

The Gambia in Style

Naturetrek Tour Report

11th – 18th April 2026



African Grey Hornbill



Bearded Barbet



Brown-throated Wattle-eye



Caspian Terns

Tour report by Jim Wardill



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

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Jim Wardill (leader) with 11 Naturetrek clients

Summary

This was a fantastic week's wildlife watching in a range of habitats, focused on birds, while staying at the wonderful Mandina Lodge. With the help of the lodge's local guides, between us we managed to find over 175 bird species, including the sought-after Verreaux's and Greyish Eagle-Owls, African Finfoot, Black Scimitarbill, Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrike and a range of Sub-Saharan African specialities, along with a range of waterbirds, waders and a West African Crocodile!

Day 1

Saturday 11th April

Banjul Airport – Mandina Lodge

We arrived into the diminutive Banjul International Airport late afternoon, and seamlessly passed through security, passport control and baggage reclaim. We boarded our bus, which took us across Banjul, and along the main road through Brikama (with fascinating sights of urban Gambia on display: brightly coloured murals, a cattle market and even a small flock of goats travelling on a bus roof-rack!) We had our first birds of the trip, species of which we would see lots during the coming week: Hooded Vulture, Yellow-billed Kites, African Palm Swifts and Laughing Doves were visible from the bus windows. After thirty minutes, we were bumping down the sandy track to the delightful and undoubtedly stylish Mandina Lodge, on the water's edge in the Makasutu Forest. On arrival, we sat in the bar area with an impressive view out over mangroves and marsh for a short briefing from Nuha, washed down with a refreshing hibiscus welcome drink and a few great birds thrown in: African Harrier-Hawk, Pied Kingfisher and White-throated Bee-eater. Then it was on to our large, intriguing accommodation, along the winding paths through the beautifully-tended gardens.

We were back down to the waterside for our late evening meal, where we shared the restaurant hut with three fascinating Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bats, the males calling and flapping to nearby females. Robin told us about her friend Peter Kaestner (the birder who has seen more birds in the world than anyone else, past or present), and had a list of birds we might see that he hasn't. Jim explained that twitcher's talk for seeing a bird someone else hasn't seen is termed 'gripping them off': we would endeavour to "grip Peter off" by seeing a few species on Robin's list! With plans in place for the following morning, we headed to bed for a much-needed rest.

Day 2

Sunday 12th April

Mandina Lodge – Bafuloto – sunset cruise / Mandina-Makasutu forest walk

We gathered at the poolside restaurant area for coffee and biscuits at 7.00am, to the sound of Common Bulbuls and African Mourning Doves. Olive-naped Weavers and Bronze Mannikins graced bamboo on an island in the middle of the lodge's swimming pool. Paul and Caroline reported a very tiny bat in their room: it turned out to be a Tiny Serotine Bat, with a body just three centimetres long! We got into three large canoes, and set off with three of Mandina's Bird Guides (Sana, AJ and Lamin Junior), up the creek among the mangroves. Before leaving the quay we were into the bird action with Giant Kingfisher, followed by Speckled Pigeons on the roofs of the floating chalets. Excitement mounted with great views of a fly-by Palm-nut Vulture, a Blue-breasted Kingfisher fishing

with a splash from its mangrove root perch, ancient looking African Darters, Western Grey Plantain-eaters flying back and forth, and a gem of a Malachite Kingfisher perched out for all to see well. Further up the creek, we were lucky to spot a perched Lanner Falcon in a tree top, showing its brown head and faintly striped tail, along with some familiar waders on their wintering grounds: Greenshank, Redshank and Whimbrel.

Having made landfall at Bafuloto, we walked only a few hundred yards up a dirt road, surveying a few gardens and waste ground, but boy did we see some birds! AJ was onto one thing after another, and we struggled to keep up in a breathless hour of high-octane birding. A Senegal Coucal ate a small lizard on the track, while Fanti Saw-wings wheeled above our heads, and a stunning male Beautiful Sunbird showed off in nearby trees, while we scoped a Red-billed Hornbill.

