

# The Gambia in Style

Naturetrek Tour Report

23rd February – 1st March 2024

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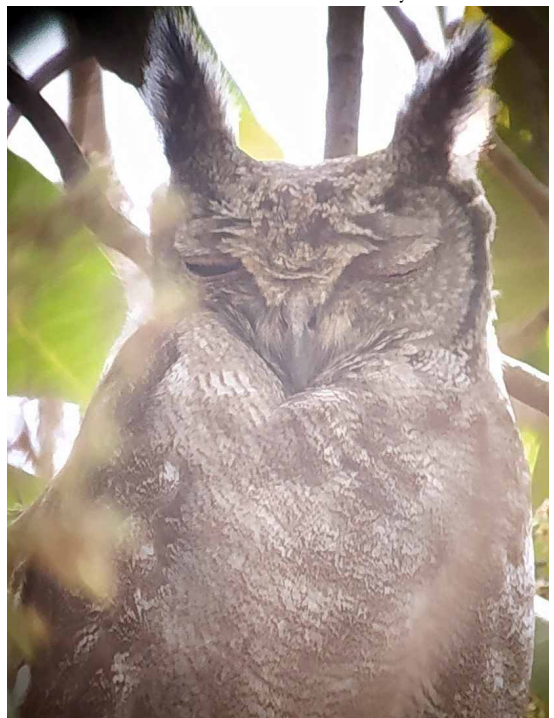
Yellow-crowned Gonolek by Robert Bowles



Guinea Baboons by Rob Mileto



White-crested Helmet Shrike by Robert Bowles



Greyish Eagle Owl by Rob Mileto

Tour report by Rob Mileto



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Tour participants: Rob Mileto (UK leader), Lamin Sanneh, Amadou Bojang, Alagie Bojang, Sanna Colley, Lamin Saidu, Mass Jammeh (local guides) and 13 Naturetrek clients

## Day 1

**Friday 23rd February**

London Gatwick to Mandina Lodge, The Gambia

We all met up at some unearthly hour at Gatwick airport, before boarding the mainly uneventful flight to Banjul in the Gambia. We arrived at Banjul airport in the late afternoon and stepped off the plane into 36-degree heat.

Our first bird was probably a circling Hooded Vulture as we disembarked, but there were also Cattle Egret to be seen stalking the airport grassland.

Immigration essentials completed, we were soon aboard a small bus and heading on busy roads to Mandina Lodge. En route we manage to spot Black Kite, Pied Crow, Mourning Collared Dove and the near ubiquitous Feral Pigeons. Near the lodge, we passed an impressive 200-strong troop Guinea Baboons who seem to have been helping themselves to food from the donkey sanctuary here.

Arriving at the lodge, we were greeted by Linda (our host) and some refreshing locally made hibiscus drink. There were then a couple of hours before dark to freshen up, but also enjoy some of the local bird life which included Whimbrel, White-throated Bee-eater and the cracking Yellow-crowned Gonolek.

Dinner was enjoyed in the company of Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bats in the restaurant canopy above our heads, swooping down occasionally to exit into the night.

## Day 2

**Saturday 24th February**

Bafuloto AM, the mudflats or sunset cruise PM

Rising just before dawn at 7am, we enjoyed tea/coffee and biscuits with Senegal Parrots and a brief flyover by an African Harrier-Hawk. We then boarded canoes with our local guides and set off downstream. The floating lodges supported Speckled Pigeon on the rooves and the mangrove branches held the likes of African Darter, Reed Cormorant and a stonking Palm-nut Vulture. Below the stilted mangrove roots Spur-winged Plover and Senegal Thick-knee roosted on the exposed mud. Overhead or across our bows, we were treated to Malachite Kingfisher, White-breasted Cormorant and a Fine-spotted Woodpecker.

