

The Gambia

Naturetrek Tour Report

8th – 18th November 2025



Palm-nut Vulture



Western Bluebill



Abyssinian Roller



African Finfoot

Tour report by Philip Thompson
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Tour participants: Philip Thompson (leader), Solomon Jallow and Tamba Jefang (local guides) with eight Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Saturday 8th November

Having left a dark and chilly England, we arrived somewhat late to a gloomy overcast sky and rain in Banjul Airport, an almost unprecedented event in the history of Naturetrek Gambian trips. It was at least a lot warmer than home. We spent the next hour negotiating the slow immigration queues and collection of our luggage, before heading into the car park to board our shuttle bus to our hotel. Our route included a few drop-offs at other tourist hotels, so we were able to witness plenty of Gambian sights on the journey. We were met at the hotel lobby by our two local Gambian guides, Solomon and Tamba, who ran us briefly through the timings and itinerary for tomorrow morning's excursion. Due to the flight delay, we were then left with only a little time to settle into our rooms before meeting for dinner, for our first pleasant, but leisurely-served, dinner. We settled in for a night's rest, full of anticipation for the coming days.

Day 2

Sunday 9th November

After an early breakfast, we were soon off for our first excursion, to Brufut Forest. We spent most of the morning walking the outer edge of the forest, and had some amazing good fortune in finding numerous desirable species. Highlights were numerous, but included both species of turaco, Bearded Barbet, Lizard Buzzard, Yellow-gorgeted Greenbul, both paradise flycatchers, Woodland Kingfisher and Northern Puffback. One popular bird was the Pearl-spotted Owlet that was pinned down after much careful scanning. It proved tricky for some to pick it out, but we were fortunate to discover another bird later which showed much better, on an exposed perch in a tall tree. During our walk, we passed through a small family compound where there was a young, rescued, orphaned Patas Monkey. This little individual had clearly bonded with one of the local goats which were grazing on scattered food, as when it got a little nervous it climbed on the back of its new 'mother' to ride around like a little jockey! It was a very odd sight.

Our tour took us to a small viewing area on the edge of the forest, where local rangers had provided some water to draw in the birds. Incredibly, as we arrived there was a pair of Stone Partridge feeding on scattered grain right in the open, no more than ten metres away. This is a species that is generally only seen as it shoots across a footpath, and is only seen for an instant, so it was a rare treat to be able to admire these jaunty little birds for a prolonged period. We enjoyed some refreshments provided by the rangers while we watched the birds coming in to drink. From here, we were led by one of the young local guides into the woodland, to be shown a roosting Long-tailed Nightjar, which was so confident of its cryptic camouflage that we could observe it in turn from no more than five metres. It was a sight that many of the group will long remember. Within the forest, we were also led to view a roosting Verreaux's Eagle-Owl that was sleepily observing us from high in a tall tree. Unfortunately, it was pretty well concealed, and not clearly visible.

We moved on to visit the Tanji Nature Reserve, where we stopped at a coastal lodge for lunch. Near to our designated outdoor dining spot was a conveniently placed bowl of water for the birds. Several notable highlights were seen, not always brilliantly as the birds skulked in the shadows and foliage, but did include Western Bluebill, Green-headed Sunbird and Black-necked Weaver. The tiny African Pygmy Kingfisher which made repeated visits was a popular sighting.

We continued with a visit to Tanji fishing village, where we walked through the busy locals processing their catch, either by smoking or sun-drying. As we reached the beach, numerous fishing vessels were moored up just offshore, and the young men of the village were wading out to carry the baskets of fish back to shore. All told, it was a very busy and dynamic sight. We birded the shoreline, where several species of waders were feeding, mainly Bar-tailed Godwits and Sanderlings. Terns were well represented, with Caspian, Lesser Crested and West African Crested being the highlights. Gulls were predominantly Grey-headed, but a distant roosting flock of Lesser Black-backed could be seen further down the coast. Offshore, the Bijol Islands could be seen: they are an important protected seabird breeding site, notably for Kelp Gull. Even at great distance, a couple of birds were certainly of the required size and bulk to clinch the ID as this species. A minor drama unfolded on our walk back, with the discovery of a small kitten ensnared in discarded fishing net. After much careful cutting it was eventually freed, and put carefully in some shelter where we hoped its mother would discover it.



