

The Gambia in Style

Naturetrek Tour Report

9th – 16th January 2026



Blue-bellied Roller



Senegal Parrot



Yellow-crowned Gonolek



Pearl-spotted Owlet

Tour report by Rob Miletto
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Tour participants: Rob Mileto (leader), Lamin Sanneh (Lamin Snr), Amandu Bojang, Alagie Bojang (AJ) and Lamin Saidykhana (Lamin Jnr) (local guides) with 14 Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Friday 9th January

London Gatwick to Mandina Lodge, The Gambia

Ten clients met up at Gatwick, and we left a cold and stormy London for the hot and tropical Gambia. Leaving the grey skies behind, we eventually found blue skies over and across the seemingly barren but surprisingly varied landscape of the Sahara. We arrived at Banjul airport in the mid-afternoon, and stepped off the plane into thirty-degree heat.

Immigration formalities were relatively swiftly done, and then we were on the coach and heading south-east to Mandina Lodge. The roadside power lines and buildings sported the likes of Laughing and Mourning Collared Doves, and the odd Hooded Vulture floated overhead. On arrival, Rob showed everyone to the bar area and gave a quick introduction whilst we all sipped a welcome drink of *wonjo* (a tangy, deep-red drink made from parts of a type of hibiscus flower). It was then time to head off to our lodges for a wash and brush up. A little later Rob, met the remaining four members of the group, who had arrived a couple of days earlier, and had enjoyed a few days on and around the Atlantic coast.

Some ventured back down to the bar area around sunset, and were rewarded with excellent views of a Malachite Kingfisher perched on a nearby mangrove, dropping down occasionally to catch an unwary mudskipper. Also lurking among the mangroves were Western Reef Heron and Greenshank. Meanwhile, at the drinking points provided, were the likes of Common Bulbul and Mangrove Sunbird, and we had a fleeting glimpse of a Beautiful Sunbird.

Before dinner, there was time to enjoy a cold beer at the bar. Rob gave a more detailed briefing, but in competition with shrilly piping Senegal Thick-knees and tinkling Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bats. At 8.00pm we had a lovely dinner, and then went to bed.

Day 2

Saturday 10th January

Bafuloto am, Mudflats or Sunset Cruise pm

Tea/coffee and biscuits were enjoyed with the sunrise at about 7.00am. Mourning Collared Doves were numerous and busy calling and courting. Meanwhile, a Pied Kingfisher was noisily washing itself in the swimming pool.

Hot drinks downed, we boarded canoes and set off downstream. The floating lodges were topped by Speckled Pigeons, and the mangroves held Common Sandpiper and Eurasian Whimbrel, waiting for the tide to fall and for their breakfast to be exposed. As we slowly paddled downstream (I say 'we', but it was the local guides doing all the hard work!), we spooked a massive Goliath Heron, which helpfully only flew a short distance and then perched, affording good views. A Purple Heron was also spotted, which looked surprisingly small by comparison, and AJ expertly spotted a pair of Lanner Falcons perched at the top of a mangrove.

Nearing Bafuloto, the exposed mud of the falling tide was dotted with Senegal Thick-knees, Spur-winged Lapwings and a lone Grey Plover. On disembarking, we were almost immediately surrounded by a host of birds. Senegal Eremomela, Long-tailed Glossy Starling, Western Red-billed Hornbill, Western Plantain-eater and Village Weaver were all quickly spotted. A stonking Bearded Barbet gave us the run around by flying from bush to bush, but eventually most of us got a reasonable sighting.

We only walked some three hundred metres, but the sightings came thick and fast: Black-billed Wood Dove, Blue-bellied Roller, Yellow-billed Shrike, Brown Babbler, Variable Sunbird and a pair of glorious Green Wood Hoopoes, to name but a few. Bird names were often called simultaneously, making it tricky to know where to look! Some lucky people got fleeting views of Orange-cheeked Waxbills. We finished off the walk by enjoying a Lizard Buzzard, which weirdly came and perched briefly right next to us. Less friendly was another Lanner Falcon, which was only partially visible through the telescope! Sightings of Citrus Swallowtail, African Tiger, Elegant Acraea, River Sailor and several other lovely butterflies showed we didn't just look at the birds!

