

Gambia in Style

Naturetrek Tour Report

18th – 25th April 2023



Mangrove Sunbird by Dave Jackson



Little Bee-eater by Dave Jackson



Red-billed Oxpecker by Dave Jackson



Agama Lizard by Dave Jackson

Tour report by Dave Jackson



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Dave Jackson (leader) and local guides A.J., Lamin S., Mas & Lamin with 11 Naturetrek clients

Summary

This was the final Gambia in Style tour of the season, and we enjoyed many sightings of colourful birds including seven sunbird, six kingfisher, four bee-eater and three roller species during our 8-day stay.

We visited a number of sites by coach including Pirang, Bonto Forest, Kartong, Marakissa and the bustling Tanji Fishing Village.

We didn't have to leave the breakfast table for our daily sightings of Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu, Bronze Mannikins and Red-billed Firefinches while Black-necked (Olive-naped) and Village Weavers began to gather nest material to build their cylindrical structures.

Many egrets and herons were observed including one new to our Gambian guides – Little Bittern - as it flew over the river in front of the canoes, although the firm favourite was the Black Heron which performed its 'umbrella' posture as it caught fish in the shadow of its spread wings.

Rare sightings came in the form of Spotted Honeyguide, Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrike and several sightings of the shy Patas Monkey including one that crossed the road in front of our bus as we returned from a trip out. Green Vervet Monkeys were often seen around the lodges whilst a troop of around two hundred Guinea Baboons surrounded the group on one afternoon walk, but took little notice of the humans in their midst.

Small raptors included Grey Kestrel, Lizard Buzzard and Red-necked Falcon whilst their larger relatives included African Harrier-hawk, Palm-nut Vulture, Long-crested Eagle, Yellow-billed and Black Kite.

Butterfly enthusiasts in the group were treated to regular sightings of African Tiger, White Lady and Citrus Swallowtails along with many blues.

Day 1

Tuesday 18th April

10°C Gatwick, 34°C Banjul

Our flight to Banjul took off on time for the six hour journey with 11 Naturetrek clients all on their first visit to this small African country to see the Gambian wildlife and experience the hospitality of Mandina Lodges. The pilot announced the temperature would be around 34°C on arrival, a slight decrease from previous days.

A few hours into the flight, the ever-changing habitat could be seen with greenery and mountains as we passed over Portugal to the red sand of the Sahara and Mauritania below. Our accommodation on the banks of Mandina Bolon could be seen from the air as we made our descent to land at Banjul International Airport.

We were soon through customs and on our way to Mandina with the first birds noted - Yellow-billed Kite, Speckled Pigeon, Hooded Vulture and a number of dove species which we were soon to get familiar with around our lodges.

Linda and the bird guides were there to greet us with a soft drink while Fanti Saw-wings swooped down to drink from the swimming pool. Village Weaver, Red-billed Firefinch and Blue-cheeked Cordon Bleu were among the first birds seen along with Western Plantain-eater, White-throated Bee-eaters and African Pied Hornbill.

Pied Kingfishers came down to plunge-bathe in the swimming pool and a Giant Kingfisher perched on a heart-shaped symbol above the dining area. Mosque Swallow was the highlight among hirundines including Fanti Saw-wings and Red-chested and Pied-winged Swallows hawking over the mangroves before we sat down for dinner, as Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bats left their daytime roost and darkness fell.

Day 2

Wednesday 19th April

28 -34°C sunny with a slight breeze. Bafuloto - Mandina Bolon - Mudflats

We met at 7am for our first excursion by canoe to Bafuloto, a short way up the mangrove-lined bolon, where local women harvest and smoke oysters. Blue-breasted Kingfishers called from the mangroves and the first of many Reed Cormorants and African Darters posed on bare branches.