Beaudouin's Snake Eagle



Namaqua Dove



Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird



Northern Red Bishop

On the return journey to the hotel, we stopped to take a walk to the local water treatment settling pools, where Black-winged Stilt, Black Crake and Squacco Herons were among the highlights. Rather than returning to the bus, we were able to cut across country and take a narrow footpath, along which we paused to admire a couple of Little Bee-eaters perched on the tall, slender grass stems alongside the mangroves. Nearby, a Fine-spotted Woodpecker was seen by some of the group, although it kept itself on the wrong side of the tree for most. We were soon back to the hotel after a long and rewarding day, with a wide range of new birds for the group to digest and ponder.

Day 3

Monday 10th November

We began our day by travelling south towards the Senegalese border. An initial stop was made at a small flooded gravel pit, where we could stretch our legs and check out the area. In the scrubby bushes nearby, we picked out both Red-winged Prinia and Singing Cisticola by song, the best method of identification in both cases, given the

other similar-looking species of both genera. The pit had plenty of water but few birds, but there was a nice group of roosting Senegal Thick-knees on the far bank, while in the distant trees an African Green Pigeon and a Grivet Monkey were spotted. Flitting among the low bushes were several Orange-cheeked Waxbills.

We moved on to our main destination of the Kartong Nature Reserve, a series of thickly-vegetated flooded gravel pits. Here, we disembarked and took a slow gentle stroll along the main track between the pits. Among the tall reeds we found both Vitelline Masked and Little Weavers, and a couple of stunning breeding plumage Northern Red Bishops. At an area of lily pad-covered water we unsurprisingly found our first African Jacanas, and had a couple of brief views of Black Crake. White-faced Whistling Ducks were well hidden, settled quietly among the water plants. We were delighted to pick up a couple of very attractive Yellow-crowned Gonoleks on the walk, a species which many of the group were keen to see. We walked on to a viewpoint on a raised mound at the last pit, where we were able to scan the area, and found a beautiful Black-winged Kite which perched conveniently for us to admire.

We then boarded the bus to drive us the rest of the road to the ocean, where we stopped in the refreshment shack on the beach for a fresh fruit juice, before taking a walk down the beach. Our target bird here was White-fronted Plover, and we were soon able to pick them out, scuttling along the sand. A couple of birds allowed a slow and careful approach to pick out the salient ID features. Offshore, numerous terns were passing: they were mainly Caspian, but they also included West African Crested and Lesser Crested Terns, which needed some careful observation to distinguish. With our morning coming to an end, we drove on to the Gambian/Senegalese border and the foot ferry terminal; at a pleasant restaurant on the water's edge we could admire Pink-backed Pelicans drifting past as we waited for our lunch to be prepared.

With lunch completed, we drove on for our final stop of the day, to Gunjar Konoto Forest. We were met by the local custodian, who welcomed us to this protected patch of forest. Our walk led us within the canopy of this impressive site, and we admired the many large and splendid trees. Unfortunately, in the early afternoon heat, it was pretty birdless, with only a medley of calls issuing from around and above us, and barely a glimpse of any avian inhabitant. We cut our losses and headed back for a cold beer at the hotel, after what had been a pretty successful day.

Day 4

Tuesday 11th November

Today we left the coastal region and began our journey upriver, where we would be spending the next six days. With quite a distance ahead of us, we made an early start with a pre-dawn breakfast, and headed off in the early light. Our first stop was a visit to the abandoned shrimp farm at Pirang. The numerous pans held a varying amount of water, resulting in a range of aquatic birds. A selection of wading birds was present, many of which were familiar from home, but the highlight was a couple of Marsh Sandpipers. A number of stately Greater Flamingoes were present, dwarfing the Avocets and Black-winged Stilts. A large swirling flock of ducks was identified as Northern Shovelers, migrants this far south. A soaring flock of Pink-backed Pelicans also contained their near relative, Great White Pelican. Other interesting migrants were a few Yellow Wagtails on the exposed mudflats, and a couple of Western Subalpine Warblers skulking in the bankside tamarisk bushes. A broad range of herons, egrets and terns was also present. We could have spent the whole day here, but we had road to cover and further planned stops ahead, so we reluctantly moved on.

All was going well, until we were stopped at one of the police checkpoints and an officer pointed out that one of our rear wheels was wobbling. Getting out to check it, we discovered that three of the wheel bolts had sheared off, and the wheel was barely staying on! Many thanks go to the vigilant policeman. A little improvisation was in order: a local taxi was flagged down, and the group were shuttled a little further down the road to visit the photo hide of Albert Mandy, a local who has created a small viewing area with pools and seating.

