

The Gambia in Style

Naturetrek Tour Report

8 - 15 April 2016



Yellow-crowned Gonolek by Nigel Carter



Purple Starling by Nick Hodson



Blue-bellied Roller by Terry Goble



Pied Kingfisher by Nigel Carter

Report compiled by Terry Goble
Images courtesy of



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Summary

'The Gambia - In Style!' tour was based at the luxurious Mandina Lodge, located on a tributary of the Gambian River and set on the edge of the very productive Makasutu Forest. For the majority of the eight day stay, we spent time in the cooler mornings and afternoons exploring the local habitats within and around the forest. We also spent two days exploring coastal and forest habitats in the region.

There was a relaxed pace to the tour, partly necessitated by the very hot afternoons, but also due to the relaxed ambiance around the lodge. The group were both knowledgeable and enthusiastic in finding not just birds, but also mammals, reptiles and insects. Efforts were rewarded by the large array of species that were seen. However, it's not just the quantity of species that makes this a special tour, but also the stunning beauty of the birdlife, often with very close views. From the Violet-backed Starling to the Bearded Barbet, the colours are bright and dazzling. Even the more subtly beautiful waxbills added to the glorious technicolour.

In between activities, there was always the pool to cool down in, or a drink in the shade of the restaurant. All round, it was a great trip of wildlife and relaxation in a sumptuous setting.

Day 1

Friday 8th April

Most of the group met at Gatwick airport to catch our flight to Banjul. The six hour flight was largely uneventful aside from a little turbulence as we passed the Canary Islands and great views of Mount Teide on Tenerife. Once we had landed at Banjul we were soon through customs and loading on to our two minibuses. The weather was glorious and pleasantly warm. The drive to the lodge was along a tarmac road for the most part and then down a sandy track through the forest. En route there were Hooded Vultures, Pied Crows and a Lanner Falcon overhead. Down the track we noted an array of doves and pigeons and then passed through a large troop of Guinea Baboons which lined the track, allowing very close views. We were to encounter these again, perhaps for Nick and Jane, even closer than desired!

After a 45 minute drive we arrived at the lodge and were given a warm reception from Linda, who introduced the staff and guides working at the lodge. Our group was completed when we met Nigel and Chris who had flown out three days earlier. It was now late afternoon and we were shown to our rooms to settle in and get ready for dinner. There were a number of species around the lodge grounds, but the Pied Kingfishers plunging into the river attracted most attention. There were Western Plantain-Eaters, Common Bulbuls, the exotic Yellow-crowned Gonolek, colourful sunbirds and the more familiar Whimbrel amongst the early sightings.

At the restaurant the large roosts of Epauletted Fruit Bats were a delight. Their strange squeaks and synchronised wing beats were fascinating and they were to be our companions for mealtimes throughout the week. When they flew they were impressively large bats with a wingspan of about 75 centimetres. The only downside was the christening of the Naturetrek leader by one of the bats!

We all met at seven for our dinner in the restaurant. The food was delicious and the vegetarians were pleased with their meal and everyone seemed to enjoy their dinner. The atmosphere was light and fun with a flow of conversation that endured throughout the week. The group quickly gelled and set the tone of light-hearted banter for our eight days together. After dinner the group drifted off to their rooms, weary but excited to explore the region and the wildlife.

Day 2

Saturday 9th April

Walk to marsh area and gardens am; Canoe trip to Baffulotto pm; Sunset Cruise

We met at 7am for tea, coffee and biscuits in the restaurant. It was rapidly becoming warmer as the sun began to light the day. We met our guides at 7.30am, however the state of the tide meant that the program had to be hastily rearranged and it was decided to go for a walk through the forest rather than a boat ride and walk as planned.

