

# The Gambia in Style

Naturetrek Tour Report

3 - 10 January 2017

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Tour report compiled by Marcus John



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## Summary

The Gambia is an ideal destination for a relaxed holiday that offers a great introduction to the diverse and colourful birdlife of Africa. We spent the week at the stunning Mandina Lodges, a unique place that lies on a secluded mangrove-lined tributary of the mighty River Gambia. The lodges are situated next to the creek and within the Makasutu Forest, which comprises over a thousand acres of pristine, protected woodland. Daily walks took us out through the woodland and into the rice fields and farmland beyond, where a great range of birds can be found. It was sometimes hard to know where to look as parrots, turacos, rollers and bee-eaters all vied for our attention! Guinea Baboons are resident in the forest and were very approachable, Green Vervet Monkeys were seen most days, and we also found a good variety of butterflies. Boat trips along the creek revealed a diverse selection of waders, kingfishers and other water birds. Early morning and late afternoon walks and canoe rides left plenty of time to relax in the lodges or around the pool, enjoying the tranquility of the unspoilt African bush.

## Day 1

**Tuesday 3rd January**

After an easy and comfortable flight from London Gatwick, we arrived on time at Banjul International Airport. We had time to change money before the 30-minute journey by air-conditioned coach to Mandina Lodges. On arrival, we were welcomed by Linda, who gave us a short orientation as we sipped cold drinks and our cases were taken to the various lodges. We then had a couple of hours to unpack and settle in before a three-course dinner. Only a few bird species were recorded before nightfall, including various African pigeons and doves, with which we were to become very familiar!

## Day 2

**Wednesday 4th January**

### Canoe to Buffulotto - Walk to mudflats

We rose just before dawn and met for early morning tea/coffee and biscuits, which was to become our routine for the week. Suitably refreshed, we set off in two canoes with Lamin, Alagie and Amadou. As we paddled slowly along the mangrove-lined creek, we had close views of a range of wintering waders, including Whimbrel, Grey Plover, Redshank and Greenshank. A pair of cryptically marked Senegal Thick-knees reminded us that we were in Africa! A striking Palm-nut Vulture flew quite low over the mangroves, being mobbed by Pied Crows. We paused to watch several Pied Kingfishers including one struggling to swallow a large fish, a tiny Malachite Kingfisher and a huge Giant Kingfisher.

After about an hour we disembarked where the local people process the Mangrove oysters. This is an excellent area for small birds and we immediately found a showy Yellow-crowned Gonolek in a small tree, close to a noisy flock of Village Weavers. A Black-billed Wood Dove walked across our track, and was soon joined by several African Thrushes. As we walked slowly on, a pair of Red-billed Hornbills sat up in a tree, and an adult African Harrier-Hawk hid in the crown of a tall palm before flying to an adjacent tree and perching in full view. Other raptors included an obliging Lanner Falcon and a Grey Kestrel, which sat only briefly before flying off overhead.

We entered an open area of dry ground, where we spent time getting good views of a Bearded Barbet; surely one of the most distinctive birds in The Gambia. In the adjacent rice fields, we found one each of Black-headed Heron, Sacred Ibis and Intermediate Egret. Walking on to the 'quarry' (where local people dig out gravel and rocks by hand), we encountered a mixed flock of passerines including Lavender Waxbill, Red-billed Firefinch and Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleu. A large Cashew tree held lots of Pin-tailed Whydahs and Village Indigobirds.

As we canoed back for a late breakfast, we had close views of African Darter and a flock of Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters flew overhead. It had been a superb introduction to the birds of The Gambia.

After a relaxing break in the heat of the afternoon, we set off on our first walk through Makasutu Forest. Close to the lodges, we saw our first Splendid Sunbirds drinking at the water tanks. Nearby, some of us had close views of a Grey-headed Bristlebill. Another skulking species was seen next, in the form of a Little Greenbul. As we walked through to a more open area of woodland, we found our first Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, whilst both Yellow-breasted Apalis and Green-backed Camaroptera fed in the canopy.

