

# The Gambia

## Naturetrek Tour Report

10th – 21st November 2023

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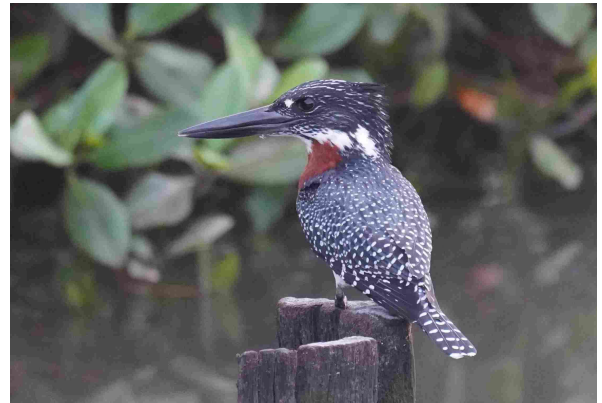
Egyptian Plovers



Red-throated Bee-eaters



African Finfoot family



Giant Kingfisher

Tour report by Andy Bunten, bird photos by David Roden, butterfly list and photos by Mark Searle

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Tour participants: Andy Bunten, Solomon Jallow & Tamba Jefang (leaders), Lamin (driver) with nine Naturetrek clients.

## Day 1

Friday 10th November

Fly London to Banjul; drive to the coast

Following our blissfully uneventful flight from Gatwick to Gambia, we landed to a sunny and hot day at Banjul airport. We picked up our luggage smoothly, negotiated through the many cheerful helpers and boarded the bus that would take us to our hotel – the Bakotu. A circuitous route took us through some great city sights and along a huge earth road in construction before we reached our destination and settled into our rooms.

There was still a little evening light left before we were to meet our main guide Solomon, so some made a quick visit to the nearby Kotu Bridge. In a very short space of time we'd seen Malachite, Giant and Pied Kingfishers, the latter perched on dead trees very close by and diving regularly for fish. Senegal Thick-knee, Common Redshank and Greenshank waded along the shallows while a more energetic dark morph Western Reef Heron chased around the pools.

It was then back to the hotel to meet our guides Solomon and Tamba, as well as the other four members of our party who had arrived earlier in The Gambia.

Briefing over, we adjourned to the restaurant for a very nice meal before some made a quick visit to the lively 'party' going on the beach.

## Day 2

Saturday 11th November

Brufut Forest, Tanji Eco Lodge/beach and Tujereng Sand Pit Pond

We started with a moderately early breakfast and the very friendly service brought us various juices, coffee, pancakes and eggs before we were able to get away towards the Brufut area to spend our morning.

We arrived to find a great deal of energetic activity and waving of machetes which puzzled us for a while until we realised it was the 11<sup>th</sup> of the 11<sup>th</sup> and we were witnessing the annual clearing and tidying of the cemetery.

Once our walk proper started, we were finding birds at a rapid rate. A Lizard Buzzard flew across and disappeared into a tree, while Broad-billed Rollers were more obliging regularly landing close by and circling around above us calling harshly.

We had fun identifying both the song and sight of various doves before we met our guide Tony and moved further into the site. There were butterflies galore too with Acraeas, Swallowtails, Whites and many more.

Hooded Vultures and Yellow-billed Kites soared, while Tawny-flanked Prinias chattered and we enjoyed the various wonderfully coloured sunbirds moving around the tall trees. A female Diederik Cuckoo appeared and gave great views as did a group of Little Bee-eaters and a perched Woodland Kingfisher.

At a welcome water break we saw a couple of Double-spurred Spurfowl shoot passed, plus more gorgeous butterflies and an African Paradise Flycatcher. We entered the denser woodland to the accompaniment of singing Oriole Warblers, Blue-spotted Wood Doves, Grey-backed Camaroptera and a well-hidden Yellow-crowned Gonolek.

It was then time for the grand finale, as Tamba and Tony, the local guide, disappeared into the tangles and, two at a time, called us up to see a cryptically camouflaged and almost invisible Long-tailed Nightjar on the leaf litter. A brilliant experience and all of us wondered one thing – how on earth did they find it?

We then went a short distance to a covered seating area with water provided for the birds (and soft drinks for us). This was wonderful theatre with a host of birds appearing regularly to drink and excellent for the keen photographers. Grass Yellow butterflies flipped around, Wood-doves appeared, as did startlingly coloured Grey-headed and Pygmy Kingfishers, honeyguides, Black-capped Babblers, sunbirds – the list went on and on until we just had to leave for our lunch venue.

Lunch was at the nearby Tanji Eco Lodge and before and after eating we enjoyed a procession of birds visiting a small purpose build pool. Gonoleks lurked in the background while wood doves and a gorgeous Snowy-crowned Robin Chat availed themselves of the water. Lunch included a delicious, if slightly bony, Snapper and after lunch some pottered around the reserve while others were very lucky to get reasonable, if brief, sightings of Red-thighed Sparrowhawk – a very nice bird to catch up with.

We drove down to Tanji and had a wander through the markets and areas where fish was laid out to dry. When we reached the beach, we found lots of Grey-headed Gulls, Caspian Terns, Yellow-billed Kites and various waders including Bar-tailed Godwits, Sanderlings and Ringed Plovers. But it was other memories that will prevail – the amazing smells, sounds and sights of the whole bustling, lively, fishing market experience.

Our final stop was the old sand pit site at Tujereng, but before we arrived, we found a Purple Roller and four very smart Black-headed Lapwings. At Tujereng, we walked across some rough ground before climbing on top of a half-finished house for fabulous views across a flooded old sand extraction site. This proved a fabulous site with perfect views across the wetland area. There were Grey-headed, Malachite and Pied Kingfishers, a Levillant's Cuckoo dashed passed – Senegal Thick-knees, herons and egrets galore!

Wire-tailed, Red-chested and Pied-winged Swallows rounded our day off nicely and it was back to our hotel for another very nicely prepared meal.

## Day 3

Sunday 12th November

Pirang shrimp farm, Sitajoyeh/Baobab Island and area nearby

We had a drip-feed breakfast of coffee, bread, omelette, little pancakes and fruit before we headed off through the busy streets towards the Pirang shrimp farm arriving there around an hour later.