As it was the first morning, most of the birdlife was new and the group were excited to be seeing so many new birds. The rich birdlife was very evident and some of the species were simply beautiful and stunning. All along the walk there was a parade of gorgeous birds: Blue-bellied Roller and Beautiful, Splendid and Varied Sunbirds were a riot of iridescent colours. Perhaps one of the highlights was the view of an Orange-breasted Bushshrike, our only sighting of this stunning bird, although the Pearl-spotted Owlet was also appreciated by the group. On the mammal front there were Guinea Baboons and Callithrix (Green Vervet) Monkeys around and giving good views. Butterflies were scarce but the African Tiger was a nice sighting and proved to be a common butterfly. As the morning wore on we made our way back to the lodge for our breakfast. Everyone was exhilarated by the sightings and we sat down to enjoy a hearty breakfast.

As morning gave way to afternoon, most relaxed around the lodge enjoying some laid-back birding as White-throated Bee-eater, Fanti Saw-Wing, Bronzed Mannikin and a variety of sunbirds and kingfishers came into the pool area or were seen around the lodge. Some braved the heat of the afternoon and went for a walk to Base Camp and enjoyed lovely views of some of the more common birds including Red-billed Hornbill and Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird.

The group met again at 4pm for a canoe trip up river to the Baffulotto area. En route we saw herons and kingfishers including Malachite and Blue-breasted Kingfishers. We spent a little time talking to some village women and men stripping Mangrove Oysters. On the walk we had a great sighting of a Palm-nut Vulture as well as Orange-cheeked Waxbills, Red-billed Firefinch and Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleu. On the Sunset Cruise Nigel and Chris enjoyed sightings of African Fish Eagle and Giant Kingfisher. After the first day we had compiled an impressive list of species and had great views of some colourful and beautiful birdlife. However, that was not quite the end of the day's sightings as after dinner a night walk produced two Senegal Bushbabies.

Day 3

Sunday 10th April

Walk to Baffulotto am; Canoe trip to Kubeneh pm; Sunset Cruise

Today we met at 7am for coffee, tea and biscuits before setting off on a walk through the Baffulotto area and on to the Culture Centre. We had an excellent morning of bird sightings, picking up a few new species. A Green

(Guinea) Turaco was one of the highlights, however the guides were perhaps saving the best for last. At the Cultural Centre we were taken to two tall Eucalyptus trees and we all eventually located and had good views of two Northern White-faced Owls. When they opened their eyes we were met with a fiery orange stare, quite beautiful and startling! We then made our way back to the lodge in good time for breakfast; birding as we went.

In the heat of the afternoon a few brave souls went out and enjoyed some extra birding, picking up a few more species including Tawny Eagle, Ahanta Francolin and Sahel Paradise Whydah (although not with long streamers). They also found the lovely Dark-blue Pansy and a scattering of other butterflies. It was then time to get some rest and prepare for the evening's activity.

We all met again at 4.30pm. Two groups set off in canoes and another group went on the Sunset Cruise. The canoeists had a walk around a nearby oyster-gathering operation, and also enjoyed some excellent birding, managing good views of the elusive Oriole Warbler and Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters. The Sunset Cruise party saw lots of excellent birds at close quarters with a Goliath Heron being particularly accommodating. In addition to the birds, six Nile Crocodiles were an exceptional count.

We all met back at the lodge for another excellent dinner and relaxed chat about our respective days. After dinner, Uli and Terry went on a night-walk into the forest. They had fantastic views of two bushbabies leaping around overhead in a bare tree. They also saw a Fig Tree Gecko and just outside the lodge, a cat size rat was seen leaping through the undergrowth - this turned out to be a Pouched Rat (not actually a rat). The last sighting was of a Marsh Mongoose hunting around the mangroves; an excellent haul for a night walk.

Day 4

Monday 11th April

Drive to Kartong Bird Observatory and then to Calypso Point via Tanji Fish Market

We met for an early breakfast at 6.45am to get ready to leave as soon as possible. We eventually left at 7.30am and headed for Kartong Bird Observatory. After a drive of about an hour we arrived and spent some time looking over the marsh area where we picked up several new birds. The Black Crake was a little elusive but with a little patience, everyone managed good sightings as it weaved around the base of the reeds. We also saw African Jacana, Purple Gallinule, Little Grebe, and White-face Whistling Ducks amongst others. Nigel and Nick were lucky to spot a Gabar Goshawk fly overhead and also an African Goshawk was seen.