As soon as we came out into the open at the mudflats, the birds came thick and fast: three Violet Turacos, three Painted Snipes, a Blue-breasted Kingfisher and a Shikra in the space of a few minutes! We spent a long time admiring the Painted Snipe; a secretive species that seldom stands out in full view. As we walked on across the stream, we saw several Long-tailed Glossy Starlings and Yellow-billed Shrikes. In the shallow pools were both Squacco and Striated Herons. Our afternoon was complete when we had great views of Pearl-spotted Owlet as we returned to Mandina.

## Day 3

Thursday 5th January

### Kartong

We had an early breakfast before boarding our air-conditioned coach for the hour-long journey to Kartong. This wetland area lies on the coast, close to the southern border with Senegal, and offers a range of birds that we cannot see elsewhere on this tour. On arrival, we spent 45 minutes with Colin Cross, who runs the Kartong Bird Observatory. He gave us a fascinating introduction to The Gambia, detailing the birdlife of Kartong and what his ringing activities had revealed about migration between UK and The Gambia. For example, he told us that four Nightingales ringed in the UK had subsequently been trapped at Kartong. From his garden, we had a clear view of one of the freshwater pools, where African (Purple) Swamphens and their chicks were feeding, along with many African Jacanas and an assortment of herons and egrets. Nearby, an Abyssinian Roller was a shimmering, iridescent blue as it sat next to a smart Senegal Coucal.

We walked along main track through the middle of the wetlands, where large pools have been created as a result of sand extraction. We stopped to scan the open water, emergent vegetation and large areas of reeds. Waders included Wattled and Spur-winged Lapwings, Black-winged Stilt, Black-tailed Godwit and Wood and Green Sandpipers. Hundreds of White-faced Whistling Ducks were joined by three Knob-billed (African Comb) Ducks and two scarce migrants from Europe – Northern Shoveler and Garganey.

Kartong hosts a good range of raptors, the most obvious species (apart from the ubiquitous Hooded Vultures) being Osprey; we saw half a dozen. We also enjoyed great views of a number of classic African raptors including Long-crested Eagle, Grey Kestrel and Red-necked Falcon.

When we arrived on the wide, sandy beach we were greeted by two delightful Namaqua Doves, feeding on the path. As we walked along the beach, we soon found our first coastal wader species. We checked carefully through the Ringed and Kentish Plovers until we eventually located an adult White-fronted Plover; its gingery head, neck and back making it quite distinctive. Nearby, we found a mixed flock of Whimbrel, Grey Plover, Sanderling and Turnstone gathered at the water's edge, as a small group of Pink-backed Pelicans soared over the sea. More surprising was a pair of Yellow-billed Oxpeckers that accompanied a small group of cattle on the beach. On the walk back, we picked out Caspian, Royal and Sandwich Terns as they flew low over the waves.

Kartong always provides a real diversity of birds and other highlights included African Grey Hornbill, Woodchat Shrike, Piapiac, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater and Green Wood Hoopoe.

After a long walk, we were glad to drive back up the coast for a late buffet lunch at the beach resort of Sanyang, before returning to Mandina in the late afternoon.

## Day 4

Friday 6th January

### Canoes to base camp - Walk through Makasutu Forest.

After our early refreshments, we again set off in the canoes along the bolon (creek), though in the opposite direction. Early morning sunlight illuminated a stunning Malachite Kingfisher as it sat on a low, curved perch; a dazzling jewel shining out from the dark, tangled roots of the mangroves. We paddled very close to a grumpy looking Senegal Thick-knee before encountering a set of European waders feeding in close proximity: Bar-tailed Godwit, Redshank and Greenshank,

The low tide necessitated that we disembark at base camp, where we took a different path through Makasutu Forest. It was a cool morning and at first the bird activity was low, but after a quiet start, we had a wonderful hour when colourful birds appeared from every direction. A flock of noisy White-crowned Helmetshrikes flew across the path; these were quickly followed by three Violet Turacos feeding in a Fig with a pair of Bearded Barbets. Another barbet flew into an adjacent tree, which on closer inspection turned out to be the much scarcer Vieillot's Barbet. A Pied Hornbill flew low across the path and a little later, a Beaudouin's Snake Eagle soared overhead.

As we walked closer to Mandina, we found a series of Bee-eaters, including Little, White-throated and Swallow-tailed. All three species sat out for us to admire and looked stunning in the warm sunlight. Roger and Ann found our first Scarlet-chested Sunbird; its iridescent plumage shining as it fed in full view. A small flock of Blackcap Babblers and a Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher completed a memorable morning.