A flock of Orange-cheeked Waxbills was stunning, before Senegal Parrots in a huge Baobab tree caught our attention, soon joined by a classy group of Violet Turacos. Blue-breasted Rollers soon joined the party, giving amazing calls and doing their amazing 'rolling' display, showing off their beautiful blue wings to best effect. Other birds included a flock of Senegal Eremomelas, Long-tailed Glossy Starling, Red-billed Firefinch, a very confident Little Bee-eater and a flock of Northern Red Bishops.

Back on the boat, the return to Mandina for our brunch was no less eventful: first three Senegal Thick-knees showed well in the mangroves, followed by a small flock of huge Pink-backed Pelicans overhead (making a Hooded Vulture in the same thermal look puny). Blue-cheeked Bee-eater was a nice addition to the list, and Mottled Spinetail, a broad-winged speeding beast of the skies, was an impressive find as we came back into Mandina. What a morning to start our week's birding here in The Gambia!

Some mid-afternoon birding on this relatively cool day by various members of the group turned up some avian gems in the form of Yellow-crowned Gonolek, Snowy-crowned Robin Chat, Grey-backed Camaroptera, Grey-headed Bristlebill, Green-headed Sunbird and Brown-throated Wattle-eye.

Having reconvened at 4.15pm, we split into two groups, with four on the Sunset Cruise heading out to the mighty River Gambia, while the rest walked out into the Makasutu community forest beyond Mandina Lodge. The group on the boat made a few additions to the trip list, with African Grey Woodpecker, Osprey and Goliath Heron among the highlights. The larger group headed up the Mandina entrance track, and up to the lodge's over-flowing water tanks, where we saw Little Greenbul and Lavender Waxbills (and duly gripping off the world's biggest lister with the latter!).

Out in the open forest, we saw a Melodious Warbler (on its way back to Europe), a splendid West African Pied Hornbill and a flock of Pin-tailed Whydahs. The last were out of breeding plumage, but were scratting in the dirt in a way that kicked up a small dust cloud, not something any of us had seen before.

The insanely colourful Yellow-crowned Gonolek put in an appearance, as did a stunning male Scarlet-chested Sunbird, and we were treated to a tree full of Hooded Vultures. On the way back, we enjoyed a small party of distinctive Green Wood Hoopoes (the West African subspecies, with a black bill) and caught views of a classy Ahanta Spurfowl shuffling along the forest floor.

Day 3

Monday 13th April

Sifo rice fields – Kartong – Rainbow Resort, Sayang – Tanji fish market

After a more substantial early morning breakfast, we set off on the coach towards Kartong, on the coast near the southern border with Senegal. The first of a few stops on the way was at the Sifo rice fields. We initially thought we were getting out of the bus to see a few egrets and herons visible from the road, but little did we know what was in store for us here! Brown Babbler and Yellow-gorgeted Greenbul greeted us off the bus, and then we walked a short distance to a small wet area packed with marsh birds: the distinctive Hamerkop, Squacco Heron, Sacred Ibis, Cattle, Great and Yellow-billed Egrets, African Jacana, Greenshank and Wood Sandpiper straight off the bat! Overhead and in the nearby trees we had stunning Bronze-tailed and Purple Glossy Starlings, Yellow-crowned Gonolek, Black-crowned Night-heron, Grey Kestrel and a magical Pearl-spotted Owlet perched out and roosting in full view, allowing photos galore. On the way back to the bus, a couple of star raptors made an appearance: a Red-necked Falcon perched in a dead tree, and a Beaudouin's Snake Eagle soaring above us with Yellow-billed and Black Kites. What a start!