A flock of Piapiacs fed on the remains of oysters on the discarded pile of shells, the juveniles with pink bills, while Hooded Vultures circled overhead ready to descend. A Senegal Eremomela fed on the track but was gone before we all disembarked, while Yellow-fronted Canaries, Orange-cheeked Waxbills, White-fronted and Little Bee-eaters were easy to see, and the call of African Grey Hornbill gave away its presence before it appeared on the top branches of an African locust bean tree.

A pair of Violet Turacos came into view and were quickly pronounced bird of the day with their purple plumage, yellow forehead and red bill, with Bearded Barbet a close second. African Tiger and blue butterflies gained attention and Variegated Grasshopper nymphs became a photographers' favourite.

The two hours had flown by and it was time to return to the canoes for our cruise back for breakfast. A Lesser-crested Tern flew over the boats and the surprise bird of the morning, a Little Bittern was caught on camera as it flew across the river becoming a new bird for the guides as well as some of the group. Western Osprey, Whimbrel and Common Sandpiper were more familiar birds.

It was midday before we finished our late breakfast, and the afternoon was spent relaxing and familiarising ourselves with birds around the grounds in the heat of the day.

A short walk was planned to check the water tanks where an African Paradise Flycatcher had taken up residence. The male showed extremely well catching insects around the tanks with its disproportionately long, orangey tail, black breast and head. Little Greenbul, Splendid Sunbird and African Thrush bathed in the overflow while further up the track both White-crowned and Snowy-crowned Robin-Chats were seen with the smaller Snowy-crowned in no hurry to move as it posed for photos.

A late afternoon walk to the mudflats added a most-wanted Hamerkop, Striated Heron, African Wattled Lapwing and Yellow-billed Shrike to the list while a Senegal Coucal was less obvious as it hunted insects in the vegetation.

Great and Cattle Egrets were unconcerned by the African Harrier-hawk drifting overhead and the star bird, a Guinea Turaco, sat uncharacteristically in the open on the top of a tall tree as we made our way back for dinner.

Those on the sunset cruise added Caspian Tern, Pink-backed Pelican, Goliath and Black-headed Herons as they enjoyed a motorised boat ride to the Gambia River and back along the mangrove-lined bolon.

Day 3

Thursday 20th April

Kartong - Sanyang – Tanji 28 - 34°C sunny

A buffet breakfast was prepared for us before the bus arrived to take us to Kartong near the Senegal border. A troop of approximately 50 Guinea Baboons, some with babies on their backs, crossed the path as we made our way past Makasutu Cultural Centre and onto the main highway. A Grey Kestrel perched by the side of the road as we viewed from the bus and a Lizard Buzzard looked down on us from a pylon a little further along, where our first Abyssinian Roller of the trip perched in a shaded part of a tree but couldn't escape our gaze.

A flooded quarry near Kartong was brimming with birds – Osprey and pelicans overhead, an African Harrier-hawk, African Wattled Plovers, Common Greenshank and Hamerkop on the water's edge and a flock of White-faced Whistling Ducks on the far bank. Little Bee-eaters posed for the cameras while Yellow-billed Oxpeckers and Cattle Egrets tended the livestock. Just as we were leaving, a Mottled Spinetail gave several fly-overs as it plunged into the lake.

Pelican Point lived up to its name with Pink-backed and White Pelicans in good numbers on the water and in flight. Black and Little Terns flew over the sea with Whimbrel and Common Ringed Plover on the sandbanks. The smell of fish diminished as we made a slow drive out of Kartong before AJ spotted a Rufous-crowned Roller from the bus and asked the driver to pull off the road onto a sandy path. The bird was on top of a tree a distance away in the grounds of an abandoned school and took flight as we approached but all managed to see it. Citrus and White Lady Swallowtail butterflies showed well as our driver attempted to free the bus from the sand - with a little help from the group.

Tanji was heaving with people as they prepared for the Festival of Eid on the last day of Ramadan as we made our way to the beach where the throng of activity filled our senses. Multi-coloured boats were pulled up onto the beach by hoards of men while women prepared their catch for the markets.