Our destination this afternoon was Buffulotto. We walked out along the main track but soon stopped when we found three Grey-headed Bristlebills. As we watched, a Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat flew in - another scarce, shy bird of the forest understorey. A Common Wattle-Eye and a Grey-backed Camaroptera also showed well in the trees above.

We walked through an area of Cashew trees to emerge at the open rice fields by Buffulotto village. Many hundreds of Village Weavers were the most obvious avian residents, along with Red-billed Hornbills, Senegal Coucals and Yellow-billed Shrikes. Alagie heard the call of Black Crake but after several minutes, we were unable

to locate it. We headed on to the mudflats, where everyone had excellent views of a Blue-breasted Kingfisher, though the telescope had to be positioned in shallow water between stepping stones! We also had brief views of Greater Painted Snipe but unfortunately, they quickly retreated into the dense mangroves. We returned to Mandina just as darkness fell, with time to relax before dinner.

## Day 5

## Saturday 7th January

Today was our second trip out on the coach, to visit several sites along the northern part of the coast. Our first destination was the nature reserve of Brufut Woods, which is run by the West African Bird Study Association. We met our local guide and he took us on a walk through an open, scrubby area, before entering the woodland itself. We saw a good variety of birds including Shikra, Lizard Buzzard, Wattled Lapwing, Violet Turaco and Blue-bellied Roller. We enjoyed watching the antics of a busy family of Green Wood Hoopoes and had the opportunity to photograph some obliging Yellow-billed Shrikes. As we walked along the woodland edge, we found our first Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, a diminutive member of the barbet family. We added several new species to our list including a flock of six Fanti Saw-wings and a solitary Greater Blue-eared Starling. A flock of twenty White-billed Buffalo-Weavers were easily located, whereas a pair of Yellow-throated Leafloves was very hard to see as they stayed in the midst of dense foliage.

Brufut is best known for its roosting owls and nightjars. Our local guide was able to find a Northern White-faced Owl sitting high in a tall tree; without his help, we would surely never have seen it! He took a few minutes to find the next target species but in the end, we were able to approach to within metres of a pair of Long-tailed Nightjars. The exceptional views were probably the highlight of the day.

Our next stop was the fishing beach at Tanji. This is the busiest fish market in The Gambia, where dozens of brightly coloured boats unload their catch onto the sand. It was fascinating to see the fishing boats gathered in the shallows, whilst women sat and gutted the catch. The whole beach was busy with the hectic business of processing fresh fish. Dozens of gulls and terns were in attendance, including three Kelp Gulls, a scarce bird in The Gambia.

We left Tanji behind and drove north along the main coastal road to Bijilo Forest Park, well-known for its habituated Green Vervet Monkeys. Our main target, however, was Western Red Colobus Monkey, which is both scarce and shy. We first walked through an area that had been cleared for the replanting of native species and was rather barren. Eventually, we entered an area of dense, mature trees and soon found several Red Colobus Monkeys, which gazed down at us as they rested in the high branches. This endangered species is very distinctive, with soft red fur and a peaceful demeanour.

After a short drive through the heat of the afternoon, we arrived for a late lunch at Paradise Restaurant, Cape Point. Our shaded tables were surprisingly cool and overlooked a big, freshwater pool. Amongst the commoner species on show, we had close views of Hamerkop, Green Sandpiper and Senegal Coucal. Pied Kingfishers perched just metres from our table, offering exceptional photographic opportunities. A range of colourful species swooped down to drink from the pool, including Caspian Tern, and Little and Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters. It was a wonderfully relaxing end to a busy day, full of birds!

## Day 6

Sunday 8th January

### Canoe to Kembujeh rice fields – Forest walk

Our guides had to work hard this morning as we paddled against the rising tide on our way out; they enjoyed a well-earned break when we stopped to photograph an African Darter on top of a mangrove. We were pleased to see a little Subalpine Warbler moving carefully through the mangroves; The Gambia plays host to a range of wintering warblers from Europe.

When we arrived at Kembujeh, we immediately saw a Yellow-crowned Gonolek and a pair of African Grey Woodpeckers. Even better, we found a beautiful male Golden Oriole that seemed to glow in the morning light. A Pearl-spotted Owlet and a pair of Pied Hornbills completed a magical ten minutes!

