

The Gambia in Style – Photography Special

Naturetrek Tour Report

26th January – 2nd February 2024



Piapiac



Spur-winged Lapwing



Grey Heron



Abyssinian Roller

Tour report and images by Oliver Smart



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Tour participants: Oliver Smart (leader), local guides and eight Naturetrek Clients.

Summary

Situated on the west coast of Africa, The Gambia snuggles within Senegal on three sides, with the Gambia River running through its heart. Our tour was designed mainly to target birds during the dry season, along with a few mammals and reptiles. The trip was a photographic tour, so we would spend more time working with well-lit, confiding and attractive subjects in nice surroundings. Some of the many highlights included sunset cruises, where we practised photographing birds against the setting sun: Oriole Warbler, African Golden Oriole, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Abyssinian Roller and many more.

Day 1

Friday 26th January

Our group met at Gatwick Airport and were mostly seated together on the plane. We enjoyed recounting stories from previous tours and travel, and most of the group had travelled with the leader before, which made introductions easy.

The flight arrived to very hot weather in Gambia and after proceeding through immigration and collecting local currency and SIM cards, we were collected by The Gambia Experience and transferred to Mandina River Lodges within the Makasutu Forest. After being welcomed and briefed by the owner Linda while enjoying refreshments, we checked in to our rooms to unpack.

We met back at the open-air bar area for pre-dinner drinks and discussions on the itinerary and plans for the week before settling down for dinner. We spotted quite a good number of birds including Klaas's Cuckoo, Senegal Parrot, Red-eyed Dove, Mourning Collared Dove, Cattle Egret, Whimbrel, Common Bulbul, White-throated Bee-eater and the background sounds of Brown-throated Wattle-eye.

Day 2

Saturday 27th January

As is usual with tropical birding and photography, the first morning is always the craziest, when everything is new and exciting and there are dozens of different species to aim the camera at. Whilst enjoying hot drinks and biscuits at 7.00am, we watched Giant Kingfisher, Western Grey Plantain-eater, Yellow-billed Kite and several Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bats coming back to the restaurant to roost.

We met three of our local guides and boarded the canoes for our journey downstream. Birdlife was a little hard to locate this morning: however, we still spotted plenty, with Osprey, Malachite and Pied Kingfishers, Hooded Vulture, Ring-necked Parakeet, Senegal Thick-knee and African Palm Swift.

We docked at Buffulotto, a small oyster farm along the riverbank. The vultures were quietly picking away at the shells, looking for any tiny morsel still available. A Yellow-throated Leaflove perched high in nearby vegetation. We walked a short distance picking up many regular species, including Bearded Barbet, Beautiful Sunbird, Green Wood-hoopoe, Bronze Mannikin, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Red-billed Firefinch, Yellow-billed Shrike, Brown and Blackcap Babblers, Senegal Parrot, African Grey and Western Red-billed Hornbills, African Harrier-hawk, Long-tailed Glossy Starling, Pin-tailed Whydah, Yellow-fronted Canary and Spur-winged Lapwing. Not all the species

were easily photographable, but some showed pretty well, particularly the smaller passerines as they came to pools to drink.

Our return journey collected Common Sandpiper, Purple and Black Herons, Grey Plover and Whimbrel perching in tall Red Mangrove trees. It always appears odd to see them high above the ground, compared to their terrestrial behaviour in northern Europe. After brunch we had some time to relax and enjoy the grounds, pool and further wildlife viewing. A pair of Yellow-crowned Gonolek were showing well next to the restaurant, and an African Thrush perched in a tree.

For the evening excursions we split into two groups and our leader went with the boat party for the sunset cruise, while the other group went for a walk to the local mud flats. For the boat trip group, we were blessed with perfect lighting conditions and very calm water. The connection between the tributary and the main Gambia River was like a mirage. We encountered plenty to photograph too, with Goliath Heron, Western Reef Heron, Great White Egret, Pied Kingfisher, Caspian Tern, Knob-billed Duck and a fantastic African Darter against the setting sun. We also spotted a West African Crocodile, which didn't hang around as it raced into the water. Tonight's challenge was capturing images of birds against the setting sun, and our leader encouraged the group to use silhouette with the orange sky, framing them against the mangroves and the sun in the shot. We had a great opportunity with an African Darter which posed perfectly so we could capture the perfect image.

