

The Gambia in Style

Naturetrek Tour Report

24th – 31st March 2026



Bearded Barbet



Malachite Kingfisher



White-throated Bee-eater



Green Vervet Monkey

Tour report by Matt Collis



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Tour participants: Matt Collis (leader), AJ, Sanna, Lamin Snr, Lamin Jnr and Amadu (local guides) with 14 Naturetrek clients

Summary

The Gambia offers one of the most accessible and rewarding introductions to West African birding, combining exceptional diversity with a relaxed pace and a welcoming atmosphere. Based at Mandina Lodge, set among mangroves along the Gambia River, this tour explored a rich mosaic of habitats including tidal creeks, mudflats, coastal wetlands, scrub woodland and lightly-wooded savanna.

Birding action was immediate, and consistently rewarding throughout the week. Canoe excursions through mangrove channels delivered close encounters with kingfishers, herons and raptors, while walks through woodland and village edges produced an array of colourful passerines. Excursions further afield to Kartong, Tanji, Pirang and Marakissa added coastal waders, dry country species and a number of regional specialities.

Highlights were many, and included African Finfoot, Blue-breasted and Malachite Kingfishers, Violet Turaco, Purple and Abyssinian Rollers, and a wide selection of sunbirds and waxbills. Raptors were well represented, from Lanner Falcon and African Harrier-Hawk to Tawny Eagle, while “nightbird” encounters (including Pearl-spotted Owlet, Greyish Eagle-Owl and Long-tailed Nightjar) provided memorable moments.

The sheer abundance of birdlife, combined with the variety of habitats and the warm hospitality of Mandina Lodge, ensured a richly rewarding and immersive West African birding experience.

Day 1

Tuesday 24th March

Arrival

With an early morning flight, most of the group travelled to Gatwick the day before, and first met up by the gate. Our flight was uneventful, and clear conditions allowed views over the Atlas Mountains and the Sahara. The chaos of Banjul airport was easily navigated, and we were soon on our bus to the hotel, via the bustling streets of downtown Banjul. Once we turned down the dirt track towards Mandina Lodge, the environment changed, and we enjoyed a twenty-minute snapshot of the fabulous birding to come, seeing Western Red-billed Hornbill, African Palm Swift, Yellow-billed Kite, Hooded Vulture, Blue-spotted Wood Dove and Common Bulbul.

Arriving at Mandina, we had a very warm welcome from the team, led by Linda and Neur. After receiving the welcome briefing, surrounded by Pied-winged Swallows, White-throated Bee-eaters, Violet Sunbirds and a singing Common Wattle-eye, we retreated to our lodges to unpack before dinner. As we ended our arrival day, there was

just enough light to spot two Dark Chanting Goshawks chasing each other over the mangroves, Pied Crows heading to roost, and a Bleating Camaroptera returning to a nest.

Day 2

Wednesday 25th March

Bafuloto, mudflats & Sunset Cruise

Our first morning began with some tea and coffee, before we met our guides for the week. The first expedition involved a short canoe ride to Bafuloto through the mangroves surrounding our hotel. Excellent birding was instant, with Osprey, Pied Kingfisher, Purple Heron, Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Reed Cormorant and a fabulous view of Malachite Kingfisher hunting from the mangroves. African Darters stood sentinel at the top of several patches of mangroves.

As we arrived at Bafuloto, a Shikra hawked overhead, while Ringed Plovers, Greenshanks, Whimbrels, Common Sandpipers and Senegal Thick-knees could be seen on the muddy bank where we docked. We didn't have to walk far before birds were being spotted left, right and centre: close, perched Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters, a mob of Piapiacs, squabbling Village Weavers, and host of sunbirds including Beautiful, Splendid and Scarlet-chested, all in the same tree. The track bisected a mosaic of garden plots and scrub grassland, which was alive with small birds including Red-billed Firefinch, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Senegal Eremomela, Bronze Mannikin and Yellow-fronted Canary. Some of the larger and more colourful species included Snowy-crowned Robin-chat, Yellow-crowned Gonolek, and two stunning Bearded Barbets. As we paddled our way back to the lodge for breakfast, we added a pair of African Harrier-Hawks, Western Reef Heron, Gull-billed Tern, Rose-ringed Parakeet and Palm-nut Vulture to our list.

