

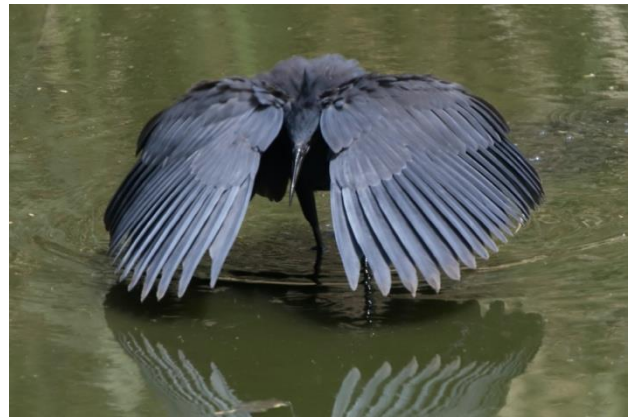
The Gambia in Style – Photography Special

Naturetrek Tour Report

25th – 4th March 2022



Red Colobus Monkey by Allan Winkworth



Black Heron by Martin Miller



Abyssinian Roller by Dave Jackson



Senegal Coucal by Dave Jackson

Tour report by Dave Jackson



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Tour participants: Dave Jackson (leader) with nine Naturetrek clients. Local guides - A.J. Amadou, Lamin, Mas & Sana.

Introduction

The Gambia is a perfect destination for a winter break with amazing birdlife and fantastic light for photography. On this tour we photographed rollers, kingfishers and herons in a number of different habitats and recorded in excess of 150 species during our eight day stay at the award-winning Mandina Lodges, noted for its luxury accommodation and prime location on a mangrove-lined tributary of the River Gambia.

We visited the best sites by coach, canoe and by foot on our quest to capture wildlife and other interesting subjects on camera.

Day 1

Friday 25th February

Banjul

8°C Gatwick, 25°C

The group met for an early start at Gatwick Airport for our morning flight to Banjul under clear blue skies. Being a daytime flight, we were able to observe the ever-changing scenery below; the cloud formations reflected on the sea appeared like icebergs in the Arctic and in stark contrast, the orange-yellow hues of Western Sahara and Mauritania tuned into lush mangrove forests as we approached our destination.

After a relaxing six hour flight with Titan Air we were soon through customs to retrieve our luggage and change money into Dalasis before boarding the waiting bus to transport us to our luxurious base for the next seven nights.

Our first sightings of Gambian birds started with flocks of Speckled Pigeons, Vinaceous Doves, Piapiacs, Yellow-billed Kites and Hooded Vultures as we made our way to Mandina Lodges where our group of 10 including leader were warmly greeted by Linda and given a briefing about the week ahead to the sound of Common Bulbuls and Mourning Doves. We were introduced to four of the guides, A.J., Amadou, Lamin & Sana, who'd be sharing their expertise with us for the week.

There was still enough daylight after unpacking to try out the cameras on birds in the extensive grounds. Grey Plover, Greenshank and Senegal Thick-knees fed in the creek while Giant and Pied Kingfishers fished around the jetty. Village Weavers fed with Red-billed Firefinches and Red-cheeked Cordon Bleus on food put out by the pool.

With orders placed for dinner, Dave showed a presentation of Gambian birds to indicate various aspects of bird photography including portraits, birds in flight, close-ups and clean backgrounds. Camera settings were discussed with advice given on multi-shot settings, benefits of shooting RAW and post-production editing including various applications and noise reduction software.

Dinner was served alfresco under a large, thatched cone where bats roost during the day, before retiring to our lodges after a long day of travel and to prepare of an early start for the first full day in The Gambia.

Day 2

Saturday 26th February

Bifuloto - Mandina Bolon - Mudflats

30°C sunny with a slight breeze.

We met for tea and coffee at 07:00 before our guides, Mas, Sana & A.J. helped us onto the canoes for our trip along the creek to Bifuloto. A pair of Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters huddled together on a dead mangrove branch, the male with longer tail streamers than the female. With cameras and their users now on alert, a Goliath Heron took off showing its immense size followed in quick succession by African Darter, Purple Heron and Great Egret.

One of many Reed, or Long-tailed Cormorants was in no hurry to leave its favoured perch as we approached to get better shots of this obliging bird with its bright red eyes. A Shining-blue Kingfisher darted across the river in front of the boats but didn't appear to land as it disappeared into the mangroves.

