

The Gambia in Style

Naturetrek Tour Report

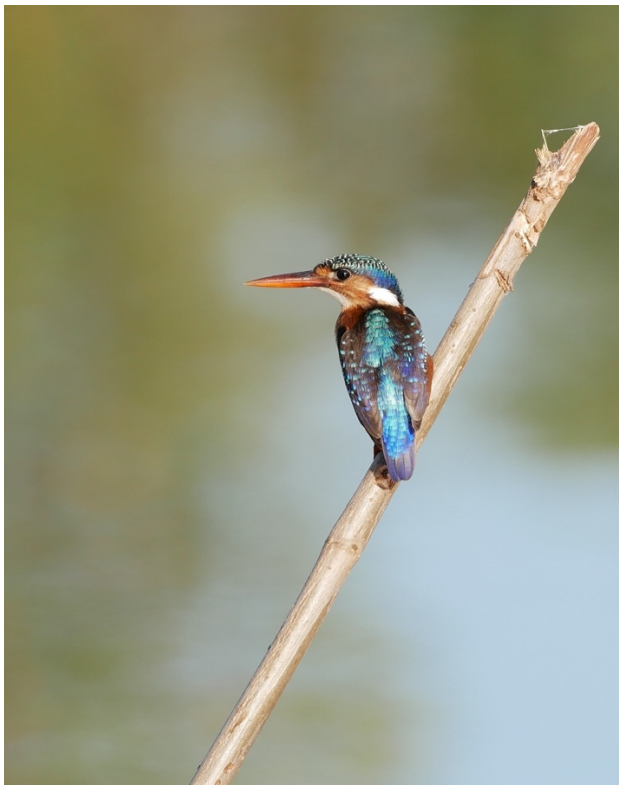
3rd – 10th January 2023



Black Heron



Hooded Vulture



Malachite Kingfisher



Pied Kingfisher

Tour report by Philip Thompson, images by Connell



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Tour Participants: Philip Thompson (leader), local Guides AJ, Lamin, Amadou and Sanna with 10 Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Tuesday 3rd January

Our Gatwick flight arrived on time into a pleasantly warm and sunny Gambia where we negotiated the rather slow and tortuous Immigration requirements before finally leaving the terminal and boarding our transfer bus to our lodge for the week. During our journey, we experienced the rather clogged and chaotic traffic and assault on the senses of the Gambian tradespeople by the roadside. The ubiquitous Pied Crows, Hooded Vultures and range of doves were soon logged, before we turned off the tarmac and bounced along the sandy dirt track on the final stretch of our journey through the arable farmlands and forest before reaching the lodge where we met by our host and a refreshing cold drink and briefing of the week ahead. Everyone then retired to the respective rooms to relax before dinner. The grounds resounded with an array of strange and evocative bird-calls to puzzle over.

Day 2

Wednesday 4th January

For our first group excursion we all met on the dock to board the canoes for a trip along the mangrove creek to Buffaloto village. As we were slowly paddled along, we were able to spot several kingfishers, with Giant and a briefly seen Blue-breasted being the highlights.

As we disembarked at the oyster-midden we were soon spotting a diverse range of different birds. As usual, on the first morning it was a little overwhelming for the group with new and exciting species popping up from all directions. An immediate highlight was finding a Grey-headed Kingfisher perching prominently in the nearby scrub, only the first time this species has been seen in the vicinity of our lodge! A handsome Rufous-necked Falcon made a couple of low fly-overs to distract us from the nearby trees and bushes containing various finches and sunbirds. Moving along the track we soon reached a flooded section of the old worked-out sand pits. Here we paused to make a careful scan of the birds on offer. An obliging perched Malachite Kingfisher drew early admiration followed swiftly by Pied Hornbill, Blue-bellied Roller and a Green-headed Sunbird. New birds were continually added as the guides worked hard to get all the group members obtaining a view. We took a side track through some rougher grassland overlooking a damp marshy area with Green Wood-hoopoe and Senegal Coucal added. With time flying by we were soon needing to get back to the canoes to head back to the lodge for our first breakfast.

After having had several hours in the hot middle of the day to relax we met up once more at 4:30pm for an afternoon walk through the savannah woodland culminating in reaching the 'Mudflat Area'. A range of weavers, finches and waxbills were spotted as we made our way through the grassy sections, whilst the taller flowering trees attracted numerous sunbirds, the highlight being an obliging Western Violet-backed Sunbird that showed particularly well for everyone. At the tidal mangrove area, we encountered a number of herons and egrets including the smart Black Heron and numerous doves coming down to drink. Time was limited so we were soon heading back. We were then fortunate in seeing both Violet and Guinea Turaco in the tall forest trees on our return making a fine climax to an eventful first day.