We were hoping to find Black-faced Firefinch here, but we had no luck. However, there were still a nice selection of small finches, weavers and widowbirds dropping in to drink. By good fortune, we picked out a Yellow-bellied Hyliota and Yellow Penduline Tit feeding among the upper branches of a nearby tree, followed by a singing Whistling Cisticola. A short walk further along a narrow path led alongside some small peanut fields, where a calling Striped Kingfisher could be heard. After having picked it out on its favourite perch, we were delighted to witness its song and display to its mate, which was drawn in by the activity. News had reached us from the driver and local guide that the replacement bolts were not available from the nearest town, so we hired another local minibus, transferred our luggage, and were soon back on the road, heading to Tendaba Camp. We checked in and had a buffet lunch, before taking a boat ride across the River Gambia to the mangrove creeks on the opposite side.

The trip was very hot initially, but became slowly more bearable, and the birding improved. Once we entered the narrow creeks among the mangroves, we steadily racked up a fine selection of species. An early highlight, eventually seen by all the group, was a White-backed Night Heron. This bird was first skilfully picked out roosting in a patch of isolated mangrove in the middle of the main creek. Most struggled to pick it out, but it flew out, we thought never to be seen again. But luckily it had not moved far, and could still be picked out. There then followed a series of small manoeuvres to allow everyone a glimpse of this skulking, nocturnal bird. Several Mangrove Sunbirds were seen, plus a couple of their nests built in overhanging branches. As we continued through the mangroves, we started to reach a few areas of open, wet marsh, where a number of African Woolly-necked and Yellow-billed Storks, Great and Yellow-billed Egrets, and several smaller species of heron were feeding. All were eclipsed by the sighting of the splendid Goliath Heron which provided a fantastic sighting, both in flight and settled in the wetland. Further excitement was offered by an African Golden Oriole, which proved tricky, but was overshadowed by a Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike which was rather more desirable, rarer, and easier to see. Our route eventually led back out to the main river, and we went back to the camp for a freshen-up and dinner.

Day 5

Wednesday 12th November

An all-action day lay ahead of us, involving a transfer further upriver to Bansang Camp, with a number of exciting and productive stops along the way. Fortunately, we soon spotted our driver and bus parked at the lodge, the bus having been repaired after our close shave yesterday, so we were soon off. The first stop was up a recently-upgraded dirt road to stop at a seemingly random spot. After a little bit of playback of mobbing birds, the desired effect was produced and a range of small birds came in to check out the commotion. Red-chested, Beautiful and Variable Sunbirds were among the first to arrive, followed by Northern Yellow White-eye, Sahel Bush Sparrow, Black-crowned Tchagra, and our main target, the rather disappointingly-named but beautiful Brown-rumped Bunting. Moving among this mixed party of birds was an unobtrusive Brown-backed Woodpecker. As the birds slowly dispersed, having decided there was no apparent threat, a pair of Brubrus remained, which perched quietly on the branches of a leafless roadside tree, allowing for a lengthy spell of observation and admiration. Migrant warblers at this site included Willow and Western Olivaceous.

With this good start under our belts, we drove on to cover some distance before reaching the bridge over the river to the northern side, where there was slightly different, dryer habitat. A couple of roadside stops were needed when we spotted Brown and Beaudouin's Snake Eagles, and a magnificent Bateleur. A scheduled stop was made alongside some recently-harvested peanut fields; here, we were hoping for Saville's Bustard, but only succeeded in hearing the characteristic calls a couple of times, with no sign of the birds in the unseasonably tall vegetation of the fields. The village headman informed us that at this time of day the bustards were generally to be found elsewhere. In compensation, we found a small flock of delightful Black-headed Lapwings which were resting in the fields, and periodically flew up and whirled around us before settling again.

Our next scheduled stop was at a small roadside pool named after our local guide, Solomon, where numerous small birds were coming down to drink in this generally dry area. Several regularly-seen species of waxbills and finches were here, with highlights being a charismatic and striking Cut-throat Finch, and Gosling's Bunting. Defending his territory and flitting from the top of one low tree to another was a splendid Sahel Paradise Whydah in breeding plumage, with outrageous tail plumes. Joining the smaller birds was the smallest of the doves, the Namaqua Dove, with its tiny dainty head and long tail.

After a further short drive, we reached the open floodplain of the Kaur Marshes, where we pulled over. Before we had even left the bus, our quarry had been sighted just ten metres from the road: the iconic Egyptian Plover. It didn't disappoint: it is a stunning little bird, quite unique and in its own genus and even family. Not only is it a beautifully-marked bird, but it is also rather confiding, and this bird was much enjoyed by the admiring throng of clients. Dare I say it, but it was almost too easy! We drove a little further, spotting a couple more Egyptian Plovers in this, their chosen and habitual spot. A further drive found us pulling over in the small village of Njau, where we stopped alongside what looked like a park lake set among dwellings and other buildings. Here, incredibly, despite disturbance from the abundant small children, was another pair of Egyptian Plovers. Various egrets and Hadada Ibis were also present.