Hooded Vultures soared overhead and landed on a pile of oyster shells, picking off any morsels they could find. Sandy mentioned something about Luncheon Vultures!

Villagers smoke the oysters and discard the shells ready to be collected for crushing into fertiliser and whitewash. As we continued along the path birds were everywhere; we simply didn't know where to point our lenses. Some opted for the juvenile African Harrier-Hawk flying overhead while Gunnar chose to photograph a Fine-spotted Woodpecker as it tried to hide from view. No-one managed a shot of the Northern Crombec as it hastily moved through the scrub or the pair of Red-billed Hornbills though Martin managed a respectable shot of a distant Purple Turaco with his high-magnification lens while Allan and Sandy stalked a pair of noisy Spur-winged Lapwings in a marshy area. Pied Crows, Bronze Mannikins and Red-billed Firefinches were added to the photos taken so far although Dave struggled to get anyone's interest in the Zitting Cisticola as it vied for attention while Sue B. tried her luck at one of the fast-flying butterflies that hardly seemed to land long enough for a photo to be taken. A Fork-tailed Drongo was more obliging before we made our way back to the boats where a Lanner Falcon soared by in the company of Yellow-billed Kites. A Palm-nut Vulture watched as we played our lenses on this partially vegetarian bird of prey.

We returned to the lodge for a late-morning breakfast, still trying to process the incredible variety of birds and butterflies we'd seen in just a few hours as Common Bulbuls, Village Weavers, and purring Mourning Doves added to the ambiance.

We reconvened at 16:00 with half the group taking the sunset cruise along Mandina Bolon and the other half walking to the mudflats where a White-crested Helmetshrike was only seen on this day. The tide had turned and flooded the way back. Amadou came to the rescue as he moved the stepping-stone breezeblocks so everyone could safely cross. Those on the boat saw the first of many Ospreys and some were surprised to see seven

Whimbrel perched up a tree. Pink-backed Pelican and Yellow-billed Storks took off from an inlet as we approached the main river before turning back with the sun setting over the mangroves ahead of us.

Pied-winged Swallows and White-throated Bee-eaters sallied across the creek by the bar as we completed the checklist and compared notes before being called for dinner by the attentive staff.

Day 3

Sunday 27th February

Lamin Rice Fields – Abuko – Cape Point

30°C

Today we set off after breakfast by coach past the airport for our walk around Lamin Rice Fields, a series of allotments where the locals grow many different fruits and vegetables on raised beds and tap the trees for palm wine. The place was alive with birds - Squacco and Black Herons, Little and Great Egrets, Greenshank, Wood Sandpiper and flocks of approximately 50 White-faced Whistling ducks on the wetter areas and Senegal Thick-knees and Wattled Lapwings on dry land. A local caught two birds from a large flock of White-billed Buffalo Weavers under a sheet. The guides assured us they would be released but he was in no hurry to do so as he carried them to his wooden hut as their squeals subsided.

A hovering Pied Kingfisher gave the photographers a 'birds in flight' challenge as did Senegal Coucal, Hammerkop and African Jacana as they frequently took to the air. Greater Painted Snipe were just too quick and sporadic to be captured as they darted for cover while Black Crakes scurried around in the drainage channels often giving clear views.

A Grey Kestrel with its spectacular yellow eye-rings perched on top of a dead palm tree before dropping down to a hole in the trunk. It wasn't clear whether it was seeking out a nest site or trying to predate what might have been inside.

Crossing the road, we met the coach to take us the short distance to Abuko National Park where a party of Green Vervet Monkeys, some with babies clinging to their mothers, clambered towards us in the hope for food. We made our way to the hide where the Ranger encouraged us to purchase souvenirs from his shop. A West Nile Crocodile remained motionless in the pond as did a Monitor Lizard that Sue noticed at the base of a tree while we were all taking photos of a Senegal Coucal. A Pied Hornbill gave silhouetted views before dropping out of sight and Diane spotted a Broad-billed Roller perched in front of the hide, just in range for the telephoto lenses. A pair of Palm-nut Vultures were tending a nest at the far side of the pond as we made our way back down the steps and into the forest where an *Agriocnemis* damselfly returned to the same grass stem allowing for photos against a dark background.