We then went to meet Colin Cross who works at the observatory. He discussed his work and talked about the birds to be found at the reserve. We then set off down the main track to a mound before driving down to the coast. At the mound it was great to see Black Herons living up to their alternative name of 'Umbrella Bird' as several formed shades with their wings over their heads. Also around were Yellow-billed Storks, African Spoonbills and Harrier Hawks. A couple of people also saw a Singing Cisticola as they walked along the main path.

On the coast there were a vast amount of seabirds. The impressive Caspian Tern with its large coral bill being diagnostic was amongst the more numerous yellow billed Royal Terns. There were also Sandwich Terns and at least one Gull-billed Tern. Of the gulls, Grey-headed Gull was the most numerous. It's a handsome gull with a pale grey head and red eye ring with matching feet and bill (accessorised!). There were also Lesser Black-backed and Slender-billed Gulls seen. Amongst the shorebirds, White-faced Plover was hoped-for and it wasn't long

before we picked them out among the Sanderlings, Common Ringed Plover and Grey Plovers. There were also Western Reef Herons and Whimbrel around (possible Hudsonian?). This great little reserve really warranted more time, but as the temperature was rising and time was pressing, we had to leave to head north towards Cape Point. On the way back to the minibuses we spotted an Abyssinian Roller with its electric blue plumage and long streamers - a cracking bird. We watched it for a while before setting off.

En route we stopped at the bustling Tanji Fish Market. The strong aroma alerted us to the fact we were nearing the town. We stopped a little way from the fishing boats and walked down through the market. The blaring reggae music, colourful clothing and hectic atmosphere made for an evocative African scene engaging all our senses. The coast was alive with gulls and terns, squabbling over scrapes and we even managed some new but familiar birds in the shape of Northern Gannet and Great Cormorant.

Away from the hurly burly of Tanji, we headed north again to the more tranquil resort of Bakau. Here we went to The Calypso at Cape Point for a set lunch. We sat by a pool where we happily watched a variety of reptiles, birds and a few butterflies and insects. There were about six crocodiles, Rainbow Agamas and a small Nile Monitor Lizard. The birds included Malachite and Pied Kingfishers, Great and Western Reef Herons, a variety of hirundines and a pair of cracking Broad-billed Rollers perched nicely for photographs. It was now time to return to the Lodge to get ready for dinner, but we managed to stop for a little shopping on the way back.

There was no organised walk in the evening, but a couple walked the last mile or so back to the lodge from the Cultural Centre and enjoyed some cracking birds including a Klass's Cuckoo and Oriole Warbler. We met later for dinner and the food was delicious and enjoyed in a relaxed and happy atmosphere. We also had some entertainment in the form of a traditional Kora player and singer helping to create an evocative ambiance in the warm African evening.

Only two people went out on the night walk. It was quiet but the night sky was beautiful with very little light pollution in the area. There was a sighting of a nightjar species, which was probably Long-Tailed Nightjar, but we were unable to clinch the identification in the brief sighting.

Day 5

Tuesday 12th April

Walk to Nambikala am; Canoe trip to Kembujeh pm; Sunset Cruise

The group met at 7am for drinks and biscuits as was now routine, in order to set off at 7.30am for our morning walk. This morning we headed to some nearby vegetable and cereal (couscous) gardens. We saw a few new birds but the law of diminishing returns was now kicking in. However, we did manage to find the lovely Rufus-Crowned Roller to add to our roller sightings. There were also a few dragonflies around including a Widow species that needed further research to identify. There were several small blue butterfly species; African Grass Blue being one, and a Common Scarlet butterfly. We also did well for primates with three monkey species being seen with Western Red Colobus and Patas Monkeys being new for the trip. Of the birds, the fantastic views of the gaudy Bearded Barbets took some beating, particularly when viewed through Ian's telescope. It was then time to head back for breakfast as it was beginning to get hot.