The next stop was at Kartong Quarry, where we had great views of Little Bee-eater, Yellow-crowned Gonolek and a distant Blue-bellied Roller. A short drive from here we stopped again, at the entrance track to the Kartong Bird Observatory. By now, the sun was beating down on us, but we started in style with excellent close-up views of a stunning Abyssinian Roller, one of the most enjoyed and most photographed birds of the trip. Further down the track, we had a distant Osprey, a closer Bearded Barbet, and Red-chested Swallows flying overhead. Great White Pelicans flew high as we took in the bizarre sight of a Black-headed Heron eating a metre-long Olive Sand Snake it had just killed. The swallowing of the snake was something to behold, and the heron wasn't big enough to consume it all: the tip of the tail remained protruding from the bird's bill!

The bus picked us up again and took us to the end of the track at Kartong Beach. Here, we enjoyed freshly-squeezed orange juice and coconuts in a palm-thatched beach hut overlooking the white sand beach and sea beyond. This distinctly tropical scene was a welcome break, but the birds on the beach beckoned. We walked out towards the shoreline and the large flock of terns there. Almost a hundred Lesser Crested Terns, with a few larger Caspian Terns, Sandwich Terns and much smaller Little Terns, rubbed shoulders with Grey Plover, Eurasian Oystercatcher and Ringed Plover. More pelicans were out to sea, and as we turned to leave, we spotted a female White-fronted Plover blending in with the sand. After getting some nice pics of this uncommon wader, we headed back to the coach to head to our next stop.

After a drive up the coast road for forty-five minutes, we stopped at the beachside Rainbow Resort for a lovely lunch of traditional Gambian food. The place was pretty homespun, but charming, and the food (dishes usefully explained to us by the lady who cooked them) was tasty, and just what we needed after long, hot, but bird-filled morning. We had a little look out over the beach, walking under palm trees filled with Village Weaver nests, to see some Great White Pelicans on and flying over the sea, and some Caspian Terns overhead.

Then came one of the experiences of the whole trip: the incredible Tanji beach fish market. It is Gambia's largest, all crowded onto the beach in a riot of smells, colour and noise. The traditional large fishing canoes were all lined up beyond the breaking waves, with people walking out to them and bringing in the fish in baskets and boxes balanced on their heads. Hundreds of terns and gulls (mostly Caspian of the former, and Grey-headed of the latter)

wheeled noisily overhead adding to the hubbub. Nothing could convey the feeling of being in this mass of humanity, and we thoroughly enjoyed the whole frenetic experience. We walked to the edge of the market on the beach to the north and watched the birds: Slender-billed and Black-headed were among the Grey-headed Gulls, and Caroline picked up a summer plumaged Black Tern, an unusual bird here, flying over the inshore waves. We walked back to the bus through the fish smokery, which was another serious olfactory experience, and a fascinating insight into this local industry. After a bus journey through rush-hour Banjul/Brikama, we arrived back at Mandina for our daily log and delicious evening meal.

Day 4

Tuesday 14th April

Kembujeh – sunset cruise / mudflats walk

This morning, we were paddled out along the mangrove creeks by our guides to Kembujeh. Darters, cormorants, Little Heron and both Giant and Blue-breasted Kingfishers put in appearances from the boat. Once on land, we birded along a track to the ‘women’s gardens’, a set of small fields on the edge of the village, with a mix of low-intensity crops and a good selection of birds. The sightings came thick and fast with a stately-looking Northern Black Flycatcher in low trees, followed by a small flock of the surprisingly coloured Red-cheeked Cordon-bleus, which were met with great enthusiasm from the group! A Lizard Buzzard perched on a close palm tree as Orange-cheeked Waxbills gathered in a nearby hedge. In the gardens, we had Black-crowned Tchagra, and Lanner Falcon, and African Harrier-Hawk overhead, before getting fantastic views of a Fine-spotted Woodpecker, a flock of White-billed Buffalo Weavers, and a hard-to-pin-down African Golden Oriole, among many other fine species. Greenshank and Mottled Spinetail were highlights of the boat ride back to the lodge.