We were due for brunch at 10.30am, so we had to drag ourselves back to the canoes around 9.30am. As we paddled back, repeat Goliath and Purple Herons were a welcome treat, as was the way more diminutive Little (formerly Striated) Heron. After brunch, we did the checklist, then relaxed by the pool or in the grounds.

At 4.00pm, we headed for the nearby water tanks. Here, we had tantalising glimpses of a Green-headed Sunbird and a Lesser Honeyguide. Back in the garden we had excellent views of African Thrush.

Having placed our orders for dinner, four clients and Rob headed off on a sunset cruise. On the motorised boat we were using, we could get much further than by canoe. As the tributary widened, Caspian and Sandwich Terns put in an appearance. It was not long until we saw our first huge Goliath Heron. Many were to follow, with at least ten seen in total. Another titan of was the Giant Kingfisher which perched prominently on a mangrove branch and allowed a reasonably close approach. Where the tributary joined the River Gambia, the opposite bank was barely visible! The trees here sported Pink-backed Pelicans and Yellow-billed Storks. We celebrated with sundowner drinks and headed back down the tributary, this time with many Ospreys punctuating the journey. As we neared the lodge at sunset, a single Mottled Spinetail whizzed overhead, while there was a much slower passage by an impressive Palm-nut Vulture.

Meanwhile, the rest of the party had walked to 'the mudflats'. Apparently, it was relatively quiet on the bird front, but White-throated Bee-eater, Grey Kestrel and Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat were choice birds seen. Into the bargain, a Hamerkop put in a welcome appearance, especially as it was a personal favourite of one of the clients. Dinner was enjoyed, and brought a fine day to a close.

Day 3

Sunday 11th January

Kartong am, Sanyang lunchtime, Tanji pm

We started the day with a continental breakfast, and were off for a day out by 7.30am. We picked up AJ at the main road, and off we set for Kartong. En route, a prominent wall proved to be a rather unlikely spot to glimpse a Double-spurred Spurfowl. The star bird of the journey though was probably a perched Long-crested Eagle:

stonking! This stop also gave us the opportunity to also see Violet Turaco, Village Weavers, and some lovely African Jacanas. Forever exploring, AJ found another gem of a bird, a dinky Pearl-spotted Owlet.

At a large pool near Kartong, a Yellow-crowned Gonolek perched beautifully, and the water's edge was awash with Spur-winged Lapwings and Senegal Thick-knees. Dotted among them was a scattering of African Wattled Lapwings and Black-winged Stilts, and we managed to find Blue-breasted, Pied and Malachite Kingfishers around the shores. Yellow-billed Oxpeckers foraged on nearby cows, and Yellow-billed Kites floated lazily overhead. Throughout all our activity and shouting out of bird names, an Osprey perched unfazed at the top of a nearby bush. It barely blinked when three African Grey Hornbills came and perched all around it!

At Kartong itself, a Vinaceous Dove polished off our usual trio of similar looking doves. This was very soon eclipsed by our first Abyssinian Roller of the trip, and we saw several that morning. In a distant tree, a Palm-nut Vulture was another first for those who had not been on the sunset cruise. Two other new raptors for the trip also soon put in an appearance, in the form of African Harrier-Hawk and Western Marsh Harrier.

The open water at Kartong was at a premium now that dry season was well established. However, there was still a good scattering of waterbirds, including African Swamphen, Spur-winged Goose, Yellow-billed Egret, Wood Sandpiper, and Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters hawking overhead. Oh, and more Osprey than you could shake a stick at! Wandering AJ found a fabulous Grey-headed Kingfisher to round things off nicely.