During the main group's afternoon walk the first of three Sunset Cruises were taken by four of the group during which numerous members of the heron family, Western Osprey, Pink-backed Pelican, kingfishers, Darter and Reed Cormorant were seen.

Day 3

Thursday 5th January

Today was our first away day with a bus journey taking us to the Pirang Shrimp Farm lagoons on the southern shore of the Gambia River. The lagoons are unused at the present time with several dry and barren. Despite this the birdlife was rich and varied with an excellent start made soon after getting out of the bus with the rarely seen melanistic form of a Gabar Goshawk landing nearby on some power lines! We were joined by a local villager as our guide to help with finding birds as we then made a slow walk along the raised embankments between the lagoons. Overhead a range of hirundines were present with numerous Red-rumped Swallows also including a few of the much larger Mosque Swallows. On a couple of concrete culverts Wire-tailed Swallows perched between feeding forays.

Also hawking for insects around us were a number of Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters which rested on the open dry mud of the lagoon. The shrubbery alongside us produced a couple of Senegal Eremomelas that initially proved elusive as they flitted among the thick leafy cover before perching prominently in a dead tree. Viewing down a drainage channel we picked out a mixed flock of Pink-backed Pelicans, African Spoonbills and a single Yellow-billed Stork. At our furthest point the lagoon held plentiful water and hence a range of waders and a lovely flock of feeding Slender-billed Gulls.

Returning to the bus we then drove on a short distance to visit Bonto/Pirang Community Forest, one of the best-preserved patches of Guinean Tropical Forest in Gambia. We took a walk into the forest along narrow trails during which we could admire the numerous huge mature forest trees that are becoming such a rarity in this part of the Gambia. Our lodge guides knew the general area where Verreaux's Eagle-owls are known to roost, and after a little time spent scanning, one of the group managed to pick out an owl sleepily turning our way, showing its heavy pink eyelids and huge ivory-coloured bill. Continuing our walk through the forest birdlife was disappointingly remarkably quiet for this pristine area. It was not until we were back at our parked bus that we encountered a mixed party of forest species that included Olive-naped Weaver, Yellow-throated Leaflove, Little Greenbul, Spotted Honeyguide and Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher.

Our final destination was at the Makesuta River Lodge where we had a splendid lunch overlooking the river. For most it was a time to relax in the hot afternoon sun, but a little light birding was carried out. Of interest was the 'tame' local crocodile that responds to the calling voice of the lady owner, coming over to the bank for fish. It was quite an experience standing on a rather flimsy wooden footbridge over the river with a large adult crocodile swimming right past and beneath us! It was then back to the lodge to freshen up before dinner.

With dinner completed a few of the group then took a night-time walk from the lodge spot-lighting. Things were incredibly quiet until the furthest point of our planned route where we were successful in picking out two or three Senegal Galagos leaping among the large savannah trees.

Day 4

Friday 6th January

Our early morning walk took us through the savannah woodland to a large grove of Baobab trees finding several interesting birds along the way, although most were found at the Baobab area. Notable finds were a couple of African Green Pigeons feeding amongst a large leafy fig tree, making picking out a green bird among green leaves very tricky! Eventually everyone got a satisfactory view of these attractive birds. Nearby a calling Striped Kingfisher was detected and found quietly perched on the low branches of an acacia, this being a non-aquatic species and generally found in open savannah, although easily overlooked. Another bird that nearly gave us the slip was a trio of Vieillot's Barbets. A bird was initially seen to fly into the fig tree requiring some patient waiting and scanning before it was realised it had slipped round behind us and was sitting on an open perch with a couple of companions! In the more open ground of fallow groundnut fields a number of Yellow Wagtails were seeking insect food.

After our customary midday relaxation, we met up once more for the late afternoon walk with a few of the group taking the Sunset Cruise, seeing a similar range of birds to the previous trip. For those on the walk we explored a different area of savannah finding as our highlight a splendid male Pygmy Sunbird. Of other interest, we found our first Yellow-fronted Canaries, Orange-cheeked Waxbills and moulting Scarlet-chested Sunbird. A popular find was a resplendent African Golden Oriole that was the bird of the day for some of the group. As we began our return a couple of the group were fortunate in spotting the White-backed Vulture that was consorting at a carcass of a dead donkey with the usual throng of Hooded Vultures - a bird not often seen this far west in Gambia. On our return to the lodge, we were fortunate in picking out the local and scarce Ahanta Francolins scurrying among the leaf litter deep within the dark forest floor.