Landing at Buffalotto, harvested and now empty Western Mangrove Oyster shells littered the banks and Hooded Vultures, Black and at least one Yellow-billed Kite perched or soared, hoping to pick up a tasty morsel.

In the bushes and trees lurked Senegal Coucal, Long-tailed Glossy Starling, Green Wood Hoopoe and Western Red-billed Hornbill. However, most focused on a gorgeous Blue-breasted Kingfisher that posed

obligingly nearby. A flowering tree proved very productive with Senegal Eremomela, Yellow-fronted Canary, Beautiful and Splendid Sunbirds showing well.

A distant baobab tree held Lanner Falcon in the top and a closer baobab briefly sported a Yellow-billed Shrike, only for it to be scared off by an incoming Shikra!

Breakfast/brunch was calling, so we headed back to the canoes, spotting Western Reef Heron just as we left. The journey back gave us excellent views of Osprey. There was also a surprising view of a West African Crocodile, not often seen in these parts.

As we waited for and enjoyed brunch, there were Yellow-crowned Gonolek, Village Weaver, Pied Kingfisher and Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu to also enjoy. The checklist was followed by a relaxing early afternoon before the late afternoon activities.

A stroll at 4pm to the water tanks near the lodge was rewarded with excellent views of Black-necked Weaver, White-crowned Robin-Chat, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher and the shy Grey-headed Bristlebill.

Four went on the sunset cruise and saw Pink-backed Pelican, African Spoonbill, Giant Kingfisher, Great Egret and an impressive Goliath Heron.

Most of the rest walked to the mudflats. It was relatively quiet on the bird front, although we did get excellent views of Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Black-billed Wood Dove, Red-billed Firefinch and gorgeous Violet Turaco. We also encountered a remarkably friendly troop of Guinea Baboons who were quite happy for us to watch them from arm's length getting on with their lives of feeding, grooming and squabbling.

## Day 3

Sunday 25th February

Kartong AM, Tanji PM

A continental breakfast was enjoyed at 7am before we set off for a day out. We were heading for Kartong, but on the way we had a couple of stops. The first was to get some excellent views of Purple Starlings with their bright yellow eyes, with them were some African Wattled Lapwing. The second was to see some swallows on wires that turned out to be Red-chested Swallows.

Just before the main Kartong bird observatory area, there is a lovely pool where we spent a good 20 minutes picking out a whole host of birds. At the water's edge there were White-faced Whistling Duck and a Hammerkop, perched nearby was a gorgeous Blue-bellied Roller and a Woodchat Shrike. Then at various intervals, African Harrier-Hawk, Pin-tailed Whydah, Western Reef Heron and Common Sandpiper came and went. At one point, Blue-breasted, Giant and Pied Kingfisher all neatly lined up for us in a row.

At the observatory itself, we took a slow walk down the main track. Almost immediately a cracking Abyssinian Roller was spotted. The birds then came pretty thick and fast, mostly from the pools on each side of the track. African Jacana were present in abundance with a few Black-winged Stilt dotted amongst them whilst African Swamphen lurked amongst the nearby reedmace. Overhead, mixed flotillas of Pink-backed and Great White Pelicans glided effortlessly. African Spoonbill and Black Heron decorated leafless baobab trees. In the bushes, we spotted Zitting and Winding Cisticolas and a dashing Grey-headed Kingfisher.

Arriving at the Atlantic, some of us enjoyed a cold drink thanks to an enterprising chap selling them out of a cool box. Caspian Terns floated past with their carrot bills and some cows looked bemused at finding themselves on a beach.

Refreshed, we boarded the bus and headed for our lunch at the Rainbow Beach Hotel. Here we managed to sneak in the checklist before the buffet was served.

It was there now short drive to Tanji and the fun of the fish market. Walking through the trays of smoked fish was a nasal as well as a visual experience. At the coast itself there were lots of Grey-headed Gulls helping themselves to bits of dropped fish, along with more Caspian Tern and a scattering of Bar-tailed Godwit and Common Ringed Plover.

