

The Gambia in Style

Naturetrek Tour Report

22nd – 29th April 2022



Klaas's Cuckoo by Dave Jackson



Blue-cheeked Bee-eater by Dave Jackson



Giant Kingfisher by Chris Tracey



Abyssinian Roller by Mark Nevison

Tour report Dave Jackson



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Dave Jackson (leader) and 8 Naturetrek clients. Local guides. A.J., Lamin, Mas & Sana.

Summary

The seventh and final Naturetrek tour to the Gambia for the 2021/22 season where 185 bird species, 11 mammal species and a myriad of butterflies and dragonflies were seen and photographed. We visited a number of sites by coach including Abuko Nature Reserve, Cape Point, Tanji Fishing Village, and at Kartong in the south of the country we observed all four roller species in quick succession.

We stayed at the award-winning Mandina Lodges, noted for its luxury accommodation and prime location on a mangrove-lined tributary of the River Gambia where we relaxed in or around the pool between guided trips out by canoe and on foot.

We enjoyed delicious, freshly cooked meals in the peaceful and unique surroundings during our eight day stay.

Day 1

Friday 22nd April

Gatwick to Banjul

Weather: 32°C Banjul

Most of the group were through check-in before the official opening time for our morning flight to Banjul. Those with window seats were able to observe the ever-changing scenery below; the dirt roads leading in and out of villages of Western Sahara and Mauritania turned into lush mangrove forests as we approached our destination some six hours later.

Mark had noted his first bird of the trip with Hooded Vulture at eye level through the plane's window as we came into land at Banjul airport.

After the haphazard queuing system to pay the new entry fee, we were soon through customs and changed money into Dalasis with the highly efficient man at his kiosk before boarding the waiting bus to transport us to our luxurious base for the next seven nights.

Simon had clocked up six new species before we'd left the airport and a troop of Guinea Baboons slowed the bus as they fed on fallen fruit on the road down to Mandina Lodges - we were off to a flying start!

We were warmly greeted by Linda and given a briefing of the week ahead but it was difficult paying attention as a stream of Fanti Saw-wings skimmed the swimming pool, a species of swallow usually only seen in small numbers in the dry season and when seen well, show a beautiful green sheen to their plumage.

Other birds seen around the pool area included Village Weavers, Pied Kingfishers and Mourning Doves before we headed out on an afternoon walk up the track past the water tanks. A regular Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher appeared on cue along with Snowy-crowned Robin Chat and Little Greenbul, a rather drab bird but a good one to see so early in the trip. Common Bulbuls were obviously agitated by the presence of a ground predator; a

snake or mongoose? No, just one of Linda's rescue cats lying there in the leaf litter minding its own business! On the way back, Michael noticed an African Paradise Flycatcher with its extended tail feathers deep in the shadow and almost impossible to see until it moved – an impressive find.

Back at reception, the chef noted our orders for dinner while Pied-winged Swallows and White-fronted Bee-eaters perched in the mangroves resting from feeding awhile as the sound of fruit bats increased with the setting sun.

Day 2

Saturday 23rd April

Bufuloto - Mandina Bolon – Mudflats

Weather: 30°C sunny with a slight breeze

We met for tea and coffee at 07:00 before our guides, Lamin, Mas, Sana & A.J. helped us onto the canoes for our trip along the creek to Bufuloto. First, a blast of colour when a Malachite, then a Blue-breasted Kingfisher showed well in the mangroves and a Reed, or Long-tailed Cormorant was in no hurry to leave its favoured perch as the canoes drifted by at close range.

Hooded Vultures were picking off any morsels from the discarded oyster shells as we moored up at Bufuloto. The villagers smoke the oysters and discard the shells ready to be collected for crushing into fertiliser and whitewash. A Senegal Eremomela gave fleeting views as it kept low in the vegetation while Chris and Pete gave the oyster smokers a generous donation in exchange for a few photographs as we made our way along the path. Chris' interest in butterflies became apparent as she tried to identify the many fly-bys and tiny blues that would occasionally settle close to the ground along with African Tiger, one of the more wide-spread butterflies seen in The Gambia.