What a fabulous place. We wandered along the tracks between the saline lagoons with hirundines galore swooping across the water. Beautiful Red-chested, Red-rumped and West African Swallows. A cloud of White-billed Buffalo

Weavers exploded from a bush and a more sedate Yellow-billed Shrike surveyed their panicky behaviour with calm equanimity. A juvenile, then an adult, Palm-nut Vulture beat their way passed before briefly landing in a distant tree. Waders scuttling around the exposed mud, included Ringed and Little Ringed Plovers, Common Greenshank, Common Redshank and Common Sandpipers, Curlew Sandpipers and Dunlin. Larger water birds included impressive Yellow-billed Storks and a flock of Greater Flamingos feeding intently on a lagoon. An African Darter flew passed as we approached a pool full of birdlife. A snowy pageant of African and Eurasian Spoonbills, Great and Little Egrets was set out all before us. Large numbers of slightly less than Omo-bright Pink-backed Pelicans helped show off the shining white of the other birds. A sweep through the collection of the gulls brought a few smart rosy-fronted Slender-billed for us. Hamerkops - their strange triangular heads pointing downwards - flew passed and settled in distant earth banks. Smaller birds were available too with Crested Larks and a few very neat Subalpine Warblers searching their way through the low salt marsh bushes. Just before we left this stunning place, we found a lovely male Namaqua Dove and a small flock of calling Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters. A fabulous stop and we left to go to our lunch with some regret.

We reached Boabab Island via a short boat ride to the constant anvil-beat accompaniment of Yellow-fronted Tinkerbirds and the squeaky whistles of Brown-throated Wattle Eyes – *‘Christmas day is eating day’* - was Solomon’s mnemonic. We clambered from the boat into a host of Orange Tip butterflies and made the short walk across the island to the large open dining area. Mauritian Tomb Bats were gathered around the top of the central wooden pillar of the building as we settled down for a delicious buffet meal which included beautiful Butterfish and rich Satay sauce.

After lunch, and in the heat of the day, we had a gentle stroll to see the active Fiddler Crabs waving cheerfully at us and the Mudskippers hauling themselves around among the mangroves. Red-cheeked Cordon Bleus picked around on the ground and a Western Reef Heron stood, statuesque, waiting for its lunch to come within range.

When the heat of midday had dissipated a little, we took the boat back from the island and walked the short distance to a hide area where small ponds and drinking baths were irresistible to the birds.

Greater and Lesser Honeyguides appeared, a beautiful Northern Red Bishop in his finery, a brief appearance of a Fine-spotted Woodpecker, gorgeous Black-rumped Waxbills, a familiar Common Redstart and a very handsome Bearded Barbet among many other guest appearances. A fabulous place to sit and wait for the birds to come to you.

We had one more spectacle to come to round off the day – a pair of Greyish Eagle Owls perched high in a tree in the woods. As with the nightjar we wondered how Solomon found them.

After this *pièce de resistance*, we headed back to our hotel to get ready for our busy day tomorrow

## Day 4

Monday 13th November

Kotu to Tendaba, via Pirang Quarry Road, Albert's Hide area & Kampanti/ Raptor bridge

This morning we were able to order some packed breakfasts and so left early for our trip to Tendaba Camp.

Our first stop was for breakfast and we tucked in to our delicious hard-boiled eggs and jam sandwiches in Pirang Quarry road. Grizzled Skippers and Small Orange Acraeas were warming up in the sun near the coach and we had good views of Yellow-fronted Tinkerbirds, Beautiful Sunbirds and Grey Hornbills.

We headed on stopping occasionally for such delights as a telephone wire full of wondrous Blue-bellied Rollers and a very foppish looking Long-crested Eagle perched on a tree top. We parked here by The Blessed Holy Trinity Church while we watched Northern Red and Black-winged Red Bishops with Mosque Swallows flying around – very apposite!

Our next stop was signposted as Albert's Photo hide and we went for a walk along the track there finding a few Cisticolas – hearing Singing and seeing Whistling. A few Mottled Spinetails shot passed and we saw the very charismatic Bateleur Eagle switching around in the sky. A super bird. We had brief views of Northern Crombec, Grey-backed Camaroptera and Yellow-bellied Hyliota – a secretive trio. A distant Wahlberg's Eagle flew, crucifix-like, across our vision while a much better-behaved Striped Kingfisher perched perfectly nearby to allow telescope scrutiny.

We made our way back to Albert's eponymous hide finding Dark Chanting Goshawk, Woolly-necked Storks and subtly beautiful Guinea fowl butterflies as we did so.

We had our lunch at the hide which overlooked a small pond attracting Cordon Bleus, Wood Doves, a fine Village Indigobird and highly smart looking Black-rumped Waxbills. Another Bateleur did its aerial acrobatics for us we left Albert's and drove a few miles to Kampanti (or Raptor Bridge) where we found an African Harrier-hawk, calling Woodland Kingfisher and swooping Wire-tailed Swallows.

Arriving at Tendaba camp around 15.00 we found we could go almost immediately on a boat trip so hurried down to the jetty to join the large open vessel.

We crossed the 2km width of The River Gambia before disappearing down a narrow creek. Mangrove Sunbirds flitted across our bows and we found their delicate dangling nests; Monitor Lizards, Fiddler Crabs and Mudskippers moved around the mangrove mud banks.

A Blue-breasted Kingfisher shot passed and we found trees decorated with White-throated, Blue-cheeked and European Bee-eaters. Dazzling.

There were Woolly-necked Storks among the various egrets and Whimbrels, Common Greenshanks and sandpipers flew up calling with every twist and turn of the narrow creek. Raptors included a Beaudouin's Snake Eagle high overhead, a Palm-nut Vulture much closer, and a wonderful adult African Fish Eagle that seemed to follow us around, popping up on the tops of trees by the river side.

Pride of place went to the White-backed Night Herons amazingly picked out by Solomon as we moved past a tangle of mangroves. Though they were deep in the vegetation we were able to get good views and see the all-important white eye ring.