Western Red Colobus monkeys crashed through the trees and away while a photogenic Agama Lizard positioned itself on the remains of a termite mound with the sun on its back. A little further along the track a male African Paradise Flycatcher hawked insects from a shady position as the temperature began to rise under the midday sun.

We returned to the coach and made our way through the hustle and bustle of Serekunda for lunch at Cape Point, overlooking a crocodile pool where Caspian and West African Crested Tern, a recent split from the American Royal Tern, splash-bathed in the fresh water.

Photographers practiced their birds in flight technique as the birds skimmed the surface whilst we waited for our meals to be served. We managed to photograph a Black Heron or ‘umbrella bird’ as it used its wings like an umbrella creating shade that attracts fish for it to grab. Several other birds were also photographed on this small pool including Great Egret, Spur-winged Lapwing and Pied Kingfisher.

Sana found a huge hornbill that even he couldn’t identify. The only species in our field guides it resembled was Yellow-casqued Hornbill though it wasn’t a perfect match. Further investigation identified it as a Black-casqued Hornbill, a bird first recorded in The Gambia as recently as 2018 and likely to be the same elusive individual.

With temperatures reaching the high 30s, we made our way back through the traffic to our base where some of the group made use of the pool or relaxed while others explored the surroundings. Martin had discovered a Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher that appeared around the water tanks around three o’clock each afternoon. Allan was there enjoying the bird to himself when others arrived to witness an amazing display as the bird spread its wings and tail as it danced around on its favoured perch. The bird kept deep in the shadows and high ISO’s were needed to record the moment.

Day 4

Monday 28th February

Kembujeh - Mudflats

Cool overnight rising to 32°C, pleasant breeze.

We met at 7.00am for a 7.30 departure by canoe to Kembujeh rice fields for another day’s photography to the screeches of Senegal Parrots as they left their roost site. The first birds to be caught on camera were a pair of Grey Woodpeckers as they preened in the early morning sun, the male showing a distinctive red cap. An adult Purple Heron sat regally atop a mangrove as the boats approached and no doubt became the most photographed bird in The Gambia so far that day, though the handsome fellow wouldn’t have known, or cared.

Next up was an immature Reed Cormorant, another bird warming itself in the rising sun. A Palm-nut Vulture flew over our heads as we arrived at Kembujeh to explore on foot.

Diminutive Namaqua Doves, Splendid Sunbirds, African Black Flycatcher and flocks of non-breeding plumaged wydahs and bishops ensured there were plenty of subjects to photograph. A bandanna-wearing dog sat observing us as we made our way towards the rice fields where noisy Long-tailed Glossy Starlings were silhouetted against the bright sky.

Our guides located two Pearl-spotted Owlets in a mango tree and we took it in turn to slowly approach closer to obtain our shots.

Another bird high up on the ‘most wanted’ list, a Blue-breasted Roller perched distantly on a palm tree and as we tried to get photos a closer bird drew our attention as it perched inconspicuously in the shadows of palm tree leaves. Many record shots were obtained and as we walked back towards the river, White-throated Bee-eaters sat perched on bare twigs against the blue sky giving a perfectly uncluttered backdrop.

We climbed back into the canoes and a local boy gained a round of applause for pushing the second boat off the mudbank. A large crocodile basked on a bare patch of mud as we made our way back to the lodge for breakfast before most of the group took their best ever shots of Osprey and African Darter in perfect light conditions as they perched in clear view.

There was plenty to see around the grounds with a Northern Puffback, Green-headed Sunbird, Beautiful Sunbird, Western Grey Plantain-Eater and ever present Palm Swifts zipping overhead. Honey bees became a photographic subject and food for Little and White-throated Bee-eaters on their regular sorties around the pool.

The advantages of back-button focussing, as well as basic processing and software like Neat Image and Adobe Lightroom, were discussed over refreshments at the bar. Allan utilises Topaz software for his processing and explained how useful it is to the rest of the group.

With its supporting cast of Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat, African Thrush, and sunbirds including Beautiful and Splendid bathing in the overflow from the water tanks, the Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher remained in its normal place, garnering a continuous stream of admirers before our late afternoon excursions.

We chose our orders for dinner before setting off, cameras at the ready, with our respective guides as we split into two groups. Goliath Heron, Great Egrets, and Western Reef Herons were seen up close by those on the boat, while those on the walk saw a new species for the trip: Beaudouin's Snake Eagle!