A Fork-tailed Drongo sat high in a bush while Dave tried to get everyone onto an Orange-cheeked Waxbill before it disappeared into long grass to feed. A small party of Namaqua Doves fed ahead of us unconcerned by our presence as an Agama Lizard slid off a wall and out of sight as we approached. A pair of Rufous-necked, previously called Red-necked Falcon before being split from the Indian species, caused a few identification issues but the size and structure of the birds soon became apparent as they flew towards our optics and camera lenses revealing more salient features of this small raptor.

The guides were keen to get us to the boats and back for a late breakfast as a Black-headed Heron perched high in a baobab tree delayed our return by a few minutes, and an Osprey took off from the grass roof of the stilted lodge as we returned to base where the efficient staff greeted us with a long list of breakfast options.

With the temperature rising, some of the group took to the pool for an afternoon swim while others added new birds to their lists before meeting up again for a walk to the mudflats for half of the group while the others were back on the water for a sun-set cruise by powered craft.

Those on the walk observed Spotted Honeyguide, the Little Greenbul & African Paradise Flycatcher still by the tanks, African Wattled Lapwing bathing in the creek & Purple Turaco at a distance. Chris and Mary found a

butterfly that wasn't on the checklist – an orange and brown coloured Common Scarlet and up ahead, a pair of Pied Hornbills posed for the cameras.

Those on the boat were treated to good views of African Darter, Purple and Goliath Heron as well as Pink-backed Pelican and Great Egret before enjoying refreshments from the cool-box on the leisurely cruise back to the lodge in time for dinner. A photo of a bird taken by the water tank in deep shadow was initially identified as a Yellow-throated Leaflove from the back of the camera screen was re-identified as a Grey-headed Bristlebill when viewed and edited later - the wonders of digital photography!

Day 3

Sunday 24th April

Lamin Rice Fields – Abuko – Cape Point

Weather: 32°C

Today, we set off after breakfast by coach for our walk around Lamin Rice Fields, a series of allotments where the locals grow many different fruits and vegetables on raised beds and rice when the fields flood in the rainy season.

A Grey Kestrel with its spectacular yellow eye-rings perched on top of a dead palm tree as Piapiacs, Long-tailed Glossy Starlings and many species of doves flew from tree to tree. White-faced Whistling ducks, Senegal Coucal, Hammerkop, Black Crake and African Jacana fed amongst the furrows as did Squacco Heron, African Spoonbill and Cattle Egret. Sana was keen to get those with cameras to take shots of the Black Heron as it performed its 'umbrella' routine to lure small fish into the shadow of its wings for easy capture. A Wood Sandpiper disappeared along a ditch occupied by a dainty Malachite Kingfisher, Zitting Cisticolas and Little Bee-eaters while Shikra, Lizard Buzzard and Pearl-spotted Owlet were welcome sightings.

Portia Widow and Red Basker dragonflies sallied from grass stems lining the path as we made our way back to the bus to take us the short distance to Abuko National Park.

A Broad-billed Roller was the first bird to be seen as we entered the reserve and an adult and juvenile African Jacana seemed oblivious as we crossed a make-shift bridge on the way to the hide. We were asked to approach quietly as a Western Bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus*) fed nearby as a West Nile Crocodile sized up its potential lunch.

Fanti Saw-wings and Wire-tailed Swallows skimmed the surface of the muddy pond and a Purple Heron obliged by landing on top of a mound where it began to preen, much to the delight of the photographers in the group.

Western Red Colobus are a speciality of the reserve and Sana did very well to locate one of the monkeys up a tree next to the path. It was almost impossible to see until it moved to an adjoining tree where it remained partially hidden. It was in no mood to pose for the cameras so we left it in peace and made our way back to continue our journey to Cape Point for lunch.

