

Gambia in Style

Naturetrek Tour Report

7th – 14th March 2023



African Finfoot by Mike Stamp



Osprey by Lilian Haire



Red-billed Oxpeckers by Mike Stamp



Pygmy Sunbird by Mike Stamp

Tour report by Richard Bashford



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Tour participants: Richard Bashford (leader), with Lamin, Lamin, AJ, Mas, Amadou, Sanna (local guides) with 11 Naturetrek Clients

Day 1

Tuesday 7th March

A prompt start to our day meeting early at Gatwick Airport for an 08.30 flight. The slightly delayed flight landed at Banjul airport at 15:15 and while some worked their way through the airport formalities (not too time consuming today), others changed money before collecting together with our Gambia Experience driver. The shortish distance to our lodge introduced us to the typical hustle and bustle of African streets, and traffic. It can take about 30 minutes to reach our turn off the main road (signified by a giant Blue-bellied Roller mural), and then follow the sandy forest tracks leading to the welcome sight of Mandina Lodge where the staff including our host Linda were ready to meet up with Wonjo - a refreshing juice made from the flowers of hibiscus. Some free time to settle in before dinner.

Various species were seen including Western Plantain Eaters, and a Mongoose.

After a long day of travelling, most of the group turned in, ready for the delights of tomorrow.

Day 2

Wednesday 8th March

Mandina is a well-oiled machine, and the order of the day was to meet at 7am, under the dining area canopies – complete with Epauletted Fruit Bats, for tea, coffee and biscuits.

As the light increased, our guides for the day, Lamin, Lamin and AJ arrived to prepare the canoes for our first expedition to Buffulotto. We saw our first Senegal Parrots and Blue-breasted Kingfishers and got to grips with the some of the doves, including Mourning and Vinaceous Dove and Speckled Pigeon. Just after 7:30, we were in the canoes being paddled along the still waters of the creek. Various species were seen from the water – Beautiful and Brown Sunbird, Palm-nut Vulture carrying sticks for a nest, and being chased by Pied Crows, while flyover Giant Kingfishers also added excitement.

We disembarked at the village of Buffulotto where piles of shells attracted a few Hooded Vultures. This being the first time for a birdwatching walk as a group, we did not cover much ground. We also did not know where to look! It was so busy with a very kind perched Bearded Barbet allowing everyone great views through the telescope. While we watched it, Brown Babblers and Splendid Sunbirds were in nearby bushes. Grey and Red-billed Hornbills and Senegal Eremomela were also around. A Lizard Buzzard finally showed well. By some small pools we saw Spur-winged Lapwing, Wood and Green Sandpiper and Greenshank. But here were also Orange-cheeked Waxbills, Bronze Mannikins, Little Bee-eater and Malachite Kingfisher.

With an eye on the time, we retraced our steps and found both Grey and Fine-spotted Woodpecker, Yellow-crowned Gonolek and a Yellow Wagtail. Add in Variable Sunbird and Lavender Waxbills and we all felt we'd had a great morning.

Back on the boats and our guides worked hard against the current arriving back for breakfast at 10:30.

A few explored the drive, past the water tanks. Quite quiet on this pass, but we did see Grey-backed Camaroptera and Brown-throated Wattle-eye. On the walk back, we saw our first African Paradise Flycatcher – with impressive tail streamers.

Chill time for the middle of the day but those who took the opportunity to visit the pool (a really sensible option!), managed great views of the delightful Fanti Sawing Swallow and White-throated Bee-eaters coming in to drink. We mustered at 16:30, ordered our evening meal and while four went on the sunset cruise, the remainder went for a shaded walk to the mudflat area. Our walk passed an area where spilt grain had attracted a flock of Red-billed Firefinches and our first Black-necked Weavers (now called Olive-naped Weaver). Onward towards the water tanks where we found a pair of African Paradise Flycatchers, and Green-headed Sunbirds and a welcome Snowy-crowned Robin Chat found by Lillian in a place none of us were looking. It stayed perched here for a long time and then fed from the forest floor. Along the forest tracks brought us to the open habitat of the mudflats. Here we saw our first Wattled Lapwings and Green Wood Hoopoe. The homeland trio of House Martin, Sand Martin and Swallow flew overhead before Mas found us a perched Grey Kestrel and then a Long-tailed Glossy Starling. A Hamerkop flew over and then Steve found a perched falcon which turn out to be a very smart Red-necked Falcon. On the way back we added Tawny-flanked Prinia, Northern Crombec and Yellow White-eye.

