

The Gambia in Style – Photography Special

Naturetrek Tour Report

24th February – 3rd March 2023



Guinea Baboon



Klaas's Cuckoo



Pygmy Sunbird



Hooded Vultures

Tour report and images compiled by Oliver Smart



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Summary

The Gambia, bordered by Senegal is a lowland country, with its roots closely entangled to the River Gambia that flows through its heart. The tributaries of the river provide fantastic access to wildlife, amongst the vast swathes of mangroves. Small villages harvesting oysters are a feature here and the dry savannah forest inland provides home to a number of super bird and mammal species. The trip was located at one base at Mandina Lodges, with two days away from the local area during the week to explore other important local wildlife reserves. The focus on this trip was wildlife photography, so we planned to spend more time with the subjects, capturing them as well as we could in natural settings. The main targets at this time of year included birds and mammals, although a few were also interested in the reptiles and invertebrates too.

Day 1

Friday 24th February

Our flight departed a little later than expected, but reasonable conditions *en route* allowed us to make up time from London Gatwick to Banjul on the west coast of The Gambia. We had mostly all met in the airport and we were excited by the forthcoming birding and general wildlife that we might encounter. Only our tour leader had been to the country before, so the experience was to be new for everyone else. On arrival in the capital, we took the relatively slow navigation through security, passport control and luggage handling before boarding The Gambia Experience bus to the hotel at Mandina River Lodges. We were warmly welcomed by our host for the week, Linda, who sat us down in front of mangroves alongside the bar and introduced us to this special part of The Gambia.

We took a refreshing hibiscus drink and sitting in the shade we enjoyed the light breeze passing through the open seating area. Birds already picked up included Hooded Vulture, Western Plantain Eater, African Palm Swift, Red-eyed Dove, Common Bulbul, White-throated Bee-eater and a Common Redshank.

We set off to our rooms for a short rest and unpacking time and to prepare for dinner. Around the restaurant we enjoyed the evening roost of African Mourning Doves and Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bats hanging upside-down, squeaking and later darting through the buildings and huts.

Our first dinner was lovely and a nice end to our long day travelling. We discussed our plans for the following day and retired excited as to what we may photograph on our first morning canoe trip.

Day 2

Saturday 25th February

Awaking to our first morning's photography was very exciting. We were taken by canoe along the Mandina Bolon tributary (*bolon* meaning creek) of the Gambia River to Buffulotto, an area where oyster farming takes place. We started at 7am with tea and biscuits, before heading slowly along the river in beautiful early morning light.

Our leader had discussed settings and some of the options for shooting, both with the light (front lit) and also into the light (backlit or silhouette). At this time of the morning, it is worthwhile looking in both directions as the low sun makes for warm backlit shots of birds perched at the top of the mangroves. Kingfishers dominated the morning with Pied, Giant, Malachite and a super close Blue-breasted, which posed for images. Osprey, Hooded

Vulture, African Harrier-Hawk and Yellow-billed Kite were the key raptors and we also spotted and closed in on several waders including Common Sandpiper, Common Redshank, Whimbrel and Spur-winged Lapwing as well as more distantly spotting Grey Plover, Common Ringed Plover and Senegal Thick-knee. A few other birds whizzed by without stopping, but Western Reef Heron and Great White Egret posed briefly, the latter exposing nicely against the dark roots of Black Mangrove trees.

We arrived at Buffulotto and disembarked, scanning the nearby trees and oyster-shell piles. A number of vultures were sitting and feeding on them. There was soon a frenzy of activity with plenty of species to aim the camera at, including very close Bearded Barbet, Senegal Eremomela, Red-billed Firefinch, Little Bee-eater and Beautiful Sunbird. Other birds spotted, but not quite close enough for decent images at this stage, included Violet Turaco, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Senegal Parrot, Yellow-billed Shrike, Senegal Coucal, Yellow-crowned Gonolek, Bruce's Green Pigeon, African Grey Woodpecker and Long-tailed Glossy Starling.

After our short walk we made our way slowly back up-river encountering only a Greenshank which was new for the list, before enjoying our brunch *al fresco*. After refuelling, our leader presented a short slideshow on some of the birds we'd expect to encounter during our stay and some of the photographic tricks and tips on how to capture them.