Soon it was time to head back to camp, although a final treat awaited us as we saw clouds of Little Swifts (including some nesting under the jetty), together with a wonderful sunset to welcome us back to dry land.

## Day 5

**Tuesday 14th November**

Tendaba to Janjanbureh, via the north bank, Soma Wetlands, 'Solomon's Pool', Kaur & Wassu Quarry

An early and delicious breakfast as dawn was breaking and we were off on the road for our lengthy journey to Bansang Camp.

We'd hardly got going before we stopped as a very smart white-rumped accipiter dashed across the fields and into a tree – Gabar Goshawk. It had landed in a perfect spot so we 'scoped it, comparing and contrasting with a nearby perched Shikra.

A Dark Chanting Goshawk perched on a bush top on route to our first official stop of the day at Soma Wetlands – here Spur-winged Geese and Northern Pintail loafed in the water and we had a flypast of White-faced Whistling Duck.

We were noticing a lot of beautiful Abyssinian Rollers on wires as we were waved through various checkpoints.

Our next stop was a bit of a raptor fest with Black-shouldered Kite, Beaudouin's Snake Eagle and Grey Kestrel in quick succession. A huge flock of storks appeared in front of us – 99% Woolly-necked Stork but with just a few Black Storks amongst them. A group of Patas Monkeys kept us entertained for a while before another flock of storks also held an interloper, this time a Griffon Vulture.

A brief walk through the recently harvested peanut fields to look for Savile's Bustard proved unsuccessful, but we did find some Black-headed Lapwings.

Our next stop was Solomons Pool where there was a great deal of activity. A tall tree held a menacing Lanner Falcon that occasionally took off to circle around, causing great consternation among the host of Cut-throat Finches, Village Weavers, Red-billed Queleas, bishops and Chestnut-backed Sparrow Larks that were drinking at the pool. Also in the trees were tear-drop shaped Namaqua Doves and our first Sahel Paradise Whydah - its improbable tail making it look like a perched weather vane

Heart rates rising we carried on for another five minutes to the Kau-ur Wetlands where swallows and Little Swifts swooped and Knob-billed Geese flew passed. Then we found our main bird of the day – Egyptian Plover. There were three to begin with and two were very approachable and just as beautiful and striking as we'd imagined.

After feasting our eyes, we began to notice a lot of other birds too – Woolly-necked Storks this time harbouring some gorgeous Black-crowned Cranes, a pair of Montagu's Harriers, Collared Pratincole, a beautiful Grasshopper Buzzard and a perched Brown Snake Eagle.

Lunch was on a slightly higher area with commanding views over the river and chance to relax in temperatures now reaching around 37 degrees C.

Around 14.30 we had a walk around the Njau Wetlands site with plenty of very thirsty cattle in attendance. We found our first fabulous Red-throated and African Green Bee-eaters and then more wonderful Egyptian Plovers - again giving magnificent views. A lovely Pygmy Sunbird and three Kingfishers; Woodland, Malachite and Pygmy rounded off our time at this wonderful spot and we left with the air full of West African Swallows

At Penchang there were Western Cattle Egrets lined up on the other side of the pool like contestants in a competition, and African Wattled Lapwings stalked about on damp grassland. More raptors were seen here including Western Marsh Harrier, colourful Grasshopper Buzzards, Beaudouin's Snake Eagle and a perched juvenile Brown Snake Eagle that had us guessing for while.

We called in to Wassu Quarry to pay homage to the colony of fantastic Red-throated Bee-eaters and then to the UNESCO site to do the same with the impressive standing stones there, collecting Blue-bellied Roller and Anteater Chat on route.

The next stage our journey involved hopping onto a ferry to cross to Janjanbureh Island, a feat we managed without incident, and then over the bridge the other side. Waiting for the ferry we collected another new species, a delightful, small Swamp Flycatcher.

The final part of our long day saw us rolling into the new camp at Bansang. A great location but still undergoing some construction work so it took us a little while to locate and settle into our rooms, but then we foregathered in the dining area for a good meal and, of course, the daily list.

## Day 6

Wednesday 15th November

River cruise, local walk around camp

Our early breakfast of omelette and papaya quickly consumed, we headed off back to Janjanbureh Island for our boat trip. We crossed the river in our small boat and were amazed to see another Egyptian Plover on a jetty - the first time Solomon had seen one in this area. Also present were Hamerkops, Squacco Herons, Palm Swifts dashing around the palms and a Broad-billed Roller croaking away above us. We came across several large Monitor Lizards, some with very lengthy tails, plus some strikingly good views of kingfishers -Woodland, Pied, Malachite and the stunning Grey-headed. Surely, we thought, this bird deserves a more suitable name!

We heard a calling African Fish Eagle, singing Oriole Warblers and Brown-throated Wattle Eyes, but were lucky to catch a glimpse of a Black Rail darting into the foliage. We also had good views of Green Wood Hoopoes, a shining blue Violet Turaco and a couple of lovely Bruce's Pigeons, the male's yellow breast gorgeous in the sun.

Low down by the river, there were a host of Black-headed Weaver colonies with birds diving into the nests as we floated passed. Also using this low, dead, scrubby vegetation were Swamp Flycatchers which flipped up and back to their perches much like our Spotted Flycatchers do at home. A double adrenaline rush came with a crocodile floating, classically log-like, in the water near us and a troop of beautiful Red Colobus Monkeys crashing around in the mango trees.

We'd just found our little group of Green Wood Hoopoes again when the boatman spotted a Hippo. Initially we only saw its back but gradually more bits of its anatomy appeared and eventually we saw its huge head as it surfaced and gazed balefully at us. The sighting of an Olivaceous Warbler in the bush above the Hippo's head, seemed slightly trivial in comparison.

As we headed back, we had a wonderful view of an African Harrier Hawk doing its thing of attaching itself to a tree trunk and flapping its wings to keep balance while probing around in holes with its long legs feeling for likely prey. An African Grey Woodpecker sunned itself against a tree trunk, a Blue-bellied Roller flew overhead and juvenile Black-crowned Night Herons lurked in the undergrowth as we drifted serenely along.