We chose a table in a sheltered spot next to a pond where Pied Kingfishers, African Spoonbill, Black Crake and a one-legged Grey Heron, perhaps the victim of the resident crocodiles, fed. Caspian and West African Crested

Tern, a recent split from the American Royal Tern, made continuous dives into the fresh water to drink and bathe, accompanied by Grey-headed Gulls, Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, a Broad-billed Roller and Squacco Heron.

An incredible number of birds in a small area but the best was yet to come. Mark was watching a Nile Monitor Lizard when what he thought would be a Black Crake hopped out from the small reedbed, “is that, is that a Painted Snipe?” He said in complete astonishment - and it was!

We settled our bills after an enjoyable lunch ready for the next destination, Kotu Bridge a little way down the coast.

The bus parked up close to the bridge on a wide stretch of road as the tide was coming in. A few Redshank and Greenshank on a sand bar were quickly displaced as our attention was turned to the Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, Broad-billed Roller, Yellow-fronted Canary and Little Weavers while most of the group crossed the road to a cultivated area where noisy Spur-winged Lapwings voiced displeasure at their Sunday afternoon being disturbed, but not for long as it was an Abyssinian Roller perched on wires that was drawing our attention.

It was late afternoon and time to return to base but the bus came to an unscheduled stop a few miles from Kotu. The driver managed to get it started but the intermittent firing of the engine indicated a fuel problem so he hailed a taxi back to his depot for a replacement bus.

A tail-less Yellow-billed Shrike had us head-scratching for a few seconds as did a kite perched on wires near the bus. This was definitely a Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) identified by the dark bill and grey head and not the more usual Yellow-billed Kite (*Milvus aegyptius*) which was once considered a sub- species. Chris crossed the road to photograph Piapiacs riding on the backs of goats before the driver returned, in no time, with a gleaming replacement bus to continue on the journey back before we purchased a sprig of fresh mint from two girls for D10 (about 14 pence) for the chef to use as garnish for our evening meal.

Day 4

Monday 25th April

Kembujeh – Sunset Cruise – Mudflats

Weather: Cool overnight rising to 36°C, pleasant breeze

We met at 7.00am for a 7.30 departure by canoe to Kembujeh Rice Fields up-stream from Mandina. A Blue-breasted Kingfisher flew low across the river taking us all by surprise, an African Darter was silhouetted against the morning sky and a Striated Heron tried its best to avoid our gaze by climbing up a mangrove. The canoes were manoeuvred to give everyone good but partially obstructed views of this secretive bird before carrying on to our destination.

Diminutive Namaqua Doves walked ahead of us as we made our way to the rice fields where a group of glossy starlings gathered in a tree top consisted of Lesser Blue-eared, Greater Blue-eared, Purple and Chestnut-bellied, an amazing collection in one small flock. A Tawny-flanked Prinia darted in and out of cover before everyone could get a sighting of this relatively common bird.

Mary photographed the plants for identification and Vivienne was keen to see how the local women manage their crops so Lamin arranged for us to enter the fields via a side entrance where he gained their permission to be photographed and filmed doing their back-breaking work, drawing water from a hand-dug well to water their chili and sorrel plants. The rest of the group continued their quest for birds with Blue-bellied Rollers being the stars of the show as they swopped down for insects from their various watch-points. A Woodchat Shrike shared the border fence with the rollers as it fed in a similar way moving from post to post in its search for prey.

The tide was turning and an Osprey showed how shallow the water was in places by landing on a sandbank shared by Common Redshank and Grey Plover, and attempted to fish from there allowing close approach as we rowed past before arriving back for the customary late breakfast.

Some of the keen photographers spent the afternoon trying to get shots of the Fanti Saw-wings and White-throated Bee-eaters as they came down to drink, at eye level whilst in the swimming pool, quite a feat! A Giant Kingfisher landed on the poolside but was too shy to join them.

