

# The Gambia in Style

Naturetrek Tour Report

28th February – 7th March 2026

---



Abyssinian Roller



Goliath Heron



Yellow-crowned Gonolek



Pearl-spotted Owlet

Tour report by Rob Mileto



Naturetrek Mingledown Barn Wolf's Lane Chawton Alton Hampshire GU34 3HJ UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: [info@naturetrek.co.uk](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Tour participants: Rob Mileto (leader), Lamin Sanneh (Lamin Snr), Amandu Bojang, Alagie Bojang (AJ), Sanna Colley and Lamin Saiddykhan (Lamin Jnr) (local guides) with 13 Naturetrek clients

## Day 1

Saturday 28th February

### London Gatwick to Mandina Lodge, The Gambia

We all met up in Gatwick, and left grey London skies for the hot and tropical Gambia. Leaving the scudding clouds behind, we eventually found blue skies over and across the seemingly barren but surprisingly varied landscape of the Sahara desert. We arrived at Banjul airport in the late-afternoon and stepped off the plane into 30°C 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 at the lodge, Rob showed everyone to the bar area and Linda, the hotel manager, gave a quick introduction while 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.

We met back down at the bar area after sunset and watched the odd Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat while enjoying a cold beer or equivalent. At around 8.15pm we sat down at the imposing dining table to enjoy the traditional Gambian dish of chicken *yassa*, followed by chocolate ice cream: what's not to like? Then it was off to bed, lulled to sleep by the sounds of the African night (OK, it was mainly grazing cows!).

## Day 2

Sunday 1st March

### Bafuloto a.m., the mudflats or sunset cruise p.m.

Tea/coffee, biscuits and bananas were enjoyed with the sunrise at 7.00am. Mourning Collared Doves were numerous, and busy calling and courting. Meanwhile, a Pied Kingfisher was noisily washing itself in the swimming pool. Equally noisy, but in more raucous fashion, were the Senegal Parrots which flew over.

Hot drinks downed, we boarded the canoes and set off downstream. The floating lodges were topped by Speckled Pigeons, and some of the trees sported Yellow-billed Kites, Vinaceous Doves, and a cracking pair of Giant Kingfishers.

As we slowly paddled downstream (I say 'we', but it was the local guides doing all the hard work!), we spotted a massive Goliath Heron, which unhelpfully slunk off into the vegetation. As we neared Bafuloto, a little exposed mud held two Senegal Thick-knees, and the discarded mangrove oyster shells at the edge of the village were being picked over a good handful of Hooded Vultures.

On landing and disembarking, we were almost immediately surrounded by a host of birds: Long-tailed Glossy Starling, Western Plantain-eater, Red-billed Firefinch and Village Weaver were all quickly spotted. A stonking Yellow-crowned Gonolek gave us fantastic views, as did some Brown Babblers in the same tree, but the latter were rather overshadowed! We only walked some three hundred metres, but sightings came thick and fast: Black-billed

and Blue-spotted Wood Doves, Orange-cheeked Waxbills, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleus, Senegal Eremomela, Swallow-tailed and Little Bee-eaters, Western Red-billed Hornbill, Beautiful and Splendid Sunbirds and several glorious Blue-bellied Rollers, to name but a few. Bird names were often called simultaneously, making it tricky to know where to look! We finished off the walk enjoying a Shikra which weirdly flew in and perched briefly right next to us.

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, a Whimbrel perched three metres up in a tree was a welcome treat, as was a weird snake-necked African Darter. As we approached the lodge quay, an African Harrier-Hawk gently glided in and landed on top of the dining area roof: what a treat!

Pre-brunch had some of us tucking into some freshly-boiled mangrove oysters, which Rob had asked Lamin Snr to buy from the ladies at Bafuloto. Many said they were surprisingly tasty! Brunch was delayed slightly by Green Monkeys making their way through camp. After brunch was the checklist, then relaxation by the pool or in the grounds.



Little Bee-eaters



Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher

At 4.00pm, we headed for the nearby water tanks. Sadly, there was nothing stirring, so we headed through the woodland and looked out over the mangroves from the edge of the camp. In the distance, Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters hawked the air for insects, but otherwise the skies were clear.