We walked on into the rice fields, where local people were preparing the ground and watering the neat little nursery beds. After the rice is harvested in January, the ground is planted with a variety of vegetables. We came across a flock of smart little Orange-cheeked Waxbills feeding in tall, dry vegetation. We saw a distant European Roller and then a Dark Chanting Goshawk in flight. Much more obliging were a Lizard Buzzard and a pair of Grey Kestrels, perched in palm trees.

After our usual early afternoon break, we set off along another track into the forest. We again stopped by the water tanks and were rewarded with both Spotted and Lesser Honeyguides, two species that are often hard to see. Just beyond, we had great views of an immature Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat. As we continued up the sandy path, three Stone Partridges ran across in front of us. Next, we found our first Senegal Eremomela with its bright yellow underparts shining out from the dark green canopy. We walked through a more open area and saw four more Violet Turacos, before Amadou identified a small, dark raptor as the melanistic morph of Gabar Goshawk – a stunning bird! Alagie did very well to keep track of it as it flew from tree to tree; we all had a chance to admire it through the telescope.

Next, we had a close encounter with a troop of Guinea Baboons. Initially, they were sat up feeding in tall trees, before climbing and jumping down to cross the path behind us and moving away towards their night time resting place in a dense area of forest.

We visited the area around the Cultural Centre, where we saw another Northern White-faced Owl, which roost in the eucalyptus trees here. Nearby, we did well to find a Buff-spotted Woodpecker and a female Northern Puffback. As we walked back towards Mandina, Alagie's sharp eyes spotted a Green Turaco fly into a tall tree. After a patient search, we eventually had good views through the telescope of this handsome and elusive bird.

## Day 7

Monday 9th January

### Nambikala fields – Kubeneh

This morning we separated into two groups, as some of us wished to visit a local village. The rest of us set off on a walk to Nambikala fields. It was rather cool (by Gambian standards!) and overcast but we soon encountered a flock of White-crested Helmetshrikes. Soon afterwards, a small bird shot across the path and Alagie recognised the call of Pygmy Kingfisher. Only Derek managed a glimpse before it flew into dense cover and was lost to sight.

When we arrived at Nambikala, we were surprised at the sheer extent of the wet fields, dotted with small reedy pools, deep enough for water lilies. As we scanned the area, we noticed two Purple Starlings with a single Bronze-tailed Starling – two new species! Walking along narrow ridges that separated the small fields, we found a good range of wetland birds including Squacco Heron, African Jacana and Wood Sandpiper. Better still, we then had extended views of a smart Black Heron. A Red-necked Falcon raced through, scattering the Village Weavers, whilst a Long-crested Eagle sat on a palm stump in full view. We spent time looking for a calling Black Crake and eventually saw it, though it was partially hidden as it fed in tall reeds. As we left the fields, we found a pair of very active Northern Black Flycatchers; another new species. On our way back to Mandina, we walked through a dry, scrubby area where we saw a superb Rufous-crowned Roller, and then a lovely little Striped Kingfisher. The group who had gone to the village also had new birds, namely Black-winged Kite and Black-rumped Waxbill.

We spent the late afternoon on a canoe ride and walk through the village of Kubeneh. Although we saw a number of colourful birds, it was the amazing trees in the centre of the village that will live long in the memory. One particular tree was of enormous dimensions, with broad, sinuous buttresses flowing from its base. The wood of the African Silk Cotton tree (also known as Kapok) is of no particular value, which has helped to ensure that these trees can survive for hundreds of years. We gathered around the biggest of the trees for the obligatory group photograph, before taking a leisurely canoe ride back to Mandina.

## Day 8

**Tuesday 10th January**

On our last morning, we took a long walk around the outer part of the forest to the Cultural Centre and Craft Market. Despite being our final day, we still added new species to the list. We hadn't seen any cuckoos at all, so we were very pleased to come across a pair of Klaas's Cuckoos, which showed very well as they fed together in a low tree. We found a new woodpecker too, in the form of Fine-spotted Woodpecker. But the very best bird of this last day was a superb Verreaux's Eagle Owl, which was an extraordinary find by our team of local guides. It was roosting in the crown of a very tall palm tree, but we could see it clearly through the telescope, even picking out its pink eye-lids. The biggest owl in Africa - what a great way to complete a memorable week's birding!