In the evening, the group divided themselves between an evening sunset cruise and a walk to 'the mudflats', via the forest. The cruise produced an excellent variety of birds as we explored the various channels between the mangroves en route to the main Gambia River, where Great Egrets and Western Reef Herons were incredibly frequent. We shared some incredible views of Palm-nut Vulture, Yellow-billed Kite and several Ospreys as they glided low overhead. As we checked in the smaller channels, small groups of Senegal Thick-knees, Spur-winged Lapwings, Whimbrels and the occasional West African Crocodile were found. At the opening to the Gambia River, sat among the trees, was a fantastic collection of Pink-backed Pelicans, Yellow-billed Storks and African Spoonbills. On the way back, a mix of African Palm Swifts, Red-chested Swallows, Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters and two Little Swifts patrolled the skies, hawking the final insects of the day. Two Goliath Herons gave us brief views, before flying off over the mangroves. Our final bird of the day was our first Greater Blue-eared Starling perched high up in the trees.

Day 3

Thursday 26th March

Kartong & Tanji

After an early breakfast, we spent the day visiting Kartong and Tanji, making several roadside stops along the way. The best birding came from these stops, particularly where small wetlands remained at the end of the dry season. Several great species were even spotted from the bus, including Lanner Falcon, Fork-tailed Drongo, Violet Turaco and Long-tailed Glossy Starling.

At the first stop, a wetland area held a large mixed flock of African Jacanas, Hamerkops, Squacco Herons and Cattle Egrets. With some careful scanning, we picked out both a Little and a Yellow-billed Egret hidden among the crowd, and a juvenile Black-crowned Heron looked on from a dead tree. Black-headed Herons were also found here, including one perched high in a tree. Additional new birds included fantastic views of Yellow-billed Shrike and Broad-billed Roller, as well as several African Golden Orioles, which chased each other frequently. After initial fleeting flight views, a Lizard Buzzard and a Red-necked Falcon decided to pose on bare branches, allowing long scope views. The guides also managed to successfully whistle a Pearl-spotted Owlet down to nearby trees.

At our second stop, we enjoyed fantastic views of Hooded Vultures gathered around the decayed carcass of a small cow, and watched Little Bee-eaters hawking around their nesting holes. The little water remaining here had drawn in many birds, including Wood, Green and Common Sandpipers, as well as a mixed flock of smaller birds which regularly dropped in to sip the water: Red-billed Firefinches, Pin-tailed Wydahs and Red-cheeked Cordon-bleus. A Malachite Kingfisher, Yellow Wagtail and Yellow-billed Oxpecker were also noted, as was our first snake, an Olive Ground Snake, as we returned to the bus.

Before we walked the track down to Kartong, we stopped at some Fig trees to scan for starlings: Purple, Bronze-tailed and Long-tailed Glossy were all recorded. At the start of the track, we watched an Abyssinian Roller hunting grasshoppers in gardens, and a Shikra flying overhead. Other birds seen here included a Marsh Harrier, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird and a brief view of a Purple Roller as it weaved through the trees. Reaching the end of the track, we all enjoyed a refreshing juice from 'the shack' while we scanned the sea, adding Great (White-breasted) Cormorant, Caspian, West African Crested and Little Terns, Sanderling and Lesser Black-backed Gull to our list.

Our last stop of the day was at Tanji, to visit the bustling fish market. With activity so concentrated due to the high tide, few birds were active on the shore, but a lot of commotion was going on in the air, with hundreds of Grey-headed Gulls and smaller numbers of Caspian and West African Crested Terns. We were particularly impressed by how brazen several Pied Kingfisher were, hovering along the shoreline littered with people, and picking up fish dropped from crates collected from the boat. The remainder of our afternoon was spent back at Madina resting.

Day 4

Friday 27th March

Kubeneh, Nambikala & Sunset Cruise

Our second canoe trip of the tour started with a bang, as Giant Kingfisher, African Grey Hornbill and African Finfoot were all spotted in quick succession from the loading dock. Paddling down to Kubeneh, we saw more Pied Kingfishers, Reed Cormorants, African Darters and a wonderful flock of Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters which posed on the edge of the mangroves for a prolonged period. Just before landing at Kubeneh, a Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher was spotted hunting at the edge of the water.