A Purple Heron was new for the trip as was a Hadada Ibis near to its nest site. Raptors appeared including Marsh Harrier, White-backed Vulture, Grasshopper Buzzard and Wahlberg's Eagle.

Our boat trip over we made our way back for lunch via a Gabar Goshawk and a short stroll which produced Black-headed Lapwing, Piapiac and a calling Levantine Cuckoo.

The afternoon, post a delicious fish lunch, was spent relaxing and catching up with domestic chores until we went for a gentle walk in the late afternoon, finding Beautiful Sunbird, Bronze-tailed Starling, with neon red eyes, calling Pearl Spotted Owlet and a Gambian Sun Squirrel doing a tightrope walk along a high wire.

Then it was relax, enjoy the beautiful surroundings and wildlife on the site, another beer with the evening meal and, of course, the list.

## Day 7

Thursday 16th November

Bansang Quarry, Bansang Rice fields, boat trip from Janjanbureh Island

Another restful night with the lovely and familiar sound of Pearl-spotted Owlets in the early pre-dawn as we made our way down for breakfast and then off to visit, initially, Bansang Quarry.

We'd hardly got 20 yards though before Solomon picked up a falcon in a tree – Red-necked Falcon. As we watched it, a Yellow-crowned Gonolek called, sounding like a child's toy ray-gun, and a Bronze-tailed Starling joined a pair of Northern Puffbacks in a tall Eucalyptus.

We stopped outside a fast-food outlet where some astonishingly shiny Purple Glossy Starlings, looking newly varnished, grubbed around the old packaging on the floor while a regal and equally beautiful Abyssinian Roller remained aloof on a wire, occasionally sallying forth to grab a passing insect.



Arriving at Bansang Quarry we spent the first hour and half hardly moving from our bus, as a fig tree was proving irresistible to a variety of different birds. Lemon-yellow Bruce's Green Pigeons caught our eye initially while a Red-throated Bee-eater also shone on the tree as both Shikra and Levaillant's Cuckoo came to perch. We were then treated to an extraordinary vocal chorus of African Grey Hornbills displaying vigorously, tossing their heads back, attracting more hornbills in. A wonderful call to prayer. Nearer to the ground, we got engrossed in a Hibiscus discussion and had rather shameful fun enticing an Ant Lion to shower our pretend ant with sand from the bottom of its pit. A Harrier Hawk scuttled predatorily along a wall looking rather like Groucho Marx approaching a buffet.

Walking to the nearby quarry we saw large numbers of Sand and House Martins with Red-breasted Swallows scattered amongst them. A Giant Kingfisher was well found, perched in a tree overlooking the quarry. The quarry itself held Yellow-fronted Canaries, Sahel Bush Sparrows, and an elusive Gosling's Bunting of which we all, eventually, managed at least a brief glimpse. Inevitably this smorgasbord of passerines attracted raptors and Shrika and Gabar Goshawk were both very evident. A little pool attracted West African Swallows, Little Swift, Chestnut backed Sparrow Lark, a few startlingly beautiful Red-throated Bee-eaters, a nice Black-billed Wood Dove and a wonderful Blue Pansy butterfly. Red-chested Swallows were perched along the wire as we drove a short distance to rice fields where more or less our first sight was a massive fish (27 kilo it transpired) being sliced up. Apparently, it was a Lady Fish and had been snapped up by a private buyer for around £100 – we hoped he had a big freezer as we watched it being expertly sliced into huge steaks.

We added Black-headed Heron to our list and a lovely African Fish Eagle which circled overhead, and we encouraged some young boys to shin up a tree and bring down some old netting which had blown up there causing a deadly hazard to birds.

Then it was back to the camp for lunch and to shelter from the heat of the day before heading out again at 15:00, seeing a Banded Mongoose which shot across the road in front of us as we headed back to Janjanbureh Island.

Here we caught the same boat as yesterday, but this time headed upstream in search of the one key bird we missed yesterday.

We had views of Hadada Ibis and a lovely Broad-billed Roller before spotting two brown and slightly crested Wahlberg Eagles on a palm tree. Woodland and Blue-breasted Kingfishers appeared before we finally found our quarry – Finfoot! A lovely female with two young birds. Moving away from them towards the middle of the river we were able to have long and excellent views of this much sought after bird.

We toasted our success with the boatman's Coke and Fanta and headed back to our camp for our last night in this wonderful spot before making our way back west again tomorrow.

Another great day.

## Day 8

Friday 17th November

Transfer to Tendaga Camp via brief stops and Jahaly Pachar Rice fields; afternoon camp walk

We bade farewell to Bansang this morning. A pair of Violet Turacos waved us off, and we headed westwards.

A little after Janjanbureh Island we stopped for a walk out to a few scattered trees. Purple Roller, Levillant's Cuckoo, Rose-ringed Parakeets and a Bearded Barbet were all in a large tree but our main quarry, Verreaux's Eagle Owls, were found a little later in a nearby tree – three wonderful birds which we were able to admire through the scope at leisure. Such raptors attract mobbing of course, and a gang of Long-tailed Glossy Starlings were hell bent on making sure the owl knew it was not welcome here!

A little while later, while Solomon was talking to a man involved in looking after this owl site, we added to our owl list with a nest of young, and then adult, Barn Owl. In a barn.

At Jahaly Pachar rice fields we stretched our legs with a nice stroll among some spectacular Water Lilies and purple flowers - Morning Glories? The debate raged. A Black Crake stalked across the road in front of us, and another scuttled across the lily pads. Distant views of Winding Cisticola and even more distant views of Black Coucal kept the keeper of the telescope on his toes. There was an abundance of Dragon- and Damselflies and some lovely butterflies including Common Sailor. The usual egrets, herons and plovers were around, along with Red-necked Falcons and Whinchat – a familiar sight from home.

Our next stop was to search for the very tricky Spotted Thick-knee. We parked up but before anyone had set foot out of the bus it was spotted (pun intended) by some very sharp eyes.

It was very close by, so we were able to study it for some while as it stood motionless in the way Thick-knees do. A beautiful bird.