Some of us put a good bit of time in early afternoon at the water tanks near the lodge entrance, and were rewarded with brief views of a male Red-bellied Paradise-Flycatcher, Lavender Waxbills tussling with Olive-naped Weavers for a drink, Little Greenbul, Snowy-crowned Robin Chat, Green-headed Sunbirds and an assortment of doves. Jim stayed longer and managed to see a Spotted Honeyguide.

This afternoon’s sunset cruisers had a great reward in the shape of the much sought-after African Finfoot, along with Osprey, Yellow-billed Storks, Pink-backed Pelicans and African Spoonbill on the banks of the River Gambia. Goliath Heron, Senegal Thick-knees and another perched Lanner Falcon rounded off a great boat ride.

The rest of the group attempted to walk towards the mudflats with our guide Amadu, but we never made it, as we were far too distracted by the birding action that slowed us to a snail’s pace. A gorgeous Snowy-crowned Robin Chat and an elusive Ahanta Spurfowl put in early appearances, followed by perched Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters and a number of sunbirds frantically feeding in trees above the trail. We had the scratting Pin-tailed Whydahs again, followed by very good views of a female Red-bellied Paradise-flycatcher: a beautiful bird indeed. A fleeting glimpse of a black bird flying over us with some red in the wing led to a very exciting fifteen minutes searching for and eventually seeing a spectacular adult male Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike in a distant large tree: the bird of the afternoon! As we headed back to the lodge, we ‘grilled’ (another birding term, meaning getting a very good view of something) a stunning adult Klaas’s Cuckoo, with a very bright, iridescent-green back.

Day 5

Wednesday 15th April

Makasutu forest walk – sunset cruise / Mandina walk

After coffee on a noticeably warmer morning, we headed out for another forest walk in the open woodland close to Mandina. A slow start birdwise changed when we found a male Northern Puffback and then heard (with a few of the group seeing) a Green Turaco. We then spent ten minutes massively enjoying a pair of Klaas's Cuckoos, which showed off their electric green iridescent backs as they fed on insects in nearby trees. By now the good birds were coming thick and fast: a Lesser Honeyguide showed well, investigating tree holes and trunks, Brown and Blackcap Babblers moved through, and we were distracted by a singing Black-crowned Tchagra. A little further on, AJ heard Black Scimitarbill calling, and took us off the path through the forest for a few hundred yards in hot pursuit! We passed a small troop of baboons, and briefly enjoyed them before further scimitarbill tracking, which was eventually successful, with one bird showing well, if briefly. At the same time, Jim found a Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrike, which along with the scimitarbill and the honeyguide made up a trio of classy, uncommon species to top the morning's billing.

After this excitement, we headed out to a more open area with large baobab trees, where we connected with Hoopoe, Fork-tailed Drongo, Grey Kestrel and a fantastic Striped Kingfisher, which we observed keeping its head perfectly still even as its body moved with the wind blowing through the tree. By this time, it was getting hot, so we headed back to Mandina for the tasty cooked breakfast and coffee, seeing en route Mottled Spinetail, Brown-throated Wattle-eye and our first Willow Warbler, which reminded us a little of home.

Early afternoon at the water tanks produced some good views of commoner species we'd seen before, including Little Greenbul, Lavender Waxbill and a truly splendid male Splendid Sunbird!

For the third and final time, we split into two groups, with four going on the sunset cruise and the rest of the group going on a forest walk from the lodge. The boat-goers were rewarded with a hunting Osprey, a fly-by Giant Kingfisher, Pink-backed Pelicans, Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, Goliath Herons, a single Yellow-billed Stork and perhaps best of all, a two-metre-plus long West African Crocodile hauled out on a mudflat!

Those who stayed ashore got great views of both male and female Red-bellied Paradise-flycatchers, along with Ahanta Spurfowl, African Wattled Lapwing, Senegal Thick-knee, Lesser Honeyguide and great views of African Golden Oriole.