During the heat of the afternoon the group went their separate ways, with some continuing to take images and one catching brilliant views and images of a male Klaas's Cuckoo, others to enjoy the surroundings and some relaxing back in their lodges. At 4pm we reconvened and ordered our dinner before splitting into two groups. One group went off on a sunset boat trip cruise to the River Gambia, whilst the others enjoyed a walk in the nearby Nambikala forest area.

The sunset group caught up with several new species including a Goliath Heron eating an angel fish, Sandwich Tern, several further Osprey sightings as well as close views of Senegal Thick-knee. The walking group started off with a pair of very confiding Brown-throated Wattle-eye and then several Beautiful Sunbird and a pair of Splendid Sunbird. The forest was fairly quiet as we walked during the hot late afternoon, however things soon started to improve once we came out into more open settings. Little Bee-eaters foraging, a pair of male African Harrier-Hawk and a flock of Orange-cheeked Waxbill were of interest and very close. A brief Common Snipe dropped in to the exposed muddy mangrove swamp as well as several African Wattled Lapwing and a lone Grey Kestrel. The enjoyable walk finished with a small group of five White-crested Helmetshrike and the sound of a Little Greenbul.

A brief interlude to shower and change and dinner was served in beautiful surroundings once again. With plans for a full day out on Sunday, we all retired having enjoyed a very pleasurable and wildlife-packed first day.

Day 3

Sunday 26th February

Leaving the hotel just after breakfast, we headed straight to Kartong Wetland via Gunjur. We stopped for 30 minutes to check the birdlife in the small flooded quarry. Good numbers of Senegal Thick-knee and Spur-winged Lapwing were present along with Common Sandpiper, Blue-breasted Kingfisher and Black Scimitarbill. Northern Crombec, Palm-nut Vulture, African Grey Hornbill and weavers were also spotted, with one probably being a female Vitelline Masked Weaver.

At Kartong we started well with a beautiful Abyssinian Roller which posed nicely before taking flight and almost everyone connecting with it against a clear blue sky. The wetlands held quite a bit of water so the numbers of waterfowl, waders and herons was very good. Hundreds of White-faced Whistling Duck were present along with a small flock of Spur-winged Goose. Herons included Black, Black-headed, Grey, Squacco and Western Reef and egrets covered Little, Intermediate and Great White! African Swamphen numbered a few along with Black-winged Stilt, African Jacana and a Yellow-billed Stork flew over. Both Great White and Pink-backed Pelican flew over too giving wonderful photographic views as also did a Shikra circling overhead. An adult and juvenile African Harrier-Hawk also passed by as well as a number of Barn Swallow drinking and a few Red-rumped Swallow too, which came exceptionally close. A West African Crocodile was the only other key non-bird species but we did enjoy a number of dragonflies including Black Percher, Red Basker, Scarlet Basker and Long Skimmer.

At the beach we sipped lovely fresh orange juice, before slowly walking along the shoreline and mangroves to an open area with lots of roosting birds. Greenshank, Kentish and Common Ringed Plover were spotted first as well as plenty of terns including Caspian and Royal. Out at sea two Little Terns foraged in the waters. At the large roost our leader spotted our first White-fronted Plover, a species at its most western and northerly range. We stalked close enough for reasonable shots and also noticed it was a ringed bird. The light was a little hazier now, but we managed to identify Eurasian Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Lesser Crested Tern and a large flock of several hundred Sanderling. Whimbrel were commonplace too.

As we wandered, we enjoyed collecting a few attractive shells and of course continuing birding with some shots of Blue-cheeked Bee-eater. We rested for a few minutes and talked through our sightings before departing and heading to Sanyang for lunch. Following our buffet and refreshments, we travelled the 20 minutes or so to Tanji. This bustling town with its very busy and popular fish market is quite overwhelming for the eyes, ears and nose! We walked slowly along the beach to where the majority of birds were feeding. Grey-headed Gulls were very numerous with a few Slender-billed and a lone Lesser Black-backed. A few Ruddy Turnstone popped up as did four Bar-tailed Godwit, three of which stayed close to the shore, running in and out with the tide.