Having placed our orders for dinner, five clients and Sanna headed off on a sunset cruise. On the motorised boat they were using, they could get much further than by canoe. As the tributary widened, Caspian Terns put in an appearance. It was not long before we saw our first huge Goliath Heron. Where the tributary joined the River Gambia, the opposite bank was not even visible! The trees and water here sported Pink-backed Pelicans and Yellow-billed Storks. We celebrated with sundowner drinks and headed back down the tributary. Ospreys punctuated the journey, but the bird of the day must surely have been the near-mythical African Finfoot, which is sought by many, but seen by few.

Meanwhile, the rest of the party were initially busy watching an African Paradise Flycatcher have a wash in the swimming pool, then preening in the bamboo nearby. It had only been about half an hour since we had been at the water tanks, but this time, instead of nothing, there was a fleeting but satisfactory view of a Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat, and the admittedly rather dull but perfectly formed Little Greenbul also put in an appearance. A flowering tree was buzzing with insect and bird life. There were many Beautiful Sunbirds, mostly females, and tantalising views of the dinky Lavender Waxbill.

Walking on towards 'the mudflats', we could hear West African Pied Hornbill, but we saw only Western Red-billed Hornbills. However, with patience, the Pied Hornbill showed itself well in a nearby tree. A little further along, White-throated Bee-eaters put on an excellent show of aerial elegance. At the mudflats themselves, a Grey Kestrel gave an all too fleeting view before it was spooked by Pied Crows. Never mind: as it happened, it was in competition with views of Fine-spotted Woodpecker and a gorgeous Violet Turaco. A fly over by a Hamerkop was taken as the signal to start heading back.

It was a less leisurely stroll back, but we still happily managed to add Golden-tailed Woodpecker and a better view of a Senegal Eremomela to our list. Dinner was enjoyed and brought a fine day to a close.

## Day 3

Monday 2nd March

Sifoe and Kartong a.m., Sanyang/Rainbow beach lunchtime, Tanji p.m.

We started the day with a continental breakfast, and were off for a day out by 7.30am. Even before we picked up AJ and Lamin junior at the main road, we had managed to spot a small covey of Double-spurred Spurfowls. Local guides aboard, off we set for Sifoe. En route, we stopped briefly to see our first and only White-billed Buffalo Weavers.

Just to the south-west of the village of Sifoe is a seemingly rather unremarkable piece of land, but it does have a stream which, along with the associated wetland, seems to be a magnet not only for waterbirds, but also for a whole host of other species. First up were Great, Yellow-billed and Cattle Egrets, all very helpfully lined up to display the subtle differences in body size and neck length. A Squacco Heron looked positively diminutive and dull by comparison. African Jacanas stalked around in the lush grassland, while the trees sported the likes of Broad-billed Roller, Purple Starling and Yellow-billed Shrike. A Pearl-spotted Owlet flew into a tree right above our heads and gave us a hard stare. Next to pop in were no fewer than three beautiful African Golden Orioles. Just to top things off nicely, a bush ended up being festooned with five (yes five!) vivid Violet Turacos.

We climbed back onto the bus and drove a relatively short distance to a pool just outside Kartong. Here we were greeted by three different kingfisher species: Pied, Malachite and the delightful Blue-breasted. A Grey Kestrel graced a nearby bush, while Greenshank, Common Redshank, Wood and Green Sandpipers patrolled the pool edges.

At Kartong, an elegant perched Abyssinian Roller easily became a likely candidate for bird of the day. However, a Bearded Barbet would give it stiff competition. Another perched beauty was a Woodchat Shrike. Up in the sky there were fly-overs by Little and African Palm Swifts, Palm-nut Vultures, Lanner Falcon, and more Osprey that you can shake a stick at!

After the hot walk, the beachside coastal breeze and cold drinks (freshly-squeezed orange juice or coconut milk straight from the nut) car of an entrepreneurial local resident were very welcome. Caspian Terns patrolled the shoreline over Oystercatchers and Grey Plovers probing for tasty morsels. Meanwhile, a gang of Hooded Vultures was picking at a turtle carcass.