After the hot walk, the coastal breeze and cold drinks, freshly squeezed orange juice or coconut milk straight from the nut, all care of an entrepreneurial local resident, were very welcome. From here, we set off for a buffet lunch at the Rainbow Beach. Fed and watered, just as we headed off, a couple of dinky and very lovely Red-billed Firefinches were spotted.

Next, we headed for the experience that is Tanji beach. The fish market on the beach was a sight to behold: it was a riot of colour, smell, noise and activity. Hundreds of people dressed in bold reds, blues, yellows and greens awaited and received fish by the bowl-load from equally colourful boats, with myriad squabbling Grey-headed Gulls and the odd Caspian and West African Crested Terns picking off the discarded and dropped fish. Even an unexpected Arctic Skua powered in and mobbed gulls for tasty morsels. It was a seemingly chaotic and evocative African scene which will linger in the memory.

In the late afternoon we drove back, via a lovely Black-winged Kite, to a welcome shower/swim and beer. After the checklist, we celebrated a client's birthday with a bottle of chilled cava. This was followed by dinner at the usual 8.00pm.

Day 4

Monday 12th January

Kembujeh am, Nambikala fields or Sunset Cruise pm

Post our mini-breakfast, we boarded the canoes and set off upstream. On the mast of the nearby abandoned catamaran sat a lovely Giant Kingfisher. On the exposed mud of the falling tide there were the usual Whimbrels, Senegal Thick-knees and Redshanks, but today they were joined by Common Ringed Plovers and a single Bar-tailed Godwit.

On arrival at Kembujeh rice fields, we quickly found a perched pair of Cardinal Woodpeckers in a nearby tree, with some Laughing Doves also present. Nearby, a splendid Blue-bellied Roller was annoyingly quite mobile, but eventually sat still long enough for decent views.

The walk provided a good stream of birds. White-throated Bee-eaters proved particularly popular: they sat obligingly just a few metres above our heads. Other hits this morning were Senegal Coucal, Yellow-gorgeted Greenbul, Pied-winged Swallow, Fine-spotted Woodpecker, Northern Puffback, an amazing African Paradise Flycatcher, and our second little Pearl-spotted Owlet.

Once we had been helped off some sandbanks by a local teenager, paddling back was easy work on the falling tide. Perhaps the star of the return trip was a young West African Crocodile lazing on a mud bank.

Brunch (interrupted by Green Monkey and Green Wood Hoopoe), the checklist and relaxation comprised the 'action' for the next five hours or so. The afternoon stroll to the water tanks revealed Little Greenbul and, for comparison, Common Bulbul. Intriguingly, when we walked past the tanks again on the afternoon walk only fifteen minutes later, there were Green-headed Sunbirds, and what was probably a hybrid paradise flycatcher busily drinking and washing.



Widespread Forester



Abyssinian Roller

The start of the rest of the afternoon walk was typically rather quiet, because it was still pretty hot. So, we had a good look at the butterflies, which included African Spirit, Common Grass Yellow, and the exquisitely-patterned Large Spotted and Small Orange Acraea.

We did manage to spot a couple of birds: Rob teased out a Grey-backed Camaroptera with a little recorded song, and a little further on we finally got a decent view of a Blue-spotted Wood Dove, which even flashed a little blue at us, despite being in the shade. A Senegal Coucal perched obligingly, and a fly over by a Lanner Falcon provided

a moment of excitement. As the light faded and we headed back, a pair of perched Violet Turacos showed at least some of their colour through the scope.

Those who went on the afternoon sunset cruise saw the usual suspects of Osprey, Goliath Heron and Pink-backed Pelicans, along with a reasonable-sized West African Crocodile.

Day 5

Tuesday 13th January

Woodland Walk am, Paul's Area pm

The dawn hot drink was followed by a stroll known as the Woodland Walk. After a bit of a lull, it was like buses – typical! We had the choice of either Scarlet-chested or Beautiful Sunbirds. Luckily, they showed again a bit later, so everyone had two bites of that particular cherry. A fly over by a West African Pied Hornbill was our first for the trip. Soon after, a flock of Senegal Parrots landed in a not-too-distant nearly leafless tree, so all got good views of their dashing orange bellies, grey heads and bright green backs.