The fish market itself was a riot of colour, noise and smell not to be easily forgotten. However, it was soon time to head back to Mandina for a cold beer and a well-earned shower before dinner.

## Day 4

**Monday 26th February**

Nambikala AM, Kembujah or sunset cruise PM

The early morning hot drink and biscuits was interrupted by the arrival of a gorgeous little Brown-throated Wattle-eye. At 7am we set off into the woodland and soon spotted a sleepy African Tiger butterfly, which made a welcome change from the very active ones we had previously seen that never perched long enough for photographs!

Strolling on into a more open area, a Long-crested Eagle was tantalisingly seen for a few seconds before flying off. However, as partial compensation, this area also held a number of fruiting and flowering trees and bushes and amongst these we were able to see Double-spurred Spurfowl, Senegal Eremomela, Grey Hornbill, Fine-spotted and African Grey Woodpeckers, Superb and Beautiful Sunbirds and stonking views of Swallow-tailed Bee-eater. To top those, an African Golden Oriole and a party of White-crested Helmetshrikes put in a very welcome appearance just as we were thinking of starting to head back for brunch.

As an added bonus as we neared the lodge, a Serene Sailor butterfly sailed in and perched prominently for all to see and photograph.

During brunch a mass evacuation of (Gambian Epauletted) Fruit Bats from the restaurant roof proved quite a distraction! Fed and checklist completed, it was time for relaxation.

At 4pm, the wander to the water tanks revealed what was probably the same Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher as the previous day and in the previous place! Today it was joined by a very obliging Snowy-capped Robin-Chat and a Little Greenbul.

The sunset cruise today had stars of the show that included two crocodiles, Marsh Mongoose, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Goliath Heron and the much sought after African Finfoot.

Meanwhile, on the walk in the woods, a Grey-headed Bristlebill showed remarkably well. We also had equally good views of Beautiful Sunbird and African Pied Hornbill. However, a Pigmy Sunbird proved too much of a neck breaker for some.

Butterflies seemed to be more abundant than on previous days with African Tiger, Small Grass Yellow, and Common Dotted Border all showing well.

## Day 5

## Tuesday 27th February

Kubeneh AM, Paul's Area or sunset cruise PM

Today the dawn drink and snacks were shared with Senegal Parrots on the big baobab by the swimming pool. Pushing the canoes off the jetty just after dawn we soon encountered a perched Purple Heron and an African Darter looking, for all the world, like some prehistoric pterodactyl with its wings spread wide in the morning sun.

Once ashore at Kubeneh, we were immediately seeing African Paradise Flycatcher, Blue-spotted Wood Dove, Piapiac and dinky Red-billed Firefinch.

Strolling along the track, a flowering tree gave some cracking views of Scarlet-chested Sunbird whilst Yellow-billed Shrike perched prominently opposite. Green Wood Hoopoe put in a brief appearance but were later seeing exceptionally well on the side of an old baobab tree. Sitting right on top of an adjacent baobab tree was a stunning bright yellow African Golden Oriole.

It was impossible not to be impressed by a massive Kapok tree in the centre of the village that spread its fluted buttress roots many metres in each direction. Nearby, hidden well but eventually with a window found to view it by, was a sleepy Northern White-faced Owl.

As we strolled back towards the canoes some lucky few got to see African Green Pigeon, whilst others had to suffice with Northern Black Flycatcher and African Pied Hornbill.

Brunch today was shared with a lovely Yellow-crowned Gonolek, followed by the checklist and some serious relaxation.

The usual 4pm sojourn to the water tanks today revealed a rarely seen Green-headed Sunbird. The subsequent walk to Paul's Area took those that went, past the old Mandina base camp, now partly overtaken by Guinea Baboons. Around Paul's Area itself, the highlight was some stunning views of Violet Turaco. Meanwhile for those on the sunset cruise, we were again lucky enough to see African Finfoot and a stonking Goliath Heron. Into the bargain, we had a fly over of Yellow-billed Storks which were new for the trip.