The forest crew encountered a number of good birds too, including Brown-throated Wattle-eye, a Lizard Buzzard which was nicely photographable, Guinea and Violet Turaco, and Little Bee-eater. The latter using regular perches to hunt from and returning each time, making watching and photographing them that much easier.

Day 3

Sunday 28th January

A slightly earlier start, as we had breakfast before heading out for the day to Kartong Wetland. During the hour's drive, we stopped at Gunjur, a flooded quarry along the roadside. This is always a good place to stop and we were impressed at the number of Spur-winged Lapwing totalling 24, plus nine Senegal Thick-knees and at least 10 African Wattled Lapwings. Osprey flew overhead, regularly along with a juvenile African Harrier Hawk. A lone Wood Sandpiper, Malachite Kingfisher, Hamerkop, Yellow Wagtail and two Nile Monitor lizards were the other highlights.

On to Kartong, and as soon as we disembarked our leader spotted some Piapiac among some cattle and donkeys. We navigated to the best side for the light and one returned and eventually posed perfectly on a donkey's back.

Our next highlights were a Purple Roller followed by an Abyssinian Roller which posed on a fence at the edge of a vegetable plot being tended to by local villagers. They said we could come in, and the bird remained in position for many minutes until it eventually spotted some prey on the ground and dropped down to snatch it.

We walked on and arrived at the large, wet, marshy area with shallow water, surrounded by reeds, grassland and a variety of shrubs and trees. The site was incredibly productive, with many species of wader, pelican, heron, duck, raptor and passerine. Some highlights included several African Spoonbill, African Swamphen, Pink-backed Pelican a single Woodchat Shrike and overhead several Mottled Spinetail.

At the beach we ordered some freshly squeezed juice and watched a kettle of Hooded Vultures feeding on two turtle carcasses. A distant cow along the beach had three Yellow-billed Oxpeckers tending to it!

Lunch was our next destination at Sanyang, and then on to Tanji to experience the sight, sound and smells of the fish market. For us though, despite the local cultural delights, we wanted to see the birdlife, and quickly found plenty to aim the camera at. Grey-headed, Lesser Black-backed and a sole Slender-billed Gull were present along with Sandwich, West African Crested and Caspian Terns. Waders were present too with over a dozen Turnstone, Bar-tailed Godwit, a sole Eurasian Curlew and a Common Redshank. White-breasted Cormorant and more pelicans spent time offshore.

After admiring the huge array of hermit crabs in the rock pools with a group of local children, we headed back to Mandina for some rest, followed by checklists and dinner. We took an evening walk afterwards and saw a roosting Blue-breasted Kingfisher.

Day 4

Monday 29th January

After tea and biscuits, we headed by canoe to Kambujeh Rice Fields. This large allotment run by local women is fantastic for fresh crops, but also for birdlife. Before we arrived the shallow waters on a low tide caused us to bottom-out a few times, to the point where we walked through the river for the remaining 50 metres!

Double-spurred Spurfowl called and darted for cover, and a beautiful male African Golden Oriole posed in a fruiting fig tree. The bright yellow was striking, and we even managed some shots as it fed on the fruits, a highlight for many in the group. A pair of Oriole Warblers posed and sang back to us from a palm tree where a small group of Black-necked Weavers were also flitting about.

In the vegetable garden, we enjoyed several new and photographable birds including Senegal Coucal, Pearl-spotted Owllet, Vinaceous Dove, Western Red-billed Hornbill and Fine-spotted Woodpecker.

After mid-morning brunch and some additional tuition throughout the afternoon, we headed out in two groups, to complete once more the sunset cruise and mud flats walk for the alternative groups. The group walking had great success this evening with a number of superb birds including Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Little Greenbul, Green-headed and Variable Sunbirds, African Paradise Flycatcher and Black Crake. The two highlights for the group were a very obliging and superb photographable Yellow-crowned Gonolek and a pair of mating Senegal Parrot!

For the sunset crew, we enjoyed another fantastic voyage to the Gambia River and encountered the usual suite of egrets, herons and a few raptors including a Tawny Eagle. We connected with a decent Goliath Heron and also tried shooting various egrets and herons using dark backgrounds to accentuate their paler plumage. We then started working with subjects into the light, and soon had an Osprey in our sights. We paused to line up the subject with the sun and captured some pleasing images of the bird in silhouette against an orange sky.