Surrounded by mounds of oyster shells, we headed inland to explore the garden and scrubby hinterland for more birds. An ensemble of Beautiful and Green-headed Sunbirds was briefly joined by a Yellow-footed Canary, and a Grey Woodpecker perched at the top of a broken stump. We followed a very shy pair of Violet Turacos, catching the odd glimpse as they moved to perch well ahead of us. With some patience and assistance from our guides, we managed to get several views of Blackcap Babbler, and briefer views of Brown Babbler. A small flock of Green Wood Hoopoes fluttered by as we watching a stunning male African Golden Oriole. As we head towards the local school, a Pearl-spotted Owlet appeared, but was immediately chased off, leaving us to admire a rather tolerant Yellow-crowned Gonolek. As we headed back to the canoes, we passed a shrub containing sun-bathing Red-billed Firefinches and Red-cheeked Cordon Bleus, which allowed excellent views through the scope. Our final birds of the morning included a Little Weaver admiring itself in the mirror of a motorbike, a small group of Northern Black Flycatchers low in the trees, and a brief Long-tailed Glossy Starling.

After sheltering from the midday heat, we reconvened for our afternoon session, some enjoying the sunset cruise while others went to explore the scrub woodland at the back of the hotel. While the boat cruise reported similarly fantastic views to the first, the scrub woodland walk provided a feast of new and exciting birds, including Little Greenbul, Greater and Lesser Honeyguides, Black-crowned Tchagra and Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike. We also gained amazing perched views of three Fanti Saw-wings, and got the chance to view Blue-spotted Wood Dove and Vinaceous Dove in good detail. Two Dark Chanting Goshawks, including one perched in a tree, were another highlight. However, the best moment of the walk was the sudden appearance of four White-crested Helmetshrikes, which flew into a very visible tree for around twenty seconds, before disappearing into the bush.

Day 5

Saturday 28th March

Scrub woodland walk, 'Paul' area & Sunset Cruise

Rather than a canoe trip, we started our morning with a walk deep into the scrub woodland behind the hotel. We hadn't got far when we spotted Ahanta Spurfowl, a rarely seen bird for the area, and Grey-headed Bristlebill. As woodland opened to scrub, the guides could hear many birds, including the call of an Orange-breasted Bushshrike of which, with a little patience, we all managed to catch glimpses as it fed in the tall trees. It was briefly upstaged

by a passing Violet-backed Starling which perched briefly while moving through the area. Continuing our walk, we enjoyed wonderful views of Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher and more Pin-tailed Wyahts, before a Northern Puffback made a fleeting appearance. Any sadness soon passed when the guides located a perched Black-crowned Tchagra, and found both Senegal Eremomela and a Klaas's Cuckoo, which had us all scrambling for views.

We finished our walk in a much more open area, which brought a whole suite of new birds including Namaqua Dove, Wattled Lapwing, Vieillot's Barbet, Hoopoe and Grey Kestrel. We also found two Abyssinian Rollers, four Green Wood Hoopoes, and a Lanner Falcon, which circled right overhead before heading off towards the village. It was an excellent morning.

Our afternoon walk took us back to the scrub woodlands, but this time on a route which ended up at Marakato mangroves. It was another very pleasant walk, which produced our best sighting of Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Senegal Parrot and a wonderful close Hamerkop fly-by. We encountered a very tame Blue-bellied Roller perched in the shade of a palm, and the photographers were able to get close enough for full-frame views. A better view of Brown Babbler, and West African Pied Hornbill were also popular during this walk. A small flock of Hamerkops was encountered once again but, as before, they didn't linger.

Day 6

Sunday 29th March

Pirang shrimp Farm, Bonto Forest and Marakissa wetlands

We left early in the bus for our second day of excursions, starting with a walk at Pirang shrimp farm. The birding was particularly excellent here, with Abyssinian Roller, Bleating Camaroptera, Long-tailed Glossy Starling, Little Bee-eater, Tawny-flanked Prinia and Western Red-billed Hornbill all spotted without our taking more than two steps from the drop-off point. An encounter with a Purple Roller was the standout bird at this stage of the day.