Day 5

Saturday 7th January

Our morning outing today involved another canoe trip, this time leading to Kembujeh Village Gardens. Along the creek we spotted the usual trio of Kingfishers, Darter and Reed Cormorant before reaching the shallow sandy shore near the village. Our walk led along a sandy track and then through a gateway in the fencing that surrounds the 'gardens' of the local villagers where much of their food is grown. Once within the compound we were able to examine the various crops grown at this time and see the many wells dug only a short distance down to reach the water table, from which much activity was going on with the never-ending chore of watering the young plants. Due to the low-level agricultural intensity of the plots there was plentiful opportunities for birds to find food making for an intensive viewing session. A pair of Blue-bellied Rollers were uttering their curious croaking calls from the top of a couple of palms and showing very well. We were soon shown a pair of White-crowned Robin-chats that were also calling frequently as they moved from tree to tree. Joining these splendid birds were a couple of Bronze-tailed Glossy Starlings on the ground seeking out insect food, a Yellow-crowned Gonolek and a distant Yellow-billed Shrike. Skilfully picked out by our lodge guide, in the top of a tall leafy tree, were a pair of roosting Pearl-spotted Owlets that kept a sleepy eye on the activity around them. Everyone got an excellent view through the 'scope and a few decent photos! On the perimeter of the compound alongside a wet marshy area, a Striated Heron was found and showed well perched in a small leafless shrub. As usual, our time soon drew to a close and we needed to make our way back to the canoes and the lodge for breakfast.

The late afternoon walk took us past the Donkey Sanctuary and on to the Paul area of cultivated plots. It was a pleasant walk with nothing new of note seen in the early stages. As we reached the vegetable plots, we spent some time quietly scanning the area before it was deemed time to head back. Numerous Red-billed Hornbills and doves

were feeding in the area but, just as we were turning to leave our main target species finally decided to make an entrance; a Long-crested Eagle flew in and landed in the top of a dead palm stump! Elated at our last-ditch success we then made our way back to the lodge.

The final members of the group undertook the Sunset Cruise and, whilst seeing the expected range of birds, struck gold with a sighting of the ever-elusive and much sought-after African Finfoot! Very fortunate indeed.

Day 6

Sunday 8th January

Today was the second of our coach excursions, this time travelling to the far south west to the village of Kartong close to the Senegalese border. We made a short initial stop at a roadside flooded gravel pit to check out the birds present. The water level was very high leaving little exposed shore so birds were a little limited, but did include a large number of roosting Senegal Thick-knees and a pair of Village Indigobirds.

Moving on we travelled the remaining short distance to the village outskirts alongside the lushly vegetated flooded old sand and gravel workings. Once out of the vehicle it was not long before we were finding interesting birds on view. The damp grassland alongside the tall reedbed held African Jacana and African Swampphen with a couple of Common Snipe flushing from the grass. On the fence of the numerous vegetable plots behind us a stunning Abyssinian Roller appeared from nowhere to settle within metres of the group. We began a slow walk along the wide sandy road alongside the reedbed and lagoons thick with floating vegetation. Interestingly we could hear the loud raucous song of Great Reed Warbler emanating from deep within the reeds. Among the numerous pools of water there were large numbers of White-faced Whistling Ducks, a mix of herons and a range of waders that included a couple of Wood Sandpipers. At a large expanse of water in the main lagoon scanning the reed edge we were very fortunate in finding a couple of Allen's Gallinules feeding on the edges. Among the smaller passerines seen a couple of Northern Crombecs and a small flock of Black-rumped Waxbills were highlights. We continued on along the road towards the ocean where we spotted a murmuration of small finches swirling in the air. Once they had settled in the bushes we were able to confirm our initial tentative ID as Red-billed Quelea, a rather nomadic species not often encountered here.

On reaching the Atlantic we stopped at the rustic beach bar of an enterprising local where we rested over a cool soft drink and fresh-squeezed fruit juice. From here we walked down the beach front picking up a wide range of waders and terns as we went. The notable species seen were a number of White-fronted Plovers and both West African Crested and Lesser Crested Terns among the numerous Caspian Terns. Satisfied with our tally we returned to the beach bar where a couple of the group who had remained behind had seen both Lanner Falcon and Black-winged Kite, demonstrating how tricky it can be to see everything on offer! We reboarded the bus that had followed us up the road and began to head back. A quick stop was required when a pair of diminutive Namaqua Doves were seen to fly into a roadside shrub.