Back at base we had an hour of good light left, so our leader offered to take those interested on a final walk, on a little exploration of the hotel grounds. We picked up two Green-headed Sunbird in the understorey of a dark section of woodland before finding a small group of birds including a male African Paradise-flycatcher, a female Red-bellied Paradise-flycatcher, two Yellow-breasted Apalis, a Snowy-crowned Robin Chat, a pair of Brown-throated Wattle-eye and another Yellow-crowned Gonolek. Some of these were nicely photographable as the sun started to set.

Day 4

Monday 27th February

This morning we took a walk to Nambikala Field. The pace was slow and the early sun was beautiful, rising behind the mangroves and then the forest. We soon got into the swing with African Grey and Western Red-billed Hornbill, along with a very nice sighting of a pair of Guinea (Green) Turaco. As the sun warmed the land and trees, more birds started to appear, some of which posed nicely for photographs. We were delighted with good views of a male Cardinal and a female African Grey Woodpecker as well as briefer views of Black-crowned Tchagra.

At the fields a number of new birds appeared including Northern Black Flycatcher, Glossy-backed Drongo, Striped Kingfisher, African Pied Hornbill and perhaps best of all a pair of Violet Turacos, which, after feeding flew across a wide area of blue sky with low bushes and allowed all to capture them in perfect flight.

A small troop of Common Patas Monkeys showed in some larger trees, a female carrying a small baby too. We kept coming across Yellow-crowned Gonoleks, but they were incredibly tricky to get in the open. Doves and pigeons milled about everywhere and a Pied-winged Swallow was a nice spot, although it did not hang about.

Our final enjoyable sighting was that of Pygmy Sunbird; a pair came close enough to photograph well, on good perches and still in reasonably decent light.

Our brunch was most needed and very enjoyable and afterwards we spent some time reviewing images, updating the trip list, a little Lightroom tuition and some camera setting adjustments.

The afternoon was enjoyed at leisure before our second activity of the day. The group split into two groups once more with one group completing their sunset cruise and the other walking the local forest. The boat trip travelled to the wide Gambia River looking for birds and to enjoy the glorious views of the setting sun. Goliath Heron was a feature of the trip with several close encounters, with one bird flying close to the boat giving super opportunities for images. An Osprey also fed on a fish in a tree before flying off with its catch. The final highlight included an interesting capture with Yellow-billed Stork and African Spoonbill in the same image perched in a mangrove tree!

The forest group started off quietly with the resident pair of Brown-throated Wattle-eye and then searched in vain for an Ahanta Spurfowl which had been spotted. This elusive and highly localised species can sit still for a long time in dense undergrowth so we didn't spend too long trying. Continuing on, we left the cover of the shaded forest having spotted another Guinea Turaco before enjoying wonderful close views of a male Klaas's Cuckoo. The bird perched in the open, initially just giving the front view, but after it flew it perched in an even better spot and we were able to truly appreciate the wonderful glossy green plumage and bright white underparts.

Our next treat was a pair of Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, which initially were located on their call. One finally perched close to the track and posed sweetly for a few seconds. Beforehand we observed it hunting not dissimilar to a flycatcher as it flew from a fixed perch catching insects on the wing. We also enjoyed a few further hornbills, whydahs and bishops before making our return walk. This evening we were fortunate to observe a large kettle of vultures feeding on a donkey carcass. The birds lifted into the trees when they were disturbed. Our leader discussed and illustrated the opportunities for shooting into the setting sun, using the foliage and birds as perfect black silhouettes against a glorious warm orange-toned sky.

After dinner we discussed plans for the morning's canoe activity and then retired to our rooms.

Day 5

Tuesday 28th February

Our second canoe excursion of the week and today we headed east to Kubuneh, a small, scattered settlement surrounding by mangrove, huge baobabs and a ginormous kapok tree. The journey did not conjure any new species and the tide was high, leaving little exposed mud. Caspian Tern, African Pied Hornbill, Great White Egret, African Spoonbill and Green Monkey all showed briefly, before we arrived at the village where more wading birds were

spotted: Senegal Thick-knee, Whimbrel and Common Sandpiper. A Striated Heron dropped in, but distantly. At the 'beach' where we disembarked, we quickly were on to a movement in the mangroves and after playing a call, a group of four Northern Puffbacks appeared as if out of nowhere. They posed well briefly, with the male's ruffled back showing very well; a great opportunity to visualise the name of the species.