Michael spotted a distant snake eagle in a tree on the far side of the river which was identified as Beaudouin's Snake Eagle when it showed its chest markings before a second bird was seen soaring overhead as the group split again for the sunset cruise or walk to the mudflats.

Mark did well to identify a distant Lanner Falcon while the stunning Woodland Kingfisher and Copper Sunbird were new birds for the tour. Those on the sunset cruise managed to add Yellow-billed Stork to the list.

Day 5

Tuesday 26th April

Paul Woodland area – Kubuneh

Weather: Breezy start rising to 38°C

Greater Blue-eared Glossy Starlings joined the beautifully iridescent Violet-backed Starlings in treetops before our morning walk through the dry scrub and scattered trees of the Makasutu area. A pair of African Paradise Flycatchers had taken up residence by the water tanks as we made our way along the dusty road. A number of dove species included Vinaceous, African Mourning, Red-eyed and Blue-spotted Wood Doves before our attention was turned to a pair of Purple Turaco, while Pale-chanting Goshawk watched us from a fork in a tree. Often heard and seldom seen, a pair of Yellow-crowned Gonoleks eventually gave themselves up as they fed in the shadow of a large tree along with three West African Hoopoes although neither would allow close approach as a herd of cattle made their way slowly towards them.

A Green Pigeon was briefly seen as a Black-shouldered Kite drifted overhead and as we came to more open habitat, an African Golden Oriole provided a splash of colour as it flew past but couldn't be located. Mas noticed a small group of Patas Monkeys, a species high on Simon's wish-list and a species usually difficult to locate. These long-legged monkeys are ground dwelling and very wary as they are hunted by locals for food, as evidenced by a spent shotgun cartridge discarded on the path. They made their way off as soon as they spotted us, fortunately after we'd taken enough photos of this unexpected and most welcome encounter. Rufous-necked

Falcons, Pin-tailed Wydahs & Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters added to the morning's sightings but the monkeys were definitely top of the list!

As the temperature rose to 38°C, that's 100° Fahrenheit in old money, a change of plan was made from an afternoon walk to a cruise down river by canoe to Kubuneh to escape the heat.

Beaudouin's Snake Eagle and Lizard Buzzard joined the Hooded Vultures soaring in the thermals above the river as a flock of eight Senegal Thick-knees huddled in the shade next to a jetty and a Gull-billed Tern flew over carrying its catch. At Kubuneh, mountains of oyster shells were piled up next to the dug-out canoes used to transport them there to be smoked by the locals in this sustainable cottage industry.

Senegal Parrots called from a coconut palm as we made our way through the grounds of an abandoned lodge where White-crowned Robin Chats gave good comparisons to the Snowy-crowned Robin Chats seen in and around our base.

The birding find of the day went to Chris as she described a green and white bird she'd seen briefly. Klass's Cuckoo was the conclusion as the bird came into view for its identification to be clinched. There was lots of activity around a fruiting tree as we made our way back to the boats, a Scarlet-chested Sunbird showed off its bright colours in the low evening light as it fed with the numerous Beautiful Sunbirds in various stages of moult.

Simon and Sue went out after dark in search of nocturnal creatures, but none were seen, least of all the hoped-for bush babies that are occasionally observed around the lodges.

Day 6

Wednesday 27th April

Kartong – Sanyang – Tanji

Weather: 32°C

Today was our second trip out from base this time to Kartong, near the southern border of Gambia with Senegal. A Yellow-billed Oxpecker clambered on the backs of resting N'dama cattle picking off insects as we viewed from the bus at the side of the road.

An obliging Abyssinian Roller perched in a bush as we arrived at Kartong followed quickly by Blue-breasted and Rufous-crowned Roller. Broad-billed would soon make up the four roller species seen in this single location! It wasn't long before the unofficial ticket collector arrived to demand an entrance fee to this open area. He became quite agitated when Dave asked for official tickets, not just a hand written note but eventually paid up to keep the peace while the rest of the group were shown a Grey-headed Kingfisher by our guides, A.J. and Mas.