After breakfast a group set out on a walk to the Cashew Nut Plantation (Big Forest Camp). A Pearl Charaxes was an excellent start as this large and beautiful butterfly can be hard to find during the dry season. This species

seems to disappear when it folds its wings at rest as it mimics a dead leaf. We also had some excellent birds and a few new ones, such as the Little Greenbul, retrospectively identified from its call. The highlight was the excellent views of a Pygmy Kingfisher perched in the plantation. We also spent time at the tanks just outside the lodge. The dripping water tanks are a magnet for birds and we had close views of several species including the delightful Lavender Waxbills. The tanks were to become a feature of several walks and often threw up new birds and great close views of sunbirds, weavers and a host of others.

We all met again at 4.30pm and for the evening activity, we finally settled on a canoe trip to the rice fields against the wind and tide! After some heroic paddling from the guides and Nigel, we made it to the rice fields but had limited time as we needed to return before the tide changed again. In the short time we were there we saw some excellent birds including Yellow-billed Shrike and Greater-eared Glossy Starling seen by Ian and Geraldine. In the lovely evening sunshine we also saw rollers, other iridescent starlings and Pearl Spotted Owlets. The area was busy with mainly women working hard watering the Bitter Tomatoes and Aubergines. The guides pointed out that this excellent bird site was usually even better when it was less busy. We returned in time to catch the tide and enjoyed a much easier paddle back to the lodge, with great views of two Malachite Kingfishers on the return journey.

People on the Sunset Cruise enjoyed a lovely relaxing evening seeing crocodiles and some good birds such as Palm-nut Vulture and Blue-breasted Kingfisher. Later we all helped to celebrate Helen's birthday. We met for a lovely dinner finished off with a birthday cake and chorus of "Happy Birthday". We all retired to our rooms full and happy after a smashing day.

Day 6

Wednesday 13th April

Tanji Bird Reserve then to Brufut Wood; afternoon at Tanji Eco Lodge; Sunset Cruise

Today was due to be a half day trip to a nearby forest (farasuto), however the group wanted to extend this to a whole day trip, returning for Anne and Ian's sunset cruise. It was also a special day for Anne and we wanted her to celebrate in style. We decided to visit Tanji Bird Reserve and go on to Brufut Forest to try and find nightjars. The plan was to end up at Tanji Eco Lodge for lunch before returning to our lodge.

We met at 7am for a full breakfast; omelettes all round! We managed to get away promptly at 7.30am and drove to Tanji Bird Reserve. The day was soon warming up and we were told that the temperature was going to peak at over 40 degrees. The forest seemed to be very quiet and there was little bird activity. We did manage a few of the more common birds and a Golden-tailed Woodpecker was a nice sighting. Nearing the coast we at last connected with Little Egret, oddly our only sighting of the trip. We made our way around and then headed for Brufut Forest. Here the steep incline down to the coastal area was a little precarious so we headed to the restaurant site. We managed good views of Yellow-fronted Canary and Piapiac along with gulls and terns. We also saw another gorgeous Dark Blue Pansy, a very attractive butterfly with subtle violet veins in its wings.

It was now becoming very warm and shade and a cool drink were welcomed when we arrived at Tanji Eco Lodge where the staff were very friendly and accommodating. They brought us cold drinks and even filled up the drinking pools so we could watch the birds come in for a drink. With the temperature soaring, it was a great way to spend the afternoon. We were able to watch some lovely birds at close quarters. It was an ideal time to sort out the identification of the weavers and doves. Helpfully, the weavers were now coming into breeding plumage

making identification a little easier. We focused on eye colour and black head markings and were able to sort out Village, Little, Black-necked, Black-headed and Vitelline Masked Weavers...phew!!! The highlight was perhaps the Western Bluebill, with Geraldine delighting in the fact that the female was more attractive than the male with her checkerboard belly and gaudy colouring (the bird not Geraldine!). There were many other species but it was strange to see Eurasian Blackcaps and Common Chiffchaff in a tropical setting. Gambian Sun Squirrel and Callithrix Monkeys also came in for a drink and around the attractive setting of the lodge there were butterflies and dragonflies to keep us busy. Most managed to see the attractive and large Citrus Swallowtail and a few Rainbow Agamas were also around.

We then enjoyed a buffet style meal which was delicious and matched the lovely service from the staff. The experience at the lodge had made it a hugely enjoyable day. Sadly it was soon time to head back for the sunset cruise. Some took the option to go for a walk and others just wanted to relax around the lodge.