We then drove on travelling north up the coast where we pulled off the main road and took the very bumpy track to Sanyang Village and the Rainbow beach bar where we had a pleasant lunch watching the breakers. The group relaxed after lunch before we began our return with a final stop to check the areas of recently flooded sand diggings that are slowly developing as a birding spot. We picked out a Black Heron and Yellow-billed Shrike in the surrounding area. By now the heat and lunch had brought on a rather chilled out state among the group, so we opted to return in good time to our lodge for a swim and freshen up before dinner.

Day 7

Monday 9th January

Our last morning canoe trip took us to the attractive peaceful Kubeneh Village. Once more, we were soon spotting interesting birds shortly after our arrival. A Eurasian Hoopoe was closely followed by a Green Wood Hoopoe and an African Grey Woodpecker within metres of the riverbank. Curiously the normally commonly seen Shikra, that so far had been eluding us, was now present with a couple of individuals seen on a number of occasions, one of which had taken a particular dislike to a Lizard Buzzard that was trying to quietly perch in a large acacia. We were able to contrast the finer build of the Northern Black Flycatcher compared with superficially similar Glossy-backed Drongo.

We carried out a circuit of the village reaching the majestic Kapok Tree at its heart surrounded by a range of equally large Boababs. A large and impressive honeycomb was spotted suspended from a high branch with its attendant bees. We finally connected with a couple of splendid Bearded Barbets perched in the nearby trees that were greatly admired.

On this occasion the large fig tree present was still not quite in fruit and so the hoped for Green Pigeons were absent. We continued on back to the river where we reboarded for our return. En-route a bird initially identified as an Osprey, but which seemed perched too deeply within the tree top was eventually ID'd as a Beaudouin's Snake Eagle. The attendant mobbing Pied Crows should have given the clue to its identity. It eventually took flight over the river closely followed by the crows. Interestingly the couple who had remained in camp for the morning were to later show a rather puzzling photo, ID'd as a migrant juvenile Short-toed Snake Eagle, the European equivalent.

After our breakfast a couple of the group used our down time to check out the water tanks on the outskirts of the camp that provided some leaking drips that attract several forest birds to drink and bath in the heat of the day. Of primary interest were both Spotted and Lesser Honeyguides seen on separate occasions.

For our afternoon walk we returned to the mudflat area in search of a couple of species that had so far eluded us. We crossed the creek among the mangroves and walked on to enter the Buffaloto rice-fields and vegetable plots. New birds found were both Brown Babblers and White-billed Buffalo Weavers among the usual range of commoner species. The Black Crake in the wet marshland on this occasion proved very elusive with only the briefest of glimpses obtained of this normally very confiding species.

Day 8

Tuesday 10th January

On our last day our departure flight in the afternoon allowed for a final morning walk. We were still in search of a few so far unseen species and our search proving successful on a number of counts. We spent most of our time working our way through the savannah woodland. A good range of sunbirds were seen notably a Variable Sunbird and another moulting Scarlet-chested. A mixed flock of finches and waxbills included our first Pin-tailed Whydahs. We then hit a purple patch with a number of new species all in the space of ten minutes, comprising White-crested Helmetshrikes, Northern Puffback, Black-crowned Tchagra, Fine-spotted Woodpecker with the highlight being a pair of Black Scimitarbills that were attracted to the whistled calls of the lodge guides. We enjoyed some splendid views of all these star birds before continuing on to the Makasutu Craft Centre and then onwards back to the lodge.

Back at our rooms we still had plenty of time to freshen up and complete our packing before we relaxed while we waited for our bus transfer back to the airport, and for some of the group, our homeward flight. Several members had arranged further extensions in Gambia and were swapped from one bus to another for their hotel transfers.