Taking the bus down to the beach, some of the group wandered along the sand while others sheltered in the juice bar out of the sun.

A large gathering of terns on the shore included Caspian, West African Crested, Gull-billed and Sandwich giving an excellent size comparison. A pair of White-fronted Plover were initially mis-identified as Kentish due to their striking similarities, White-fronted Plover having less distinct breast patches and tail extending beyond the folded wings.

Sanyang beach, a popular tourist destination just over half an hour away, was our stop for buffet lunch where fish, chips, chicken, rice and salad were options. There was very little birdlife on the beach, unlike our next destination - Tanji Fishing Village further along the coast.

Nothing could have prepared us for the incredible sights, sounds, and aromas that were about to assault our senses as hundreds of people dressed in bright clothing engaged in a variety of laborious activities such as pulling in hand-painted boats, gutting, and smoking fish, while flocks of seabirds fought for scraps.

Large numbers of Grey-headed Gulls, single Black-headed and Lesser Black-backed Gulls among them were spoiled for choice with so many discarded fish littering the beach. Bar-tailed Godwits, Turnstone and Sanderling fed along the quieter shoreline as we made our way back to the coach.

The litter-strewn streets were getting busy as we made our way back to Mandina Lodges past shops selling anything from settees to cement and tyres to timber as Vivienne recorded lively street scenes to show friends back home.

Day 7

Thursday 28th April

Kubuneh – Kembujeh

Weather: 37°C

Today's outing was a return by canoe to the little village of Kubuneh, a short distance east along the bolon from Mandina.

Great Egret, Goliath and Purple Herons were seen as we made our way along the river and a group of Piapiacs including several young birds with pink bills were actively feeding around the oyster shells as we moored up. There was a great deal of bird activity over a very short distance with Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu, a pair of Klass's Cuckoo, Little Weaver, Black Scimitarbill, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird and Purple Turaco. Brown Babbler, Yellow-billed Shrike and eventually, an African Oriole gave stunning views of its bright yellow plumage as it alighted near a large Kapok tree.

The first of several Mottled Spinetails, one in a flock of Little Swifts, flew over the boats as we made our way back to the lodge for our customary late breakfast before an afternoon of relaxation around the pool or in our lodges, attempting flight shots of bee-eaters and kingfishers or admiring the flora and fauna of the area in the heat of the day.

A flock of 60+ White-throated Bee-eaters was a spectacular sight as they all took off and flew across the river as we prepared for our afternoon walk where Snowy-crowned Robin Chats, Lesser Honeyguide, Double-spurred Francolins, Green-headed Sunbird and a mixed flock of finches and wydahs were located. Northern Crombec, a small and virtually tailless warbler with a blue-grey back and rufous underparts similar to a miniature Eurasian Nuthatch was a noteworthy sighting.

Day 8

Friday 29th April

Makasutu Forest – Banjul Airport – Gatwick

Weather: 34°C

A Giant Kingfisher flew over the pool as we gathered for our final pre-breakfast walk to the forest and craft market. The Village Weavers had built a nest since we arrived and the male was looking resplendent in his summer plumage as Mottled Spinetails mixed with the African Palm Swifts flying over the tree tops.

Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters warmed themselves in the morning sun as an unusual call drew the attention of the guides and a long-awaited Green or Guinea Turaco was spotted high in the dark canopy looking down on its admirers. They'd worked hard to find this bird for us and finally succeeded with little time to spare.

There was still time to add another new bird to the trip though, as a regular roost for African Scops Owl near the craft market held two birds. We positioned ourselves around the base of the tree to get the best shots as the leaves were gently blown to reveal the birds looking down at us. After a wander around the depleted craft market we stopped to take photos of a West African Hoopoe as it fed on the dry ground.