Black Kite and Yellow-billed Kites gave good comparisons as they flew close together over our heads; Grey-headed gulls fought over fish scraps while the Slender-billed Gulls seemed too relaxed to get involved in the melee. Caspian and the recently split West African Crested Terns patrolled the beach and small flocks of Black Terns skimmed over our heads. Bar-tailed Godwits mixed with Ruddy Turnstone and Sanderling as an immature Kelp Gull tried to avoid its catch being taken by the smaller Grey-headed Gulls although there was plenty to go around.

We left the beach via the smoking sheds with strong smells filling our nostrils and boarded the waiting bus with collective "Phew!" Quite an experience.

A Palm-nut Vulture flew across the road as we made our way back to Mandina Lodges where the chef was waiting to take our orders for dinner.

Day 4

Friday 21st April

Makasutu – Paul area. Cool overnight rising to 34°C with a pleasant breeze

Our early morning walk followed a well beaten track through savanna woodland where two good birds were seen in quick succession – first a female Klaas's Cuckoo then our second Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrike as it clambered among the branches of a distant tree. A pair of Red-necked Falcons shared their catch before a Lizard Buzzard tried to join them for their meal and our guide did well to spot a White-crested Helmet-shrike on a nest which was almost impossible to see with the naked eye. Butterfly spotters identified a flying leaf as a Dark Commodore as it rested on the ground and was almost lost among the leaf litter.

Further into the bush a pair of African Hoopoes showed well while the distant call of a Striped Kingfisher, a non-aquatic species, was tracked down to a lone tree with most of the branches hacked off. A family of Patas Monkeys descended from a tree and were out of sight before we reached the kingfisher. Stone Partridge and Ahanta Spurfowl were glimpsed on the track near the lodge as we made our way back for breakfast before they scurried into the dark undergrowth.

In late afternoon the group was split as before with two couples taking the sunset cruise where Yellow-billed Stork and Purple Heron were added to the list while the walking group saw roosting Northern White-faced Owls high up in eucalyptus trees. However, the highlight wasn't birds but a troop of around 200 Guinea Baboons who'd turned a disused lodge into a playground with the youngsters jumping in and out of empty swimming pools. Some of the juveniles showed a brief interest in their admirers while the adults went about their business unperturbed.

Day 5

Saturday 22nd April

Kembujeh – Nambikala. Hazy sunshine 32-34°C

Our morning birding treats started with Giant Kingfisher perched above the dining area, Olive-naped Weaver, recently split from Black-necked Weaver by some authorities and Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu around the pool before we set off on our canoe trip along the river to Kembujeh rice fields.

New birds for the trip included the glorious African Golden Oriole, a sleepy Pearl-spotted Owlet and five Blue-breasted Rollers in the same tree. A pair of Bearded Barbets looked concerned at the Shikra flying overhead or was it the Gabar Goshawk they'd seen? A Grey Woodpecker caused a distraction as we were walking back to the canoes - fortuitous as a pair of well-camouflaged Green Pigeons feeding on figs were nearly missed. Yellow-crowned Gonolek held us up further as did the female Namaqua Dove as we waited to board.

Another sunset cruise was planned for the remaining four guests while those on the afternoon walk had fabulous views of a male African Paradise Flycatcher which appeared to be paired with a female Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher. Hybrids between the two species are not uncommon and exact identification is not always possible. A

Rock Agama stayed in a sunspot on a termite mound long enough for photos to be taken and a Green-headed Sunbird gave good views along with Collared Sunbird, our guide Mas's second ever sighting of this species.

Little Weaver fed on the fruit of a Lotus Bean tree and Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird that we'd heard calling since our arrival finally gave itself up with an unobscured view. Fork-tailed Drongo and Vieillot's Barbet were late additions to the list and Double-spurred Spurfowl was seen as we approached the main path.