From here we headed off to a buffet lunch at the Rainbow Beach. The *benachin* rice and ladyfish were a hit, and we also managed to sneak in doing the checklist. Fed and watered, 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 were awaiting and receiving fish by the bowl-load from equally colourful boats, with myriad squabbling Grey-headed Gulls, and the odd Caspian and West African Crested Tern picking off the discarded and dropped fish. It was a seemingly chaotic and evocative African scene, which will linger in the memory.

In the late-ish afternoon we drove back to a welcome shower/swim and beer. Dinner was at the usual 8.00pm.

## Day 4

## Tuesday 3rd March

Kembujeh a.m., Base Camp and the Makasutu cultural centre, or sunset cruise p.m.

Post mini-breakfast, we boarded the canoes and set off upstream. On nearby mangroves sat a lovely Giant Kingfisher, an African Darter or two, and several Reed Cormorants. On the exposed mud of the rising tide was a sizeable West African Crocodile, a reminder not to go swimming in the river, should we have needed one!

On arrival at Kembujeh rice fields, we quickly found a flock of diminutive Red-billed Firefinches, along with some Mourning Collared and Black-billed Wood Doves for the 'all these doves look the same' connoisseurs! Nearby, a Fine-spotted Woodpecker was annoyingly quite mobile, but eventually perched still long enough for decent views.

The walk provided a good stream of birds. White-throated Bee-eaters proved particularly popular, since they perched obligingly just a few metres away. Other hits of the morning mostly hid behind branches or leaves, but with patience, we had good views of perched Pied-winged Swallows, African Grey Woodpecker, an amazing African Paradise Flycatcher and more rather bizarre-looking Bearded Barbets. Talking of barbets, a single Vieillot's Barbet was a good spot, as they can prove elusive.

Paddling back was hard work for the guides, given the rising tide and headwind. For some, perhaps the star of the return trip was a small flock of African Wattled Lapwings which we spooked from a roost.

Brunch, checklist and relaxation were the order for the next five hours or so. The afternoon stroll began with excellent views of Mangrove Sunbird, Bronze Mannikin and a superb Snowy-crowned Robin Chat slaking their thirst and having a wash in the water troughs near the bar. The water tanks just up the track from the lodge entrance produced Olive-naped Weavers and all-too-fleeting Lavender Waxbills.

The start of the afternoon walk was (typically) rather quiet, because it was still pretty hot. We did get up close to a Western Plantain-eater on our way to Base Camp. The Camp was the site of the original lodge, but Amadu

explained that the water is rather shallow there, and so not suited to floating lodges. It acted as a place for a day out for a while, but has now been largely abandoned.

It was starting to cool, and so birds were becoming more active. A small creek held a good number of Senegal Thick-knees, along with a couple of African Wattled Lapwings for those who had not seen them in the morning. As we left base camp, some monkeys ran across the track. Given they were quite ginger we initially thought they were Guinea Baboons. However, baboons don't normally run away in a hurry. As we followed them, it became evident they were a troop of Patas Monkeys, a rarely seen and shy monkey, so this was a good spot, even though we mostly saw their back ends.



White-throated Bee-eater



Black Herons

On the edge of the cultural centre, a White-crowned Robin Chat gave us the run-around for a while, but eventually we all got decent views. Equally mobile, but slightly better behaved, was a gorgeous Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher. It hawked around the foliage, making for challenging photography. Finally, it perched still long enough for us to get at least a few decent shots.

Buoyed up by our success, we strolled on through the cultural centre and joined the main track to the lodge. A “peep peep peep peep” sound alerted us to a shy bird of prey. Sure enough, it flew a short distance and perched beautifully in a sunbeam, which lit up the African Goshawk perfectly for a few moments, before it dashed off again. We were not done: a flowering tree proved tempting to a shy and usually retiring Guinea Turaco, which hopped from leafless branch to leafless branch pecking away at the tasty yellow flowers. Happy days.