With distance still to be covered, we moved on to yet another highlight of the tour, and a stop at the Wassu Quarry. Here, we were amazed by the colourful spectacle of a breeding colony of Red-throated Bee-eaters. Every colour of the rainbow seems to have been thrown at these birds, making them a dazzling sight. By chance, we managed to pick out an individual of the yellow-throated form among the mass of 'regular' birds. After this visual overload, we drove a short distance and climbed the low Kassang Hill, where we stopped for lunch at a rather idyllic little establishment overlooking the main river and extensive marshes. A couple of small water bowls had been strategically placed nearby, so we could watch what was attracted while we waited for our meal. The highlight was a pair of very smart African Silverbills, which are far more attractive and striking than their illustration in the fieldguide suggests. Flying around the buildings on this hilltop were a few large Mosque Swallows, among other hirundines.

Once lunch was finished, we drove on to the ferry terminal for Janjanbureh Island. We were very fortunate: our timing was spot on, and a crossing with space for our vehicle was just about to depart. One can sometimes be left waiting for a crossing for a considerable length of time. Once on the other side, it was a comparatively straightforward journey to Basang and our lodge for the next few nights. The crossing on the other side of the island was a bridge, so there was no delay in crossing there. Our final stop was for our first Grasshopper Buzzard, on a roadside pole. It was clearly not happy with our stopping, as it soon pushed off. We were soon settled in at our lodge and met up for dinner later.

Day 6**Thursday 13th November**

Our first excursion was a boat trip on the Gambia River. We initially drove back towards Janjanbureh Island, pausing along the way to view a Grasshopper Buzzard on the roadside, probably the same bird seen yesterday. We crossed the bridge onto the island, and drove to the northern shore and the ferry terminal. Here, we met a local boatman and his young son, who acted as a spotter, and boarded his small craft. Before we had even travelled twenty metres, we spotted our first new bird, a rather cute and obliging Swamp Flycatcher hawking for insects from its low perch on the river bank. Moving on into the main river, we crossed to the northern bank and then proceeded to move slowly downstream, carefully scanning the bankside vegetation. We encountered a number of Grey-headed Kingfishers, a species not usually found alongside water. Drifting over a patch of bubbles and underwater disturbance, we were informed that this was from a Hippo. They are clearly very wary of people, so we only managed to get a few glimpses of the animal when it surfaced a few times in the middle of the river, some way from us.

We continued seeing several more Swamp Flycatchers, and a range of herons, Hamerkop and lapwing species. Reaching the farthest tip of Janjanbureh Island, we began the return on the opposite side. It was not long before excitement rose, with the sighting of our main quarry, the African Finfoot. We moved slowly alongside the bird as it swam and walked on the bank; it always kept well within the overhanging vegetation, but we all obtained some great close-up views of this iconic bird. As we approached the ferry slipway, our starting point, we spotted a couple of Bruce's Green Pigeons feeding in a large fig tree right alongside, to round off a great trip.

It was then back to the lodge for lunch and a siesta in the heat of the early afternoon. With the day having begun to cool a little, we headed out once more to visit the Bansang Quarry. Here was another colony of breeding Red-throated Bee-eaters. Unfortunately, our enjoyment of the spectacle was curtailed by the selfish and inconsiderate actions of a photographer with another guide, who chose to climb the bank above the nestholes and thus disturbed the birds, which all fled. Within the quarry floor were several interesting small finches, including Village Indigobird, Black-rumped Waxbill and Sahel Bush Sparrow, as well as Red-breasted Swallow.

A nearby bush fire was slowly creeping over the far ridgeline, and attracted a range of birds feeding on fleeing insects. They mainly comprised swallows, but there were also several kites and a Grasshopper Buzzard seeking food. We walked a short distance from the quarry, and were delighted to find a Red-necked Falcon perched in the distance, and a handsome male Grey-headed Bushshrike sitting prominently on a couple of nearby low trees. It made for a fine end to the day.