A fruiting fig was a honey trap for a number of birds, including Senegal Coucal, Yellow-fronted Canary, Western Red-billed Hornbill and Green Wood Hoopoes. However, perhaps the star turn in that particular tree, and of the morning walk as a whole, was a pair of stunning Bearded Barbets, resplendent in red and black in the early morning sunshine.

At the furthest point, AJ managed to find a glorious little Striped Kingfisher which posed well for both photographers and birders. For some, the walk back provided good views of Western Violet-backed Sunbird, and rather more glimpsed Splendid Sunbird. At brunch, a Brown-throated Wattle-eye provided a diversion for some.

The afternoon walk revealed nothing new at the water tanks, but nearby a Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat put on an excellent display for us. Several sunbirds fed on flowers at the top of tall trees. With patience, and rather sore necks, we managed to pick out Beautiful, Splendid and Green-headed. A Greater Honeyguide called from the top of another tree. We managed to persuade it to fly over twice, but failed both times to see where it landed! In the grounds of the cultural centre, a tall tree harboured a dozing Northern White-faced Owl. There was really only one spot it could be viewed from but, with patience, everyone got good views and lovely photos. Paul's Area looks out onto a cultivated semi-wetland, and a perched Blue-bellied Roller proved an instant hit, as did some Long-tailed Glossy Starlings.

The sunset cruise scored all the usual suspects – and the affogato at dinner was a big hit with many!

Day 6

Wednesday 14th January

Pirang Wetlands, Pirang/Bonto Forest and Farasutu Forest am, Marakissa pm

This was the second of our days out, so we had a continental breakfast followed by a 7.30am departure. We turned left out at the main road and headed east, upriver, for the first time. Soon, we were at the wetlands and ex-prawn farm of Pirang, where we met the local guide, Ousman. Here, there were African Red-rumped Swallows in the air, and as we strolled, a Wire-tailed Swallow also put in an aerial and wall-top appearance.

On the banks of the old prawn ponds, Crested Larks flitted about, and Western Yellow Wagtails wagged their backsides up and down the short vegetation, looking for breakfast. There was even a rather hyperactive Common Chiffchaff, and Common Whitethroat. The short, scattered mangroves also harboured a glorious Pygmy Sunbird, which showed itself pretty well on quite a few occasions. Great Egrets, Pink-backed Pelicans, spoonbills, and Grey and Purple Herons flew over distant ponds. Eventually, some spoonbills headed our way, and revealed that both the African and the Eurasian species were present.

The final ponds we looked over held myriad waders. Closest to us were a gaggle of small plovers, mainly Common Ringed and Kentish, but also including a single dinky White-fronted Plover. A little further on there were Little Stints, Curlew Sandpipers and a single Sanderling.

From here, we drove back westwards a short distance, to Pirang/Bonto Forest. This small remnant of mature tropical forest is a good place to see Verreaux's Eagle-Owls, and we succeeded (with the help of the reserve guide, Kaoshu), albeit mostly the back of one! Just as we left the owl, an African Harrier-Hawk flew in and perched briefly for at least some of the group to see on a sunny branch. Nearby, a well gave us a chance to see a rather horrific looking Western Whip Spider.

It was a short drive west again to Farasutu, where we were in search of more owls. First, though, we sat on some beautifully-tiled seating overlooking a watering point. Within seconds, the initially birdless water-filled bowls and troughs were awash with birds. Names were being shouted out left, right and centre, so it was sometimes hard to pin names to the birds! However, we were in no great hurry, so eventually we all got to see and recognise Blue-spotted Wood Dove, Olive-naped Weaver, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu, Black-tailed, Lavender and (a single) Orange-cheeked Waxbill.