Those who went on the sunset cruise saw the usual suspects of Caspian and Sandwich Terns, Osprey, Goliath Heron and Pink-backed Pelicans, along with yet another African Finfoot!

Those who enjoyed cold drinks at the bar were treated to a fly past from both Palm-nut Vulture and, new for the trip, an African Spoonbill. Dinner was enjoyed at the usual time.

## Day 5

**Wednesday 4th March**

Woodland Walk, Makasutu cultural centre and donkey sanctuary a.m., Paul's Area p.m.

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 at that particular cherry.

A little further down the track, a second African Goshawk for the trip was a stroke of luck. This one was perched at eye level, although it was somewhat hidden by twigs. Rob got it in the scope, so everyone could see its scary yellow eyes. Soon afterwards, another bird we normally only see once or not at all appeared: a second Guinea Turaco, followed shortly by its darker cousin, the Violet Turaco.

The cultural centre is normally a good place for owls, but sadly not today. We had to be satisfied with a dinky Northern Crombec. Meanwhile, a few of the party were visiting the Gambian horse and donkey sanctuary next door. There were not only the expected horses and donkeys, but also a menagerie of other abandoned animals including goats, dogs, cats and even a dromedary!

Out in front of the cultural centre, flowering trees and nearby bushes sported Splendid Sunbird, Northern Black Flycatcher and Senegal Parrot. It was soon time to head back towards the lodge, but we were happily delayed by Cardinal Woodpecker and a cracking Orange-breasted Bush Shrike.

A driver ant trail snaking its way across our path proved an interesting diversion. The worker ants were carrying eggs and pupae down the centre of a 'highway', made up of scary-looking, big-jawed soldier ants.

Just beyond was a big troop of Guinea Baboons. These were getting on with baboon life, even though we were just a few metres away. There was eating, grooming, riding jockey style on mum's back... and even "sexual activity"! Strolling back to camp, some of the rearguard were lucky enough to spot the elusive Green-headed Sunbird.

Fortunately, the afternoon stroll to the water tanks revealed several more Green-headed Sunbirds! Also sneaking a drink were Olive-naped Weavers and a Little Greenbul.

Rob was on the sunset cruise, but the walking party saw yet another African Goshawk! At their final destination, Paul's area, they looked out onto a cultivated semi-wetland where a perched Blue-bellied Roller proved an instant hit, as did some Long-tailed Glossy Starlings and a Fork-tailed Drongo.

The sunset cruise had all the usual suspects, but also three West African Crocodiles, Purple Heron, a very close and confiding Palm-nut Vulture and, new for the trip, a couple of Gull-billed Terns.

## Day 6

Thursday 5th March

Pirang Wetlands, Pirang/Bonto Forest and Farasutu Forest a.m., Marakissa p.m.

This was the second of our days out, so we had a continental breakfast followed by a 7.30am departure. We turned left out onto the main road and headed east, upriver, for the first time. Soon we were at the wetlands and ex-prawn farm of Pirang. Here, Wire-tailed Swallows put in an aerial and wall-top appearance, and Grey-headed Sparrows perched in a nearby tree. Long-tailed Starlings squawked from the mangroves, and Spur-winged Lapwings gave us a serious ticking off when we approached too closely.

We drove a short distance to a wetter pool, where Yellow-billed Storks were hanging about with some Pink-backed Pelicans. On the other side of the pool, Caspian, West African Crested and Sandwich Terns loafed together,

affording an excellent opportunity to compare these three species. A Spotted Redshank was a welcome addition to our trip list.

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 backs of two! 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. First, we sat on some beautifully-tiled seating overlooking a watering point. Within seconds, the birdless water-filled bowls and troughs were awash with birds. Names were being shouted out left, right and centre, so it was hard to pin names to the birds sometimes! However, we were in no great hurry, so eventually we all got to see and recognise Blue-spotted and Black-billed Wood Doves, Olive-naped Weaver, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu, and Black-tailed, Lavender and a single Orange-cheeked Waxbill. A Reed Warbler and a Chiffchaff coming down to drink were a reminder of where some UK summer migrant passerines winter.

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

Lunch was taken and the checklist done back at Mandina, and there was time for a quick break before some of us headed out to the wetlands around Marakissa.