We had a very brief pond stop where we saw Wire-tailed Swallows, various other hirundines, Yellow-crowned Bishop and Red-billed Queleas before we were off again.

Lunch time was approaching so we sped past Dark Chanting Goshawks and Brown Snake Eagles perched on tree tops until we came to a small town near Soma where we took sustenance on board.

Soon after lunch we arrived at Tendaba Camp, re-took possession of our former rooms for a wash and brush up before venturing forth for a couple of hours in the cooler later afternoon.

Our local walk found Vieillot's Barbet, a few Brown-backed Woodpeckers and a stunning White-rumped Seed eater. We were teased by a White-shouldered Black Tit before we sat in a small hide overlooking a pond which attracted Yellow-fronted Canary, a brief Northern Yellow White-eye, Black-rumped Waxbills, Cordon Bleus and some elegant doves. An excellent opportunity for the enthusiastic photographers in our group to get some good shots.

Then it was back to the camp for a welcome shower/beer/water before our ever-bulging list and some more exceedingly good food.

## Day 9

Saturday 18th November

From Tendaba to Bakotu via Batling Track/Kiang West Park and Jamora Lodge

We had our customary excellent, and exceedingly cheerily served, breakfast at Tendaba Camp before heading off westwards once again.

Shortly after leaving the camp, we took a right turn down the Batling Track with Lamin and Tamba having to clear some substantial branches to allow us through without sweeping the luggage off the roof. A herd of cattle had some Yellow-billed Oxpeckers with them before we parked up and had a wander down the track with dry woodland either side of us. We heard a Brubru calling – a rather apposite (and onomatopoeic) Brr-brrr call. Eventually we were able to find this rather neat little shrike as well as a Senegal Eremomela. A Vieillot's Barbet made a much better fist of showing its striking plumage than the previous day, though the Lesser Blue-eared Starlings that shot passed could have lingered longer.

A low bush held a Chestnut-crowned Sparrow Weaver which we were able to see through the telescope and a pair of Splendid Sunbirds were, well, splendid.

There was the usual constant pooping of Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird and the repetitive chuckling of Vinaceous Doves while we watched the smart Bruce's Green Pigeons and a Variable Sunbird. More excitement as a pair of gorgeous White-crested Helmet Shrikes was spotted by the ever-sharp-eyed Anne-Marie and we had our best, and closest, views yet of a lovely Grasshopper Buzzard perched just a few yards away. A tree was suddenly full of Senegal Eremomela, Pygmy Sunbirds, Chiffchaff and Northern Crombec before they all dashed off again leaving us free to admire a Brown-backed Woodpecker.

From the bus we saw a pair of Lanner Falcons, a Blue-breasted Roller and a Helmeted Guineafowl dashing across the road. Two Pink-backed Pelicans soared overhead and a Bateleur did its normal acrobatics before we turned into Jamora Lodge for a lovely meal of fish and chips (or rice)

After lunch as the heat was dissipating (a little) we went for a walk to the mangroves, but it was still probably too hot – our catch was a Senegal Thick-knee, a Whimbrel and a Curlew

We stopped a little later for a walk along a track that opened out into a maize field and although we could hear Stone Partridges even Tamba's beating skills couldn't find them.

We returned to our bus with the sound of a Whistling Cisticola ringing in our ears and headed back to our very first Hotel- the Bakotu.

Before we got there, we had two pieces of drama -the first was a troop of very active tumbling, wrestling Banded Mongooses on the road, and the second was a puncture on a crowded track next to the in-construction motorway.

Lamin and Tamba quickly sorted this and we were back in time to settle down, do our list and get ready for the next day of adventures.

## Day 10

Sunday 19th November

### Abuko, Lamin Lodge and Lamin Rice Fields

After a long day yesterday, we treated ourselves to a more relaxed breakfast this morning and indulged in omelettes and Gambian pancakes before heading off to Abuko forest.

As we entered this Gallery Forest, we heard Snowy-crowned Robin Chat and saw a Red Colobus Monkey right above our heads peering down at us disinterestedly.

Even though it was early the butterflies were appearing with African Spirits, like our Wood Whites, fluttering around and clouds of tiny African Grass Blues.

A Gambian Sun Squirrel scuttled along a branch before we entered the hide to look over the Crocodile Pond. And aptly named too, as a large Crocodile did its log impersonation trick in the middle of the pool while another reptile, a Monitor Lizard, moved slowly directly beneath where we sat. Violet Turacos appeared their heads shining red in the sun. The sun also picked out the bright red beak of a Woodland Kingfisher motionless in a tree across the water.

A couple of Squacco Herons posed perfectly on a dead stick in front of our elevated hide and Shikra, Palm-nut Vulture and an African Harrier Hawk all performed in our tableau.

We left the hide and walked slowly through this open and interesting forest with butterflies appearing wherever we went. Plenty were seen during the day and we recorded our 50<sup>th</sup> species for the trip.

As is often the way with forest birding we started to have glimpses – glimpses of Green Guinea Turaco, glimpses of Little Greenbul, glimpses of Yellow-breasted Apalis and glimpses of Collared Sunbird. However, the latter two birds redeemed themselves providing excellent views for all as they went about their insect hunting business.

A Brown-throated Wattle eye – also a previous glimpser -suddenly became more exhibitionist and we listened to its squeaky song remembering Solomon's accurate pneumatic.

A day's highlight followed with fantastic views of the normally invisible Oriole Warbler which we watched for a good ten minutes, with Pearl Charaxes butterflies also putting in an appearance for the only time on our trip. We tried not to engage with the habituated Vervet Monkeys at the top of the trail but enjoyed the huge number of close Hooded Vultures sunbathing, wings akimbo, on the ground

We made our way back through this reserve, hearing, but unable to see Splendid Glossy Starling, before driving to Lamin Lodge in the mangroves for a most agreeable lunch and opportunity to shelter from the heat of the day. Here, in comfort, we could watch over the mangrove and see Common Sandpipers, Ospreys and various terns as well as the antics of the posh boats talking groups of lively passengers out for a jolly time.

After lunch we walked around the Lamin Rice fields where we found a Northern Black Flycatcher, an obliging Lizard Buzzard and less obliging Grey Kestrel before the end of the day (after the Oriole Warbler perhaps) a lovely Pearl-spotted Owlet.