On the land side of the 'beach' a flock of Lavender Waxbill were feeding in a flowering shrub and were happily engrossed, not seeming to notice the 12 onlookers! One of the local guides heard the call of an Oriole Warbler, an elusive species. We did get to see and photograph it too, a yellowish bird with a white-speckled black head; stunning! After this drama of 15 minutes, we continued on, enjoying the early morning light and warming sun. Every day the temperature topped 30 degrees, with clear skies and, thankfully, a moderate breeze, which kept it cooler than it might have.

By the wonderful kapok tree, we engaged in a group photo before being distracted by Black-capped Babblers and in a clearing African Golden Oriole, Brown Babbler, Bearded Barbet and two Lizard Buzzard. Our return leg was only interrupted with a Purple Heron emerging from the mangroves before we arrived back at Mandina.

After breakfast and a few more photography queries, we headed our separate ways for a little bit of rest and relaxation. At 4pm we ordered our dinner as usual, but today we caught better views of Mangrove Sunbird and Yellow-fronted Canary in the mangroves, right alongside the bar area.

The afternoon walk was cut slightly shorter so we could have an earlier dinner to give us time to complete a night walk. These can be very exciting as you really never know what might be found. The afternoon stroll, however, allowed us to capture some great pictures of Guinea Baboon, Long-crested Eagle, White-billed Buffalo Weaver and Yellow-billed Kite, further views of Northern White-faced Owl, Senegal Coucal and Blue-bellied Roller. The baboons, in particular, were of interest as the large troop of some 200+ individuals moved quietly through the forest whilst feeding. Evening light cast down the sandy road giving a lovely rim-lighting to the shots, with a termite mound also in the view for context.

After dinner, half the group came on a night walk. We picked up a few bugs and a Ringed Wall Gecko, which appeared to be foraging for termites. The termites were making a sound beneath the leaf litter, like raindrops hitting the ground. Further on we picked up distant eyeshine and on approach we found several bats foraging, however we could not spot a galago on the walk.

Day 6

Wednesday 1st March

For our second day away from the lodge, we explored the Pirang-Bonto Forest region. We started at the Pirang side, exploring the old prawn farming lagoons where a number of waders, hirundines and other species were present. Most significant were hundreds of Curlew Sandpiper, Pied Avocet, Little Stint and Whimbrel along with smaller numbers of Caspian and Royal Tern, Redshank, Greenshank and Grey Plover. Several Wire-tailed Swallow posed beautifully and a couple of Fan-tailed Warbler also showed well for images.

By now the temperature was increasing so we were collected by bus and transported to the Bonto end of the forest. After collecting our local reserve guide, we made our way into this beautiful gallery forest. After only one hundred metres we located some nice birds including Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Yellow-bellied Apalis, Green Hylia and

Lavender Waxbill. Despite being high in the canopy, they were very nice to see. Onward to a roosting location for the African Wood Owl, we happened across an Elegant Sand Racer snake, which whizzed along the ground at great speed. Four Black-headed Lapwing were also a bonus in the open fields. The owl was perched at mid-canopy and at times opened its eyes, but for each group of two onlookers it was a lucky opportunity if it did! Also, whilst observing the owl, a Puff Adder slowly slid away beneath dense vegetation, but sadly no images were forthcoming and our leader was not going in after it!

Heading on to another roost site, we bumped into an African Goshawk, a tricky species to see, yet despite the brief views it was a trip bonus. A strange treehopper with blue wings flew on to a branch and is still a mystery to all. We also spotted a beautiful moth *Alytarchia leonine*, roosting on the underside of a leaf. Shortly afterwards a Verreaux's Eagle Owl, however, was much more obliging as it sat on a large tree branch. It was not that close but clear and in reasonably good light.

As we headed back, we also found a Palm-nut Vulture, perhaps the best view of the morning and very photogenic sitting in the canopy. The angle, composition and lighting made for very pleasing images.

Before returning to the bus, we sat and enjoyed some necessary refreshments but also capturing Little Greenbul and African Thrush perfectly in the open coming to a drinking pool. The murals on the ranger's hut were also very beautiful and worthwhile of a picture, selfie or both!