It took around fifty minutes to get to Marakissa because of newly-built speed bumps. Once there, we looked at some rapidly drying wetlands. Rob picked out a Malachite Kingfisher in the bulrushes, while Wood and Green Sandpipers quartered the shoreline for tasty morsels. A couple of Yellow-gorgeted Greenbuls perched briefly in a leafless tree, but departed before most of us got a decent view.

We decided go round to the other side of the wetland, in the hope of seeing the Black Heron enacting its almost theatrical 'umbrella' feeding routine. En route, a tiny pool no bigger than a double bed hosted a Hamerkop and a Squacco Heron, easily 'shooting' fish from that particular 'barrel'.

We found not one, but many Black Herons. Nearly all were distant, but one was close. However, annoyingly, it seemed happy just to stand at the water's edge, presumably digesting a fish it had already caught. Also present was a smart Common Greenshank, and we had better views of Wood Sandpiper.

Rob sneaked around the corner to see if he could find Black Herons doing their thing, and sure enough, there they were. He called the group over, and eventually the little darlings (in twos and threes) started spreading their wings out in front of their bills, becoming tiny umbrellas. They do this order to attract their prey into the shade, and within striking distance, or maybe remove the glare from the water surface to see their prey? Nobody is really quite sure.

We had to drag ourselves away from this serene place in order to get back to Mandina in time to freshen up, before another lovely dinner.

## Day 7

Friday 6th March

Kubuneh a.m., Nembukela p.m.

Today's post mini-breakfast canoe jaunt was downstream. As we stepped ashore at Kubuneh, we were greeted by the smell of wood smoke from under the boiling mangrove oyster pots. From the landing point, we headed for the village, but were soon stopped in our tracks by corking views of perched West African Pied Hornbills. These splendid birds regularly pushed their bills aloft and piped to the heavens, looking to attract a mate. Big leaves make good hiding places for small birds. Hence, it took a while to see Lavender Waxbills and Northern Yellow White-eyes flitting among said leaves, picking off insects from the small flowers. More distant, but putting on a good show through the scope, were Violet Turacos.

In the village itself, we were among large baobabs, fruiting wild figs and a massive kapok tree with snaking buttress roots. This latter tree acted as a backdrop for a group photo of seventeen of us in a row, yet nobody didn't have a root buttress behind them!

Photo in the bag, we started birding again, and a Yellow-billed Shrike perched nearby was a big hit. However, this was perhaps eclipsed by AJ finding another dinky little Pearl-spotted Owlet. This one proved difficult to get clear views of, but eventually we found a particular spot where we could see it clearly as it peered down at us. As we strolled back, there were more Yellow-billed Shrikes to be seen. At Rob's behest, Lamin Jr got some furry green baobab fruits. The Mandina kitchen staff converted this into juice for us to try later.

After canoeing back, brunch was snapped up, followed by the checklist and serious relaxation. By 3.30pm the baobab juice was ready. The addition of coconut and banana made for a lovely, refreshing, creamy drink. Today's 4.00pm stroll afforded good views of Brown-throated Wattle-eye and baboons.

Our last afternoon walk headed for the agricultural area near Nembukela. However, first was the small matter of the water tanks. It was hot, so there was a reasonable amount of drinking going on. A Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat put on a good show, as did Green-headed Sunbird, and a female Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher.

A troop of Guinea Baboons passed by, with plenty of screaming going on, as more dominant baboons enforced submission on their subordinates. However, there were also some sweet babies riding jockey style on their mothers' backs. What was probably a Beudouin's Snake Eagle glided and hovered in the distance, but it proved difficult to get a decent view. Not so the pair of African Grey Hornbills which seemed to be following us, stopping occasionally to pipe shrilly, as if to say "look at me, look at me!". The tiniest juvenile mantis ever found itself onto a client's elbow! It then did a short tour of guest and leader limbs, before being returned safely to a bush. A perched Northern Black Flycatcher and our first and only elegant Namaqua Dove of the trip rounded off the afternoon nicely.