It was only a short walk (with guide Molamin) through the forest to the spot where a much more amenably perched Greyish Eagle-Owl looked lazily down at us. A fifteen-minute walk from there, via a lovely Abyssinian Roller, brought us to a Long-tailed Nightjar roost. These exquisitely-camouflaged birds were hard to spot, even when one was literally no more than two metres from our feet!

We had lunch and did checklist back at Mandina, and there was time for a quick break before some headed out to the wetlands around Marakissa. It took around fifty minutes to get to there, because of newly-built speed bumps! We looked at some rapidly drying wetlands first; there were both a perched Great Egret and our first Black Heron, but otherwise it was quiet, so we wandered down the road. On nearby trees, another first came in the form of Piapiacs, which showed well in the scope. A little further on, a Squacco Heron was close enough in a palm tree to get some excellent photos. Nearby, there was also a Grey-headed Kingfisher, but this was more distant, and only seen well through the scope.

We then hopped over the road barrier, and within a couple of hundred meters we were scanning out over a pool. Almost as soon as we arrived, a Black Heron glided in and landed next to a Western Reef Heron. This was great, because it allowed a nice comparison of these similar species. The Black Heron then started its theatrical 'umbrella-ing', making it quite clear which of the two species it was.

Rob picked out a Malachite Kingfisher in the bulrushes, and overhead a Hamerkop floated in, then two more. Meanwhile, a Fork-tailed (formerly Glossy-mantled) Drongo sallied from a tree branch, and a Wood Sandpiper

quartered the shoreline for tasty morsels. We had to drag ourselves away from this serene place to get back to Mandina in time to freshen up, before another lovely dinner.

Day 7

Thursday 15th January

Kubneh am, Mudflats pm

Today's canoe jaunt was downstream, and afforded excellent views of a perched Purple Heron at sunrise. As we stepped ashore at Kubneh, we were greeted by the smell of wood smoke from under the boiling mangrove oyster pots. Rob ordered some for everyone to try on our return. From the landing point we headed for the village, but were soon stopped in our tracks by corking views of a perched Senegal Parrot. This splendid bird was preening its orange belly in the morning sunshine. Less showy, but nevertheless with a charm of its own, and our first for the trip, was a Tawny-flanked Prinia in some scrubby vegetation.



Common Dotted Border



Black Heron

In the village itself, we were among large baobabs, fruiting wild figs and a massive kapok tree with snaking buttress roots. One of the fig trees held a Bearded Barbet, but it managed to keep itself pretty well hidden behind some leaves. A gorgeous African Green Pigeon perched on top of one of the baobabs. Most people got good views of it before it decided to head off elsewhere. A neighbouring baobab had a human being at least twenty metres up it, cutting fruits and dropping them to the ground. Lamin Jr got some for us to try. Inside the green husk, small dark brown seeds were coated in a whitish powder, which when sucked are vaguely like sherbet. It was not to everyone's tastes, but is sold in Britain as a 'superfood.'

Strolling on, a wall and nearby weedy vegetation held a succession of flitting Red-billed Firefinches, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleus and a single and quite elusive Lavender Waxbill. A little further on, two very different birds were nesting. One nest comprised an assortment of sticks wedged into the large leaf base of a palm, on which sat a Hooded Vulture. The other, slung under an acacia twig, had been woven from spider web, leaves and feathers by a Beautiful Sunbird. Here, the parent birds were busy feeding their chicks inside. A Yellow-billed Shrike was a big hit, popping into and out of view as it perched then dropped to feed.

Very soon we were back on the shoreline and tucking into some freshly boiled mangrove oysters, which many said were surprisingly tasty! After canoeing back, brunch was snapped up, followed by the checklist and serious relaxation.

Ahead of today's 4.00pm stroll, the kitchen had kindly prepared some more baobab as a drink, with coconut and banana: that was more like it! As we got ready, we had good views of Village Weavers, a Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, and an admittedly rather drab Little Greenbul.