Pete did well to get shots of Ahanta Francolin before they hurried away from the path and into cover. We headed back for breakfast and to finish packing after our very rewarding time in The Gambia. The guides, A.J., Lamin, Mas & Sana had worked hard to show us some fantastic birds. The staff, who'd kept us fed, our rooms immaculate and provided an excellent service during our stay, were happy to pose for photos before we boarded the waiting bus.

We said our goodbyes and wished Michael well as he continued on the next leg of his journey to Senegal while we waited in line at check-in. With all checks being made manually due to a technical failure there was no time to wander around the departure lounge and we learned that an unscheduled stop for fuel at Las Palmas would delay our arrival slightly but we were soon back in the air and on our way back to Gatwick where our tour concluded.

Many thanks to Mary for the plants list, Chris for the butterflies and Simon for the mammal updates and everyone for making the last Gambia tour of the season such a great trip!

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Social Media

We're social! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and be the first to hear about the launch of new tours, offers and exciting sightings and photos from our recently returned holidays.



www.facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays



www.twitter.com/naturetrektours



www.instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays

Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	April 2022							
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>				1				
Double-spurred Francolin	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>	3	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ahanta Francolin	<i>Fringillus aphantensis</i>								2
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>		✓				✓		
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>			✓					
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>						1		
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>				✓				
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>			1					
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>		2		1				
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			2	1		1		
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>		✓		✓		✓		
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>	1	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓	1	✓	1		✓	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>			✓	✓				
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		1		1				
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hammerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>			2					
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>		✓		✓				
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Common name	Scientific name	April 2022							
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>						✓		
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		✓	✓		1	✓	2	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>			1			1		
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>			1					
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Beaudouin's Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>	1	2				1	2	1
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>		2		2	✓	✓		1
Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>		1			1			
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>		1					1	
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>		1	1		1		1	
Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>		2	2				✓	
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>		1		1	2			
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>				1	1	2		
Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>		1	✓					
Senegal Thick-Knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		1		2			1	
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		1	1	1				
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>						2		
Greater Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>			1					
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		1		3	✓			
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		✓	✓			✓		
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		1						
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			1					
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	3	✓	✓	✓	1	✓		
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>						✓		
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>						✓		
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>						1		
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>			✓			✓		
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>						1		
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>				✓	1	1		
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
West African Cested Tern	<i>Thalasseus albidorsalis</i>								
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>		✓				S		
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓						
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Common name	Scientific name	April 2022							
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>					1	1		
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>	1		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>				1				
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Guinea Turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>								1
Violet Turaco	<i>Musophaga violacea</i>		2	1	✓	✓		✓	
Western Plantain-Eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>			2	1	✓	✓		
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>					1		2	
African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>								2
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>		1						
Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>							1	✓
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Purple Roller/Rufous-crowned Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>						2		
Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>		1				2		
Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>		3	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>		2		✓	✓	1		
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>						1		
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>								1
Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>		1	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>				1				
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>	2	1	1					
Shining-blue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo quadribrachys</i>		1	1	1				
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swallow-tailed Bee-Eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>					2	1		
Little Bee-Eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-throated Bee-Eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue-cheeked Bee-Eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
West African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa senegalensis</i>					3			
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>		2	1	1	✓		6	
Black Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>							1	
African Pied Hornbill	<i>Tockus fasciatus</i>		2	2				✓	
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Western Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus kemp</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>	1	H	H	H		1		
Bearded Barbet	<i>Lybius dubius</i>				1	2		✓	

Common name	Scientific name	April 2022							
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>						1	1	
Spotted Honeyguide	<i>Indicator maculatus</i>		2		1	1	2		
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>				1		1		
Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>			1	1		2		
Buff-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera nivos</i>						1		
Brown-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos obsoletus</i>								1
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>								1
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>							✓	
Brown-throated Wattle-Eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>		4	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>				1	1	2		
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>		1			3		1	
Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>	H	H	1	1	2	✓		
Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>			1	1	1	✓	✓	
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>				1				
African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>				1	1		1	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>		1	1	1	1			
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>	1	1						
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	1	1		2	✓	✓		
Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>		2	1		✓	✓	✓	
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>	2	1		1	1	1		
Grey-headed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda canicapillus</i>	1	1	1					
Fanti Saw-Wing	<i>Psaldiprocne obscura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		1	✓	✓				
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		1	✓	✓				
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pied-winged Swallow	<i>Hirundo leucosoma</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>			✓	✓	✓			
Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>						1		
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>		1						
Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>		1						
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>		1						
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		✓	✓					
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>		2						
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flava</i>					2	2		
Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>		1				1		
Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>						✓		
Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>		H						
Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>		H	H		✓	✓		
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>				✓				