Continuing our walk along the raised bunds, we picked up several species utilising the small channels of water dividing the old shrimp beds. This included some new species, such as Wire-tailed and African Red-rumped Swallow, as well as better sightings of poorly-seen species such as Namaqua Dove and Variable Sunbird. Towards the end of our walk, we stopped at some lagoons which still held decent levels of water and a good number of waders, including many Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers, with more modest numbers of Dunlin, Redshank, Whimbrel and Ringed Plover. Just the odd Greenshank, Turnstone and Common Sandpiper were present. A small flock of Common Terns, and Yellow Wagtails were notable.

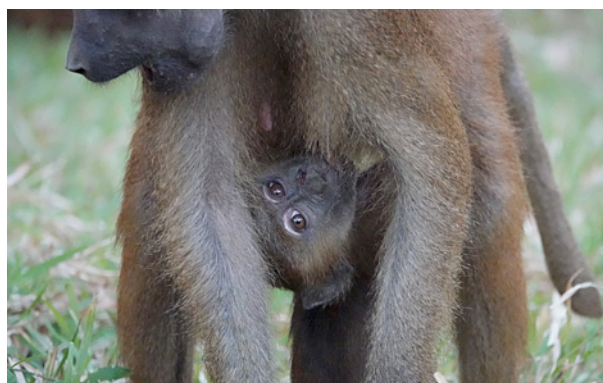
Our next stop was Bonto Forest for a short walk into the woods and around a few open glades. These produced a nice mix of birds, including prolonged views of Violet-backed Starlings, African Golden Oriole and African Green Pigeon. Little Swifts were seen overhead, and three Double-spurred Spurfbwls were flushed from the

grassland next to the path. Despite the best efforts of the guides, we couldn't locate a Verreaux's Eagle-Owl but, thanks to our efforts, we did spot an enormous wild Honey Bee comb hanging freely from a tall tree.

Following Bonto, we then dropped in to two locations with hides and birdbaths placed in the shade. We saw a good range of species, including Black-winged Bishop, Black-rumped Waxbill, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, and Olive-naped and Black-throated Weavers. Before returning to Mandina, we made two final brief stops to visit the roosting sites of Greyish Eagle-Owl and Long-tailed Nightjar. Both produced fantastic encounters, particularly the nightjar: we spotted three hidden in the leaf litter.



West African Crocodile



Guinea Baboons

The afternoon session took us the Marakissa Wetlands, where most of the pools had been reduced to just small areas of water, focusing the bird activity quite nicely. We managed to add a few new species to our list, including Black Heron, Hadada Ibis, Spur-winged Goose, and a Black Crake, which showed particularly well as it foraged along the bulrushes. Better views of Speckled Pigeon, Fork-tailed Drongo and Purple Heron were also enjoyed, before we decided to call it a day and return to Mandina for dinner.

Day 7

Monday 30th March

Kembula and mudflats walk

As had become normal for our tour, our day began with Giant Kingfisher perched on an abandon catamaran. For our final full day in Gambia, we headed off in the canoes, to an area known as Kembula, on an unusually overcast morning. Blue-bellied Kingfisher, African Harrier-Hawk and Purple Heron were all seen during the journey. Once on land, we enjoyed a whole host of birds, and got particularly lucky with excellent views of Yellow-crowned Gonolek, Northern Black Flycatcher and Northern Puffback in the first ten minutes. We then had a good time watching an area of Eucalyptuses, whose flowers appearing to be attracting a lot of birds, including a large number of sunbirds, African Thrush, Lavender Waxbill, Northern Yellow White-eye, Black-winged Bishop, Northern Crombec and another Northern Puffback. The guides got particularly excited when a Greater Honeyguide posed nicely.

Walking through the 'Women's Garden', we picked up a large flock of Bronze Mannikins and a small number of White-billed Buffalo Weavers coming down to drink from a pool. Two Bearded Barbets perched in the open, giving stunning views, and a Long-tailed Glossy Starling perched for a good few minutes before dazzling us in flight. The final bird of the walk came with a Mottled Spinetail, which bolted overhead before disappearing over the forest.

Our final walk of the tour was a return to the woodland and the nearby mudflat area, where we tried incredibly hard to find Greater Painted-snipe. We had no joy, despite extensive efforts. For the remainder of the walk, we took the opportunity to take one final look at all the regular species we'd encountered on the trip, including the stunning sunbirds, Western Grey Plantain-eaters, and various finch-like passerines. A Lanner Falcon carrying a chicken was a notable sighting from this walk too! The other special bird to mention today was a Tawny Eagle, spotted during the afternoon rest from the bar, cold drinks in our hands.