Day 5

Tuesday 1st March

Paul area - Bufuloto

Cool start, rising to 35°C.

The unexpected cool breeze had several guests returning to their lodges for an extra layer of clothing as we met at 7am for our walk to the Paul area where Stone Partridge and Guinea (Green) Turaco were heard. The turaco couldn't be located as bicycle traffic increased before the partridges flew across the road behind us. Green-headed Sunbird and Little Weavers tantalised the photographers as they moved through the trees while only a few of the group managed to get shots of a Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird as it dropped lower into the scrub.

Birds were coming thick and fast; Red-billed and African Grey Hornbills made willing photographic subjects though a Grey-backed Camaroptera was too active for its photo to be taken. Lavender Waxbills were more obliging though we were soon distracted when a flock of West African Hoopoes came into view. Yellow Wagtail, Chiffchaff, Eastern Olivaceous and Melodious warblers were all ignored as the photographers tried to get shots of the hoopoes. Green Wood Hoopoes and Black Scimitarbill were similarly demoted to also-rans.

A Striped Kingfisher, one of the woodland-dwelling kingfishers with powder-blue tail and flight feathers gave good but distant views and a male Brown-throated Wattle-eye topped off another successful morning's walk before we returned to the lodge for breakfast.

Mangrove Sunbirds, Village Weavers, Common Bulbuls, Mourning and Laughing Doves regularly came down to drink from a plastic water bucket along the boardwalk, while Fanti Saw-wing was an all-too-brief visitor to the pool in the heat of the day. Atlantic Mudskippers were stranded in a partially submerged boat which also attracted a number of dragonflies including Arrow Skimmer and Broad Scarlet. Helen and Martin in the stilted lodge had visits from a bat and a snake but both escaped the camera and identification.

As the temperature rose to 35° C we decided to change our afternoon itinerary from the planned woodland walk to return by canoe to Bufuloto. A good decision as the first birds seen within a few minutes were Blue-breasted and Malachite Kingfisher.

Wader species seen on the river banks included Common Sandpiper, Redshank, Whimbrel and Senegal Thick-knee. As we began retracing our steps along the dusty track a Pygmy Kingfisher was just a little too far away even for the big lenses.

New birds for the trip, Green Pigeons and African Golden Orioles were attracted to a fruiting tree and many shots were taken as the birds feasted on the berries. A pair of Violet Turacos joined them but two hours had flown by and it was time to return to the lodge for dinner, not before the lenses were turned on Sue B. & Sue H., contre-jour as the low afternoon sunlight caught their hair.

We passed the hard-working oyster collectors rowing their fully laden canoes back to Bufuloto to process their haul as our thoughts turned to dinner.

Day 6

Wednesday 2nd February

Kartong – Sanyang - Tanji

32°C.

Today was our much-anticipated visit to Kartong, near the southern border of Gambia with Senegal. Our first stop was at a cashpoint in Brikama where Gunnar joined the locals in a failed attempt to withdraw cash. We learned that the internet was down so we moved a little further along the crowded street to another ATM – success!

We pulled off the road before Kartong by a pond teeming with birds – Giant, Blue-breasted and Pied Kingfishers, Black-winged Stilt, Greenshank, Green and Common Sandpipers were actively feeding.

Hooded Vultures, Palm-nut Vulture, Yellow-billed Kite, Harrier Hawk and an Osprey carrying a fish flew overhead. White-faced Whistling Ducks were busy having personal squabbles while Senegal Thick-knees kept out of their way. A Yellow-crowned Gonolek made its way through bushes showing its crimson breast and yellow cap as it came into view but avoided the cameras as it was out of range and typically furtive.

We could've stayed longer but we hadn't reached our destination, it was 10am and the temperature was rising. As we arrived at Kartong, a man arrived and demanded 50 dalasis 'entrance fee' each. Dave grilled him about his authenticity and where the money was going but the tour brief states that it's best to pay him just to keep the peace.

Meanwhile, everyone was out of the coach and merrily clicking away on an obliging Abyssinian Roller perched on a post in a vegetable patch; what a stunning bird and our third roller species for the trip!

The diminishing wetland area held Sacred Ibis, Purple Swamphens, African Black Crakes and a Grey-headed Kingfisher, another new bird for the trip. As we walked a little further on, a Rufous-crowned Roller was sighted and photographers were in their element. We were on a roll!