After lunch back at Mandina Lodge, those wanting a further walk headed to Marakissa for the evening excursion. It was particularly hot, but once we were out of the vehicle and enjoying watching birds that seemed not to be a problem. We started off scanning the roadside marshes and establishing what birds were present and working out good angles for light. We worked the eastern side of the road first and from the bridge photographed a Purple and a Night Heron in flight. We dropped down to the water's edge and traversed the shallow lagoons. A few birds posed reasonably well including Wood Sandpiper, Great White Egret and Spur-winged Lapwing. There were lots of other birds around and on different days more was certainly possible. Black Crake, White-faced Whistling Duck, African Spoonbill, Woodland Kingfisher, Blue-bellied Roller, Green Wood Hoopoe, Black Heron and more were present.

For the last 15 minutes we returned to the road and scanned the western side, connecting with a small group of Long-tailed Glossy Starling that started off perched, before they dropped to the pools for a bath and then back to trees, before finally flying off. A good sequence of shots was possible.

Back at the lodge, we had another fine dinner and entertainment from a local musician playing an African Kora, before our leader gave a half-hour presentation on wildlife photography, offering tips and tricks on capturing different types of species.

Day 7

Thursday 2nd March

Our final full day and we started off with our last canoe cruise; this time upriver towards Kambujeh rice fields. Setting off after tea & coffee at 7.30, we took three canoes, splitting the group equally into threes. The light was gorgeous and we quickly picked up a pair of Giant Kingfisher perched on the abandoned catamaran. These huge

birds with a large bill designed perfectly for catching fish and also crabs. Also, a lone Swallow-tailed Bee-eater was observed overhead, albeit very briefly.

Soon afterwards we spotted Common Redshank, Senegal Thick-knee, Grey Plover and two Malachite Kingfisher, which both posed well for us. Near a tourist building upriver, a large troop of Guinea Baboons were warming themselves in the sun. They were mating, preening and appearing to be having a fantastic time! It was fun watching the baby baboons running down the helter-skelter like tower!

Each bend new birds appeared and next were Purple and then Striated Heron. The first took flight as we very slowly cruised by, but against the perfect blue sky was a super shot to be captured. The Striated continued to preen and generally ignored the boats. Finally, it joined a second bird, and appearing to confuse them both, they quickly sorted out their territorial boundaries and went their separate ways.

At the landing spot we walked to the women's village allotment area, which is a magnificent example of productive farming, yet keeping plenty of habitat for wildlife. Here we spotted a number of good birds including Pearl-spotted Owllet, Blue-bellied Roller, Brown Babbler, Western Red-billed Hornbill, Namaqua Dove and a poised upside-down Gambian Sun Squirrel.

Just before leaving we spotted a nest site of Senegal Parrot with both birds in attendance. The return leg was quicker with the rapidly dropping tide, however we still had time to enjoy a brief Grey Kestrel, Common Sandpiper and several Common Ringed Plover.

Back at the lodge, our leader spotted over 20 Little Swift overhead, before we settled down to enjoy another relaxing brunch followed by some Lightroom tuition on cropping techniques and best practice.

The afternoon was at leisure before our final evening walk to Nambikala mud flats. Setting off at 4.30pm, we slowly walked the scrubby forest towards more open areas. Brown-throated Wattle-eye got our attention first as the male caught insects and fed them to the female. Then a couple of male African Paradise-flycatchers were found hunting low in the bush. At the edge of forest, we encountered a pair of African Grey Woodpecker high in a dead palm. Along the edge of the allotments, our leader caught sight of a Pearl-spotted Owllet landing in a tree. This time the bird was in clear view and posed well in two locations for photographs. In the farming enclosure two Senegal Coucal and four Long-tailed Glossy Starling were seen along with the surprise find by one of the group, of a Black-winged Kite: perfect! It was distant, so we meandered through the patchwork mosaic of small allotments until we arrived close to the tree it was perched on, only to find it had flown to exactly where we had come from! We retraced our steps after photographing another hornbill but soon after getting back the bird flew and not everyone managed to connect this time either.

As we began the walk back as the sun started to set, we enjoyed views of two Grey Kestrel and for some of the group several Marsh Mongoose scurrying across the open mudflats in-between stands of mangroves.

Our final dinner with discussions covering a range of topics completed proceedings and we all retired ready for our final day and return home.