We arrived back in time for a freshen up. Richard went to meet the sunset cruise and was greeted with photos of African Finfoot – with three sightings of this elusive species, the luck was with them tonight! They also saw Pink-backed Pelican, Yellow-billed Stork, Goliath Heron and Marsh Mongoose.

We met 19:45 for checklist before dinner at 20:00.

Day 3

Thursday 9th March

Our full day out started with a light breakfast and away by 07.30. By 08:40, we were near Kartong Bird Observatory but stopped first at a roadside pool. Well, what a stop this was! A flock of Senegal Thick-knees, our first White-faced Whistling Ducks, Broad-billed Roller, Malachite, Pied and Blue-breasted Kingfisher, some glorious Red-chested Swallows with very long tail streamers and a few Little Swifts coming down to drink. Next came three Gull-billed Terns, a perched Palm-nut Vulture, Osprey, Little Bee-eater, Northern Bishops, Orange-cheeked Waxbills and Variable Sunbird. But it was the unlucky Little Swift which caught our attention. It had misjudged the water and was flapping in a vain attempt to reach the side of the lake. As we watched, a v-shaped ripple appeared from the edge and headed towards the swift. A Crocodile! Within seconds, the two met and a snap of the jaws and it was all over. Quite something to observe.

A few minutes later, we were parked up at Kartong and started our walk towards the coast. The small fields and bushes provided interesting habitat for us to search with the elegant Abyssinian Roller the first, Black-headed Heron, Yellow-crowned Gonolek, Senegal Coucal, White-breasted Cormorants, and a few Pink-backed Pelican soaring with the Hooded Vultures – one of which had yellow wing tags.

Kartong is a wetland site with several small pools and larger flooded areas. Scanning of these added African Swamphen, a couple of young Black Crakes, Black-winged Stilts, Spur-winged Goose and Yellow-billed Stork. A lucky find was a female Red-shouldered Cuckoo Shrike. Our first Rufous-crowned Roller was a bit distant so we

found a track to get a little closer, adding a few Black-crowned Night Herons and Beaudouin's Snake Eagle in the process. A migrant Black Kite and a Marsh Harrier added two more birds of prey.

We had done well, and the beach was a few more minutes away as the heat of the day began to drain our energy. By 11.15, we were enjoying fresh Grapefruit and Orange juice and watching West African, Sandwich, Lesser Crested and Caspian Terns along the beach. But now it was time for lunch – a thirty-minute drive to Sanyang where the promised fine buffet was served – chicken, fresh fish, rice, vegetable sauce, salad, and of course chips. We did our best to work through the food on offer before having a short walk on the beach.

A quick stop and the nearby pools provided great views of roosting Caspian and Lesser Crested Terns, Redshank and Grey Plover.

The nearby fishing village and market of Tanji was our last stop of the day – 30 minutes of Gambian life in full colour – in fact all the senses were activated with fresh, dried and smoked fish on show, as well as brightly coloured fishing boats and many active people involved in the processing of the catches. On the beach, large flocks of Grey-headed Gulls and terns were searching for food. On the sea, we found a couple of White Pelicans as well as a few Pink-backed Pelicans. On the rocky shore, we found Bar-tailed Godwit and Turnstones.

Then, back to the bus for the hour drive to Mandina where we arrived in time for a refreshing drink, a dip in the pool before meeting for checklist and another excellent dinner – a few people had not had their fill of fish after Tanji, and had fish for dinner as well.