The coach had caught us up and some decided to take a ride to the beach out of the sun while others walked. There was very little bird activity on the sea with just a few terns, Whimbrel and Greenshank passing by. A Little Swift joined the Barn Swallows as we sheltered in a juice bar while the guides engaged in a heated discussion about politics, past and present. Some of the group chose freshly squeezed fruit juice and others chose canned drinks.

Sanyang beach, a popular tourist destination just over half an hour away, was our stop for lunch. Although they didn't seem busy, we wondered if they'd gone to catch the fish and dig up the potatoes for our order! However the food was enjoyable, good value and worth waiting for.

After lunch we made our way north to Tanji fishing village where some of the group attached their wide-angle lenses in the hope of capturing some of the activity on the beach, Simon and Sue opted to travel light leaving their big lenses with the coach driver.

Nothing could've prepared us for the incredible sights, sounds and aromas that were about to immerse our senses as hundreds of people in colourful clothing undertook all manner of industrious activity from pulling in hand-painted boats, gutting and smoking fish while flocks of seabirds fought for scraps. Grey-headed Gulls vastly outnumbered their Slender-billed cousins, while Kelp Gulls and terns including Caspian, West African Crested, Lesser Crested and Sandwich patrolled the beach.

Helen felt the wrath of one angry woman as she began to take photos of the melee. Dave tried to negotiate a fee with another lady selling her catch. It was all good-humoured but 100 dalasi (£1.50) was deemed too much and a tip of 20 dalasi for a fish photo was given as a gesture of goodwill, much to the amusement of the lady and her friends.

Bar-tailed Godwits were the only waders on view as we made our way back to the coach, now parked at the quieter end of the village. Diane procured a bag of peanuts from a young girl who seemed a little over-awed by the positive attention she was receiving although undoubtedly grateful for the trade.

The litter-strewn streets were getting busy as we made our way back to Mandina Lodges past shops selling anything from settees to cement and tyres to timber as the more privileged children made their way home from school.

Day 7

Thursday 3rd February

Kubuneh - Kembujeh

37°C.

Today's outing was by boat to the little village of Kubuneh, a short distance east along the bolon from Mandina. On the way Gull-billed Tern, Western Reef Heron, and Giant Kingfisher gave good flight views with the kingfisher conveniently landing on a dead mangrove long enough for photos to be taken of this crow-sized bird.

A group of Piapiacs including several young birds with pink bills were actively feeding in a cultivated area and a small party of Oriole Warbler, usually a difficult bird to see and a guide's favourite, took it in turn to fly from a palm in front of us. A Yellow-billed Shrike perched against the blue sky before the call of a Yellow-crowned Gonolek rang out ensuring our attention. The bird eventually showed very well after brief or distant views of this species earlier in the week.

Northern Grey-headed Sparrows were far more obliging before another new bird, Greater Honeyguide was located by our sharp-eyed guides, A.J. and Sana, in the shade of mango leaves. The two Sues boasted about their sighting of a Bearded Barbet as they'd ventured off with Mas, but it wasn't long before we got that one back with a pair posing nicely on bare branches in the same field of view as a Beautiful Sunbird.

Senegal Parrots became conspicuous calling and flying into a baobab tree and it wasn't long before we noticed a nest hole that they disappeared into as a Shikra patrolled nearby.

We were treated to close flight views of Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters on the way back to the lodge where Cecilia and her team were ready to take our breakfast orders.

The afternoon was spent attempting shots of the commoner birds around the lodge that are so often forgotten and trying to capture the Pied Kingfishers and White-throated Bee-eaters as they plunged into the pool as Dave attempted to identify various birds and bits of birds on camera screens and iPads.

A much-restricted turn-out for the afternoon walk to Kembujeh, not surprising as the temperature had reached 37°C in the shade.

An African Paradise Flycatcher with its long tail gave a good comparison to the usual Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher we'd passed on the way. Our first White-crowned Robin-Chat darted away before photos could be taken while a 10cm long grasshopper clung upside down on tree flowers at head height.