## Day 8

Friday 7th March

Mandina Lodge, Base Camp, the Makasutu cultural centre and return to London Gatwick

We had a lie in of... oooh half an hour! Tea, biccies and bananas at 7.30am were followed by a stroll to the cultural centre, via base camp. The tower there briefly sported a Giant Kingfisher in the dawn light

At the cultural centre, a few trinkets were purchased as mementos, and we headed back for brunch. Not far from the lodge, a Black Scimitarbill was heard and then expertly tracked down by AJ. While some were busy trying to get on to it, Rob spotted a perched Lizard Buzzard! A difficult choice then had to be made as to which bird to focus on! In the end, most saw both and, since both were new for the trip, this bought our final total of birds seen or heard to a very satisfying 163.

At noon, we said farewell to four guests who were off to the coast, the lucky things. We also took the opportunity to say a massive thank you to the fabulous lodge staff, many of whom had come to say goodbye.

A little later, the remaining clients headed for the airport. Our flight back was uneventful, and we had more excellent views of north-west Africa. We arrived at Gatwick on schedule, and met up in the baggage reclaim. Here it was time for farewells, and we made our journeys home full of memories of the wonderful wildlife enjoyed on our Gambian odyssey.

### Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek email list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers.

[naturetrek.co.uk/e-newsletter-signup](https://naturetrek.co.uk/e-newsletter-signup)

Scan to  
sign up!



### Social Media

We're social! Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, Bluesky and X and be the first to hear about the launch of new tours, offers, exciting sightings and photos from our recently returned holidays.



[instagram.com/naturetrek\\_wildlife\\_holidays](https://www.instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays)



[facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays](https://www.facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays)



[naturetrek.bsky.social](https://naturetrek.bsky.social)



[x.com/naturetrektours](https://x.com/naturetrektours) (formerly Twitter)

## Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	February-March 2026							
		28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Double-spurred Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>			✓	✓			✓	
Western Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Violet Turaco	<i>Tauraco violaceus</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Guinea Turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>		✓	✓			✓		
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>		✓						
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>		✓	✓				✓	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓		✓					
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>							✓	
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>		✓				✓		
Black-billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>		✓		✓		✓		
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>		✓		✓				
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						✓		
Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						✓		
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</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>				✓	✓			
Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>							✓	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>			✓			✓	✓	
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</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>			✓			✓		
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>						✓		
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			✓					
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>					✓			
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>			H	✓		✓		
West African Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus albidorsalis</i>			✓			✓		
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>			✓					
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>						✓		
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			✓					
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>				✓	✓	✓		
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>			✓				✓	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		✓	✓			✓		
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>			✓					

Common name	Scientific name	February-March 2026							
		28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>						✓		
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					✓	✓		
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</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>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>			✓	✓	✓			
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>		✓		✓	✓			
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				✓		✓		
Long-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i>						✓		
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>			✓					
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>			✓				✓	
Greyish Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>						✓		
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Ketupa lactea</i>						✓		
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Beaudouin's Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>							✓	
Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>						✓		
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>								✓
African Goshawk	<i>Aerospiza tachiro</i>				✓	✓			
Shikra	<i>Tachyspiza badia</i>		✓						
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓					✓	
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus migrans aegyptius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>								✓
West African Pied Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros semifasciatus</i>		✓			✓		✓	
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>		✓			✓		✓	
Western Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus kempfi</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>		✓	✓					
Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>			✓			✓	✓	
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>		✓				✓		
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>		✓						✓
White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</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>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>					✓			
Bearded Barbet	<i>Pogonornis dubius</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieillotii</i>				✓				
Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>			✓	✓			✓	
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>			✓					

Common name	Scientific name	February-March 2026							
		28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>				✓				✓
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</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>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>		✓						
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>		✓						✓
Orange-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>					✓			
Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>				✓	✓	H	✓	
African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>			✓	✓				
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>					✓			
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>				✓			✓	
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>			✓					
Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>			✓		✓		✓	
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			✓					
Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>		✓					✓	
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>					✓			
Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>		✓						
Bleating Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>		✓						✓
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>				✓				
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</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 Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>						✓		
Yellow-gorgeted Greenbul	<i>Atimastillas flavicollis</i>						✓		
Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>		✓			✓	✓		
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca iberiae</i>		✓						
Northern Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>							✓	
Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>		✓	✓				✓	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>						✓		
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>					✓			
Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</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>		✓		✓	✓			
Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>					✓			
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>					✓			
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastus</i>		✓		✓	✓			
Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>			✓	✓				
White-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>			✓					
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>					✓			