Those on the boat saw and photographed an Osprey eating its catch at close range but best of all, was a brief sighting of an immature African Finfoot before it disappeared under the mangroves and out of sight; an almost mythical bird to see anywhere in Africa!

Day 6

Sunday 23rd April

Pirang Bonto - Mandina – Marakissa. Hot, rising to 40°C

Our second trip out by bus was to Pirang Shrimp Farm where many waders including Little Stint, Common Ringed Plover and smaller numbers of Curlew Sandpipers fed on the disused beds. A pair of Senegal Thick-knees allowed close approach while a Wire-tailed Swallow rested on a sluice bridge. Good numbers of Slender-billed Gulls mixed with Black-winged Stilts and Bar-tailed Godwits while Caspian and West African Crested Terns showed good size comparison as did White and Pink-backed Pelicans on a distant pool.

A pair of Crested Lark scurried along in front of us as we made our way back to the waiting bus while a Blue-cheeked Bee-eater caught a large insect and returned to a perch to consume its prey. A fine male Namaqua Dove fed just in front of the bus before we left Pirang. Yellow-billed Shrikes, Long-tailed Glossy Starlings and Red-billed Hornbills fed on recently burnt grass on the road to Bonto Forest, a short distance from Pirang.

A few of the remaining 16 Western Red Colobus Monkeys made their way noisily through the forest as we approached the staked-out Wood Owl and Verreaux's Eagle Owl looking down at us with its pink eyelids. European Blackcaps were keeping good company at the drinking pools with Lavender Waxbill, Spotted Honeyguide and Blue-spotted Wood Dove, all birds new for the trip.

We returned to Mandina for lunch before heading out later in the afternoon to Marakissa. First birds encountered were herons including Squacco, Purple and a Black Heron adopting its 'umbrella' bird posture, spreading its wings - a hunting strategy to draw fish into the shadow before the fatal strike. Good comparisons were made between Great and Intermediate Egrets before our attention was drawn to a pair of African Jacanas, otherwise known as Lily-trotters for their ability to walk over floating vegetation with their large feet.

A Black-crowned Night Heron perched in the shadows and three Yellow-throated Leafloves landed in a tall tree before we crossed to the other side of the road where a Black Crake with its yellow-green bill and red legs emerged from the reeds, another great bird for the trip!

Western Reef Egret and Blue-breasted Roller fed on mudskippers close to the bar area as we completed the checklist and enjoyed a beer, wine or non-alcoholic cocktail before dinner.

Day 7

Monday 24th April

Kubuneh – Mudflats. 36°C

A flock of aptly-named Splendid Starlings landed in trees by the pool as we prepared to board the canoes for our last trip along the river to Kubuneh. These large and colourful starlings are uncommon in The Gambia and are not easy to find at any time of the year.

Pied and Giant Kingfishers perched in view whilst a Malachite Kingfisher kept partially hidden in the mangroves. A large flock of Red-billed Firefinches fed on the ground at Kubuneh and a diminutive Cardinal Woodpecker perched high on a dead twig close to a Speckled Pigeon. A noisy flock of White-crowned Robin-chats assembled in a large tree and were not easy to see, unlike the Abyssinian Roller that perched in the open giving the photographers ample opportunity to plan their shots. Northern Black Flycatcher and a female Violet-backed Starling were also captured for posterity.

Black-rumped Waxbills and a flyover Long-crested Eagle drew our attention before we reached the outskirts of the village where a pair of Northern White-faced Owls peered down at us while the local blacksmith fabricated a pair of gates.

The buttresses of a large Kapok tree provided the ideal setting for group photos and a pair of Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters caught insects as we made our way back to the canoes in time for breakfast with one or two Mottled Spinetails over the mangroves on our return.