There was some discussion about the identification of a raptor perched in entangled branches and the conclusion we agreed on was Red-necked, also called Rufous-necked Falcon and considered a separate species to the Red-necked Falcon occurring in India by some authorities. Another raptor whose identity was never in doubt was the

Black-shouldered Kite as it perched in full view in an allotment fenced off with multi-coloured garments to help shield the produce from the sun and to stop the soil drying out

As we made our way back to the lodge, Violet Turaco provided good views before Mas and Sana became exited at their next find - Green Turaco. They'd told us on the first day that this was their favourite Gambian bird and they relished in their find as we positioned ourselves to obtain shots as the bird took flight. A spectacular bird to end our last full day in The Gambia!

Day 8

Friday 4th February

Makasutu Forest – Banjul Airport – Gatwick

34°C.

Our final pre-breakfast walk through the forest to the craft market produced new birds, the elusive Grey-Headed Bristlebill & Black-crowned Tchagra before our 'surprise' bird was revealed roosting in the upper-most branches of a eucalyptus. A much-maligned non-native tree due to its environmental impacts though the African Scops Owl knows no different and is happy to roost here with the lack of other desirable trees. We positioned ourselves around the base of the tree to get the best shots as the bird scornfully looked down on us.

After a wander around the depleted craft market, we were heading back for breakfast and to finish packing after our very rewarding time in The Gambia. The guides. A.J. Amadou, Lamin, Mas & Sana had worked hard to show us some fantastic birds. Linda and her staff had kept us fed, our rooms immaculate and provided an excellent service during our stay.

For Allan & Sandy the second part of their holiday was about to start as we said our goodbyes and boarded the bus to the airport for our flight home - but the tour wasn't over yet. No sooner had we set off than a large herd of Guinea Baboons, many with babies riding on their backs, appeared on both sides of the road. It was impossible to count how many there were as they kept on coming. What an incredible end to our time at Mandina Lodges.

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Checklist

Birds (H = Heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March 2022							
			25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4
1	Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>					2			3
2	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>			30			25		
3	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>		1		4				
4	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>			12			2		
5	African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>			3			2		
6	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>		1	2	1	1			
7	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>			✓	✓		✓		
8	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
9	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
10	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>		✓		✓		✓		
11	Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
12	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓	✓		✓			
13	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
14	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>			2		1			
15	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		1			1			
16	Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
17	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>			✓		✓			
18	Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>		✓			✓			
19	Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
20	White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>			1					
21	African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
22	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		3		2	2	1		
23	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>		1					1	
24	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25	Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>		✓		✓		✓		
26	Beaudouin's Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>		1						
27	African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
28	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>							1	

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March 2022							
			25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4
29	Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>			1			1	1	
30	Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>			1					
31	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		1						
32	Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>							1	
33	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>		1						
34	Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>		✓	✓			✓		
35	African Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>						10		
36	Senegal Thick-Knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
37	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>						✓		
38	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						✓		
39	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
40	African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>		2	2			2		
41	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	1					1		
42	Greater Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>			5				1	
43	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>			✓			✓		
44	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>						3		
45	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
46	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>					✓	✓		
47	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	1	2	1	2		2		
48	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>						2		
49	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		2				1		
50	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
51	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>						3		
52	Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>			✓			✓		
53	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>			2					
54	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>						1		
55	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		1	2	6	2	5	2	
56	West African Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus albidorsalis</i>			2			4		
57	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>						1		
58	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>		1				1		
59	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>						2		
60	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓	✓					✓
61	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
65	Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓			
66	Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
67	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>				2	2			
68	African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>				2				
69	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
70	Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
71	Guinea Turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>		H					1	
72	Violet Turaco	<i>Musophaga violacea</i>		2		2		2	2	
73	Western Plantain-Eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
74	Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓		
75	African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>								1
76	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>				2				
77	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March 2022								
			25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	
78	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>							1		
79	Purple Roller/Rufous-crowned Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>							1		
80	Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>							2		
81	Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>							1		
82	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>			1						
83	Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>							1		
84	Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>									
85	Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>		1	1	1	1	1			
86	African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>						1			
87	Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>						1			
88	Shining-blue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo quadribrachys</i>		1					1		
89	Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
90	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
91	Little Bee-Eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>		4		2	2				
92	White-throated Bee-Eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
93	Blue-cheeked Bee-Eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
94	West African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa senegalensis</i>						8			
95	Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>						2			
96	Black Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>						2			
97	African Pied Hornbill	<i>Tockus fasciatus</i>				1					
98	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>		2	1			2	1	1	
99	Western Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus kempfi</i>		2	2	3	4	2	2		
100	Black-casqued Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna atrata</i>			1						
101	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>						1			
102	Bearded Barbet	<i>Lybius dubius</i>								4	
103	Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>								1	
104	Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>		1						1	
105	African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicops goertae</i>		2					2		
106	Brown-throated Wattle-Eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>						1			
107	White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>		1							
108	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>									1
109	Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>				2					
110	Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>		2		2				1	
111	Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>		2		1	1			2	
112	African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>							2		
113	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>		2	1				1		
114	Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
115	African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>			2					1	
116	Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>	✓		✓	✓				✓	
117	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
118	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
119	Grey-headed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda canicapillus</i>									2
120	Fanti Saw-Wing	<i>Psalidoprocne obscura</i>		1				1			
121	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
122	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>		1							
123	Pied-winged Swallow	<i>Hirundo leucosoma</i>	3	2				✓	✓		
124	Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>		1						1	
125	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			2					1	
126	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>			1					1	