Day 8

Friday 3rd March

Despite it being our last morning, we walked the local Nambikala circuit towards Matasuku Forest. We picked up Pygmy Sunbird soon, although too distant for more pictures. Then a nice find with two Violet and two Guinea Turaco together. The early light appeared particularly beautiful, warming the tones of the surrounding vegetation. We spotted a Snowy-crowned Robin Chat and several commoner species before picking up Swallow-tailed Bee-eater. We closed in on the position and gained good views and photo opportunities of two birds in hunting mode.

In the same open area, we located two Yellow-crowned Gonolek and here we managed to finally see these birds pretty well. The final highlight of the day was a small group of White-crested Helmetshrike. The four birds moved through the trees, all adults with their stunning bright-white crests raised. A nice species to end the trip for many in the group, who hadn't seen them earlier in the week.

After breakfast and completion of our final trip summaries, we headed off to finish our packing. Our leader then gave a short presentation to the staff and guides, before making our way to the airport and onwards home. A wonderful photographic adventure in western Gambia, rich in birdlife and a few other treats thrown in too. There were plenty of highlights in the warm tropical climate and it would be wrong to say we would not be back!

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	February - March 2023							
		24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>			Y			Y		
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>			Y					
Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>						Y		
Ahanta Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis achantensis</i>				Y				
Double-spurred Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>		Y		Y	Y	Y		Y
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>			Y				Y	
Western Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Violet Turaco	<i>Tauraco violaceus</i>		Y		Y	Y			Y
Guinea Turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>				Y				Y
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>		Y			Y	Y	Y	
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>		Y		Y		Y		
Four-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles quadricinctus</i>			Y					
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>			Y		Y	Y		
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Black-billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>		Y		Y	Y			Y
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>			Y			Y	Y	
Bruce's Green Pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>		Y						
African Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>			Y					
Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>						Y		
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>			Y					
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			Y			Y		
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>		Y	Y				Y	Y
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		Y	Y			Y	Y	
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		Y	Y			Y	Y	
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>			Y					
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>			Y			Y		
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>			Y					
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			Y					
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>						Y		
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		Y						
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		Y				Y	Y	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>						Y		
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		Y	Y			Y	Y	
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>			Y					

Common name	Scientific name	February - March 2023							
		24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>			Y					
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			Y					
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>		Y				Y		
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>			Y					
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>		Y						
West African Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus albididorsalis</i>			Y			Y		
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albibrons</i>			Y					
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>			Y	Y	Y	Y		
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>			Y					
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>				Y	Y	Y		
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>					Y		Y	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>			Y			Y		
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		Y	Y	Y		Y		
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>			Y					
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>		Y		Y				
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>			Y			Y		
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			Y			Y		
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>		Y	Y			Y	Y	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>			Y				Y	
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>		Y	Y					
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>			Y					
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y			
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>							Y	
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>		Y	Y					
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>						Y		
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>				Y	Y		Y	
African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>						Y		
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>			Y					
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>						Y		
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>					Y			
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
African Wood Owl	<i>Strix woodfordii</i>						Y		
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>							Y	
Northern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>					Y			
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>						Y		
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>		Y	Y			Y	Y	Y
Black Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>			Y					
Western Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus kempii</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Common name	Scientific name	February - March 2023							
		24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3
African Pied Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros fasciatus</i>				Y	Y	Y		Y
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>		H	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>			Y					
Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>		Y			Y	Y	Y	
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>				Y				
Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>		Y	Y	Y				H
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>						Y		
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>		Y				Y	Y	
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>		Y				Y	Y	
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>							Y	Y
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>		Y		Y			Y	
White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>			Y			Y		
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>				Y				
Bearded Barbet	<i>Lybius dubius</i>		Y			Y			
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>				Y				
Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>					Y			
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicops goertae</i>		Y		Y			Y	Y
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicops fuscescens</i>				Y				
Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>		Y					Y	
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>				Y				
Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>	H	H	Y	Y	H	H	Y	H
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>				Y				
Orange-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>						Y		
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>					Y			
Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	H	Y
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>		Y						Y
Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>		Y				Y		
African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>					Y			
Glossy-backed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus divaricatus</i>				Y				
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>				Y				
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>			Y	Y			Y	Y
Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>	Y	Y						
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>			Y			Y		
Grey-headed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda canicapillus</i>				H				
Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>		H				Y		
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fanti Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne obscura</i>		Y			Y		Y	Y
Pied-winged Swallow	<i>Hirundo leucosoma</i>				Y				
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>						Y	Y	Y
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		Y	Y				Y	
Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>				Y				

