp
105.	Little Swift	common around human settlements ; two distant birds in Nazinga might have been Mottled Swifts
106.	African Palm Swift	common throughout
107.	Malachite Kingfisher	a common kingfisher in both Pendjari and Nazinga; in all 10-20 birds were seen
108.	Pied Kingfisher	common in Pendjari and Nazinga; also seen <i>en route</i>
109.	Grey-headed Kingfisher	one at Pendjari river, near Fagou; one at Pendjari river at Porga and one at Nazinga
110.	Blue-breasted Kingfisher	one at Mare Sacrée, one at another waterhole at Pendjari (forgot the name), one at Mare Diwouni, all in Pendjari; two more at Nazinga, including one at Kozougou

111.	Woodland Kingfisher	one near the Porga entrance, Pendjari
112.	Giant Kingfisher	small numbers at Pendjari and Nazinga
113.	Red-throated Bee-eater	common Pendjari and Nazinga
114.	Little Green Bee-eater	three singles seen in the Sahel zone, including two in the Oursi area (one in the camp)
115.	Little Bee-eater	one <i>en route</i> between Oursi and Tagou-Kompienga; a pair at Pendjari and a pair at Nazinga; surprisingly little seen
116.	Northern Carmine Bee-eater	about 25 seen at Pendjari, mainly near the burning patches of savanna
117.	Abyssinian Roller	common throughout
118.	Rufous-crowned Roller	not many were seen: one <i>en route</i> very near Tagou/Kompienga, two in Penjari (one in the park, one at Porga) and one at Nazinga
119.	Broad-billed Roller	poor views of a bird <i>en route</i> between Oursi and Tagou/Kompienga; this species is possibly more common during the rains
120.	Hoopoe	common around Oursi area; very few seen in the savannah zone
121.	Black Wood-hoopoe (or Black Scimitar-bill)	only two pairs seen at Pendjari
122.	Green Wood-hoopoe	in Pendjari, groups of five and three birds; three at Nazinga
123.	Red-billed Hornbill	small numbers in the Sahel, regular in the savanna zone
124.	African Grey Hornbill	small numbers in the Sahel, regular in the savanna zone
125.	Bearded Barbet	regularly seen in the savanna zone, including three birds on the grounds of the Game Ranch at Nazinga; not seen in the Pendjari park
126.	Veillot's Barbet HO	several heard in Pendjari and Nazinga
127.	Greater Honeyguide	in all four birds seen in Nazinga, including one at the Game Ranch
128.	Lesser Honeyguide	four birds in the Pendjari river, in the Fagou area
129.	Fine-spotted Woodpecker	two at Pendjari and one at Nazinga
130.	Grey Woodpecker	one at Oursi, one at Pendjari and two at Nazinga
131.	Crested Lark	two singles seen at Mare d'Oursi
132.	Chestnut-backed Sparrowlark	very common throughout; in Sahel zone more common than Black-crowned
133.	Black-crowned Sparrowlark	quite common in the Sahel zone, also sharing habitat with former species
134.	Flappet Lark	a group of five at Nazinga, that's it!
135.	River Martin (or Bank Swallow)	a perched bird at Nazinga
136.	Plain Martin	one at Fagou, Pendjari and one at Nazinga
137.	Barn Swallow	one at Nazinga
138.	Red-chested Swallow	the most common swallow throughout; the only three swallow seen around Oursi belonged to