Back at Mandina we quickly got ourselves sorted and waved off Anne and Ian, who were also joined by the sunset cruise lotto winners Ian and Geraldine. They reported having a lovely relaxing cruise, despite there being fewer birds than usual, which was helped by the wine Ian had arranged!

The walk to the Cashew Nut Plantation was also not as productive as usual however another Pearl Charaxes was a beautiful butterfly sighting. At the plantation there were a few birds seen including Common Wattle-eye, but the bird we were trying to track down was the Pygmy Kingfisher, which we had enjoyed good views of the previous day and Peter was very keen to see and photograph. We heard the kingfisher and had brief views as it whizzed by, but despite extensive efforts we could not locate it when it settled. After a frustrating hour or so we decided to try again another day and headed back to get ready for dinner.

At dinner we celebrated Anne's birthday and after a delicious three course meal we were treated to another birthday cake, which Anne shared around. It was a lovely end to a great day.

Day 7

Thursday 14th April

Canoe trip to Base Camp and then walk am; walk to the mudflats pm.

The planned trip to the rice fields had to be abandoned due to the rapidly falling tide. As we approached the docking point the mud flats were becoming exposed and it was realised that even if we could land, we would not be able to get back until the tide turned and rose sufficiently to allow us to canoe back. So an impromptu change of plan meant that we stopped at the Base Camp and docked there. At the camp we climbed the tower to look over the vast mangrove swamps. A group of three male Violet-backed Starlings was a delight and then a medium sized raptor flew by at eye level: it was identified as an African Goshawk. We then set off for a walk down to the Cashew Nut Plantation. En route we saw a few new birds and enjoyed great views of some species we had previously encountered. Some of the group appreciated the views of Patas Monkeys sitting up in some trees about 100 metres away. A pair of Klass's Cuckoo was an avian highlight as in the sunlight, the metallic green of the male shone brightly.

Peter's quest for the kingfisher continued as we went out in the hot afternoon to the Cashew Nut Plantation. At the plantation we again located the Pygmy Kingfisher but only managed brief glimpses. Whilst away there had

been something of a kingfisher fest at the lodge where both Giant and Pygmy Kingfishers had given excellent views, to Peter's despair!

The afternoon walk was planned to go to the mudflats. This took us in the direction of the Cashew Nut Plantation and gave Peter one last chance to photograph the Pygmy Kingfisher that had eluded him. The whole group seemed to become engaged in Peter's quest as we set off. We stopped at the tanks so that the group could catch up with the Grey-headed Bristlebill that some had seen earlier. Whilst waiting for it to appear we enjoyed a plethora of birdlife coming to the tanks in the hot afternoon. After about 20 minutes the bristlebill duly turned up and we had good views of this and the other attendants. We were just about to leave when a Pygmy Kingfisher flew into plain view only a few metres away. There was a slight panic as Peter had walked on a little, but the guides called him back and Peter finally got his photograph.....relief all round!

We then continued our walk to the mudflats and after a little searching, found five of our target bird: Greater Painted Snipe. Although difficult to pick out in the tangled mangrove roots, we all managed to get reasonable views and Nigel even managed some reasonable photographs. Also in the area was a flock of African Wattled Lapwings. We continued through a quarry and vegetable gardens, picking up some lovely birds on the way such as Yellow-billed Shrike, Black Crake, hornbills and a party of Senegal Parrots. It was a nice end to the day in which we had seen a few new birds, had great views of some other species, and finally a Pygmy Kingfisher for Peter.

We returned happy with our sightings and got ready for our last meal together as a group. At the dinner Linda came around and thanked everyone for their enthusiasm and cheerfulness that had made this a very enjoyable week. We toasted the group with some complimentary fizzy and chatted until it was time to retire to our rooms. There was one more night walk and we saw two roosting Blue-breasted Kingfishers and a Senegal Thick-knee hunting in the forest's open areas.