Day 6

Thursday 16th April

Pirang shrimp farm – Bonto Forest – Farasuto Forest – Marakisa Wetlands

After a few days at the lodge, we were out on the bus again, first to the extensive wetlands at the abandoned shrimp ponds at Pirang. Here we were treated to some special waterbirds: an impressive pair of African Spoonbills, with red and pale blue bills and red legs, majestic Yellow-billed Storks, resting Caspian Terns, and giant Pink-backed Pelicans. The waders were quite numerous, with decent numbers of Little Stints, Ringed Plovers, Whimbrels and Redshanks, ten Sanderlings (including one in breeding plumage) and a single Red Knot. On the tracks between the

wet areas we had views of striking little Namaqua Doves, and African Red-rumped and Wire-tailed Swallows, which posed well for photos.

Next it was on to the Bonto Forest, where we met Kawsu, who has helped protect this forest for almost twenty years. He promptly led us off the forest track and through the forest to a thicket, from which we could just see up into a tall, large-boughed forest tree, the roosting site of one of Gambia's superstar birds: the enormous Verreaux's Eagle-Owl. The birds had been chased away from their usual perches by Pied Crows some time back, and it had taken Kawsu a few weeks to find the new roost site. We were very glad he had, as our views of this owl, with its large ear-tufts, bright pink eyelids and a black-rimmed facial disk, were a trip highlight! After twenty minutes soaking up good views of Blackcap Babbler, Little Greenbul and African Thrush from the Bonto bird hide, we set off for the Farasutu forest reserve.

Here we spent a short while looking at beautiful Black-rumped Waxbills by a water trough, before walking across open bush (via a fine Dark Chanting Goshawk) to see yet another spectacular Eagle-Owl roosting in a high tree, this time of the Greyish species. Again, we managed great scope views and some photos, before heading off for the final leg of this grand tour, to an area of dry scrub near a huge quarry, where we had one of the most special avian experiences of our entire trip: very close views of three roosting Long-tailed Nightjars. Perfectly camouflaged on beige dried leaves and sticking close to the trunks of the low bushes, these amazing night birds had a definite otherworldly look about them. The tail feather of one bird was raised at an angle and looked a bit like a washed-out pheasant tail feather.

After lunch back at the lodge and a short break, we were out again, this time to Marakisa, a wetland area south of Makasutu, very close to the border with Senegal's Casamance. Here we birded first to the west of the main road, picking up a number of water birds, including Squacco Heron, Cattle and Yellow-billed Egrets, and perhaps best of all, Black Crakes chasing each other at high speed along the bottom of the reedbed. A distant Lizard Buzzard looked great through the scopes, a Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird perched up close, and a pair of spectacularly iridescent Long-tailed Glossy Starlings put on a good show. To the east of the road, we had a large flock of Black Herons, an obliging Black-winged Stilt, flocks of Black-crowned Night-herons flying past, and some more familiar waders: Greenshank, along with Common and Wood Sandpipers. Then it was time to leave for the drive back through the fascinating streets of Brikama. As the bus drove back along the bumpy track to Mandina Lodge, we came across a small troop of Guinea Baboons to finish the day off in style.

Day 7

Friday 17th April

Kubuneh – Makasutu forest walk

After the usual leisurely coffee by the pool, we headed out on our last morning boat trip, this time along the mangrove channel to Kubuneh village. The journey was quieter than other mornings, but we were still delighted with African Darters, Purple Herons and Pied Kingfishers. We were unlucky to miss a White-crested Tiger Heron glimpsed by AJ and Sana, which was chased away by monkeys before we got to see it!