Day 4

Friday 10th March

Today was a day of two walks. The first was to Nambikala Fields with AJ and the Lamins, which started at 07:30 with a very pleasant temperature. The first birds were seen at the water tanks – Green-headed Sunbird – and further down the track, Scarlet-chested Sunbird. A slow walk with a few welcome sightings such as displaying African Grey Hornbills, Klaas's Cuckoo, Lizard Buzzard, a brief Northern Puffback and a few fly-through Blackcap Babblers and Ahanta Francolins were less obliging. We found perched Pin-tailed Whydahs, and Violet Turaco, followed by a Black Scimitarbill and then a Hoopoe. AJ ushered us on so we had time to get to the fields themselves – a slightly different open habitat. This was well worth it with Striped Kingfisher perching well for all to see. Next into the field area itself, we saw two female Pygmy Sunbirds – nice enough and feeding in a small bush close to us. But was there a male nearby? Walking on to more bushes, AJ picked up a Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird which did not perform for us. But three small yellow birds did – Yellow Penduline Tits! Very cute and showing well. Then as we were starting to think about omelettes and coffee etc, we found a male Pygmy Sunbird – surely the best of the sunbirds? This too was in a small bush feeding actively so gave excellent views. As we were watching it, AJ called out Vieillot's Barbet, which a few got onto before it moved – sometimes, you don't know where to look! Thankfully it showed again in top of an acacia and then again on top of a Baobab tree. Such a beauty. We actually left to walk back with this bird still on show – very well behaved indeed. Back at 10:30 for breakfast and then for most, a rest.

Richard, Mike and Clive did the "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" walk to basecamp which was largely in shade in this very warm part of the day. At the water tanks were Green-headed Sunbird and Little Greenbul and further on, many sunbirds but also both a flyover Hamerkop a rather distant Blue-bellied Roller and a very close Blue-breasted

Kingfisher. Returning past the water tanks added Snowy-crowned Robin Chat, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher and Greater Honeyguide.

After a breather, cool fruit juice, swimming etc, the latter offering spectacular views of Yellow-crowned Gonolek for the four in the pool (this is the life...), we met at 16:45 leaving four to go on the sunset cruise and five to walk to Nambikala forest. It was hard work this afternoon but we added Yellow-fronted Canary, Little Weaver, Pied-winged Swallow. Back for 18:45 for a freshen up before checklist and dinner.

Day 5

Saturday 11th March

A canoe ride to start the day with the Lamins and AJ. We headed for Kubeneh noting Great Blue-eared Glossy Starling, three species of Kingfisher and a Gull-billed Tern before disembarking. Here was another bird-filled walk starting with Northern Black Flycatcher and a Piapiac in the same palm tree. Next, a nice view of a Northern Puffback. Taking the track north, we saw Yellow-billed Shrike, Grey Woodpecker, a small group of White-crowned Robin Chats, Grey-headed Sparrows and Cardinal Woodpeckers feeding young. Most of these were in the same tree. Moving on, we found a bush with nicely perched Lavender Waxbills, Northern Crombec and Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird.

At one point we passed a large group of men making bricks. AJ could not resist getting involved and joined in. Onwards towards the large group of Baobab trees, we saw Long-tailed Glossy Starling, Purple Glossy Starling and then walked to a group of trees where Lamin and AJ found a pair of White-faced Owls.

Walking back to the canoes, past the colossal Kapok tree, we found an obliging Yellow-billed Shrike, Senegal Coucal and a pair of Shikras. Just before boarding, we heard Oriole Warbler singing.

We reached Mandina at 10:30 on the dot again and enjoyed a fine breakfast.

A few went along the drive after breakfast and added the very handsome Buff-spotted Woodpecker and Lesser Honeyguide alongside Red-bellied and African Paradise Flycatchers, Grey-backed Camaroptera and Snowy-crowned Robin Chat. A male Diadem butterfly was also found. Then it was time to relax as the heat really kicked in.