Day 8

Friday 15th April

Walk to Culture Centre; drive to Banjul Airport; flight to Gatwick

We all met on our final day for a last forest walk. We walked to the Cultural Centre to look around the craft market and for some last minute souvenirs. Although we did not see any new species, we did have a lovely walk and saw some of the now familiar but still lovely birds. We had a last look at the Northern White-faced Owls and then a stroll around the market. As we had to get ready for our flight, we finished the walk earlier than usual and headed back to the lodge. On the return we walked through a troop of Guinea Baboons being 'shooed' away from the lodge area.

After breakfast we said a fond farewell to our hosts, guide and staff who had looked after us very well during our stay. We then headed to the airport. Our flight back was largely uneventful, apart from a brief episode of turbulence. We arrived at Gatwick ahead of schedule and met up in the baggage reclaim to say our goodbyes. The group had become close over the holiday and had enjoyed each other's company so it was a positive if a little sad ending to a great trip.

Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	April							
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>		10	6					
2	Double-spurred Francolin	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>		2	7		6	2		2
3	Ahante Francolin	<i>Francolinus ahantensis</i>			3					
4	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>				✓			10	
5	Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>				10				
6	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				4				
7	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>		1	2	4				
8	African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>		8	3	2	1	1		
9	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	4	2		1	1			
10	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	10	4		20	2			
11	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1	2	5	2	10	4	2	
13	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>		2		10			1	
14	Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>		5	7	1	2	1	1	
15	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	1	6		1	1			
16	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1	1	10	4	10	15	4	
17	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>		1					1	
18	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>		1	1	20				
19	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>						6		
20	Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>		2	6	4	3	6	4	1
21	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>		2	2	10				
22	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		4		2			2	
23	Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>		2	15	20		30		
24	Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>		12	10	10	7	4	10	
25	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				1				
26	African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	1	10	4	4	4	2	2	
27	Northern Gannet	<i>Sula bassana</i>				1				
28	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>				3	1	1		
29	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus migrans parasitus</i>	1	2	20	2	2	30		10
31	African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>		1	1					
32	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>				1			1	
33	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>			2					
34	Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>		3	4	4	3	1		
35	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
36	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>						2		
37	Montague's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		1						
38	African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	1	4	2	3	5		1	
39	Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>		1	1	1				
40	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>				1				
41	African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>		1					1	
42	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>		2	1	4		1		
43	Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>		1						
44	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>					1			
45	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	1	2		1				

	Common name	Scientific name	April							
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
46	Black Crake	<i>Amauornis flavirostra</i>				2			1	
47	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>				10				
48	Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>	2	6	7	2	2		4	7
49	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				4				
50	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	4	4	✓	10	6		2	
51	African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>		2	2				20	
52	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	1	1	1	10	2	2	2	
53	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		1	1	4	1	6	4	
54	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>				10				
55	Greater Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>							5	
56	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>				20				
57	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	10	14	10	3	✓	4	2	
58	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		2		1		3		
59	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		8	6	1	2		2	
60	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				2				
61	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1	1	4	4	4	2	1	
62	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>				✓				
63	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>				6				
64	Grey-headed Gull	<i>C. cirrocephalus</i>				✓		✓		
65	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>				✓				
66	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>				1				
67	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		1		20		✓		
68	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>				50		✓		
69	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>		1	4	3	1			
70	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>						1		
71	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓			✓		✓		✓
72	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
73	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
74	Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
76	Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Black-billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
78	Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>		1			2			
80	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		4	4	2	3	2	2	1
81	Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>	2	1	10	10	5	15	20	
82	Guinea (Green) Turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>			1				H	
83	Violet Turaco	<i>Musophaga violacea</i>		10	4		3	2	2	H
84	Western Plantain-Eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>	10	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
85	Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>		2				1	1	
86	Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>				1			2	
87	Northern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>			2	1				2
88	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>		1			2			
89	Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>			2	4			2	
90	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
91	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>		10	10					
92	Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>					1			
93	Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>				2	2			
94	Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>		10	14	20	✓	✓	10	2
95	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>				3			2	