		this species
139.	Mosque Swallow	two seen <i>en route</i> between Oursi and Tagou/Kompienga; a group of five at Nazinga
140.	Pied-winged Swallow*	two singles at Pendjari; a single and a 'pair' at Nazinga
141.	Wire-tailed Swallow	several small groups in open habitat at Pendjari (in all about 15 birds seen)
142.	Common Bulbul	common in the savanna-region, often near human settlements
143.	White Wagtail	one at Tagou
144.	Yellow Wagtail (three species/subspecies involved)	common around water throughout; many Yellow Wagtails remained unidentified; though some males could be identified on a subspecies level: at least three birds in Oursi belonged to the nominate (<i>flava</i>) race, as was one bird in Nazinga; two birds in Nazinga belonged to mainly British <i>flavissima</i> (Yellow-headed Wagtail) race and one bird, also in Nazinga, was a clear male summer plumage <i>cinereocapilla</i> (Ashy-headed Wagtail), a race mainly confined to Italy; some taxonomists regard these subspecies as full species, though this is not widely followed
145.	African Thrush	small numbers at Pendjari and Nazinga, mostly near water
146.	Snowy-crowned Robin-chat	one or two at Barrage Kozougou, Nazinga; the people from BirdLife the Netherlands (Vogelbescherming Nederland) found this bird to be common at Ouagadougou Classified Forest
147.	Common Redstart	males at Oursi camp and Nazinga
148.	Black Scrub Robin	two birds seen near the camp at Oursi
149.	Common Wheatear	common in the Sahel zone
150.	Black-eared Wheatear (by some split off as Western Black-eared Wheatear)	at least two in the Oursi area; some authorities regard the western and eastern subspecies of Black-eared Wheatear as separate species
151.	Desert Wheatear	an immature male at Mare d'Oursi
152.	Heuglin's Wheatear	quite common at Pendjari; several also suspected at Oursi, but all these birds were seen from a driving vehicle
153.	African Moustached Warbler (or Moustached Grass Warbler)	one skulking bird eventually seen well near the Penjari river at Porga
154.	Western Olivaceous Warbler (split from Olivaceous Warbler)	one at Mare d'Oursi, one at Tagou/Kompienga and one at Nazinga; this is a widely accepted split from Olivaceous Warbler
155.	Common Whitethroat	females at Mare d'Oursi and Nazinga; two other females at Nazinga could not be safely identified (Spectacled Warbler not excluded)
156.	Subalpine Warbler	a splendid male at Mare d'Oursi
157.	Senegal Eremomela	regularly encountered in the Savanna region
158.	Northern Crombec	one in the scrub at Mare d'Oursi, right next to

		the camp; one at Tagou/Kompienga; two at Pendjari
159.	Western Bonelli's Warbler (split from Bonelli's Warbler)	several in the Oursi area; this is a widely accepted split from Bonelli's Warbler
160.	Cricket Warbler (or Cricket Longtail)	an in my opinion very smart looking warbler; common in the Oursi area
161.	Red-winged Warbler (or Red-winged Prinia)	three seen around the camp in Nazinga; by some authorities placed right in the <i>Prinia</i> -family, by others in placed in the monotypic genus <i>Heliolais</i>
162.	Tawny-flanked Prinia	small numbers seen in the Savanna region
163.	Rufous Cisticola*	a single bird at Nazinga
164.	Red-faced Cisticola	a small group of three birds at Barrage Kozougou, Nazinga; many unidentified <i>Cisticola</i> 's were seen (the birds were not singing); the West African endemic Dorst's Cisticola was suspected once, in Nazinga
165.	Northern Black Flycatcher	two pairs seen at Nazinga
166.	Swamp Flycatcher	common in Pendjari and Nazinga
167.	Pale Flycatcher	one at Fagou, Pendjari and one at Nazinga
168.	Pied Flycatcher	a female at Mare Sacrée
169.	Senegal Batis*	in all three seen at Nazinga
170.	Blackcap Babbler	four birds seen drinking at dusk at the Pendjari river, near Tagou
171.	Brown Babbler	common at Pendjari and Nazinga
172.	White-shouldered Black Tit (split from White-winged Black Tit by Clements)	two at Pendjari and four at Nazinga; great birds!
173.	(African) Yellow White-eye	two at Porga and two at Mare Sacrée, both Pendjari
174.	Pygmy Sunbird	the least common sunbird, but still regularly seen in the savanna zone
175.	Beautiful Sunbird	common in the savanna zone
176.	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	common in the savanna zone; only one unidentified female type sunbird was seen in the northern Sahel part of the country
177.	Southern Grey Shrike (split from Great Grey Shrike)	fairly common in the Sahel zone; formerly treated as a ssp. (<i>meridionalis</i>) of Great Grey Shrike; this is a widely accepted split now
178.	Woodchat Shrike	in all four seen around Oursi, including one in the camp and one at Pendjari
179.	Yellow-billed Shrike	common in savanna habitat
180.	White Helmet Shrike	for me this was the bird of the trip! four seen <i>en route</i> between Ouagadougou and Nazinga and four birds seen at the Nazinga camp
181.	Northern Puffback	only one: a male at the Rach at Nazinga showed well
182.	Yellow-crowned Gonolek*	about five seen at Pendjari and three in Nazinga
183.	Black-crowned Tchagra	splendid views at Porga, Pendjari where another bird was calling; three seen in Nazinga