A newly-fledged Western Plantain-eater sheltered under the mangroves with an attendant parent and a flash of blue gave us close views of a Blue-breasted Roller perched in the shade as we finished breakfast.

Green Vervet Monkeys were active around the lodges as we met for our final afternoon walk to the mudflats. Greater Painted Snipe were difficult to see against the sun as they roosted under the mangroves, but careful positioning brought them into view. A Grey Kestrel passed a lizard to its mate while Common Scarlet and African Broad-bordered Grass Yellow butterflies were identified. Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters and Klaas's Cuckoos showed well in the evening sun and Ahanta Spurfowl were not as shy as they had been previously as we made our way back to the lodge.

Day 8

Tuesday 25th April

Mandina - UK

Our final walk up to the woodlands yielded another new bird for the trip as it fed in the same tree as a number of sunbirds - a Yellow-breasted Apalis, a warbler-like bird larger than the sunbirds and obvious when it eventually showed itself in lower branches not partially hidden by leaves.

We made it back to the lodge for breakfast in time to say our goodbyes to the first group members who were spending a few days in Senegal before flying back to the UK. Two more couples would be staying in different

lodge until the last Titan Airways flight out of The Gambia left a few days later to mark the end of the 2022/23 season.

We'd seen many colourful birds, butterflies and other wildlife during the tour and enjoyed excellent food and hospitality at Mandina. This was the first visit to The Gambia for all eleven guests with many vowing to return, such is the allure of this friendly African country with its amazing people and wildlife.



Abyssinian Roller by Dave Jackson

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	April 2023							
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>					8	30+	✓	✓
Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>				1	2			
Ahanta Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis achantensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	1	2	2	2	2
Double-spurred Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>					2			
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>						1		
Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>			1				2	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Violet Turaco	<i>Tauraco violaceus</i>		6			2	✓		✓
Guinea Turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>		1					✓	
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>		1	1		1	1	1	
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>				1			2	
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>			1	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>	1			✓	1			
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>				1	2		2	
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>					1	1		
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>					2			
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>					1			
Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>						✓		
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						✓		
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>	4	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			1	1	1	1		
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			6			✓		
Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>		2					5	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>							4	
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>						✓		
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>			10			✓		
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			✓					
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>						✓		
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		2	2		✓	1	1	
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>			✓			✓		
Cape (Kelp) Gull	<i>Larus (dominicanus) vetula</i>			1					

Common name	Scientific name	April 2023							
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>		✓						
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>			1			✓		
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		1	✓	1	2	✓	✓	
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>		1	✓					
West African Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus albididorsalis</i>			✓			✓		
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>				1				
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>			2					
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>			✓					
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>				1	3	2		
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>			✓	✓			✓	
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>							1	
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>		1						
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		1					1	
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>		1					2	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>						1		
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>		1		✓	✓		✓	
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>		1		1				
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		1		2	1		1	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>						1		
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>						3		
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>		10+	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>			✓					
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>		1	3	1	3	1	1	
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>	1		1	3			✓	
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>							1	
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>			1	1	1			
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>						1		
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>		1			2			
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>			1		3			
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>					1			
African Wood Owl	<i>Strix woddfordii</i>							1	
Northern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>				2			2	
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>						1		
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				2				
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>		2	1					
Western Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus kemp</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