	Common name	Scientific name	April							
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
96	Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>			1	1	2	1		
97	Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>		4	3		1		2	
98	African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>		1		1	1	1	3	
99	Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>		2	1	2	2	2	2	
100	Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>		2		1	1		2	
101	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	2	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	2
102	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>			12	2	4		1	
103	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>		6	2		2	2	6	2
104	White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>	20	20	20		50	30	40	10
105	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>				2				
106	Lesser Wood-Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus aterrimus</i>		1						1
107	Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>			2				1	3
108	African Pied Hornbill	<i>Tockus fasciatus</i>		2					2	
109	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>		1			1	2	2	2
110	Western Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus kempfi</i>		20	10		2	2	10	4
111	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>		4	3	1	H	H	H	H
112	Bearded Barbet	<i>Lybius dubius</i>		6	3		3	2	2	
113	Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>					1			
114	Spotted Honeyguide	<i>Indicator maculatus</i>							1	
115	Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>		1	2	1	1	1	1	1
116	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicus fuscescens</i>			1					
117	African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicus goertae</i>		3	2		3			2
118	Brown-throated Wattle-Eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>		1			3	2	4	3
119	White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>			6		6			
120	Orange-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>		1						
121	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>		1			2			
122	Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>		1	3		1	1	1	
123	Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>	1	3	4	1	4	3	H	3
124	Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>			1		1			
125	Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>				1	2		6	
126	African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>		1			2			
127	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>		2	4		2	1		1
128	Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>		10	1	1	2	2	2	
129	African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>		2			1	1	2	
130	Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>			2			4		
131	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
132	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
133	Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>				1	1	1	1	1
134	Fanti Saw-Wing	<i>Psalidoprocne obscura</i>	10	10	10		6	10	10	10
135	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
136	Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>		2		10	6	6		
137	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>					1			
138	Pied-winged Swallow	<i>Hirundo leucosoma</i>		2	4		2	2	2	2
139	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>							2	
140	Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>		1	3		1			
141	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓	✓			✓		2	
142	Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>		1	2	1				
143	Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>			3	2	1	1		
144	Red-winged Warbler	<i>Heliolais erythropterus</i>							1	
145	Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>		4						

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			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
146	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>						2		
147	Oriole Warbler	<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>			3	1				1
148	Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>		3	2	1	1			
149	Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>							1	
150	Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>			5	1	6	4	4	
151	Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>		3			2	6		
152	Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>					1		30	
153	Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>		4		1				4
154	Bronze-tailed Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalcurus</i>							2	
155	Purple (Pale Glossy) Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>		10	6		4			
156	Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>		12			6		6	
157	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>				1				
158	African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>		4	4	2	1		2	
159	Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>		2	2					
160	White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapillus</i>			3					2
161	Mangrove (Brown) Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>		4	1		6	6		
162	Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>							1	
163	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>		6	10	1	2	1	1	2
164	Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>		10	10		4	3	10	6
165	Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastus</i>		4	6	1	2		2	
166	Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>		2	4					
167	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>				✓		✓		
168	Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>					✓	1		1
169	Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>		2			1	2	1	
170	Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>						10		
171	Vitelline Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>						10	2	
172	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
173	Black-headed Weaver	<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>	□	✓				✓		
174	Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>		20			3			
175	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>		20	✓	4	✓	✓	✓	✓
176	Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>		30	✓	1	10	4	6	
177	Lavender Waxbill	<i>Estrilda caerulescens</i>		3			10	20	4	
178	Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>		20						20
179	Western Bluebill	<i>Spermophaga haematina</i>						2		
180	Grey-headed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda canicapillus</i>							1	
181	Bronze Mannikin	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>	20	20	20		20	20	20	10
182	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>		20						
183	Sahel Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua orientalis</i>			1					
184	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				1				
185	Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>		2				6		

Mammals

1	Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus gambianus</i>	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
2	Western Red Colobus Monkey	<i>Procolobus badius</i>					1			
3	Patas Monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>					6	3	4	
4	Guinea Baboon	<i>Papio papio</i>	20	20		200	100	100		20
5	Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>			1			2	4	1
6	Striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>					1			
7	Marsh Mongoose	<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>	1		1					
8	Green Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus sabaeus</i>		20	10		4	10	10	10

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			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9	Senegal Bushbaby	<i>Galago senegalensis</i>		2	2					
10	Pouched Rat	<i>Cricetomys gambianus</i>			1					
11	Little Free-tailed Bat	<i>Chainolobus pumila</i>						1		