## Day 6

## Wednesday 28th February

Pirang Wetlands, Farasuto Forest and Honeyguide Garden AM, Marakissa Wetlands PM

Our continental breakfast was followed by a departure at 7.30am and a short drive (eastwards for a change) to the Pirang shrimp ponds. As soon as we stepped off the bus we had seen a new bird for the trip, a Black-headed Heron was looking for grasshoppers and other insects in a nearby field. Our local guide Osman, then showed us the likes of Red-rumped Swallow and Blue-cheeked Bee-eater as we strolled between the now disused ponds. Both Great White and Pink-backed Pelicans loafed on a shore at some distance, but gave good scope views. We ended up overlooking a large shallow pool where a myriad of waders fed. The closest of these were Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper and Common Ringed Plover. A Wire-tailed Swallow and an African Spoonbill gave welcome fly-past appearances.

Most of us were aboard the bus to leave when a cry of Long-crested Eagle had everybody hopping off again to see this magnificent eagle perched on top of a reasonably nearby tree, long crest wafting above its head in the breeze. A Yellow-billed Oxpecker was then seen feeding on a nearby cow which posed obligingly for photos. Eventually we climbed back aboard the bus and headed for the forest.

At the nearby forest we met Buba, who encouraged us to sit and watch some water pots that seemed deserted, but within a few seconds and over the next 20 minutes or so, a steady stream of birds came down to drink. They included Black-rumped Waxbill, Spotted Honeyguide, Black-necked Weaver, Black-winged Bishop (sadly not in breeding plumage) and an all too brief view of African Pygmy Kingfisher.

We then took a short drive to a nearby plantation where a short walk took us to a cashew tree which sported a lovely pair of Greyish Eagle-Owls which were more than happy for us to watch and photograph them once we had found a spot where they were not obscured by the big cashew tree leaves.

Buba then offered us a previously unvisited venue a little further down the track known as Honeyguide Garden. Hear the owner had not only put up water pots and dug a couple of pools, but also erected a small hide where you could get up close to the water without disturbing the birds. It certainly lived up to it named with both Spotted and Great Honeyguide showing well. Also coming down for a refreshing drink were Little Weaver, Bronze Mannikin, Blue-spotted Wood Dove and a dinky Yellow White-eye.

We eventually tore ourselves away in order to get lunch back at Mandina at around 1pm, followed by a siesta until 4pm. Some then chose to continue their siesta, whilst others headed out in the bus to Marakissa wetlands. Here, Giant Kingfisher perched and Hammerkop lurked. At one point it was

possible to see Cattle, Intermediate and Great Egret all within a stone's throw of each other, allowing a nice comparison of sizes and shapes to help us sort out identification.

As we explored, a Black Crake was briefly seen, but a Malachite Kingfisher was happy to pose for minutes on end. A Tawny Eagle glided over and crossing the road to explore some pools, we found Greenshank and Wood Sandpiper. Many would have happily stayed until dusk, but it was nearly an hour's drive back to dinner, so we reluctantly headed back for the bus but enjoyed Purple Starling and African Green Pigeon in the evening sunlight. To finish off the afternoon nicely, a pair of the usually shy and retiring Yellow-throated Leaflove perched long enough out in the open for everyone to get good views.

## Day 7

Thursday 29th February

### Kembujeh Rice Fields AM, Base Camp and Paul's Area PM

The leap year day started with the usual hot drink and biscuits today with Bronze Mannikins tweeting in the Baobab tree above our heads.