After we made landfall at the village, the birding action quickly heated up to fever pitch, with birds coming thick and fast: African Grey Woodpecker, Brown Babbler, Northern Black Flycatcher, Senegal Parrots, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu and a magnificent Bronze-tailed Starling high in a tree. Then came two new birds for the group: the

charming Bleating Camaroptera, and a few Northern Yellow White-eyes busily feeding in trees above the track. The village was a lovely place, filled with huge trees, mostly old, knarly baobabs, but the centrepiece was a truly huge kapok tree with massive curving buttress roots, which made a backdrop for lovely group photos. Still the birds came and kept the excitement high: Piapiac, Yellow-billed Shrike, West African Pied Hornbill, a lovely Pearl-spotted Owllet and an intense yellow male African Golden Oriole, which gave us the run around. Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters and Mottled Spinetails spiced up our slow paddle back to Mandina Lodge for brunch, where bathing Pied Kingfishers and White-throated Bee-eater, and a spectacular Yellow-crowned Gonolek put in appearances.

Setting out for our final afternoon forest walk, we were only just out of the lodge gates when we were into the action with a small flock of cartoon-like White-crested Helmetshrikes foraging in low vines. We all got good views of this brilliantly-marked bird, which was high on our list of hoped-for species. The good birds continued as we walk out towards the small estuary, all showing well through the scopes: an adult Klass's Cuckoo, a handsome Violet Turaco, stunning Violet-backed Starlings, and Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters. We also saw Yellow-fronted Canary for the first time, along with Pin-tailed Whydahs and both species of Wood Dove.

Walking through an old grove of cashew trees, we arrived at the small estuary with mangroves, patches of saltmarsh and mudflat. We quickly connected with African Sacred Ibis, a lone African Spoonbill and a noisy flock of Spur-winged Lapwings, with a few African Wattled Lapwings joining them. Purple Glossy Starling, Grey Kestrel and African Red-billed Hornbill rounded out the sightings here. On our walk back through the open forest, we had more scope views of the bizarre-looking Bearded Barbet, and a low fly-over by a pair of Palm-nut Vultures.

Day 8

Saturday 18th April

Makasutu forest walk

This was our last morning out in the forest with the bird guides. AJ and Sana were as sharp as ever, getting us onto Brown-throated Wattle-eye, Black Scimitarbill, a characterful Northern Crombec and a diminutive Cardinal Woodpecker, the latter two being the last new additions to our trip list. Violet-backed Starlings, Klaas's Cuckoo, Pin-tailed Whydahs and Violet Turaco also put in appearances. Two notoriously shy star birds gave tantalising flight views only: Guinea Turaco and Oriole Warbler. Two more good reasons to come back to Mandina and the Makasutu Forest at some point in the future! Our destination was the Makasutu Craft Market, where we bought some souvenirs and saw a local artisan weaving cloth for scarves on a pedal and shuttle hand loom. In the nearby forest, we saw wild honey bees in a low tree hole, and had a close encounter of the Guinea Baboon kind, witnessing part of this three-hundred-strong troop of impressive animals pass, complete with the alpha male which jumped at Jim to let him know who was the boss (it wasn't Jim!).

After a pleasant walk back to the lodge, we had the customary cooked breakfast, fruit, juice and coffee, and packed our bags. Before boarding the bus, we had a little leaving ceremony where Jim and Nuha agreed that the staff, guides and the Naturetrek clients had all been fantastic. What a time we had experienced: a fun, bird-filled seven days in good company and in beautiful and fascinating surroundings. It had been a fine week, which will live long in our memories.

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

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



x.com/naturetrektours (formerly Twitter)

Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026							
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>				✓				
Ahanta Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis achantensis</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>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</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 Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>			✓					
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>				1				
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>						✓		
Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>		✓		✓	✓			
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						✓		
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Thinornis dubius</i>					✓			
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>					✓	✓	✓	
White-fronted Plover	<i>Anarhynchus marginatus</i>			✓					
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>			✓					
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>						✓		
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			✓			✓		
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>						✓		
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>			✓			✓		
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>						✓		
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>			✓					
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>			✓					
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>			✓					
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>			✓					
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>			✓					
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			✓					
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>			✓					
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			✓					
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026							
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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>			✓					
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>						✓		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</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>			✓			✓		
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>						✓		
Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</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>				✓		✓		
Shikra	<i>Tachyspiza badia</i>		✓			✓			
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>			✓				✓	
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus migrans aegyptius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>					✓			
Black Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>					✓			✓
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>			✓					
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>		✓			✓	✓	✓	