Reptiles & Amphibians

Nile Monitor Lizard, *Varanus niloticus*

Agama Lizard, *Agama agama*

Brown-Flanked Skink, *Mabuya affinis*

West African Nile Crocodile, *Crocodylus suchus*

Fig-tree Gecko, *Tarentola ephippiata*

Butterflies

Citrus Swallowtail, *Papilio demodocus*

Small Grass Yellow, *Eurema brigatta*

Common Dotted Border, *Mylothris chloris*

Pearl Charaxes, *Charaxes varanes*

Small Orange Acraea, *Acraea serena*

African Grass Blue, *Zizeeria knysna*

Mediterranean Pierrot, *Tarucus rosacea*

Dideum, *Hypolimnas misippus*

African Emigrant, *Catopsilia florella*

Common Grass Yellow, *Eurema hecabe*

African Tiger, *Danaus chrysippus*

River Sailor, *Neptis serena*

African Albatross, *Appias epaphia epaphia*

Dark Blue Pansy, *Junonia oenone*

Common Zebra Blue, *Leptotes pirithous*

Ordonta

Black Percher, *Diplacodes lefebvrii*

Hintzi Skimmer, *Orthetrum hintzi*

Many-celled Skimmer, *Orthetrum angustiventre*

Red Rock-dweller, *Bradinyopyga strachani*

Violet Dropwing, *Trithemis annulata*

Bold or Strong Skimmer, *Orthetrum stemmale*

Portia Widow, *Palpopleura portia*

Orange Wagtail, *Ceragrion labrum*

Plants

Baobab, *Adansonia digitata*

Red Mangrove, *Rhizophora mangle*

Rhun Palms, *Borassus aethiopum*

Other Taxa

Antlion, *Myrmeleon sp.*

West African Fiddler Crab, *Uca tangeri*

African Red Snapper, *Lutjanus agennes*

Guinean Tilapia, *Tilapia guineensis*

Arachnia,

Giant Huntsman Spider, *Heteropoda venatoria*

Jumping Spider sp, *Salticid sp*

Driver Ants, *Dorylus sp.*

Mangrove Oysters, *Grassostrea tulipa*

Atlantic Mudskipper, *Periophthalmus papillo*

Captain Fish,

Flat Crab Spider, *Selenops sp*

Spiny Orb Spider, *Gasteracantha sp*

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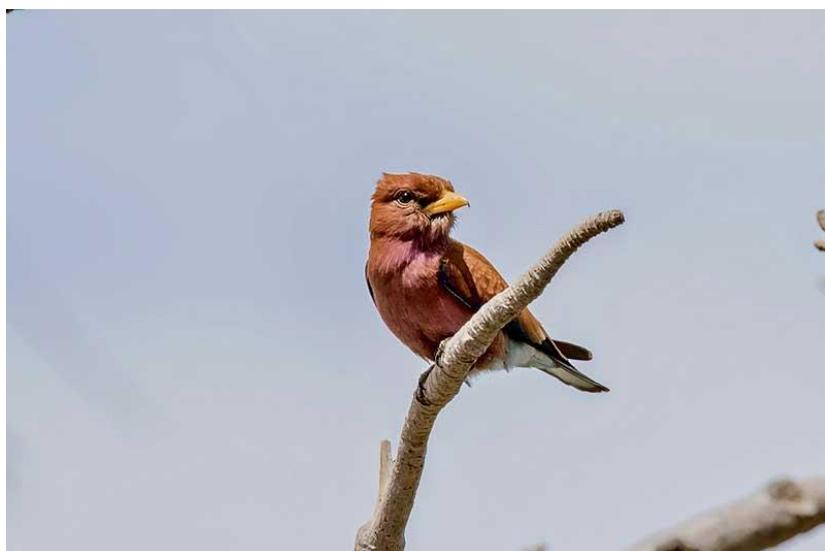
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Epauletted Fruit Bat by Nigel Carter



White-throated Bee-eater by Nigel Carter



Broad-billed-Roller by Nick Hodsdon