184.	African Oriole HO	birds heard at Mare Sacrée, Pendjari and Barrage Kozougou, Nazinga
185.	Fork-tailed Drongo	small numbers at Pendjari and Nazinga
186.	Piapiac	common in savanna
187.	Pied Crow	common throughout
188.	Brown-necked Raven	in all nine birds in the Oursi area, all around Goram Goram
189.	Purple Glossy Starling	common at Nazinga
190.	Greater Blue-eared Glossy Starling	common in the north;
191.	Lesser Blue-eared Glossy Starling	a few in the savanna zone
192.	Long-tailed Glossy Starling	only two seen in the north, but common in savanna
193.	Chestnut-bellied Glossy Starling	common in the north; only a few seen south of Ouagadougou
194.	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	in all nine birds (four and five) on cows in the Oursi area; small numbers on Buffalo's at Pendjari
195.	(Northern) Grey-headed Sparrow	common throughout, especially in the Sahel
196.	House Sparrow	a male at the airport of Casablanca, Morocco
197.	Sudan Golden Sparrow	common at the Oursi area; including a flock of eighty birds near Goram Goram
198.	Bush Petronia	common Pendjari and Nazinga
199.	Speckle-fronted Weaver	five during a short stop between Oursi and agou/Kompienga
200.	Little Weaver	small numbers regularly seen around Oursi
201.	Vitelline Masked Weaver	
202.	Heuglin's Masked Weaver	
203.	Village Weaver	small numbers at Pendjari and Nazinga; two large weavers with pale instead of red irises at Mare Sacrée, Pendjari, were not identified
204.	Red-billed Quelea	very common, with big flocks throughout; more common in the north
205.	Red-headed Quelea	identification might not be solid: birds with pink instead of red coloured bills were occasionally seen among the Red-billed Quelea's
206.	Northern Red Bishop	one bird at Kozougou, Nazinga was very probably a Northern Red Bishop in winter plumage
207.	Yellow-mantled Widowbird	at least twenty birds in a big weaver flock at Nazinga held
208.	Red-winged Pytilia	a single bird at Fagou, Pendjari
209.	Orange-cheeked Waxbill	small flocks throughout Pendjari, always near water
210.	Lavender Waxbill	a nice pair near one of the bungalows at Nazinga Game Ranch
211.	Red-cheeked Cordonblue	abundant throughout
212.	Red-billed Firefinch	abundant throughout
213.	Bar-breasted Firefinch	a small group of five birds near Mare Sacrée, Pendjari

214.	Cut-throat Finch (or Cut-throat)	one male at Mare d'Oursi; a pair at a drinking spot near Mare Darkoye
215.	African Silverbill	common in the Sahel
216.	Bronze Manakin	tens seen in Pendjari, most near the Porga entrance
217.	Yellow-fronted Canary	common at Pendjari and Nazinga
218.	White-rumped Canary	no more than four birds seen in the Oursi area, near Mare Darkoye
219.	Sahel Paradise Whydah	four males (one photographed) and a female in the north seem to belong to this species
220.	Exclamatory Paradise Whydah	two birds (one flying bird photographed) seem to belong to this species
221.	Pintailed Whydah	one winter plumage showed well at Porga, Pendjari
222.	Village Indigobird	small numbers seen throughout, including the Les Palmiers hotel garden in Ouagadougou
223.	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	two at the Pendajri river at Porga and one at Kozougou Barrage, Nazinga