Nile Monitor Lizard by Connell

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

| Common name | Scientific name | January 2023 | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| White-faced Whistling Duck | <i>Dendrocygna viduata</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Stone Partridge | <i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i> | | H | | H | | | ✓ | |
| Ahanta Spurfowl | <i>Pternistis achantensis</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Double-spurred Spurfowl | <i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | H | ✓ |
| Mottled Spinetail | <i>Telacanthura ussheri</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| African Palm Swift | <i>Cypsiurus parvus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Little Swift | <i>Apus affinis</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Western Plantain-eater | <i>Crinifer piscator</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Violet Turaco | <i>Tauraco violaceus</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Guinea Turaco | <i>Tauraco persa</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Senegal Coucal | <i>Centropus senegalensis</i> | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Rock Dove | <i>Columba livia</i> | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Speckled Pigeon | <i>Columba guinea</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Mourning Collared Dove | <i>Streptopelia decipiens</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Red-eyed Dove | <i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Vinaceous Dove | <i>Streptopelia vinacea</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Laughing Dove | <i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Black-billed Wood Dove | <i>Turtur abyssinicus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Blue-spotted Wood Dove | <i>Turtur afer</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Namaqua Dove | <i>Oena capensis</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| African Green Pigeon | <i>Treron calvus</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| African Finfoot | <i>Podica senegalensis</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Black Crake | <i>Amauornis flavirostra</i> | | H | | | | | ✓ | |
| Common Moorhen | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Allen's Gallinule | <i>Porphyrio alleni</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| African Swampphen | <i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Senegal Thick-knee | <i>Burhinus senegalensis</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| Eurasian Oystercatcher | <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Black-winged Stilt | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| Pied Avocet | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Spur-winged Lapwing | <i>Vanellus spinosus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| African Wattled Lapwing | <i>Vanellus senegallus</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Grey Plover | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| Common Ringed Plover | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| White-fronted Plover | <i>Charadrius marginatus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| African Jacana | <i>Actophilornis africanus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Eurasian Whimbrel | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Little Stint | <i>Calidris minuta</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Sanderling | <i>Calidris alba</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Curlew Sandpiper | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Dunlin | <i>Calidris alpina</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | <i>Limosa lapponica</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Black-tailed Godwit | <i>Limosa limosa</i> | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |

| Common name | Scientific name | January 2023 | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Ruddy Turnstone | <i>Arenaria interpres</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Common Snipe | <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Common Sandpiper | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Green Sandpiper | <i>Tringa ochropus</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Common Redshank | <i>Tringa totanus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Wood Sandpiper | <i>Tringa glareola</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Common Greenshank | <i>Tringa nebularia</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Slender-billed Gull | <i>Chroicocephalus genei</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| Grey-headed Gull | <i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | <i>Larus fuscus</i> | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| Gull-billed Tern | <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Caspian Tern | <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Lesser Crested Tern | <i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| West African Crested Tern | <i>Thalasseus albidorsalis</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Sandwich Tern | <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Little Tern | <i>Sternula albifrons</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Yellow-billed Stork | <i>Mycteria ibis</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| African Darter | <i>Anhinga rufa</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Reed Cormorant | <i>Microcarbo africanus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| White-breasted Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i> | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| African Sacred Ibis | <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| African Spoonbill | <i>Platalea alba</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Striated Heron | <i>Butorides striata</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| Squacco Heron | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Western Cattle Egret | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Grey Heron | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Black-headed Heron | <i>Ardea melanocephala</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Goliath Heron | <i>Ardea goliath</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Purple Heron | <i>Ardea purpurea</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Great Egret | <i>Ardea alba</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Black Heron | <i>Egretta ardesiaca</i> | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | |
| Little Egret | <i>Egretta garzetta</i> | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| Western Reef Heron | <i>Egretta gularis</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Hamerkop | <i>Scopus umbretta</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Pink-backed Pelican | <i>Pelecanus rufescens</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Western Osprey | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Black-winged Kite | <i>Elanus caeruleus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| African Harrier-Hawk | <i>Polyboroides typus</i> | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Palm-nut Vulture | <i>Gypohierax angolensis</i> | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Hooded Vulture | <i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| White-backed Vulture | <i>Gyps africanus</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Beaudouin's Snake Eagle | <i>Circaetus beaudouini</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Short-toed Snake Eagle | <i>Circaetus gallicus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Long-crested Eagle | <i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Lizard Buzzard | <i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |

