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Mots classés: Larides - Zetes - search - migration - Africa - Senegal

Baillon

# NEARCTIC GULLS IN SENEGAL

1990

**Ring-billed Gull** - one record :

- one ad. in winter plumage on 12th October 1985 at Palmarin, Sine-Saloum (F. Baillon).

It is the first record for Africa outside Morocco (at least 4 records).

We do not discuss the various explanations developed by Hoogendoorn and Steinhaus about the presence of these species on this side of Atlantic with which we quite agree. We can only add that, as European gulls seen in South America are probably originating from North America (Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus* and Lesser Black-backed Gull *L. fuscus*, Tostain & Dujardin 1989), it is possible that some nearctic gulls seen in West Africa come from Europe. But one cannot exclude that some gulls (e.g. Franklin's and other Larids as Elegant Tern *Sterna elegans*) could arrive in this part of Africa *via* South America and South Africa. Some Senegalese records are from late spring, when many wintering gulls as Lesser Black-backed and Black-headed have left the region. These birds seem to stay in Senegal all the breeding season, even in colony sites, so the late hypothesis of direct American origin cannot be ruled out.

## References

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