Day 7**Friday 14th November**

The majority of our morning was spent exploring the Kuntaur rice fields, meaning another crossing of the river via Janjanbureh Island. All went smoothly, with only a short wait for the ferry, which allowed us to explore the nearby areas of the town, once known as Georgetown, which has quite a history from colonial times. We were able to see the Freedom Tree, with its rather confusing history regarding freed slaves involved in the history of the town. Once across the river, we turned off and entered the flat, flooded rice fields, full of lush vegetation. As we made our approach, a distant Marabou Stork was seen in flight, a bird not commonly seen in Gambia. Overhead, a few White-backed Vultures were seen, but most were pretty distant, giving rather unsatisfactory viewing. At the fields themselves, we were immediately presented with a large swirling flock of White-faced Whistling Ducks,

among which were at least one each of Fulvous Whistling Duck and Knob-billed Duck (the latter only being IDed after the trip, from photos taken at the time!). A number of Winding Cisticolas were seen singing from reed tops and flitting among the taller patches. We managed to pick out the calls of Black Coucal some way off, and after a little playback, the bird was tempted to approach. We patiently waited, and the bird appeared and made steady progress towards us, eventually giving some unforgettable views. Another new find was a Yellow-crowned Bishop, still sporting most of its breeding plumage.

Back in the vehicle, we slowly drove through the surrounding area before crossing back to the main road and taking a track which led close to the Wassu Stone Circle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We pulled up atop a low rise to scan the area. A very tall nearby radio mast had several Mosque Swallows resting on the top, identifiable by their size even at long range.

Back on the main road, a couple of roadside stops were taken, the first an unscheduled one when a party of White-crested Helmetshrikes was spotted as we passed. A rapid stop soon had us admiring these attractive birds, with their punky crests and a yellow wattle surrounding the eyes. They kept up their contact calls as they moved among the nearby trees. A second stop was a planned one, with African Green Bee-eater our aim. As if by magic, and obviously in just the right habitat, we did indeed find a few of these small emerald green bee-eaters feeding.

Day 8

Saturday 15th November

Today was the first leg of our return towards the coast, with our stopover back at Tendaba Camp. We remained on the southern side of the river to cover some fresh ground. All was going well, until a loud bang from the rear of the vehicle necessitated a stop and a check for any possible problems. This revealed a rather nasty blow-out in a rear tyre, with a large split in the tyre wall. Keeping calm, we were, once more, very fortunate in being right alongside the rice fields of Brikama Ba, and the town only a short distance behind us. So, the group set out on a walk to explore the nearby wetlands, while the vehicle was repaired.

As we approached the rice fields, our first notable birds were three or four Yellow-billed Shrikes, which were very approachable on the fencing alongside the wet fields. Reaching the flooded fields, we could see that African Jacanas were in their element, with large numbers all around. Among the patches of taller reeds, a couple of singing Winding Cisticolas were perched at the tops. Despite there being further areas to explore, news came through that our bus was back on the road.

We continued west, before pulling over at another apparently random spot known to Solomon. True to form, our quarry of Spotted Thick-knee was soon found, when a couple of birds flushed from the rather thick scrub. Initially, only brief views were obtained, but a couple of further fly-pasts proved better. As icing on the cake, a small party of Four-banded Sandgrouse also flew up from the same area, giving a couple of chances to get a decent flight view of these attractive birds.

We very soon took a side road which led out to flat grassy wetlands with patches of taller reeds, which fringed the southern shore of the River Gambia. We stopped just short of where the road disappeared under water, near the border between forest and wetland. Here, we found large numbers of European Bee-eaters feeding, which sadly seemed to keep the sought-after Northern Carmine Bee-eaters at some distance. With some patience, we saw a couple of these beautiful pink birds overhead before they retreated once more. Finding this desirable species

brought our tally of Gambian bee-eater species to a close, with a full house. Also present were a couple of African Green Bee-eaters, to add to the spectacle. A brazen African Swamphen strolled out into the flooded road ahead of us, allowing for a lovely clear view, and an improvement on our previous sighting at Kartong.



African Pygmy Kingfisher



Dark Chanting Goshawk



Bearded Barbet



White-crested Helmetshrike

We still had some distance to cover before we reached the town of Soma, where we pulled into a roadside restaurant for lunch and cold drinks. Having enjoyed another typical Gambian meal, we hit the road once more to complete our transfer to Tendaba Camp where, after checking into our rooms and enjoying a short spell of relaxation, we undertook a loop walk through the nearby village and up a low hillside, through some attractive savannah habitat. As usual, the afternoon period was pretty hot which subdued bird activity. We did hear a whole range of calls of birds that remained unseen, but we did still manage to winkle out a few choice species, with the Black Scimitarbill being notable. Another interesting find was a Heuglin's Masked Weaver, which was almost overlooked as being 'just another weaver': this is a rather scarce bird. With the long day and heat, a few opted to head back early, and they were shortly followed by the main group. Another cold beer and dinner felt rather more attractive.