| Common name | Scientific name | January 2023 | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Gabar Goshawk | <i>Micronisus gabar</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Shikra | <i>Accipiter badius</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Western Marsh Harrier | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Black Kite | <i>Milvus migrans</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Yellow-billed Kite | <i>Milvus aegyptius</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Pearl-spotted Owlet | <i>Glaucidium perlatum</i> | | | | | ✓ | | H | |
| Verreaux's Eagle-Owl | <i>Bubo lacteus</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Eurasian Hoopoe | <i>Upupa epops</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Green Wood Hoopoe | <i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i> | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| Black Scimitarbill | <i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i> | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Western Red-billed Hornbill | <i>Tockus kemp</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| African Pied Hornbill | <i>Lophoceros fasciatus</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| African Grey Hornbill | <i>Lophoceros nasutus</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Abyssinian Roller | <i>Coracias abyssinicus</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Blue-bellied Roller | <i>Coracias cyanogaster</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Broad-billed Roller | <i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i> | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Grey-headed Kingfisher | <i>Halcyon leucocephala</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Striped Kingfisher | <i>Halcyon chelicuti</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Blue-breasted Kingfisher | <i>Halcyon malimbica</i> | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Malachite Kingfisher | <i>Corythornis cristatus</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Giant Kingfisher | <i>Megaceryle maxima</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Pied Kingfisher | <i>Ceryle rudis</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Swallow-tailed Bee-eater | <i>Merops hirundineus</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Little Bee-eater | <i>Merops pusillus</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| White-throated Bee-eater | <i>Merops albicollis</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Blue-cheeked Bee-eater | <i>Merops persicus</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird | <i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i> | | H | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | H | ✓ |
| Vieillot's Barbet | <i>Lybius vieilloti</i> | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| Bearded Barbet | <i>Lybius dubius</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Lesser Honeyguide | <i>Indicator minor</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Spotted Honeyguide | <i>Indicator maculatus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| Fine-spotted Woodpecker | <i>Campethera punctuligera</i> | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| African Grey Woodpecker | <i>Dendropicos goertae</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Grey Kestrel | <i>Falco ardosiaceus</i> | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| Rufous-necked Falcon | <i>Falco chicquera ruficollis</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Lanner Falcon | <i>Falco biarmicus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Senegal Parrot | <i>Poicephalus senegalus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Rose-ringed Parakeet | <i>Psittacula krameri</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Brown-throated Wattle-eye | <i>Platysteira cyanea</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Black-crowned Tchagra | <i>Tchagra senegalus</i> | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Northern Puffback | <i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i> | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Yellow-crowned Gonolek | <i>Laniarius barbarus</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| White-crested Helmetshrike | <i>Prionops plumatus</i> | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Yellow-billed Shrike | <i>Corvinella corvina</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| African Golden Oriole | <i>Oriolus auratus</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Glossy-backed Drongo | <i>Dicrurus divaricatus</i> | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |

| Common name | Scientific name | January 2023 | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher | <i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| African Paradise Flycatcher | <i>Terpsiphone viridis</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| Piapiac | <i>Ptilostomus afer</i> | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Pied Crow | <i>Corvus albus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Crested Lark | <i>Galerida cristata</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Grey-headed Bristlebill | <i>Bleda canicapillus</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Little Greenbul | <i>Eurillas virens</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | H |
| Yellow-throated Leaflove | <i>Chlorocichla flavicollis</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Common Bulbul | <i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Pied-winged Swallow | <i>Hirundo leucosoma</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| Wire-tailed Swallow | <i>Hirundo smithii</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Barn Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Red-chested Swallow | <i>Hirundo lucida</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Common House Martin | <i>Delichon urbicum</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Mosque Swallow | <i>Cecropis senegalensis</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Red-rumped Swallow | <i>Cecropis daurica</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Northern Crombec | <i>Sylvietta brachyura</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Eurasian Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Great Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus rufescens</i> | | | | | | H | | |
| Melodious Warbler | <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Tawny-flanked Prinia | <i>Prinia subflava</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Yellow-breasted Apalis | <i>Apalis flavida</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Grey-backed Camaroptera | <i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i> | | H | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| Senegal Eremomela | <i>Eremomela pusilla</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Eurasian Blackcap | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Western Subalpine Warbler | <i>Curruca iberiae</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Brown Babbler | <i>Turdoides plebejus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Blackcap Babbler | <i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i> | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| Greater Blue-eared Starling | <i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Bronze-tailed Glossy Starling | <i>Lamprotornis chalcurus</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Purple Starling | <i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i> | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| Long-tailed Glossy Starling | <i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i> | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| African Thrush | <i>Turdus pelios</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Northern Black Flycatcher | <i>Melaenornis edolioides</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat | <i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i> | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| White-crowned Robin-Chat | <i>Cossypha albicapillus</i> | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Northern Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Mangrove Sunbird | <i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| Western Violet-backed Sunbird | <i>Anthreptes longuemarei</i> | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| Pygmy Sunbird | <i>Hedydipna platyura</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Green-headed Sunbird | <i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| Scarlet-chested Sunbird | <i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| Beautiful Sunbird | <i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Splendid Sunbird | <i>Cinnyris coccinigastus</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Variable Sunbird | <i>Cinnyris venustus</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ |

| Common name | Scientific name | January 2023 | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| White-billed Buffalo Weaver | <i>Bubalornis albirostris</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Olive-naped Weaver | <i>Ploceus brachyterus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Village Weaver | <i>Ploceus cucullatus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Red-billed Quelea | <i>Quelea quelea</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Northern Red Bishop | <i>Euplectes franciscanus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Bronze Mannikin | <i>Spermestes cucullata</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Lavender Waxbill | <i>Glaucestrolda caerulescens</i> | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Orange-cheeked Waxbill | <i>Estrilda melpoda</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Black-rumped Waxbill | <i>Estrilda troglodytes</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu | <i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Red-billed Firefinch | <i>Lagonosticta senegala</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Village Indigobird | <i>Vidua chalybeata</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Pin-tailed Whydah | <i>Vidua macroura</i> | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Western Yellow Wagtail | <i>Motacilla flava</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| Yellow-fronted Canary | <i>Crithagra mozambica</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |

Mammals

| Common name | Scientific name |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mammals | |
| Guinea Baboon | <i>Papio papio</i> |
| Green Vervet/Callithrix Monkey | <i>Chlorocebus sabaeus</i> |
| Patas Monkey | <i>Erythrocebus patas</i> |
| Senegal Galago | <i>Galago senegalensis</i> |
| Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat | <i>Epomophorus gambianus</i> |
| Peter's Dwarf Epauletted Fruit Bat | <i>Micropteropus pusillus</i> |
| Striped Ground Squirrel | <i>Xerus erythropus</i> |
| Gambian Sun Squirrel | <i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i> |
| Marsh Mongoose | <i>Atilax paludinosus</i> |

Others

| Common name | Scientific name |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Papilionidae |
| Citrus Swallowtail | <i>Papilio demodocus</i> |
| | Pieridae |
| Small Grass Yellow | <i>Eurema brigatta</i> |
| Common Grass Yellow | <i>Eurema hecabe</i> |
| Red Tip | <i>Colotis antevippe</i> |
| African Spirit | <i>Leptosia alcesta</i> |
| African Albatross | <i>Appias epaphia epaphia</i> |
| Common Dotted Border | <i>Mylothris chloris</i> |
| Caper White | <i>Belenois aurota</i> |
| Creamy Small White | <i>Dixeia orbona</i> |
| | Lycaenidae |
| Iasis Sapphire | <i>Iolus iasis</i> |
| Common Brown Playboy | <i>Deudorix antalus</i> |

| Common name | Scientific name |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Pea Blue/Long-tailed Blue | <i>Lampides boeticus</i> |
| Lang's Short-tailed Blue/Common Zebra Blue | <i>Leptotes pirithous</i> |
| Mediterranean Tiger Blue | <i>Tarucus rosacea</i> |
| Savannah Pied Pierot | <i>Tuxentius cretosus</i> |
| African Grass Blue | <i>Zizeeria knysna</i> |
| Tiny Grass Blue | <i>Zizula hylax</i> |
| | Nymphalidae |
| African Tiger | <i>Danaus chrysippus</i> |
| African Ringlet/Common Three-ring | <i>Ypthima asterope</i> |
| Cream-bordered Charaxes | <i>Charaxes epijasius</i> |
| Dark Blue Pansy | <i>Junonia oenone</i> |
| River Sailor | <i>Neptis serena</i> |
| Guineafowl Butterfly | <i>Hamanumida daedalus</i> |
| Large Spotted Acraea | <i>Acraea zetes</i> |
| Elegant Acraea | <i>Acraea egina</i> |
| Small Orange Acraea | <i>Acraea serena</i> |
| | Hesperiidae |
| Striped Policeman | <i>Coeliades forestan</i> |
| Grey Elfin | <i>Sarangesa laelius</i> |
| | |
| Odonata | |
| Pallid Spreadwing | <i>Lestes pallidus</i> |
| Portia Widow | <i>Palpopleura portia</i> |
| Black Percher | <i>Diplacodes lefebvrei</i> |
| Broad Scarlet | <i>Crocothemis erythraea</i> |
| Banded Skimmer | <i>Orthetrum brachiale</i> |
| Red Basker | <i>Urothemis assignata</i> |
| Black Dropwing | <i>Trithemis dichroa</i> |
| Red Rockdweller | <i>Bradinopyga strachani</i> |
| | |
| Others | |
| African Giant Snail | <i>Achatina sp.</i> |
| West African Mangrove Oyster | <i>Crassostrea tulipa</i> |
| Brown Paper Wasp | <i>Polistes sp.</i> |
| Antlion | <i>Myrmeleon sp.</i> |
| Giant Millipede | <i>Diplopoda: family Odontopygidae</i> |
| Driver Ants | <i>Dorylus sp.</i> |
| West African Fiddler Crab | <i>Uca tangeri</i> |
| Stick Insect | ? |
| | |
| Reptile & Amphibians | |
| Brown-flanked Skink | <i>Mabuya affinis</i> |
| Agama Lizard | <i>Agama agama</i> |
| Brook's House Gecko | <i>Hemidactylus brooki angulatus</i> |
| West African Crocodile | <i>Crocodylus suchus</i> |
| African Common Toad | <i>Sclerophrys regularis</i> |
| Groove-headed Bullfrog | <i>Hoplobatrachus occipitalis</i> |