The tide was surprisingly low, so it was touch and go as to whether we headed upstream to the rice fields, but in the end we decided to give it a go. The canoes had to be pushed over a couple of small sand banks en route... and we oh so nearly made it to the shore at Kembujeh, but there was not quite enough water! The more adventurous took off their shoes and socks and waded ashore, whilst others waited 15 minutes for the tide to rise and then stepped off directly onto the sand! Almost immediately there was a glorious Blue-bellied Roller to be seen. A Splendid Sunbird gave splendid views as it fed on flowers and a pair of Violet Turacos perched in a tree giving excellent views through the scope.

The rice fields were growing way more onions, aubergines and tomatoes than rice but what a great place to see the likes of Greater Blue-eared Starling, Fine-spotted Woodpecker and Senegal Coucal.

A fruiting fig is always worth a good search and this particular one supported African Golden Oriole, Bearded Barbet, Purple Starling, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird and African Green Pigeon. Again we would have stayed longer but brunch was calling and we were already late for it.

Brunch and checklist done, we had several hours of relaxing time before the 4pm pilgrimage to the water tanks. The apparently resident Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher turned up as usual, but otherwise it was quiet.

Most chose to go on the afternoon walk to Base Camp or beyond to Paul's Area, and were rewarded by the antics of a baboon troop. The base camp party also saw a Black Scimitarbill. Those that continued on Paul's Area enjoyed excellent views of Senegal Parrot, Western Red Hornbill, Blue-bellied Roller and Senegal Coucal. However, top spot probably goes to the stunning Scarlet-chested Sunbird that fed on tree flowers right above her heads for many minutes, flashing iridescent red and turquoise in the late afternoon sun.

## Day 8

Friday 1st March

### Mandina Lodge to London Gatwick or the Atlantic coast

Senegal Parrots were again the order of the morning at hot drink and biscuits time. We then headed off on our last Gambian stroll in the direction of the cultural centre.

What started off as a relatively quiet walk burst into life when a Klaas's Cuckoo was seen. A host of lovely birds then followed in quick succession, they included a Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Violet Turaco, Black Scimitarbill, a dinky Orange-cheeked Waxbill and a gang of White-crested Helmetshrikes that stayed all too briefly. However, a perched and very relaxed Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird made up for that.

At the cultural centre a few mementos were bought and then we strolled back to our final brunch. There was then plenty of time to pack and then say our goodbyes and thanks to the lovely smiley staff of Mandina Lodge. We then headed to the airport, where we said our goodbyes to the four lucky others who were staying on by the coast for a few days.

Our flight back was uneventful, and we had excellent views of north-west Africa. We arrived at Gatwick a touch ahead of schedule and met up in the baggage reclaim. Here we bade each other fond farewells and made our ways home, full of memories of the wonderful wildlife enjoyed on our Gambian odyssey.

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## Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	February – March 2024								
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>			✓						
Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</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>		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Guinea Turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>				H					
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>		✓				✓	✓		
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>	H							✓	
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>	H	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
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>				✓	✓				
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						✓			
African Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>			✓						
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>						✓			
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</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>			✓			✓			
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>				H					
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>		✓							
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	✓								
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>						✓			
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>						✓			
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		✓							
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓			
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		✓				✓			
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓		
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>			✓						
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			✓						

Common name	Scientific name	February – March 2024							
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>			✓			✓		
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>			✓	✓				
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</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>		✓	✓					
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>			✓					
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</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>Aeidea 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>			✓			✓		
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>				✓		✓		
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>					✓			
Greyish Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>						✓		
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Black Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>							✓	✓
Western Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus kempii</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>			✓				✓	
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>			✓					

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		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>				✓				
Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</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>							✓	✓
Bearded Barbet	<i>Lybius dubius</i>		✓					✓	
Spotted Honeyguide	<i>Indicator maculatus</i>						✓		
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>						✓		
Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>		✓		✓			✓	
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</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>	✓			✓				
Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>				✓				✓
Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>		✓			✓			
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			✓					
African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>				✓	✓		✓	
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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey-headed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda canicapillus</i>		✓		✓				
Yellow-throated Leaflove	<i>Atimastillas flavicollis</i>						✓		
Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</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>			✓					
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>						✓		
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>			✓					
Winding Cisticola	<i>Cisticola marginatus</i>			✓					
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>			✓					
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>		✓		✓				
Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
Northern Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>						✓		
Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>		H					✓	
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>							✓	