The afternoon walk was delayed to 16:45 again due to the heat, and we followed the shady path to Base Camp. African Paradise Flycatcher, Little Greenbul, Snowy-crowned Robin Chat and Splendid Sunbirds were enjoying the water tanks, but further on, Mas picked out a single White-crested Helmet Shrike – unusually only one bird but we soon found out why. The bird moved right and we noticed it was on a nest – a strange looking nest which looked like it was predominantly made from hair (but normally bark) – we assumed donkey and camel hair from the adjacent Donkey sanctuary, and held together with spider webs. We found a spot to take photos of this rare find. Moving on towards Base Camp, we saw Beaudouin's Snake Eagle and Osprey and then a brief Yellow-throated Leaflove and a couple of calling Yellow-fronted Tinkerbirds. Mas then located a White-faced Owl in its usual area near the craft market. On the way back, we found a small flock of White-crowned Helmet Shrikes. We reached Mandina in time for a refresh before checklist and dinner as usual.

Day 6

Sunday 12th March

Today was our second trip away from Makasutu Forest. A short minibus journey brought us to Pirang Shrimp Farm, a vast disused shrimp farm, now a key birdwatching site with endless pools stretching off into the distance. We began our walk just after 8am with Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters overhead. A telescope on two perched birds of prey revealed a Marsh Harrier and a Long-crested Eagle. Our first African Spoonbills flew over and we noted both Red-rumped and Wire-tailed Swallows – the latter nesting under water culverts and perching in the same spot between feeding flights. We noticed the first of many waders here with a few of the familiar species but incredible numbers of Little Stints. There must have been hundreds seen over the course of our visit. We added Crested Lark and Black-winged Bishop feeding in front of us on the track. We also met Osman, the warden of the site who guided us to the best areas.

We made it to an even bigger pool and saw hundreds of elegant Slender-billed Gulls. Scanning the waders added Avocet, Curlew Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank and Ruff. Our first Little Terns we also seen here. Retracing our steps, we walked to another bird filled pool, via a Woodchat Shrike and a Zitting Cisticola, with many Curlew Sandpipers, Black-tailed Godwits and a gorgeous Marsh Sandpiper.

The bus met us halfway back and we transferred to Bonto Forest. By this time it was warming up so we were thankful of the shade of the impressive gallery forest trees. Here we took a small path to a tree with a roosting Verreaux's Eagle Owl peering down at us for time to time – an impressive beast. We tried for African Wood Owl too but did not manage this – we saw African Pied Hornbill and a brief pair of Green Turacos. Several Sun Squirrels here too.

From here, we returned to Mandina for our pre-ordered lunch and a breather before some of us headed out at 16:30 to Marakissa, a flooded field area with a great range of species. We saw Hamerkop, Intermediate Egret, Black Crake, African Jacanas and a glorious view of four Yellow-billed Oxpeckers on the back of a donkey. We'd strangely missed seeing Blue-bellied Roller so were please to find four fly across the evening sky (and a Broad-billed Roller), with one perching allowing 'scope views.

We returned to Mandina in time for a quick relax before the usual checklist in the Creekside bar, and then a fine dinner.

Day 7

Monday 13th March

Our last full day was to start with a boat trip – we hoped! The tide for our intended destination was not ideal although Lamin, Lamin and Amadou tried but had to turn back. We decided to head in the opposite direction and return to Kubeneh. A good move! Here we added great views of species we had not seen or seen briefly – Blackcap Babbler, Brown Babbler, Piapiacs, perched Shikra and Lizard Buzzard, a Harrier Hawk eating a lizard, Senegal Coucal, African Golden Oriole, a close Blue-bellied Roller, Glossy-backed Drongo and a small flock of Bruce's Green Pigeons which flew by and kindly perched in full view. On the way back, we saw a flock of 11 Yellow-billed Shrikes and a pair of Dark Chanting Goshawks.