After our final cooked breakfast, we had plenty of time to pack and enjoy a chat with the staff before boarding the coach for our late afternoon flight back to Gatwick. Everyone came out to wave us off and we were able to express our appreciation for the excellent service we had received throughout our stay. All the staff had gone out of their way to make us feel welcome and nothing had been too much trouble. The local guides make an excellent team and had provided us with many memorable moments.

The flight home was on time and everything went smoothly. It had been a very successful week and the camaraderie amongst the group added enormously to our enjoyment.

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## Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	January							
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>						3	H	H
2	Double-spurred Francolin	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>				2		5	1	H
3	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>			500					
4	Knob-billed (African Comb) Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>			3					
5	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>			1					
6	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>			1					
7	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			1					
8	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>			1					
9	African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>		1				1		
10	White-backed Night Heron	<i>Gorsachius leuconotus</i>		2						
11	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		1						
12	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>		1						
13	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		1	6				2	
14	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
16	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>		1	5	2			1	
17	Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>		6	1	2		2		
18	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		2	3	1		1		
19	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		12	3	2		5	3	1
20	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>		1	1	2		10		
21	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>		2				1	1	1
22	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		4						
23	Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
24	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		2	4		1	1	1	
25	Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>		12	11	14	1	9		
26	Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
27	African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
28	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		8	6	10		4		
29	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>				1			1	
30	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
31	Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>		3	1			2		
32	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
33	Beaudouin's Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>		1		1				
34	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			1					
35	African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	2	2	4			1	4	
36	Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>						1		
37	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>						1		
38	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>		1	1		1	1	1	
39	Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>					1	1	1	
40	Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>	1		1				1	
41	Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaecus</i>		1	2			3		
42	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				1				
43	Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>			1				1	
44	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>		1						
45	Black Crake	<i>Amauromis flavirostra</i>							1	
46	African (Purple) Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>			6					



	Common name	Scientific name	January							
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
47	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			1					
48	Senegal Thick-Knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>		12	8	8	1	1	1	
49	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			15					
50	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>		4	20	6	2	4	10	
51	African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>			5		2		2	
52	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		3	12	2				
53	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			12					
54	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>			1					
55	Greater Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>		3		3				
56	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>		1	30				1	
57	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>			4					
58	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>			2					
59	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>				1				
60	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
61	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
62	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		✓		✓		✓		
63	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			1		1			
64	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			3				1	
65	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
66	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>			12					
67	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>			70					
68	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			20					
69	Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>					✓			
70	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>					3			
71	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>					✓			
72	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		2	40	1	20	6	1	
73	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>			10					
74	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>			2	2		1		
75	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>			✓				✓	
76	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
78	Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
80	Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Black-billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>		1		1	2	2	2	2
82	Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>		1		2			1	1
83	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>			2			1		
84	African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>							1	
85	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		6		6		1	6	
86	Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>		3			3		10	5
87	Guinea Turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>						1		1
88	Violet Turaco	<i>Musophaga violacea</i>		4		3	1	5	2	
89	Western Plantain-Eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Long-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i>					2			
91	Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>			2	3	1		3	
92	Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>								2
93	Verreaux's Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>								1
94	Northern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>					1	1		
95	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>		1				1		
96	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
97	Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>							1	

	Common name	Scientific name	January							
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
98	Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>			6		1	2	1	
99	Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>		2		1	2	3	2	
100	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>		1					1	
101	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>						1		
102	Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>							1	
103	Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>		1		1		2	1	
104	African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>							1	
105	Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>		6	2	3	1	1	1	
106	Shining-blue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo quadribrachys</i>				1	1			
107	Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>	1	3				3		
108	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
109	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>				3	1		2	2
110	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>				2	6	8	2	
111	White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>			12	6		25	10	6
112	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>		30	12	6	6	3		
113	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		3						
114	Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>			1	1	8	4		
115	African Pied Hornbill	<i>Tockus fasciatus</i>				1		2		
116	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>			2		4		H	
117	Western Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus kemp</i>		8	7	10	12	6	6	
118	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>				1	1	1		1
119	Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieilloti</i>				1				
120	Bearded Barbet	<i>Lybius dubius</i>		1		3		1	2	
121	Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>				1				
122	Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>						1		
123	Spotted Honeyguide	<i>Indicator maculatus</i>						1		
124	Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>								1
125	African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>		1				2	1	
126	Buff-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera nivosa</i>						1		
127	Brown-throated Wattle-Eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>		2		2	2	1	2	
128	White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>			6	5				
129	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>				1	1			H
130	Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>						1		
131	Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>		3	2	2		1	1	H
132	Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>								1
133	Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>		3		4	4		2	1
134	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			3					
135	African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>				1		1	1	1
136	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>						1	2	
137	Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>		1		2	1	1		
138	Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
139	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
140	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
141	Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>		2						
142	Fanti Saw-wing	<i>Psaldoprocne obscura</i>					6			
143	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
144	Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
145	Pied-winged Swallow	<i>Hirundo leucosoma</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
146	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>			✓					
147	Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>		6				1		
148	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			1					1