A great end to a great day before we battled through Serrekunda and got back to our hotel in plenty of time for a wash and brush up and some rehydration before listing and eating.

## Day 11

Monday 20th November

Kartong marshes and beach; Peace of Mind restaurant and Tanji Bird Reserve

An early start with a very quickly prepared packed breakfast and we hurried through busy streets making good time to arrive, an hour and twenty minutes later, at a small pool where we had our boiled eggs and jam sandwiches. Delicious.

While we ate, we found Giant Kingfisher, Little Bee-eater, a juvenile Harrier Hawk and a large palm leaf in the distance that had us convinced it was a motionless heron for some time. We also found another Policeman butterfly.

We headed to the very impressive wetlands of Kartong where we found hundreds of White-faced Whistling Ducks, a host of Black Herons amongst many different herons and egrets and spoonbills.

African Swamphen flew past briefly but end of the morning were two beautiful Pygmy Geese which remain fairly close giving good scoping opportunities.

A Splendid Glossy Starling toyed with us again – this time a distant in-flight individual.

Caspian Terns rasped overhead, and we found a Patas Monkey in a tree as we made our way down the path to where an international group of people were carrying out ringing studies coordinated by Kartong Bird Observatory. We had close-up views of delicate Subalpine Warblers and Black-billed Wood Doves.

To the beach where there were large number of seabirds - Sandwich, Caspian and African Crested together with smaller terns – Common. Our birds of the beach were three pale White-fronted Plovers - very similar to Kentish.

The beach itself had many cuttlefish 'bones' on the strand line and various fish including Butterfish (which we'd been often during our stay) their huge teeth making them look like parrot fish, and also a couple of Puffer fish - one replete with spines. Hooded Vultures and Pied Crows were tucking into this seaside feast.

Then after a refreshing freshly squeezed orange at the Brown Bobbee Refreshment Centre (or beach shack), we made our way to our lunch stop at the Peace of Mind restaurant for a relaxing meal of .... Butterfish and a siesta while we potted gently around the grounds of the restaurant redolent with Fiddler Crabs.

Our final post-lunch stop was at Tanji Bird reserve where we found various waders including Ringed and Grey Plover, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone and Common Sandpiper. In the dune vegetation we heard Yellow-fronted Gonolek and saw Bearded Barbet and both Red-billed and Grey Hornbills.

Then it was back to our hotel for more good food and good listing.

## Day 12

Tuesday 21st November

### Fajara Golf Course & return to UK

In a bold and daring break from tradition, we decided to postpone our breakfast on this, our final day, and headed out at first light with Solomon and Tamba for a look around Kotu Creek and the environs.

At the famous Kotu Bridge we had good views of the elusive Oriole Warbler and equally elusive White-crowned Robin Chat. A Broad-billed Roller soared overhead, very raptor-like, while a Yellow-crowned Gonolek called from deep inside a bush. The usual herons, egrets, kingfishers and waders were in evidence at this fabulous place.

We strolled round the creek finding Purple Heron, Red-cheeked Cordon Bleus, Red-billed Firefinches and a handful of perched Blue-breasted Kingfishers. Rose-ringed Parakeets and Senegal Parrots inhabited a Palm Tree while a nearby bush produced Greater Blue-eared Starlings, a Glossy-backed Drongo, African Grey Woodpecker, Beautiful Sunbirds and a relatively bold Yellow-crowned Gonolek.

No trip is complete without its sewage farm and ours produced Black-winged Stilts, Common Sandpipers, Hamerkop and a group of suitably hunched Hooded Vultures. We added Wood and Green Sandpiper, African Jacana and Black Crake at a pond with large plastic blue Hippo and Yellow Crocodile but our morning was made complete by finding another Pearl-spotted Owlet and a finale of a host of starlings, sunbirds, babblers and buffalo-weavers mobbing something nasty (a snake?) in a dense bush. A beautiful cacophony.

Then it was back to the hotel to say a very fond farewell to our two splendid guides Solomon and Tamba and to relax into our delayed and very welcome breakfast.

Five of our group were staying behind for an extra day or two so the departing four headed off to airport around midday for a smooth flight back to cold, cloudy England.

My thanks to the group for being such a pleasure to be with, for such fascinating and eclectic conversations, for being so sharp-eyed and for sharing their photographic and camera-fixing skills so generously. A special mention for Mark for adding immensely to our trip with his butterfly knowledge.

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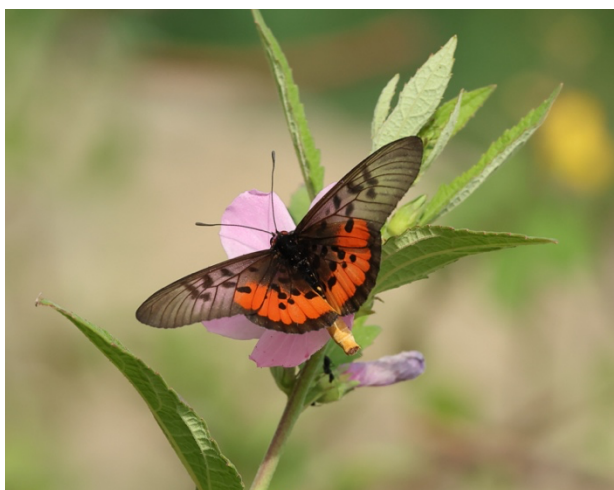
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Elegant Acraea and Common Dotted Border by Mark Seale

## Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	November 2023											
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>					✓		✓				✓	✓
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>					✓							
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>					✓							
African Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>											2	
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>					✓							
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>									✓			
Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>						H			H			
Double-spurred Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>		✓			✓	✓			✓	✓		
Long-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i>		1										
Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>				✓				✓				
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>				✓								
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Western Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Violet Turaco	<i>Tauraco violaceus</i>						✓	✓	✓		✓		
Guinea Turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>										✓		
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black Coucal	<i>Centropus grillii</i>								✓				
Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>		1				H	✓	✓				
Diederik Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>		1										
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>		✓	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>	H	✓	H	✓	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Common name	Scientific name	November 2023											
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>		✓	✓	✓		H						
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>			1	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Bruce's Green Pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓			
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>							3					
African Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>											✓	
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>						✓		✓				✓
Black Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica pavonina</i>					✓							
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>			✓									
Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>	1	7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>								3				
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>											✓	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			✓		✓						✓	✓
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus tectus</i>		4			✓	✓						
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>	3	✓			✓						✓	
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			✓								✓	
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		✓	✓								✓	
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			✓									
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>											✓	
Egyptian Plover	<i>Pluvianus aegyptius</i>					✓	✓						
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>		✓			✓			✓		✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓			✓	✓
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		H							H			
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>		✓										
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		✓									✓	
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>			✓									
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		✓	✓								✓	
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>			✓									
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					✓							✓

Common name	Scientific name	November 2023											
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	1		✓								✓	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>												✓
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	1		✓	✓	✓						✓	✓
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>					✓							
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>			✓									
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>		✓	✓							✓	✓	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		✓									✓	
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>			✓	✓						✓	✓	
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		✓	✓								✓	
West African Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus albidorsalis</i>											✓	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>											✓	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		✓									✓	
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>			✓	✓								
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>					✓							
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>				✓	✓							
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>								4				
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>			✓	✓			✓				✓	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>			✓									
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>						✓	✓					
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>			✓								✓	
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>			✓								✓	
White-backed Night Heron	<i>Gorsachius leuconotus</i>				6								
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>						✓					✓	
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>			✓			✓	✓			✓		H
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>						✓		✓			✓	✓
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	

Common name	Scientific name	November 2023											
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>				✓		✓		✓				
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>			✓							✓	✓	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>			✓	✓	✓				2	2	✓	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		✓	✓		✓					✓	✓	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>					✓							
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>				✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>			✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>						✓		✓				
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>					✓			✓				
Beaudouin's Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>			✓	✓	✓							
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>					✓			✓				
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>				2					✓			
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>				1		✓						
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>				1		✓	2					
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>		1		1				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>					✓	✓	✓					
Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>				1	✓			✓	✓			
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>		2		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-thighed Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter erythropus</i>		1										
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>					✓	✓		✓			✓	
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓										
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>					2							
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>				2			✓					
Grasshopper Buzzard	<i>Butastur rufipennis</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓			
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>								✓				
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>				H		H	H	H		✓	H	✓
African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>					✓	H						

Common name	Scientific name	November 2023											
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Greyish Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>			2									
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>								3				
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>						✓		✓	✓			✓
Western Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus kemp</i>	1	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Pied Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros fasciatus</i>		1										
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>		✓				✓		✓				
Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>		1		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>		✓				✓	✓					
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>				1								
Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>				✓		✓	✓					✓
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>		1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>		✓	✓		✓			✓				
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>	1	✓			✓	✓		✓				
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>	1		✓				1				✓	
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>				1					✓			
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullocki</i>					✓	✓	✓					
White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>				✓								
African Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridissimus</i>					✓							
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>			✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				✓								
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>	1	H	H	2	H		H	H	H			
Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieilloti</i>								✓	✓			
Bearded Barbet	<i>Lybius dubius</i>			✓			✓	✓				✓	
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>		1										
Spotted Honeyguide	<i>Indicator maculatus</i>			1									
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>		1	1									
Buff-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Pardipicus nivosus</i>										H		

Common name	Scientific name	November 2023											
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>			1									
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>						✓	✓				✓	✓
Brown-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos obsoletus</i>								✓	✓			
Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>					✓			✓		✓		
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>							✓	2			✓	
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>					✓				✓			
Brown-necked Parrot	<i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i>			4									
Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>			H	H		H				✓	H	
Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>						H	H					
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>				H					H			
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>				✓			✓			✓		
Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>		✓	H			✓	✓		H	H	✓	✓
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>									✓			
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>									✓			
Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>			1		✓	✓		✓				
Glossy-backed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus divaricatus</i>		✓					✓		✓	✓		✓
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>		✓								✓		
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>						✓	✓					
Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>		✓				✓	✓			✓	✓	
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
White-shouldered Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus guineensis</i>								✓				
Yellow Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus parvulus</i>									H			
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>					✓		1	✓				
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>			✓									
Yellow-throated Leaflove	<i>Atimastillas flavicollis</i>						✓	✓					
Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>										✓		
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fanti Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne obscura</i>		✓	✓							✓		
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>					✓		✓					
Pied-winged Swallow	<i>Hirundo leucosoma</i>		1										

Common name	Scientific name	November 2023											
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				✓
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>					✓							
Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓				✓	
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>							✓					
Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>			✓				✓					
Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>				✓								
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>			✓									
West African Swallow	<i>Cecropis domicella</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				
Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>				✓					✓			✓
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna opaca</i>						✓						
Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>				H					H			
Whistling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lateralis</i>				1					H			
Winding Cisticola	<i>Cisticola marginatus</i>								✓				
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>			✓									✓
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>		✓		H					✓			
Red-winged Prinia	<i>Prinia erythroptera</i>									✓			
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>										✓		
Oriole Warbler	<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>		H				H				✓		✓
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>		H		1					✓			✓
Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>									✓			
Western Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca iberiae</i>			✓	✓							✓	
Northern Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>								✓				
Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>			H				✓					✓
Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>		✓										
Yellow-bellied Hyliota	<i>Hyliota flavigaster</i>				✓								
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>					✓	✓					✓	✓
Lesser Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>									✓			
Bronze-tailed Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalcurus</i>						✓	✓	✓				✓
Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Splendid Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis splendidus</i>										H	✓	