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026							
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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>		✓		✓	✓		H	
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>					✓			
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>		H	1	H	H	✓	H	✓
Bearded Barbet	<i>Pogonornis dubius</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>					✓		✓	
Spotted Honeyguide	<i>Indicator maculatus</i>				✓				
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>					✓			
Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>				✓				
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicus goertae</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicus fuscescens</i>								✓
Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</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>				✓				
Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulphureopectus</i>					✓			H
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>				✓	✓			
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>				✓	✓			
Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>							✓	
African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>				✓	✓		✓	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicurus adsimilis</i>		✓			✓			
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>				✓	✓		✓	
Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</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 (Grey-backed) Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>		✓			✓	H	✓	
Oriole Warbler	<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>								✓
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>		✓						
Fanti Saw-wing	<i>Psaldoprocne obscura</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>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
African Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis melanocrissus</i>						✓		
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>					✓			
Grey-headed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda canicapillus</i>								
Yellow-gorgeted Greenbul	<i>Atimastillas flavicollis</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>		H	✓		✓	✓	✓	

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026							
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>		✓		✓	✓	H	✓	✓
Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>		✓				✓		
Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>			✓				✓	
Bronze-tailed starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalcurus</i>			✓				✓	
Splendid Starling	<i>Lamprotornis splendidus</i>			✓	✓				
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>				✓	✓		✓	
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	H	
Mangrove Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Western Violet-backed Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes longuemarei</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>				✓				
Olive-naped Weaver	<i>Ploceus brachypterus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>		✓		✓	✓			✓
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</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	April 2026							
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Guinea Baboon	<i>Papio papio</i>					✓	✓		✓
Green Vervet/Callithrix Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus sabaeus</i>					✓	✓		✓
Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus gambianus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tiny Serotine Bat	<i>Neoromicia guineensis</i>		✓	✓					
Striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>					✓	✓		
Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>					✓	✓		
Marsh Mongoose	<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>				✓		✓		

Reptiles

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026							
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
West African Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus suchus</i>					✓			
Nile Monitor Lizard	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>					✓			
Agama Lizard	<i>Agama agama</i>		✓	✓	✓				

Fishes

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026							
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Atlantic Mudskipper	<i>Periophthalmus papillo</i>		✓						

Invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026							
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Butterflies									
African Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>			✓	✓	✓			
Antlions									
an antlion	<i>Myrmeleon</i> sp.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Molluscs									
West African Mangrove Oyster	<i>Crassostrea tulipa</i>				✓	✓			
Crustaceans									
West African Fiddler Crab	<i>Uca tangeri</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Plants

Scientific name	Common name
Anacardiaceae	Cashew Family
<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>	Cashew Tree
<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Mango
Fabaceae	Pea Family
<i>Parkia biglobosa</i>	African Locust Bean Tree
Malvaceae	Mallow Family
<i>Adansia digitata</i>	Baobab
<i>Ceiba petandra</i>	Kapok Tree
Moraceae	Mulberry Family
<i>Ficus (?) craterostema</i>	Strangler Fig
<i>Ficus sycamorus</i>	Sycamore Fig
Nyctaginaceae	Four O'Clock Family
<i>Bourganvillea spectabilis</i>	Bourganvillia
Rhizophoraceae	Mangrove Family
<i>Rhizophora mangle</i>	Red Mangrove
Arecaceae	Palm Family
<i>Borassus aethiopium</i>	Black Rhun Palm/ African Fan Palm
<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	Coconut
<i>Elaeis guineensis</i>	African Oil Palm