Day 8

Tuesday 31st March

Departure

Many people chose to focus on a leisurely morning ahead of the midday return to the airport. Birding was largely limited to what could be found around the hotel, and additional sightings from the two people determined to get one last walk with the guides! They had a very fruitful walk, adding Pygmy Sunbird, Western Violet-backed Sunbird and Guinea Turaco to our long list of sightings.

With our bags packed, the bus arrived and we said farewell to the Mandina Lodge team, sharing our deep gratitude for making our tour so wonderful. As we headed to the airport, we made a short stop at the craft market, purchasing some items to lend support to the local traders.

After a smooth transfer and check-in, all that was left was to return to Gatwick, before heading off on our separate ways. With the final bags collected, it was goodbye, and thank you for our Gambian adventure together.

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Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	March 2026						
		25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>					✓		
Ahanta Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis achantensis</i>				1			
Double-spurred Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>					3	✓	
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>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>				1			
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>				2	✓		
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black-billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>		✓			✓		
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>	✓		✓			✓	
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>					1		
Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</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>				✓		✓	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>		✓				✓	
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			H				
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>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					✓		
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					✓		
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		✓					
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>					✓		
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		✓					
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		✓				✓	
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	
West African Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus albididorsalis</i>		✓					
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		✓			✓		
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>		✓					

Common name	Scientific name	March 2026						
		25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		✓					
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>		6		4	✓	1	
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓	✓	✓			
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>	6		2	3	1		
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		✓		1	1		
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>		3					
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>	2	✓	4	6		✓	
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>			✓		1		
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓					
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		✓					
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	1		✓				
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>					3		
Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>					✓	✓	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	2		✓		✓	✓	
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>		2	1				
Greyish Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>					1		
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>						1	
Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>	✓		✓				
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>		1		✓			
Shikra	<i>Tachypiza badia</i>	1	1	1		2	✓	
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		1					
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus migrans aegyptius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				1			
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>		✓	✓	✓			
Congo Pied Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros fasciatus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus kempii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>		3					
Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>					1		

Common name	Scientific name	March 2026						
		25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
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>	✓				1	✓	
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>				H			
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>		✓		✓			
Bearded Barbet	<i>Pogonornis dubius</i>	2	2				2	
Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieillotii</i>				1			
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>			✓	✓			
Spotted Honeyguide	<i>Indicator maculatus</i>			✓				
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>						✓	
Buff-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Pardipicus nivosus</i>	✓		✓				
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>				1	1		
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>		1					
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>		1		1		✓	
Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>			1				
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>			✓	✓		✓	
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>				1		3	
Orange-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>				✓			
Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>			4	4			
African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>		1			2		
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>		2		✓			
Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>	✓	✓					
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>	✓			✓		✓	
Bleating (Grey-backed) Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>	✓			✓			
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>	✓				✓		
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>					✓		
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>				✓			
Fanti Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne obscura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pied-winged Swallow	<i>Hirundo leucosoma</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>					✓		

Common name	Scientific name	March 2026						
		25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓						
Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
African Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis melanocrissus</i>					✓		
Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>							✓
Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>			✓	✓	✓		
Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>			✓		✓	✓	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>		✓					
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>				1	8	1	
Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Lesser Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>	✓		✓				
Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>		✓	✓				
Bronze-tailed Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalcurus</i>		✓			✓		
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edoloides</i>			3				2
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mangrove Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platyura</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>			✓	✓	✓		
White-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>							✓
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>	✓		✓				
Olive-naped Weaver	<i>Ploceus brachypterus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>		✓					
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓
Lavender Waxbill	<i>Glaucostrelda 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
Western Red Colobus Monkey	<i>Procolobus badius</i>
Guinea Baboon	<i>Papio papio</i>
Green Vervet/Callithrix Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus sabaeus</i>
Patas Monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>
Senegal Galago	<i>Galago senegalensis</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>
Gambian Pouched Rat	<i>Cricetomys gambianus</i>
Marsh Mongoose	<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>

Reptiles

Common name	Scientific name
Nile Monitor Lizard	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
Agama Lizard	<i>Agama agama</i>
Brook's House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus brooki angulatus</i>
Uganda Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus gutturalis</i>
West African Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus suchus</i>