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March 2022							
			25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4
127	Short-winged Cisticola	<i>Cisticola brachypterus</i>						H		
128	Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>			1					
129	Oriole Warbler	<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>							5	
130	Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>			1					
131	Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓
132	Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>		1						
133	Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>		2				4	2	2
134	African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
135	Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
136	White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapillus</i>								1
137	Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edoloides</i>			2					2
138	Mangrove Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
139	Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>		2	1	1	1			1
140	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>		1		1				1
141	Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
142	Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastrus</i>		1			1			1
143	Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>		1						1
144	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			4				2	
145	Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>			2					2
146	White-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>			20					
147	Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>		2	4					5
148	Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>			2					2
149	Vitelline Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>		1						
150	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
151	Black-winged Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>				✓				
152	Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>				✓				
153	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
154	Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
155	Lavender Waxbill	<i>Estrilda caerulescens</i>			2		4			
156	Bronze Mannikin	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
157	Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>		1			1			
158	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		1	1				1	
159	Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>		1	1					1

Mammals

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March 2022							
			25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4
1	Western Red Colobus Monkey	<i>Procolobus badius</i>			2					
2	Guinea Baboon	<i>Papio papio</i>								50
3	Green Vervet/Callithrix Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus sabaues</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus gambianus</i>								
5	Peter's Dwarf Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Micropteropus pusillus</i>		?			?			
6	Striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>		2					1	
7	Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>		1						

Invertebrates, Reptiles & Fish

Common name	Scientific name
Butterflies	
	<i>Papilionidae</i>
Narrow-banded Green Swallowtail	<i>Papilio nireus</i>
Citrus Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demodocus</i>
	<i>Pieridae</i>
Small Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigatta</i>
Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>
African Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia florella</i>
Red Tip	<i>Colotis antevippe</i>
Tiny Orange Tip	<i>Colotis evagore antigone</i>
Zebra White	<i>Pinacopteryx eriphia tritogenia</i>
African Spirit	<i>Leptosia alcesta</i>
African Albatross	<i>Appias epaphia epaphia</i>
Common Dotted Border	<i>Mylothris chloris</i>
Caper White	<i>Belenois aurota</i>
African Caper White	<i>Belenois creona</i>
Pointed Caper White	<i>Belenois gidica gidica</i>
Creamy Small White	<i>Dixeia orbona</i>
	<i>Lycaenidae</i>
Pea Blue/Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>
Lang's Short-tailed Blue/Common Zebra Blue	<i>Leptotes pirthous</i>
Mediterranean Tiger Blue	<i>Tarucus rosacea</i>
African Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>
	<i>Nymphalidae</i>
African Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
Common Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis leda</i>
Pearl Charaxes	<i>Charaxes varanes</i>
Cream-bordered Charaxes	<i>Charaxes epijasius</i>
	<i>Charaxes achaemenes atlantica</i>
Bush Charaxes	
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Dark Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia oenone</i>
Darker Commodore	<i>Precis antilope</i>
Diadem	<i>Hypolimnas misippus</i>
River Sailor	<i>Neptis serena</i>
Large Spotted Acraea	<i>Acraea zetes</i>
Elegant Acraea	<i>Acraea egina</i>
Small Orange Acraea	<i>Acraea serena</i>
Dragonflies	
Widow Dragonfly	<i>Palpopleura portia</i>
Black Percher	<i>Diplacodes lefebvrei</i>
Red Basker	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>
Strong Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brachiale</i>
Other	
African Giant Snail	<i>Achatina sp.</i>
West African Mangrove Oyster	<i>Crassostrea tulipa</i>
Brown Paper Wasp	<i>Polistes sp.</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Antlion	<i>Myrmeleon sp.</i>
Giant Milliepede	Diplopoda: family Odontopygidae
Driver Ants	<i>Dorylus sp.</i>
Common Green Mantis	<i>Sphodromantis sp.</i>
West African Fiddler Crab	<i>Uca tangeri</i>
Stick Grasshopper	
Flat Mantis	
Reptiles & amphibians	
Forest Cobra	<i>Naja melanoleuca</i>
Orange-flanked Skink	<i>Mabuya perrotetii</i>
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>
African Common Toad	<i>Sclerophrys regularis</i>
Fish	
African Red Snapper	<i>Lutjanus agennes</i>
Atlantic Mudskipper	<i>Periophthalmus papillo</i>
Guinean Tilapia	<i>Tilapia guineensis</i>