Our last afternoon walk, we broadly retraced the route of our first, to the 'mudflats'. Near the water tanks, the resident Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat put on a good show. The walk itself was punctuated by now familiar birds, such as Western Red-billed Hornbill and Beautiful Sunbird. There was, however, a new and rather dashing butterfly for the trip: a Golden Pansy. At the mudflats themselves, a dapper perched Grey Kestrel was a strong candidate for bird of the day. The return journey had a moment of excitement, when both a Guinea and a Violet Turaco flew into the same bush. Annoyingly though, they remained rather hidden.

Before our final dinner, we sat around the fire pit and a client very generously provided a toast and some kind words about the trip and yours truly.

Day 8

Friday 16th January

Mandina Lodge to London Gatwick

Tea, biccies and bananas at dawn were followed by a stroll to the cultural centre. The weird, increasingly frenzied call of a Stone Partridge was heard, but as is sadly typical, only a fleeting glimpse was actually had of this elusive bird. Way more obliging was a perched Lizard Buzzard. The plan was to peruse the trinkets on offer at the centre, but most of the huts were closed! Some solace was gained from views of a Northern White-faced Owl, although today it was partly shrouded in leaves.

Just as we were leaving the centre, a party of rather comical-looking White-crowned Helmetshrikes provided much enjoyment with their antics. This species was new for the trip, as was the African Grey Woodpecker seen shortly afterwards. They brought our final total of birds seen or heard to a very satisfying 169.

Over brunch, we said farewell to two clients who were off to the coast. After packing up, the rest of us said farewell to two more clients who were leaving a little later, and also to the fabulous lodge staff, many of whom had come to say goodbye. A client said a few warm words of thanks to the assembled staff, and then it was off to the airport.

Our flight back was uneventful, and we had more excellent views of north-west Africa. We arrived at Gatwick a touch ahead of schedule, and met up in baggage reclaim. Here it was time for farewells and getting ready for journeys home, full of memories of the wonderful wildlife enjoyed on our Gambian odyssey.

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Species lists

Birds

Common name	Scientific name	January 2026							
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>			✓					
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>			✓					
Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>								✓
Double-spurred Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>			✓		✓			
Long-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i>							✓	
Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>		✓						
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</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>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓		✓					
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>			✓		✓			✓
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓	
Black-billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>		✓					✓	
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>					✓		✓	✓
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>			✓		✓			
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>								✓
African Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>						✓		
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>				H				
Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			✓					
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		✓		✓				
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				✓		✓		
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>				✓				✓
White-fronted Plover	<i>Anarhynchus marginatus</i>						✓		
Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>							✓	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>							✓	
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>						✓		
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			✓		✓			
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>						✓		
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>					✓		✓	
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			✓		✓		✓	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		✓	✓				✓	
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>							✓	✓
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>							✓	
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>							✓	
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>							✓	✓
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>			✓		✓	✓		
West African Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus albididorsalis</i>				✓				

Common name	Scientific name	January 2026							
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>			✓					
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			✓					
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>				✓				
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>		✓				✓		
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓
Great (White-breasted) Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>							✓	
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>							✓	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			H					
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>							✓	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓						✓
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Little Heron	<i>Butorides atricapilla</i>		✓		✓				
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Yellow-billed Egret	<i>Ardea brachyrhyncha</i>			✓					
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>			✓		✓	✓		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓					
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>		✓	✓					
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		✓					✓	
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
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>			✓					✓
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>		✓	✓					✓
Shikra	<i>Tachyspiza badia</i>				✓				
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			✓				✓	✓
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>			✓	✓				✓
Northern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>							✓	
Greyish Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>							✓	
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Ketupa lactea</i>							✓	
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
Western Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus kempfi</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
West African Pied Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros semifasciatus</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>			✓				✓	
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>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓

Common name	Scientific name	January 2026							
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White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>			✓		✓			
Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieilloti</i>					✓		✓	
Bearded Barbet	<i>Pogonornis dubius</i>		✓			✓			
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>			✓	✓			✓	
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</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>		✓						
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>			✓		✓		✓	
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>				✓				
Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>			✓			✓		✓
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>								✓
Fork-tailed (Glossy-backed) Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>						✓	✓	
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>					✓	✓		✓
Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Lanius corvinus</i>		✓						
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>				✓			✓	
Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>						✓	✓	✓
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>							✓	
Yellow-gorgeted Greenbul	<i>Atimastillas flavicollis</i>					✓			
Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>					✓			✓
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pied-winged Swallow	<i>Hirundo leucosoma</i>					✓			
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓						
Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>			✓	✓	✓			
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>							✓	
African Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis melanocrissus</i>							✓	
Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>			✓					
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>							✓	
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>				✓				✓
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>								
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>							✓	
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>					✓			
Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>				✓				✓
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>							✓	
Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>		✓	✓					✓
Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>		✓	✓				✓	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>			✓				✓	✓
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>		✓		✓				✓
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>			✓				✓	
Mangrove Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Western Violet-backed Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes longuemarei</i>						✓		
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>					✓			
Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platura</i>						✓	✓	

Common name	Scientific name	January 2026							
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Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>				✓		✓		
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>					✓		✓	✓
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓		
Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigaster</i>					✓		✓	✓
Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>		✓			✓			
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>						✓		
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>						✓		
Olive-naped Weaver	<i>Ploceus brachypterus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>			✓					
Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>					✓		✓	
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
Lavender Waxbill	<i>Glaucestes caerulescens</i>							✓	
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>		✓				✓		
Black-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>						✓	✓	
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>						✓	✓	✓
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>								
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>						✓		
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			✓				✓	
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>					✓			

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	January 2026							
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Guinea Baboon	<i>Papio papio</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓
Green Vervet/Callithrix Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus sabaeus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓
Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus gambianus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		

Amphibians & reptiles

Common name	Scientific name
African Common Toad	<i>Sclerophrys regularis</i>
Nile Monitor Lizard	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
Agama Lizard	<i>Agama agama</i>
West African Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus suchus</i>

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name
Citrus Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demodocus</i>
Angola White Lady	<i>Graphium angolanus</i>
Small Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigatta</i>
Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>
African Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia florella</i>
Tiny Orange Tip	<i>Colotis evagore antigone</i>
African Spirit	<i>Leptosia alcesta</i>
African Albatross	<i>Appias epaphia epaphia</i>
Common Dotted Border	<i>Mylothris chloris</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Creamy Small White	<i>Dixeia orbona</i>
Pea Blue/Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>
Lang's Short-tailed Blue/ Common Zebra Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>
Mediterranean Tiger Blue	<i>Tarucus rosacea</i>
African Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>
Common Brown Playboy	<i>Deudorix antalus</i>
Smoky Bean Cupid	<i>Euchrysops malathana,</i>
Sky-blue Cupid	<i>Chilades eleusis</i>
Savanna Pied Pierrot	<i>Tuxentius cretosus</i>
African Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
Common Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis leda</i>
Dark Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia oenone</i>
Golden Pansy	<i>Junonia chorimene</i>
River Sailor	<i>Neptis serena</i>
Large Spotted Acraea	<i>Acraea zetes</i>
Elegant Acraea	<i>Acraea egina</i>
Small Orange Acraea	<i>Acraea serena</i>
Westwood's Acraea	<i>Stephenia pseudegina</i>
Widespread Forester	<i>Euphaedra medon</i>
Common Crepuscular Skipper	<i>Gretna waga</i>
Twin Swift	<i>Borbo gemella</i>
Olive-haired Swift	<i>Borbo borbonica</i>
Grey Elfin	<i>Sarangesa laelius</i>

Others

Common name	Scientific name
Fishes	
Atlantic Mudskipper	<i>Periophthalmus papillo</i>
Molluscs	
an African giant snail	<i>Achatina</i> sp.
West African Mangrove Oyster	<i>Crassostrea tulipa</i>
Crustaceans	
West African Fiddler Crab	<i>Uca tangeri</i>
Ants	
a driver ants	<i>Dorylus</i> sp.
Spiders	
a whip spider	<i>Damon</i> sp.