		April 2023							
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
African Pied Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros fasciatus</i>	1			7	2	1	2	
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>		4		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>			1					
Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>			1				1	
Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>				1				
Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>						1		
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>			2		1	1	1	
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>	1	1		1	1	1	1	
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>							5	
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>		1		✓		2		✓
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>	H	H		1	1	H	2	
Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieilloti</i>					1			
Bearded Barbet	<i>Lybius dubius</i>		1		2	3			
Spotted Honeyguide	<i>Indicator maculatus</i>						1		
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>				1				
Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>		2		1				
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>							1	
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>					1	1		
Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>			1				2	
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>				2				
Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>		4	1	2			1	
Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrike	<i>Telophorus sulfuropectus</i>				1				
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>			1				1	
Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>	H	1	H	2	✓	✓	✓	✓
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>				1	1			
Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>		1				6		
Square-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus ludwigii</i>					1			
African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>					1		1	
Glossy-backed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus divaricatus</i>		1	1					
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>					1			
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>		1	1	1	1			
Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>		10			✓	✓	✓	
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>						2		
Yellow-throated Leaflove (Greenbul)	<i>Atimastillas flavicollis</i>						2	3	
Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>		1	1		1	✓		
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fanti Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne obscura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Common name	Scientific name	April 2023							
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Pied-winged Swallow	<i>Hirundo leucosoma</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>						✓		
Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>	1	1	✓					
Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>	1							
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>						3		
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>			H					
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flava</i>								1
Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>		1						
Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>				H				
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>		✓						
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>			1		✓	✓		
Splendid Starling	<i>Lamprotornis splendidus</i>						7	10	
Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>		1						
Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>		✓	✓				✓	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>			2					
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>		1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>			1					
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>		1		1	1		1	
White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapillus</i>		1					5	
Mangrove Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>					2			
Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platyura</i>		1						
Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>		1			1		1	✓
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastus</i>		1	1	✓	✓			
Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>		1		1				
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>		2	✓					
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>					2			
Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>	1			✓		✓	✓	
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>						3		
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lavender Waxbill	<i>Glaucostrelda caerulea</i>							1	
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>		✓	1			2		
Black-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>							5	
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>		2						
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>			5					
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>		6						

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	April 2023							
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Western Red Colobus Monkey	<i>Procolobus badius</i>						2		
Guinea Baboon	<i>Papio papio</i>			50	200		20		
Green Vervet/Callithrix Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus sabaeus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Patas Monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>			1	2			2	
Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus gambianus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peter's Dwarf Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Micropteropus pusillus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>						1		
Gambian Pouched Rat	<i>Cricetomys gambianus</i>						1		

Others

Common name	Scientific name
BUTTERFLIES	
<i>Papilionidae</i>	
Citrus Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demodocus</i>
<i>Pieridae</i>	
Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>
<i>Lycaenidae</i>	
Pea Blue/Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>
Lang's Short-tailed Blue/Common Zebra Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>
<i>Nymphalidae</i>	
African Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
Darker Commodore	<i>Precis antilope</i>
River Sailor	<i>Neptis serena</i>
DRAGONFLIES	
Widow Dragonfly	<i>Palpopleura portia</i>
Black Percher	<i>Diplacodes lefebvrei</i>
Red Basker	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>
Strong Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brachiale</i>
OTHER INVERTEBRATES	
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>
Common Green Mantis	<i>Sphodromantis sp.</i>
West African Fiddler Crab	<i>Uca tangeri</i>
Stick Grasshopper	
Flat Mantis	
REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS	
Forest Cobra	<i>Naja melanoleuca</i>

Orange-flanked Skink	<i>Mabuya perrotetii</i>
Nile Monitor Lizard	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
Agama Lizard	<i>Agama agama</i>
Brook's House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus brooki angulatus</i>
Uganda Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus gutturalis</i>
West African Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus suchus</i>
African Common Toad	<i>Sclerophrys regularis</i>
FISH	
African Red Snapper	<i>Lutjanus agennes</i>
Atlantic Mudskipper	<i>Periophthalmus papillo</i>
Guinean Tilapia	<i>Tilapia guineensis</i>

Plants

Common name	Scientific name
FLOWERING PLANTS	ANGIOSPERMS
<i>Magnoliidae (Dicotyledons)</i>	
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

Common name	Scientific name
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>
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>

Common name	Scientific name
African Oil Palm	<i>Elaeis guineensis</i>
Senegal Date Palm	<i>Phoenix reclinata</i>



Western Plantain-Eater and Green Vervet Monkey by Ian Nicholson