Back for our breakfast at 10:30 and then a few were tempted out for another hour or so seeing a roost of Pied-winged Swallows, Snowy-crowned Robin Chat, Tawny-flanked Prinia and a Black-crowned Tchagra.

While the last four went on the sunset cruise (Goliath Heron, Pink-backed Pelican and a two metre Crocodile), the remainder went to the mudflats and saw Wattled Lapwing, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Black-crowned Tchagra, Bearded Barbet, Violet Turaco, White-billed Buffalo Weavers and Hamerkops.

Day 8

Tuesday 14th March

Making full use of the time, we had our usual 7am tea, coffee and biscuits and did a circuit to the cultural forest centre. It was a great last walk with the chance to “request” one or two species we had not seen that well. Green Turaco was highlighted, and we ended up seeing five or six – as well as a similar number of Violet Turacos. In fact, it was a morning of colourful birds with a male Klaas’s Cuckoo, Green Pigeon, White-crested Helmet Shrikes, a pair of Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrikes, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, African Golden Oriole, Yellow-fronted Canary and Yellow-breasted Apalis. Not back for 2.5 hours!

Back on the dot of 10am for breakfast, the paying of bar bills and packing. We then thanked the wonderful staff and guides and our host Linda. Boarding the bus for the hour long journey to the airport, we saw our first Monitor Lizard crossing in front of the bus! Near the airport turning, we said goodbye to Mike and Di who were having three more nights at Ngala Lodge and got to the airport and into departures by 1.20pm.

Our slightly delayed flight touched down at Gatwick where we collected our bags and said our goodbyes after an enjoyable week with great company and amazing wildlife.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	March 2023							
		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>			✓				✓	
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>			✓					
Ahanta Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis achantensis</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
Double-spurred Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</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>		1		✓			✓	✓
Guinea Turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>						✓		✓
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>			✓		✓		✓	
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</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>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bruce's Green Pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>							✓	
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>								✓
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>		3						
African Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>			✓					
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>			✓			✓		
Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</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>	✓					✓	✓	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>			✓			✓		
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>						✓		
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		H	✓		H	H	H	H
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>			✓					
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>						✓		
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			✓					
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>						✓		
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>						✓		
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>						✓		
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		✓						
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>						✓		

Common name	Scientific name	March 2023							
		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</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 albididorsalis</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>			✓					
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>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</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>		1	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</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-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>				?				
Beaudouin's Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaeetus occipitalis</i>						✓		
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>		✓		✓			✓	
Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>							✓	
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>					✓		✓	
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>			✓					

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		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>							✓	
Northern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>					✓			
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>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>			✓					
Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>			✓					
Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>				✓		✓	✓	
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>			✓			✓		
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>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>								
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>				✓	✓		H	✓
Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieilloti</i>				✓				
Bearded Barbet	<i>Lybius dubius</i>		✓		✓			✓	
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>					✓			
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Buff-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Pardipicus nivosus</i>					✓			
Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>		✓						
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>					✓			
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>		✓			✓		✓	
Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>		✓		✓	✓			
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</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>							✓	H
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>				✓	✓			
Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>		✓	✓	✓	H	H	✓	✓
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>					✓			✓
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>			✓	✓				✓
Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>					✓	✓	✓	
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>						✓		
African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>							✓	✓

Common name	Scientific name	March 2023							
		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Glossy-backed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus divaricatus</i>		✓		✓			✓	
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>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fanti Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne obscura</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</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>		✓	✓			✓		
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>						✓		
Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>						✓		
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>						✓		✓
Oriole Warbler	<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>					H			
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>		✓		H	✓	✓	H	✓
Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Western Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca iberiae</i>								
Northern Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>		✓						
Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>		✓	✓	H	✓	✓	✓	
Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>				✓			✓	
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>					✓			
Lesser Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>							✓	
Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>			✓			✓		
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>					✓			
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapillus</i>					✓	H		
Mangrove Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Western Violet-backed Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes longuemareii</i>								
Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platura</i>				✓				
Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>		✓		✓				
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastrus</i>		✓		✓	✓			✓
Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	