Fishes

Common name	Scientific name
Atlantic Mudskipper	<i>Periophthalmus papillo</i>
Guinean Tilapia	<i>Tilapia guineensis</i>

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name
Small Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigatta</i>
Common Dotted Border	<i>Mylothris chloris</i>
Creamy Small White	<i>Dixeia orbona</i>
Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>
African Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
River Sailor	<i>Neptis serena</i>
Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia orithya</i>

Other invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name
Insects	
Driver Ants	<i>Dorylus</i> sp.
Stick Grasshopper	<i>Acrida acuminata</i>
Millipedes	
Giant Millipede	Odontopygidae sp.
Crustaceans	
West African Fiddler Crab	<i>Uca tangeri</i>
Molluscs	
West African Mangrove Oyster	<i>Crassostrea tulipa</i>

Plants

Common name	Scientific name
FLOWERING PLANTS	ANGIOSPERMS
Magnoliidae (Dicotyledons)	
Acanthus Family	Acanthaceae
Black Mangrove	<i>Avicennia germinans</i>
Blue Pussyleaf/Rice Farm Grass	<i>Nelsonia canescens</i>
Cashew Family	Anacardiaceae
Cashew Tree	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>
Mango	<i>Mangifera indica</i>
Dogbane Family	Apocynaceae
Sodom Apple	<i>Calotropis procera</i>
Senegal Saba/Kaba	<i>Saba senegalensis</i>
Monkey's Shuttle	<i>Strophanthus samentosus</i>
Daisy Family	Asteraceae
Goatweed	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>
a Knapweed	<i>Centaurea perrottetii</i>
Madras Carpet	<i>Grangea maderaspatana</i>
a daisy	<i>Sphaeranthus senegalensis</i>
Catalpa Family	Bignoniaceae
Akoko Tree/Kunjunborong	<i>Newbouldia laevis</i>
Caper Family	Capparaceae
Crocodile's Tooth/Woolly Caper Bush	<i>Capparis tomentosa</i>
Cocoplum Family	Chrysobalanaceae
Gingerbread Plum	<i>Neocarya macrophylla</i>
Bushwillow Family	Combretaceae
Burning Bush	<i>Combretum paniculatum</i>
Bindweed Family	Convolvulaceae
Beach Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>
Pea Family	Fabaceae
Groundnut/Peanut	<i>Arachis hypogaea</i>
Camel's-foot Tree/ Napoleon's Plume	<i>Bauhinia monandra</i>
West African Laburnum/ Drumstick Tree	<i>Cassia sieberiana</i>
Rattlepod	<i>Crotalaria retusa</i>
Velvet Tamarind	<i>Dialium guineense</i>
Bell-flowered Mimosa	<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i>
Coral Tree	<i>Erythrina senegalensis</i>
Winter Thorn	<i>Faidherbia albida</i>
African Locust Bean Tree	<i>Parkia biglobosa</i>
Deadnettle Family	Lamiaceae
Gumbar Tree/Gamhar	<i>Gmelina arborea</i>
Bushmint	<i>Hyptis suaveolens</i>
Mallow Family	Malvaceae
Baobab	<i>Adansia digitata</i>
Kapok Tree	<i>Ceiba petandra</i>
Mulberry Family	Moraceae
Strangler Fig	<i>Ficus craterostema?</i>
Sycamore Fig	<i>Ficus sycamorus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Four O'Clock Family	<i>Nyctaginaceae</i>
Bourganvillia	<i>Bourganvillea spectabilis</i>
Water-lily Family	<i>Nymphaeaceae</i>
Egyptian Lotus	<i>Nymphaea lotus</i>
White Water-lily	<i>Nymphaea micrantha</i>
Willowherb Family	<i>Onograceae</i>
Mexican Primrose-willow	<i>Ludwigia octovalvis</i>
Bedstraw Family	<i>Rubiaceae</i>
Shrubby False Buttonweed	<i>Spermacoce verticillata</i>
Mangrove Family	<i>Rhizophoraceae</i>
Red Mangrove	<i>Rhizophora mangle</i>
Liliidae (Monocotyledons)	
Arum Family	<i>Araceae</i>
an arum	<i>Amorphophallus aphyllus</i>
an arum	<i>Amorphophallus consimilis</i>
Palm Family	<i>Arecaceae</i>
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>