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		24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>						Y		
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>			Y			Y		
Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>			Y					
Green Hylia	<i>Hylia prasina</i>						Y		
Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>						H		
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>						Y		
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>			Y			Y		
Oriole Warbler	<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>					Y			
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>				Y			H	
Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>		Y		Y				
Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>					Y			
Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>						Y		
Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>				Y				
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>		Y	Y					Y
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>								Y
Mangrove Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>		Y			Y	Y	Y	Y
Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platura</i>				Y				Y
Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>			Y	Y				
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>				Y				Y
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastrus</i>		Y		Y		Y	Y	Y
Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>		Y		Y				Y
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>		Y	Y	Y				
White-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>			Y			Y		
Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>		Y			Y			
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>				Y				
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
Lavender Waxbill	<i>Glaucostrelda caerulescens</i>		Y			Y	Y		
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>		Y					Y	
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>		Y		Y				
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		Y				Y		
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>				Y				

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	February - March 2023							
		24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3
Common Patas Monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>				Y				
Guinea Baboon	<i>Papio papio</i>	Y		Y			Y	Y	Y
Green Vervet/Callithrix Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus sabaues</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus gambianus</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Peter's Dwarf Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Micropteropus pusillus</i>		Y						
Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>								Y
Marsh Mongoose	<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>								Y

Others

Common name	Scientific name	February - March 2023							
		24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3
Caper White (aka Pioneer White)	<i>Belenois aurota</i>			Y					
Nymphalidae									
African Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Moths									
Crimson Spotted Footman	<i>Utetheisa pulchella</i>		Y	Y				Y	
<i>Alytarchia leonina</i>	<i>Alytarchia leonina</i>						Y		
<i>Comibaena cf leucospilata</i>	<i>Comibaena cf leucospilata</i>			Y					
Odonata									
Widow Dragonfly (aka Lucia Widow)	<i>Palpopleura portia</i>								Y
Black Percher	<i>Diplacodes lefebvrei</i>			Y					
Red Basker (aka Broad Scarlet)	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>			Y					Y
Scarlet Basker	<i>Urothemis signata</i>			Y					
Long Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum trinacria</i>			Y					
Skimmer sp.	<i>Orthetrum sp.</i>			Y					
Crimson Dropwing	<i>Thritemis aurora</i>						Y	Y	
Reptiles									
Elegant Sand Racer	<i>Psammophis elegans</i>						Y		
Puff Adder	<i>Bitis arietans</i>						Y		
Agama Lizard	<i>Agama weidholzi</i>		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	
Ringed Wall Gecko	<i>Tarentola annularis</i>			Y					
West African Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus suchus</i>			Y					
Others									
West African Mangrove Oyster	<i>Crassostrea tulipa</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Antlion	<i>Myrmeleon sp.</i>				Y	Y			
West African Fiddler Crab	<i>Uca tangeri</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y			
<i>Megachile sp.</i>	<i>Megachile sp.</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Cryptoflata sp.</i>	<i>Cryptoflata sp.</i>					Y			
Atlantic Mudskipper	<i>Periophthalmus papillo</i>		Y	Y					

Plants

Common name	Scientific name	February - March 2023							
		24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3
FLOWERING PLANTS	ANGIOSPERMS								

Cashew Family	Anacardiaceae								
Cashew Tree	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mango	<i>Mngifera indica</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dogbane Family	Apocynaceae								
Monkey's Shuttle	<i>Strophanthus samentosus</i>				Y				
Deadnettle Family	Lamiaceae								
Bushmint	<i>Hyptis suaveolens</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mallow Family	Malvaceae								
Baobab	<i>Adansia digitata</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kapok Tree	<i>Ceiba petandra</i>					Y			
Four O'Clock Family	Nyctaginaceae								
Bourganvillia	<i>Bourganvillea spectabilis</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Water-lily Family	Nymphaeaceae								
Egyptian Lotus	<i>Nymphaea lotus</i>								
White Water-lily	<i>Nymphaea micrantha</i>			Y					
Mangrove Family	Rhizophoraceae								
Red Mangrove	<i>Rhizophora mangle</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Palm Family	Areaceae								
Coconut	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>				Y				



Violet Turaco