Common name	Scientific name	November 2023											
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>					✓				✓			
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>		✓	✓									
Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>		✓								✓		
Swamp Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa aquatica</i>					✓	✓						
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>		✓								H		
White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapillus</i>							✓					✓
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			✓									
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>								✓				
Anteater Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla aethiops</i>					✓							
White-fronted Black Chat	<i>Oenanthe albifrons</i>				2								
Mangrove Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>				✓								
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>										✓		
Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platura</i>					✓	✓			✓			
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>									✓			
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastrus</i>		✓										✓
Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>				✓					✓			✓
Sahel Bush Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris dentata</i>					✓		✓		✓			
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
White-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>		✓	✓	✓								✓
Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser superciliosus</i>									✓	✓		
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>		✓		✓	✓							
Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>		✓										
Vitelline Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>									✓	✓		
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Black-headed Weaver	<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>						✓	✓					
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>					✓			✓				
Yellow-crowned Bishop	<i>Euplectes afer</i>								✓				
Black-winged Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>		2	✓	✓						✓		
Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>		✓								✓		✓
African Silverbill	<i>Euodice cantans</i>												

Common name	Scientific name	November 2023											
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Lavender Waxbill	<i>Glaucestrilda caerulea</i>		✓										
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>		✓							✓			
Black-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>			✓	✓	✓			✓				
Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>					✓			✓				
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>				1		✓	✓	✓				
Sahel Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua orientalis</i>				1	✓				✓			
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				1	✓							
White-rumped Seed eater	<i>Crithagra leucopygia</i>								✓				
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓				
Gosling's Bunting	<i>Emberiza goslingi</i>					✓		✓					

## Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	November 2023											
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Green Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus sabaeus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓
Patas Monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>					✓						✓	
Guinea Baboon	<i>Papio papio</i>								✓				
West African Red Colobus	<i>Procolobus badius</i>						✓				✓		
Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>			1			1				✓		
Striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>				1	✓							
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>								✓	✓		✓	
Common Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius amphibius</i>						1						
Mauritian Tomb Bat	<i>Taphozous mauritanus</i>			6									



## Butterflies

		November 2023											
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Citrus Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demodocus</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Narrow-banded Green Swallowtail	<i>Papilio nireus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓							
African Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia florella</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Small Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigatta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Caper White	<i>Belenois aurota</i>			✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			
African Caper White	<i>Belenois creona</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Creamy Small White	<i>Dixeia orbona</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
African Spirit	<i>Leptosia alcesta</i>		✓	✓	✓						✓		
Common Dotted Border	<i>Mylothris chloris</i>					✓		✓		✓	✓		
African Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pearl Charaxes	<i>Charaxes varanes</i>										✓		
Cream-bordered Charaxes	<i>Charaxes epijasius</i>					✓				✓			
River Sailor	<i>Neptis serena</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Small Orange Acraea	<i>Acraea serena</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Elegant acraea	<i>Actinote egina</i>		✓							✓	✓		
Tiny Orange Tip	<i>Colotis evagore antigone</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
African Albatross	<i>Appias epaphia epaphia</i>			✓	✓								
Large Orange Tip	<i>Colotis antevippe</i>			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓			
Veined Swallowtail	<i>Graphium leonidas</i>		✓	✓	✓						✓		
African Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dark Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia oenone</i>		✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	
Pointed Caper White	<i>Belenois gidica gidica</i>		✓	✓									
Common Zebra Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	
Dark Grass Blue	<i>Zizina antanossa</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓					✓	
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓	✓				✓			✓		✓	
Little Commodore	<i>Junonia sophia</i>		✓				✓	✓			✓	✓	
Grey Elfin	<i>Sarangesa laelius</i>		✓							✓			
Clouded Flat	<i>Tagiades flesus</i>		✓								✓		
Common Leopard Fritillary	<i>Phalanta phalanta aethiopica</i>		✓	✓			✓			✓			

Common name	Scientific name	November 2023											
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Common Hairstreak	<i>Hypolycaena philippus</i>		✓									✓	
Savanna Pied Pierrot	<i>Tuxentius cretosus</i>			✓	✓		✓						
African Pierrot	<i>Tarucus theophrastus</i>			✓									
Twin Swift	<i>Borbo gemella</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Spialia spio</i>				✓	✓						✓	
Guinea fowl	<i>Hamanumida daedalus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
African Cupid	<i>Euchrysops osiris</i>				✓								
Olive Haired Swift	<i>Barbo borbonica</i>					✓			✓	✓			
Water Watchman	<i>Panara monasi</i>						✓						
African Babul Blue	<i>Azannus jesous</i>						✓						
Common Ciliate Blue	<i>Anthene larrydas</i>						✓						
Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia orithya</i>							✓					
Lesser Millet Skipper	<i>Pelopidas mathias</i>								✓	✓	✓		
Vulgar Bush Brown	<i>Bicyclus vulgaris</i>								✓				
Common Three Ring	<i>Ypthima asterope</i>								✓				
Abadima acrae	<i>Acraea abdera</i>										✓		
Scarlet Tip	<i>Colotis danae</i>										✓		
Golden Pansy	<i>Junonia chorimene</i>										✓		
Soldier Pansy	<i>Junonia iphita</i>										✓		
Calypso Caper White	<i>Belenois calypso</i>										✓		
Common Bush Blue	<i>Cacyreus lingeus</i>										✓		
Common Bush Brown	<i>Bicyclus safitza</i>										✓		
Striped Policeman	<i>Coeliades forestan</i>										✓	✓	
Sky Blue Cupid	<i>Chilades eleusis</i>											✓	
Black Bordered Babel Blue	<i>Azanus moriqua</i>											✓	

## Others

Common name	Scientific name	November 2023											
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	29	21
<b>Odonata</b>													
Portia Widow	Palpopleura portia										✓		
Scarlet Darter	Orthetrum brachiale					✓					✓		
<b>Others</b>													
African Giant Snail	<i>Achatina sp.</i>		D		D								
Antlion	<i>Myrmeleon sp.</i>							✓	✓	✓			
Driver Ants	<i>Dorylus sp.</i>		✓								✓		
Common Green Mantis	<i>Sphodromantis sp.</i>						✓					✓	
West African Fiddler Crab	<i>Uca tangeri</i>			✓	✓							✓	
West African Mangrove Oyster	<i>Crassostrea tulipa</i>			✓	✓								
Atlantic Mudskipper	<i>Periophthalmus papillo</i>			✓	✓								
<b>Reptiles &amp; Amphibians</b>													
Nile Monitor Lizard	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Agama Lizard	<i>Agama agama</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
West African Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus suchus</i>						2				✓		
Gecko sp				✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Frog sp					✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		