Common name	Scientific name	March 2023							
		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>		✓			✓	✓		
White-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>							✓	✓
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>				✓				
Olive-naped Weaver	<i>Ploceus brachypterus</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
Vitelline Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>								
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-headed Weaver	<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>			✓					
Black-winged Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>						✓		
Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>			✓					
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lavender Waxbill	<i>Glaucostrelda caerulea</i>		✓			✓		✓	✓
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>		✓	✓		✓			
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</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	March 2023							
		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Western Red Colobus Monkey	<i>Procolobus badius</i>						✓		
Guinea Baboon	<i>Papio papio</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Green Vervet/Callithrix Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus sabaeus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Patas Monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>		✓		✓				
Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus gambianus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Peter's Dwarf Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Micropteropus pusillus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-bellied Yellow Bat	<i>Scotophilus leucogaster</i>	?		?	?	?		?	?
Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>						✓	✓	
Marsh Mongoose	<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>	✓	✓						

Invertebrates, Reptiles & Fish

Common name	Scientific name
Butterflies	
Pieridae	
Tiny Orange Tip	<i>Colotis evagore antigone</i>
African Spirit	<i>Leptosia alcesta</i>
Common Dotted Border	<i>Mylothris chlois</i>
Caper White	<i>Belenois aurota</i>
Lycaenidae	
African Cupid	<i>Euchrysops osiris</i>
Nymphalidae	
African Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
Pearl Charaxes	<i>Charaxes varanes</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Diadem	<i>Hypolimnas misippus</i>
River Sailor	<i>Neptis serena</i>
Orange Elphin	<i>Sarangesa tricerata</i>
Common Scarlet	<i>Axiocerses tjoane</i>
Moth	
Crimson Speckled	<i>Utetheisa pulchella</i>
Odonata	
Red Basker	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>
Strong Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brachiale</i>
Long Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum trinacria</i>
Others	
West African Mangrove Oyster	<i>Crassostrea tulipa</i>
Antlion	<i>Myrmeleon sp.</i>
Driver Ants	<i>Dorylus sp.</i>
West African Fiddler Crab	<i>Uca tangeri</i>
Green Milkweed Locust	<i>Phymateus viridipes</i>
Snout Bug/Lantern Bug	<i>Fulgoridae</i>
Flat Crab Spider	<i>Selenopidae</i>
Reptiles	
Nile Monitor Lizard	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
Agama Lizard	<i>Agama agama</i>
West African Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus suchus</i>
Fish	
Atlantic Mudskipper	<i>Periophthalmus papillo</i>
Guinean Tilapia	<i>Tilapia guineensis</i>

Plants

Common name	Scientific name
Cashew Family	Anacardiaceae
Cashew Tree	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>
Mango	<i>Mangifera indica</i>
Dogbane Family	Apocynaceae
Sodom Apple	<i>Calotropis procera</i>
Caper Family	Capparaceae
Crocodile's Tooth/Woolly Caper Bush	<i>Capparis tomentosa</i>
Cocoplum Family	Chrysobalanaceae
Gingerbread Plum	<i>Neocarya macrophylla</i>
Bindweed Family	Convolvulaceae
Beach Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>
Deadnettle Family	Lamiaceae

Common name	Scientific name
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>
Four O'Clock Family	Nyctaginaceae
Bourganvillia	<i>Bourganvillea spectabilis</i>
Water-lily Family	Nymphaeaceae
White Water-lily	<i>Nymphaea micrantha</i>
Mangrove Family	Rhizophoraceae
Red Mangrove	<i>Rhizophora mangle</i>
Palm Family	Areaceae
Black Rhun Palm/African Fan Palm	<i>Borassus aethiopium</i>
Coconut	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>
African Oil Palm	<i>Elaeis guineensis</i>
Madagascan Palm	<i>Pachypodium lamerei</i>



Vieillot's Barbet by Mike Stamp