Day 9

Sunday 16th November

Today was our travel day back from Tendaba to the coastal area, and our first hotel near Kotu Creek. Having packed and loaded onto the bus, we headed out and made our first stop within the Kiang West National Park, which lies alongside Tendaba. We drove along dirt roads before a suitable-looking spot was chosen to disembark and see what was about. It was not long before we connected with a mixed flock of birds moving through the surrounding trees. Most notable were a few handsome White-shouldered Black Tits, which fed acrobatically among the branches. Less showy were a couple of Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-weavers, which (with patience) provided some good views. Another stop had an African Golden Oriole showing much better than the bird seen on a

previous day. Alongside, another unobtrusive bird was picked out: Dorst's Cisticola. We encountered a couple of Klaas's Cuckoos which were joined by another bird, only identified subsequently from photos and initially thought to be another Klaas's, but proved to be a smart Diederik Cuckoo.

Next, we called in to Albert Mandy's photo hide once more, this time walking towards the peanut fields in search of White-fronted Black Chat. With fortune on our side, we succeeded in finding a pair of them: they gave prolonged and close views perched in the small trees. We had a second encounter with the resident Striped Kingfisher that had put on such a wonderful show on our previous visit.

With lunch time approaching, we drove on, and pulled in to the small Jamora Lodge for lunch. This quiet establishment, tucked away off the main road and with a rather overgrown and easily-overlooked access road, did us proud, and we had a very enjoyable meal.

Our final stop of the day was at Farasuto Community Forest, where we met a local guide who led us to see a pair of roosting Greyish Eagle-Owls. The first bird was rather obscured, but when we moved around their preferred patch of woodland, the second bird was picked out far more easily, and gave a wonderful view. We moved a short distance to another artificial pool to see what birds might have been drawn in to drink in the heat of the day. Among the usual waxbills and finches, a juvenile Greater Honeyguide was a nice find. From here, it was on to the hotel for another pleasant meal before we retired to our rooms.

Day 10

Monday 17th November

Back in the coastal area of Gambia, we were now hoping to pick up a few more species missed at the start of the week. This involved more forest birding, beginning with a stop at Pirang/Bonto Forest. Our initial walk led to a couple of huge Grey Plum trees which finally, after patient scanning, produced another Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, well-hidden among the canopy foliage. Things were generally quiet, but became more exciting when the piercing calls of the endangered Brown-necked Parrot could be heard up ahead. We encountered a sizeable flock of them feeding in a large fig tree; green birds in green leaves high overhead proved to be a tricky undertaking. Persevering, we moved out of the forest to view the trees from the bordering footpath, and obtained much better and prolonged views of these rare and desirable birds. At one point, the flock flew out and swirled about above us, and it was incredible to see how many had been present, hidden from sight.

Flushed with success, we walked on through the forest, but sadly, as so often with forest birding, we failed to encounter much else of note. The main achievement was when we reached an open sunny glade, where a Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird finally showed brilliantly, perched on the branches of a small dead tree. What a difference it makes when there aren't loads of leaves in the way! This is a bird of which we had previously only had brief, poor glimpses, although we had heard its characteristic call on many occasions during the trip.

It was approaching midday, and we drove on to visit the Marakissa River Camp for lunch. At this pleasant and tranquil spot on the Allehein River, we settled down for a cool drink and some light birding as we relaxed in the shaded dining area. There was plenty of bird activity to keep us pleasantly occupied, as well as the large adult West African Crocodiles are resident on this stretch of river; they are sometimes described as 'tame', because the lodge owner calls them over and feeds them with chicken skins: they are not tame! Joining this unusual and exciting spectacle were a couple of Yellow-billed Kites, clearly not averse to a few freebies, and which evidently hang

around the area for these impromptu feeding sessions. Amazingly, the bird highlight of the stop was the discovery of a male Western Bluebill alongside the river, perched low down but in full view and at close range. Clearly, this individual was not aware that it was supposed to spend its time skulking in the gloomy undergrowth of mature forests! We enjoyed a splendid lunch, followed by some more relaxing downtime before we headed back to the hotel.