	Common name	Scientific name	January							
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
149	Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>		3						
150	Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>		2		2				
151	Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>						1		
152	Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>				3				
153	Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>				8	6		10	H
154	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>						1		
155	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia comunis</i>			3					
156	Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>					1	6		
157	Bronze-tailed Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalcurus</i>							1	
158	Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>							2	
159	Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>		20			2	3	4	
160	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>			2					
161	African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>		10		2	1	4	7	1
162	Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>				1		1		1
163	Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>							2	
164	Mangrove Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>		1		2			1	
165	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>				2		2		
166	Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>		10	6	6	20	6	6	5
167	Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastrus</i>		3				1	1	
168	Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>				2			1	3
169	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>								1
170	Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>		2			2			
171	White-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>					20			
172	Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>		6						
173	Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>		6	12					
174	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
175	Yellow-throated Leaflove	<i>Chlorocichla flavicollis</i>					2			
176	Grey-headed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda canicapillus</i>				3				
177	Black-winged Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>						4		
178	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
179	Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
180	Lavender Waxbill	<i>Estrilda caerulescens</i>		12		1	1	1		3
181	Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>						8		
182	Black-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>							6	
183	Bronze Mannikin	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
184	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>		12						
185	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			2					
186	Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>					1			6
187	Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>		12						

## Mammals

1	Western Red Colobus Monkey	<i>Procolobus badius</i>					8			
2	Patas Monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>				3				
3	Guinea Baboon	<i>Papio papio</i>	20		20	1		18	50	
4	Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>					2		2	
5	Marsh Mongoose	<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>	1	1	2					
6	Green Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus sabaeus</i>		12		2	20	12		
7	Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus gambianus</i>	8	15		6	3	5	4	
8	Epauletted Fruit Bat species			3						

	Common name	Scientific name	January							
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

### Reptiles

1	Nile Monitor Lizard	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>		1				1		
2	West African Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus suchus</i>		1		3	12	2		
3	Agama Lizard	<i>Agama agama</i>			1		3		1	

### Butterflies & Moths

1	Citrus Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demodocus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
2	African Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia florella</i>		✓	✓					
3	Small Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigatta</i>		✓		✓		✓		
4	Caper White	<i>Belenois aurota</i>								
5	African Spirit	<i>Leptosia alcesta</i>		✓			✓			
6	Common Dotted Border	<i>Mylothris chloris</i>				✓			✓	
7	African Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8	Dark Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia oenone</i>						✓		
9	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			✓					
10	Large Spotted Acraea	<i>Acraea zetes</i>					✓			
11	Crimson-speckled Footman (moth)	<i>Utethesia lotrix</i>		✓						

### Other Taxa

1	Black Percher	<i>Diplacodes lefebvrei</i>			✓				✓	
2	Red Basker	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>				✓	✓			
3	Strong Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brachiale</i>			✓					
4	West African Fiddler Crab	<i>Uca tangeri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Mangrove Oysters	<i>Grassostrea tulipa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Atlantic Mudskipper	<i>Periophthalmus papillo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

### Flora of Note

Baobab, *Adansonia digitata*

Rhun Palms, *Borassus aethiopum*

Red Mangrove, *Rhizophora mangle*

White Mangrove, *Laguncularia racemosa*

African Locust Bean Tree, *Parkia biglobosa*

Cashew Tree, *Anacardium occidentale*

African Oil Palm, *Elaeis guineensis*

Coconut Palm, *Cocos nucifera*

Gmelina Tree, *Gmelina arborea*

Red-flowered Silk Cotton Tree, *Bombax buonopozense*

## Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!