Common name	Scientific name	February-March 2026							
		28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Olive-naped Weaver	<i>Ploceus brachypterus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>		✓						
Black-winged Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>						✓		
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>		✓						
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>		✓		✓			✓	✓
Lavender Waxbill	<i>Glaucostriilda 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>		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>						✓		
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			✓				✓	
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>		✓			✓	✓		

## Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	February-March 2026							
		28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Western Red Colobus Monkey	<i>Procolobus badius</i>						✓	✓	✓
Guinea Baboon	<i>Papio papio</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓
Green Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus sabaesus</i>		✓					✓	
Patas Monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>				✓			✓	
Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus gambianus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>				✓				
Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>				✓		✓		

## Reptiles

Common name	Scientific name
Nile Monitor Lizard	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
Agama Lizard	<i>Agama agama</i>
West African Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus suchus</i>
Olive Grass Racer	<i>Psammophis phillipsii</i>

## Fishes

Common name	Scientific name
Atlantic Mudskipper	<i>Periophthalmus papillo</i>

## Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name
Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>
African Spirit	<i>Leptosia alcesta</i>
Common Dotted Border	<i>Mylothris chloris</i>
African Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>

## Other invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name
<b>Insects</b>	
Common Green Mantis	<i>Sphodromantis</i> sp.
Driver Ants	<i>Dorylus</i> sp.
<b>Arachnids</b>	
Western Whip Spider	<i>Damon</i> sp.
<b>Molluscs</b>	
West African Mangrove Oyster	<i>Crassostrea tulipa</i>
<b>Crustaceans</b>	
West African Fiddler Crab	<i>Uca tangeri</i>

## Plants

Scientific name	Common name
<b>ANGIOSPERMS</b>	<b>FLOWERING PLANTS</b>
<b>Magnoliidae (Dicotyledons)</b>	
<b>Acanthaceae</b>	<b>Acanthus Family</b>
<i>Avicennia germinans</i>	Black Mangrove
<b>Anacardiaceae</b>	<b>Cashew Family</b>
<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>	Cashew Tree
<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Mango
<b>Chrysobalanaceae</b>	<b>Cocoplum Family</b>
<i>Neocarya macrophylla</i>	Gingerbread Plum
<b>Fabaceae</b>	<b>Pea Family</b>
<i>Bauhinia monandra</i>	Camel's-foot Tree/ Napoleon's Plume
<b>Lamiaceae</b>	<b>Deadnettle Family</b>
<i>Hyptis suaveolens</i>	Bushmint
<b>Malvaceae</b>	<b>Mallow Family</b>
<i>Adansonia digitata</i>	Baobab
<i>Ceiba petandra</i>	Kapok Tree
<b>Moraceae</b>	<b>Mulberry Family</b>
<i>Ficus craterostema?</i>	Strangler Fig
<i>Ficus sycamorus</i>	Sycamore Fig
<b>Nyctaginaceae</b>	<b>Four O'Clock Family</b>
<i>Bourganvillea spectabilis</i>	Bourganvillia
<b>Nymphaeaceae</b>	<b>Water-lily Family</b>
<i>Nymphaea micrantha</i>	White Water-lily
<b>Rhizophoraceae</b>	<b>Mangrove Family</b>
<i>Rhizophora mangle</i>	Red Mangrove
<b>Liliidae (Monocotyledons)</b>	
<b>Araceae</b>	<b>Arum Family</b>
<i>Amorphophallus aphyllus</i>	-
<b>Areaceae</b>	<b>Palm Family</b>
<i>Borassus aethiopium</i>	Black Rhun Palm/African Fan Palm
<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	Coconut
<i>Elaeis guineensis</i>	African Oil Palm