Day 11

Tuesday 18th November

For our final day, we still had a morning available to continue birding, before we needed to be back at the hotel for collection by the shuttle bus to the airport. Understandably, we concentrated on areas not too distant from the hotel, starting with the Bund Road near the ferry terminal of Banjul. One of our target birds was Black Heron, which had somehow eluded us during our trip. At a large inlet among the mangroves, we found a pleasing mix of birds, which included a migrant Black Kite among the ubiquitous Yellow-billed Kites. A scan of the dykes and wetlands on the opposite side of the road produced a few Black Herons in flight, with a few more settled distantly. We walked a short distance along the road, finding a good range of familiar wading birds, with a couple new to the trip. We were then fortunate enough to find a group of Black Herons and African Spoonbills feeding avidly on the edge of the large creek nearby.

With our mission completed, we drove on through Banjul to approach the creek and sandflats from the northern side. We managed to find a narrow footpath over a stream which led out onto the open ground beyond, and allowed closer access to the birds previously viewed from the south. A migrant Northern Wheatear on the sandy football pitch was an interesting find, along with familiar Crested Larks. The large roost of Grey-headed Gulls was found to contain one immature Slender-billed Gull, after patient searching. After this successful morning's exploration, we drove on to Cape Point to make an attempt at a potential highlight. But we were out of luck: the resident vagrant Yellow-casqued Hornbill could not be found. With time getting tight, we drove the remainder of the way back to the hotel to freshen up and change, before our shuttle bus arrived to take us back to Banjul Airport and our return flight.

This report is dedicated to Naturetrek client Grant Demar, who sadly passed during this tour. We take comfort from the fact that, even though he was far from family, his passing was peaceful and that he was very much enjoying this holiday. He had just seen Egyptian Plover, Red-throated Bee-eaters and male Sahel Paradise Whydah in full breeding plumage for the first time.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	November 2025										
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>								✓			
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>					✓		✓		✓	✓	
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>								✓			
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>						✓					
Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>	✓					H					✓
Double-spurred Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>	✓	✓	✓							✓	
Long-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i>	✓										
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>	✓	H									
Savile's Bustard	<i>Lophotis savilei</i>						H					
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black Coucal	<i>Centropus grillii</i>								✓			
Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>								✓			✓
Diederik Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>											✓
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>											✓
Four-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles quadricinctus</i>									✓	✓	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>								✓			
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>										✓	✓
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>						✓		✓	✓	✓	
Bruce's Green Pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>							✓	✓		✓	
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>					✓						
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>								✓			
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>											✓
African Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>											✓
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>			✓				H	✓	✓		✓
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			✓								
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>					✓						
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>											✓
Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>						✓					✓
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>						✓	✓				✓
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			✓	✓	✓						✓
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>											✓

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		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Black-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus tectus</i>					✓	✓	✓				
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>	✓				✓	✓					
White-fronted Plover	<i>Anarhynchus marginatus</i>			✓								
Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>					✓						
Egyptian Plover	<i>Pluvianus aegyptius</i>						✓					
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>			✓				✓	✓			
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓			✓
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	✓										
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>					✓						✓
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		✓					✓				
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					✓	✓					
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>					✓						
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>											✓
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>					✓						✓
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			✓	✓							✓
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	✓	✓									
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>					✓						✓
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					✓						
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	✓										✓
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>											✓
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>				✓							
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>					✓						✓
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	✓	✓	✓								✓
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	✓										
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	✓	✓									✓
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓								✓
West African Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus albididorsalis</i>	✓	✓	✓								
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>					✓						✓
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>	✓	✓	✓								✓
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	✓										
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	✓										✓
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>								✓			
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>				✓					✓	✓	✓
African Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia microscelis</i>				✓	✓						
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>					✓						✓
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓
Great (White-breasted) Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</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>											✓
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				✓	✓	✓					✓
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>											✓
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					✓		✓				✓
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓
White-backed Night Heron	<i>Calherodius leuconotus</i>					✓						
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Yellow-billed Egret	<i>Ardea brachyrhyncha</i>				✓							
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			✓			✓	✓				
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>				✓			✓				
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				✓							
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓
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>							✓				
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>					✓						
Beaudouin's Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>					✓			✓			
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>					✓				✓		
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>			✓				✓				
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraetus wahlbergi</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓		
Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>					✓			✓	✓		
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓
Shikra	<i>Tachyspiza badia</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓			✓
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>											✓
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Fish Eagle	<i>Icthyophaga vocifer</i>					✓		✓		✓		
Grasshopper Buzzard	<i>Butastur rufipennis</i>						✓	✓	✓			
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>	✓						H				
African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>		✓			✓	H	H				
Northern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>					H			H			
Greyish Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>									✓		
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Ketupa lactea</i>	✓									✓	
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>	✓						✓	✓			
Black Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>									✓		
Western Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus kempi</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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>					✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>							✓				
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>					✓	H			H	✓	
Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>	✓					✓			✓		
African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>	✓								✓	✓	
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>			✓			✓	H	✓		✓	✓
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>									✓	✓	