additional species seen by BirdLife the Netherlands in the same week		
1.	Egyptian Vulture	one adult flying over Lake Tinedjar, near Oursi
2.	Lizzard Buzzard	one adult in Bangr Weoogo City Park (Ouaga), one in Parc National Kamboré-Tambi (PNKT)
3.	Red-necked Buzzard	a pair <i>en route</i> to Oursi, between Dori and Gorom-Gorom
4.	Common Moorhen	one in wetland Bangr Weoogo City Park (Ouaga)
5.	Black Crowned Crane	two adults and a young bird at Mare d'Oursi
6.	Bronze-winged Courser	one in Bangr Weoogo City Park (Ouaga) during evening drive
7.	Violet Turaco	two in PNKT
8.	Golden Nightjar	one flying past at dusk, campement Oursi
9.	Red-necked Nightjar	one seen and photographed Bangr Weoogo City Park (Ouagadougou) during evening drive
10.	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	seen and heard at several locations, e.g. Bangr Weoogo City Park (Ouagadougou)
11.	Ethiopian Swallow	one flying over Lake Tinedjar (near Oursi)
12.	Rufous Scrub Robin	one in dry scrub en route between Oursi and Dori
13.	Icterine Warbler	one seen well in Bangr Weoogo City Park (Ouaga)
14.	Western Orphean Warbler	one in dry scrub en route between Oursi and Dori

15.	Willow Warbler	one in Bangr Weoogo City Park (Ouaga)
16.	Singing Cisticola	one in Bangr Weoogo City Park (Ouagadougou)
17.	Zitting Cisticola	one in the scrub at the shore of Mare d'Oursi
18.	African Paradise Flycatcher	Bangr Weoogo City Park (Ouagadougou), PNKT
19.	Common Wattle-eye	one juvenile in PNKT
20.	Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver	several in PNKT
21.	White-billed Buffalo Weaver	fairly common <i>en route</i> north and south of Ouaga, also seen within the town's borders
22.	Green-winged Pytilia	a female <i>en route</i> in dry scrub between Oursi and Dori, and a pair in PNKT
23.	Black-faced Firefinch	a male and a juvenile in PNKT
24.	Golden-breasted Bunting	one <i>en route</i> in dry scrub between Oursi and Dori



Kob, male, Pendjari NP, Benin, 23 January 2008
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mammals

1.	Olive Baboon	common at Pendjari, smaller numbers at Nazinga (three family groups seen there)
2.	Patas Monkey	only two observations at Pendjari, where a family group (about eight animals) and a single one were seen
3.	Green (or Velvet) Monkey	four at Porga, just outside Pendjari National Park; three at the waterhole next to the Nazinga camp; two more were seen by a participant at Tagou/Kompienga
4.	African Elephant	four at a waterhole between Fada N'Gourma and the Benin border, six in Pendjari and over 30 in Nazinga; one matriarch made a

		charge to our car to protect the youngsters, a pulse-raising moment!
5.	rock hyrax sp.	one at the rock formation at Tagou/Kompienga; this animal chased away a calling Greyish Eagle Owl (!)
6.	Wild Buffalo	around 50 in two small and one big herd, Pendjari NP
7.	Warthog (or African Lens Pig)	common at Pendjari, smaller numbers at Nazinga
8.	Hippopotamus	seen in all waterholes of Pendjari; in all around 30 were seen, including fighting males
9.	Kob	common at Pendjari (tens), but no more than ten seen at Nazinga
10.	Hartebeest	a group of ten and two groups of two of this odd-looking animal were seen at Penjari
11.	Roan Antelope	of this smart looking antelope a group of 17 and two single males were seen at Pendjari, and two singles males were also seen at Nazinga
12.	Bushbuck	only one at Pendjari and three singles at Nazinga were observed
13.	Waterbuck	one male at Pendjari and about fifteen (including a group of seven) at Nazinga
14.	Honey-badger	one crosses the road near the Fagou camp at Pendjari
15.	Wild Cat	one seen well in good late afternoon light at Mare d'Oursi and one seen with a spotlight in the Nazinga camp after dusk

NB during the trip several unidentified bats were seen