Plants

| Common name | Scientific name |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| FLOWERING PLANTS | ANGIOSPERMS |
| Magnoliidae (Dicotyledons) | |
| Acanthus Family | Acanthaceae |
| Black Mangrove | <i>Avicennia germinans</i> |
| Blue Pussyleaf/Rice Farm Grass | <i>Nelsonia canescens</i> |
| | |
| Cashew Family | Anacardiaceae |
| Cashew Tree | <i>Anacardium occidentale</i> |
| Mango | <i>Mangifera indica</i> |
| | |
| Dogbane Family | Apocynaceae |
| Sodom Apple | <i>Calotropis procera</i> |
| Senegal Saba/Kaba | <i>Saba senegalensis</i> |
| Monkey's Shuttle | <i>Strophanthus samentosus</i> |
| | |
| Daisy Family | Asteraceae |
| Goatweed | <i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> |
| a Knapweed | <i>Centaurea perrottetii</i> |
| | <i>Grangea maderaspatana</i> |
| | <i>Sphaeranthus senegalensis</i> |
| | |
| Catalpa Family | Bignoniaceae |
| Akoko Tree/Kunjunborong | <i>Newbouldia laevis</i> |
| | |
| Caper Family | Capparaceae |
| Crocodile's Tooth/Woolly Caper Bush | <i>Capparis tomentosa</i> |
| | |
| Cocoplum Family | Chrysobalanaceae |
| Gingerbread Plum | <i>Neocarya macrophylla</i> |
| | |
| Bushwillow Family | Combretaceae |
| Burning Bush | <i>Combretum paniculatum</i> |
| | |
| Bindweed Family | Convolvulaceae |
| Beach Morning Glory | <i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i> |
| | |
| Pea Family | Fabaceae |
| Groundnut/Peanut | <i>Arachis hypogaea</i> |
| Camel's-foot Tree/Napoleon's Plume | <i>Bauhinia monandra</i> |
| West African Laburnum/Drumstick Tree | <i>Cassia sieberiana</i> |
| Rattlepod | <i>Crotalaria retusa</i> |
| Velvet Tamarind | <i>Dialium guineense</i> |
| Bell-flowered Mimosa | <i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i> |
| Coral Tree | <i>Erythrina senegalensis</i> |
| Winter Thorn | <i>Faidherbia albida</i> |
| African Locust Bean Tree | <i>Parkia biglobosa</i> |
| | |

| Common name | Scientific name |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Deadnettle Family | Lamiaceae |
| Gumbar Tree/Gamhar | <i>Gmelina arborea</i> |
| Bushmint | <i>Hyptis suaveolens</i> |
| | |
| Mallow Family | Malvaceae |
| Baobab | <i>Adansia digitata</i> |
| Kapok Tree | <i>Ceiba petandra</i> |
| | |
| Mulberry Family | Moraceae |
| Strangler Fig | <i>Ficus craterostema?</i> |
| Sycamore Fig | <i>Ficus sycamorus</i> |
| | |
| Four O'Clock Family | Nyctaginaceae |
| Bourganvillia | <i>Bourganvillea spectabilis</i> |
| | |
| Water-lily Family | Nymphaeaceae |
| Egyptian Lotus | <i>Nymphaea lotus</i> |
| White Water-lily | <i>Nymphaea micrantha</i> |
| | |
| Willowherb Family | Onograceae |
| Mexican Primrose-willow | <i>Ludwigia octovalvis</i> |
| | |
| Bedstraw Family | Rubiaceae |
| Shrubby False Buttonweed | <i>Spermacoce verticillata</i> |
| | |
| Mangrove Family | Rhizophoraceae |
| Red Mangrove | <i>Rhizophora mangle</i> |
| | |
| Liliidae (Monocotyledons) | |
| Arum Family | Araceae |
| - | <i>Amorphophallus aphyllus</i> |
| - | <i>Amorphophallus consimilis</i> |
| | |
| Palm Family | Arecaceae |
| Black Rhun Palm/African Fan Palm | <i>Borassus aethiopium</i> |
| Coconut | <i>Cocos nucifera</i> |
| African Oil Palm | <i>Elaeis guineensis</i> |
| Senegal Date Palm | <i>Phoenix reclinata</i> |