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		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>		✓	✓							✓	
Red-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops bulocki</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>				✓	✓				✓		
Northern Carmine Bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicus</i>									✓		
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>	✓	H		✓	H		✓	✓	✓		
Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieilloti</i>				✓				H	✓		
Bearded Barbet	<i>Pogonornis dubius</i>	✓						✓	✓			
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>										✓	
Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campetherapunctuligera</i>	✓										
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicosgoertae</i>	✓		H								
Brown-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos obsoletus</i>					✓				✓		
Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>							✓				
African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvierii</i>							✓				
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	✓	✓		✓							✓
Brown-necked Parrot	<i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i>											✓
Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>	✓								✓		
Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malacorhynchus blanchoti</i>							✓				
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>						✓					✓
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>	✓								✓		
Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>	✓	✓	H			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brubru	<i>Nilia afer</i>					✓				H	H	
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>								✓			
Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>				✓							
African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>				✓						✓	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>	✓	✓									✓
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	✓										
Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Lanius corvinus</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>					✓						
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>											✓
Grey-headed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda canicapillus</i>									H		
Yellow-gorgeted Greenbul	<i>Atimastillas flavicollis</i>		✓				✓	✓				
Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>	✓								H		
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fanti Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne obscura</i>	✓	✓	✓								✓
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>					✓						
Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	✓	✓	✓							✓	
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>								✓			
African Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis melanocrissus</i>					✓	✓	✓			✓	
Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>							✓				

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Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>					✓						
Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>			✓						✓		
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			✓	✓	✓						
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>									✓		
Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna opaca</i>					✓				✓		
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>			✓							✓	
Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>							✓				
Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>			✓							✓	
Whistling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lateralis</i>		H	✓								
Winding Cisticola	<i>Cisticola marginatus</i>						H	✓	✓	✓		
Dorst's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola guineae</i>										✓	
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>							✓	✓		✓	
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Red-winged Prinia	<i>Prinia erythroptera</i>		✓									
Oriole Warbler	<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>	H						✓				
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>	✓	✓						✓			
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>	✓										✓
Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>	✓										
Yellow-bellied Hyliota	<i>Hyliota flavigaster</i>					✓			✓			
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bronze-tailed Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalcurus</i>	✓							✓			
Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>						✓	✓				✓
Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>						✓		✓		✓	
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>	✓										✓
Swamp Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa aquatica</i>								✓			
White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapillus</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>	✓	✓									
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	✓								✓		
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>											✓
White-fronted Black Chat	<i>Oenanthe albifrons</i>										✓	
Mangrove Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>						✓					
Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</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>		✓									
Heuglin's Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus heuglini</i>									✓		
Vitelline Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>				✓	✓				✓		
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Black-headed Weaver	<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Common name	Scientific name	November 2025										
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			
Yellow-crowned Bishop	<i>Euplectes afer</i>								✓			
Black-winged Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>					✓					✓	✓
Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	
African Silverbill	<i>Euodice cantans</i>						✓					
Lavender Waxbill	<i>Glaucestrilda caerulescens</i>	✓			✓							
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>			✓	✓						✓	
Black-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>					✓						
Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>						✓					
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓		
Western Bluebill	<i>Spermophaga haematina</i>	✓									✓	
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sahel Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua orientalis</i>						✓					
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>					✓						
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>					✓	✓			✓	✓	
Gosling's Bunting	<i>Emberiza goslingi</i>						✓	✓				
Brown-rumped Bunting	<i>Emberiza affinis</i>						✓					

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name
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>
Striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>
African Clawless Otter	<i>Aonyx capensis</i>
Common Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>
Yellow-winged Bat	<i>Lavia frons</i>

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name
Citrus Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demodocus</i>
African Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia florella</i>
Small Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigitta</i>
Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>
Large Orange Tip	<i>Colotis antevippe</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 Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>
African Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
Cream-bordered Charaxes	<i>Charaxes epijasius</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>

Common name	Scientific name
River Sailor	<i>Neptis serena</i>
Guineafowl	<i>Hamanumida daedalus</i>
Widespread Forester	<i>Euphaedra medon</i>
Small Orange Acraea	<i>Acraea serena</i>
Elegant Acraea	<i>Acraea egina</i>
Striped Policeman	<i>Coeliades forestan</i>
a millet skipper	<i>Pelopidas</i> sp.