Common name	Scientific name	February – March 2024								
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	
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>		✓				✓			
Mangrove Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</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>		✓	✓						
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>						✓			
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>						✓			
Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓			
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black-winged Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>						✓	✓		
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓		
Lavender Waxbill	<i>Glaucostreptus caeruleus</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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
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	February 2024							
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
<b>Mammals</b>									
Guinea Baboon	<i>Papio papio</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Green Vervet/Callithrix Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus sabaeus</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
	<b>Lepidoptera</b>
<b>Pieridae</b>	
Small Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigatta</i>
Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>
Red Tip	<i>Colotis antevippe</i>
Common Dotted Border	<i>Mylothris chloris</i>
<b>Lycaenidae</b>	
African Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>
<b>Nymphalidae</b>	
African Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
River/Serene Sailor	<i>Neptis serena</i>
Small Orange Acraea	<i>Acraea serena</i>
	<b>Odonata</b>
Red Basker	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>
Northern Banded Groundling	<i>Brachythemis impartita</i>
<b>Other invertebrates</b>	
African Giant Snail	<i>Achatina sp.</i>
West African Mangrove Oyster	<i>Crassostrea tulipa</i>
Driver Ants	<i>Dorylus sp.</i>
West African Fiddler Crab	<i>Uca tangeri</i>
<b>Reptiles and amphibians</b>	
Nile Monitor Lizard	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
Rainbow Agama	<i>Agama agama</i>
West African Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus suchus</i>
<b>Fish</b>	
African Red Snapper	<i>Lutjanus agennes</i>
Atlantic Mudskipper	<i>Periophthalmus papillo</i>
Guinean Tilapia	<i>Tilapia guineensis</i>

## Plants

Common name	Scientific name
<b>FLOWERING PLANTS</b>	<b>ANGIOSPERMS</b>
<b>Magnoliidae (Dicotyledons)</b>	
<b>Cashew Family</b>	<b>Anacardiaceae</b>
Cashew Tree	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>
Mango	<i>Mngifera indica</i>
<b>Dogbane Family</b>	<b>Apocynaceae</b>
Poison Arrow Vine	<i>Strophanthus sarmentosus</i>
<b>Caper Family</b>	<b>Capparaceae</b>
Crocodile's Tooth/Woolly Caper Bush	<i>Capparis tomentosa</i>

Common name	Scientific name
<b>Cocoplum Family</b>	<b>Chrysobalanaceae</b>
Gingerbread Plum	<i>Neocarya macrophylla</i>
<b>Bindweed Family</b>	<b>Convolvulaceae</b>
Beach Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>
<b>Pea Family</b>	<b>Fabaceae</b>
African Locust Bean Tree	<i>Parkia biglobosa</i>
<b>Deadnettle Family</b>	<b>Lamiaceae</b>
Bushmint	<i>Hyptis suaveolens</i>
<b>Mallow Family</b>	<b>Malvaceae</b>
Baobab	<i>Adansia digitata</i>
Kapok Tree	<i>Ceiba petandra</i>
<b>Four O'Clock Family</b>	<b>Nyctaginaceae</b>
Bourganvillia	<i>Bourganvillea spectabilis</i>
<b>Water-lily Family</b>	<b>Nymphaeaceae</b>
Egyptian Lotus	<i>Nymphaea lotus</i>
White Water-lily	<i>Nymphaea micrantha</i>
<b>Mangrove Family</b>	<b>Rhizophoraceae</b>
Red Mangrove	<i>Rhizophora mangle</i>
<b>Liliidae (Monocotyledons)</b>	
<b>Palm Family</b>	<b>Arecaceae</b>
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>