Common name	Scientific name	April 2022							
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Lesser Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>		6		✓				
Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>			✓	✓	✓			
Chestnut-bellied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis pulcher</i>				✓				
Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>						2		
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapillus</i>					2		1	
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>								1
Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edoloides</i>		1		1				
Mangrove Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>						✓		
Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platyura</i>						2		
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>	1				1	1		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>						1		
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>	2		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>			✓	✓	✓			
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>			1				6	
Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>	2	1		2	✓			
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>		✓		✓	✓			
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lavender Waxbill	<i>Estrilda caerulescens</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>		1						
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>					2	1		
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			1			1		
Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>						1		
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>		✓	✓		✓			

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	April 2022							
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Western Red Colobus Monkey	<i>Procolobus badius</i>			1					
Guinea Baboon	<i>Papio papio</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Green Vervet/Callithrix Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus sabaeus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Patas Monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>					3			
Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus gambianus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Euxerus erythropus</i>								
Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>		1		1				
Marsh Mongoose	<i>Atilax paludinosus pluto</i>		1	1					
African Straw-coloured Fruit Bat	<i>Eidolon helvum</i>		✓	✓					
Butterfly Bat	<i>Glauconycteris poensis</i>			✓					
Western Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>			✓					

Butterflies

23 April

Common Scarlet *Axiocetes harpax*

24 April

Small Grass Yellow *Eurema brigatta*
Common Grass Yellow *Eurema hecabe*

Query:
Pea Blue/Long Tailed Blue OR *Lampides boeticus*
Sky Blue Cupid (see photos) *Chilades Eleusis*

African Tiger *Danaus chrysippus*
River Sailor *Neptis serena*
Elegant Acraea *Acraea egina*

26 April

Citrus Swallowtail *Papilio demodocus*
Small Grass Yellow *Eurema brigatta*
Common Grass Yellow *Eurema hecabe*
African Emigrant (male) *Catopsilla florella*

Query:
Pea Blue/Long Tailed Blue
(see above)

Mediterranean Tiger Blue
(also called Mediterranean Pierrot) *Tarucus rosacea*
African Tiger *Danaus chrysippus*
River Sailor *Neptis serena*

Common Scarlet

*Axiocseses harpax***28 April**

Citrus Swallowtail

Papilio demodocus

River Sailor

Neptis serena

Reptiles and Amphibians

Forest Cobra

Naja melanoleuca

Orange-flanked Skink

Mabuya perrotetii

Nile Monitor Lizard

Varanus niloticus

Agama Lizard

Agama agama

Brook's House Gecko

Hemidactylus brooki angulatus

Uganda Dwarf Gecko

Lygodactylus gutturalis

West African Crocodile

Crocodylus suchus

African Common Toad

Sclerophrys regularis

Dragonflies

Widow Dragonfly

Palpopleura portia

Black Percher

Diplacodes lefebvrei

Red Basker

Crocothemis erythraea

Strong Skimmer

Orthetrum brachiale

Others

African Giant Snail

Achatina sp.

West African Mangrove Oyster

Crassostrea tulipa

Brown Paper Wasp

Polistes sp.

Antlion

Myrmeleon sp.

Giant Millipede

Diplopoda: family Odontopygidae

Driver Ants

Dorylus sp.

Common Green Mantis

Sphodromantis sp.