Plants

Common name FLOWERING PLANTS

Scientific name ANGIOSPERMS

Magnoliidae (Dicotyledons)

Acanthus Family

Acanthaceae

Black Mangrove

Avicennia germinans

Blue Pussyleaf/Rice Farm Grass

Nelsonia canescens

Cashew Family

Anacardiaceae

Cashew Tree

Anacardium occidentale

Mango

Mngifera indica

Dogbane Family

Apocynaceae

Sodom Apple

Calotropis procera

Senegal Saba/Kaba

Saba senegalensis

Monkey's Shuttle

Strophanthus samentosus

Daisy Family

Asteraceae

Goatweed

Ageratum conyzoides

a Knapweed

Centaurea perrottetii

Grangea maderaspatana

Sphaeranthus senegalensis

Catalpa Family

Bignoniaceae

Akoko Tree/Kunjunborong

Newbouldia laevis

Caper Family Crocodile's Tooth/Woolly Caper Bush	Capparaceae <i>Capparis tomentosa</i>
Cocoplum Family Gingerbread Plum	Chrysobalanaceae <i>Neocarya macrophylla</i>
Bushwillow Family Burning Bush	Combretaceae <i>Combretum paniculatum</i>
Bindweed Family Beach Morning Glory	Convolvulaceae <i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>
Pea Family Groundnut/Peanut Camel's-foot Tree/Napoleon's Plume West African Laburnum/Drumstick Tree Rattlepod Velvet Tamarind Bell-flowered Mimosa Coral Tree Winter Thorn African Locust Bean Tree	Fabaceae <i>Arachis hypogaea</i> <i>Bauhinia monandra</i> <i>Cassia sieberiana</i> <i>Crotalaria retusa</i> <i>Dialium guineense</i> <i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i> <i>Erythrina senegalensis</i> <i>Faidherbia albida</i> <i>Parkia biglobosa</i>
Deadnettle Family Gumbar Tree/Gamhar Bushmint	Lamiaceae <i>Gmelina arborea</i> <i>Hyptis suaveolens</i>
Mallow Family Baobab Kapok Tree	Malvaceae <i>Adansia digitata</i> <i>Ceiba petandra</i>
Mulberry Family Strangler Fig Sycamore Fig	Moraceae <i>Ficus craterostema?</i> <i>Ficus sycamorus</i>
Four O'Clock Family Bourganvillia	Nyctaginaceae <i>Bourganvillea spectabilis</i>
Water-lily Family Egyptian Lotus White Water-lily	Nymphaeaceae <i>Nymphaea lotus</i> <i>Nymphaea micrantha</i>
Willowherb Family Mexican Primrose-willow	Onograceae <i>Ludwigia octovalvis</i>
Bedstraw Family Shrubby False Buttonweed	Rubiaceae <i>Spermacoce verticillata</i>
Mangrove Family Red Mangrove	Rhizophoraceae <i>Rhizophora mangle</i>
	Liliidae (Monocotyledons)
Arum Family - -	Araceae <i>Amorphophallus aphyllus</i> <i>Amorphophallus consimilis</i>

Palm Family

Black Rhun Palm/African Fan Palm

Coconut

African Oil Palm

Senegal Date Palm

Areaceae

Borassus aethiopium

Cocos nucifera

Elaeis guineensis

Phoenix reclinata