West African Fiddler Crab

Uca tangeri

Stick Grasshopper

Acrida acuminata

Flat Mantis

Plants

MONOCOTS***Arecaceae****Borassus aethiopium**Cocos nucifera**Elaeis guineensis**Phoenix reclinata**Ravenala madagascariensis***Palm Family**

Black Rhun Palm; African Fan Palm

Coconut Palm

African Oil Palm

Senegal Date Palm

Traveller's Palm

ANA GRADE***Nymphaeaceae****Nymphaea micrantha***Water-lily Family**

White Water-lily

EUDICOTS***Acanthaceae*****Acanthus Family**

Avicennia germinans
Nelsonia canescens

Black Mangrove
 Blue Pussyleaf; Rice Farm grass

Amaranthaceae

Celosia argentea

Amaranth Family

Lagos Spinach

Anacardiaceae

Anacardium occidentale
Mangifera indica

Cashew Family

Cashew tree
 Mango

Apocynaceae

Calotropis procera
Cascabela thevetia
Cryptostegia madagascariensis
Plumeria alba
Saba senegalensis
Strophanthus sarmentosus

Dogbane Family

Sodom Apple
 Yellow Oleander
 Purple Rubbervine
 Frangipani
 Weda
 Monkey's Shuttle; Spider Tresses; Poison Arrow Vine

Asteraceae

Grangea maderaspatana

Daisy Family

Madras Carpet

Bignoniaceae

Newbouldia laevis
Pyrostegia venusta

Catalpa Family

Akoko tree; Kunjunborong
 Flame Vine

Casuarinaceae

Casuarina equisetifolia

Casuarina

Combretaceae

Guiera senegalensis

Sabara; Moshi medicine

Convolvulaceae

Ipomoea asarifolia
Ipomoea caerica
Ipomoea triloba

Bindweed Family

Ginger-leaf Morning Glory
 Railroad-creeper
 Little Bell

Cucurbitaceae

Luffa cylindrica

Cucumber Family

Loofah Gourd

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia milii
Jatropha integerrima
Jatropha podagrica
Ricinia communis

Euphorbia Family

Crown of Thorns
 Peregrina, Spicy Jatropha
 Buddha Belly Plant
 Castor Oil Plant

Fabaceae

Cassia sieberiana
Crotaria retusa
Dialium guieense
Dichrostachys cinerea
Erythrina senegalensis
Parkia biglobosa
Pterocarpus erinaceus
Senna obtusifolia
Vigna unguiculata

Pea Family

West African Laburnum
 Rattlepod
 Velvet Tamarind
 Bell-flowered Mimosa
 Coral Tree
 African Locust Bean Tree
 African Kino
 Sickie Senna
 Cowpea

Lamiaceae

Deadnettle Family

Gmelina arborea
Hyptis suaveolens

Gumbar Tree
 Bushmint

Loranthaceae
Tapinanthus globiferus

Mistletoe Family
 West African Mistletoe

Malvaceae
Adansonia digitata
Ceiba pentandra
Hibiscus rosa-sinensis
Hibiscus sabdariffa
Hibiscus schizopetalus
Urena lobata

Mallow Family
 Baobab
 Kapok tree; Silk-cotton Tree
 Chinese Hibiscus
 Red Sorrel; Roselle
 Japanese Lantern
 Congo Jute; Caesarweed

Meliaceae
Azadirachta indica

Mahoganny Family
 Neem Tree

Moraceae
Ficus craterostoma?

Mulberry Family
 Strangler Fig

Nyctaginaceae
Bougainvillea spectabilis

Four o'clock Family
 Bougainvillea

Rutaceae
Zanthoxylum zanthoxyloides

Senegal Prickly Ash (red berries)

Rhizophoraceae
Rhizophora mangle

Mangrove Family
 Red Mangrove

Verbenaceae
Stachytarpheta indica

Vervena Family
 Indian Snakeweed

.....
Doubtful attribution

Sapindaceae
Urvillea ulmacea

Apaac (native to tropical America)