Day 5

Tuesday 30th January

Following our routine tea and biscuits, we headed off together for a walk through Nambikala Forest close to the hotel. With slightly cooler conditions and a little lighter cloud cover, we were able to enjoy plenty of birdlife without the draining heat later in the morning. We picked up a number of excellent birds to photograph, and we spent time working these. The first were five White-crested Helmetshrike that were foraging low through the scrubby woodland. Their beautiful white crests and yellow eye-wattles are striking and make for excellent subjects. They are known to move in groups so where there is one, you'll usually find several, and they'll often pose together too.

We then encountered a real treat: a male Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike. Again we were lucky to be able to follow it through the open woodland as it moved from tree to tree, foraging as it went. The challenge was trying to capture it in flight, but this was easier said than done and getting a dorsal view in flight was even harder.

We also tried to connect with Guinea Turaco, which were a little shyer and not quite as approachable. Western Red-billed Hornbill, Yellow-crowned Gonolek, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Northern Red Bishop and a plentiful supply of finches, vultures and doves kept us entertained until breakfast. The last success of the morning was a lovely, super-confident male Brown-throated Wattle-eye, which posed numerous times in the understorey.

Following breakfast and some pleasant and timely downtime, we took our second walk of the day along the track from the hotel to a farmland location called the Paul Area. We slowly meandered, as we often do with photography groups, ensuring that we don't miss any opportunities. We encountered Red-bellied and African Paradise Flycatchers, along with a male Grey Woodpecker, but none were easily photographable.

Next to the Matasuku Cultural Forest, we eventually located a roosting Northern White-faced Owl, which despite being high in the canopy had a fairly clear view for shots. Once we reached the farmland area, we located a fruiting tree which had a number of African Thrushes and a pair of feeding Violet Turaco, one of which gave reasonably clear views. A pair of Abyssinian Rollers chased each other in the background. Our leader then spotted a Lizard Buzzard in the field, perched in a palm tree, so we all navigated the grid system of fields and were able to get to within about 10 metres, allowing for excellent photographic views. A great end to the productive day.

After another delicious dinner, we headed to bed for a well-deserved rest and the excitement of one of the best birding days to come in the form of Bonto Forest in the morning.

Day 6

Wednesday 31st January

For our second outing from the lodge, we took the bus from the hotel to Bonto Forest. This beautiful gallery forest is one of just a few remnants in The Gambia and home to some very special birdlife. We arrived at 08.30, just as the sun was breaking through the canopy. We spent the first 45 minutes watching a variety of birds visit the drinking pool by the site entrance. Black-necked Weaver, Grey-headed Bristlebill, Little Greenbul, African Pygmy Kingfisher, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, Common Bulbul and Red-eyed Dove came to visit the watering hole. A Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird perched in the trees behind, periodically called.

We met one of the local guides, Mariama, and she took us for a walk through the forest and scrubby grassland habitats. We started off with a Yellow-breasted Apalis calling in the canopy and shortly afterwards we came into

an open area where Violet Turaco, Long-crested and Tawny Eagle, Purple Starling and a pair of Brown-necked Parrot flew overhead. Sadly, they did not stop, which was a shame as these are quite scarce in the country.

Back into the forest it felt quite quiet, although we did locate a large roving flock of birds, but they remained high in the canopy and were very difficult to pick out amongst the dense foliage. We enjoyed the views of a close African Wood Owl, which, despite a branch across its chest, made for a nice image. We also connected with a Green Hylia high in the trees once more (a very tricky bird to photograph), and back at the entrance we spent another short time enjoying the regular drinking and bathing activity.

We returned to Mandina Lodges for lunch and, following a short siesta, we drove 45 minutes to Marakissa. This area of wetlands either side of the road is a fantastic place to explore. Several shallow pools surrounded by trees, grassland and scrub provide a perfect mix of habitats for a good number of species. It was much warmer and humid too, with heavier cloud cover than we'd experienced throughout the trip.

Pied, Great and Malachite Kingfishers were seen, along with a couple of photographable Hamerkops. A flock of seven Green Wood-hoopoes emerged from a tree but failed to show well enough for pictures. Plenty of wading birds including Green, Common and Wood Sandpipers showed, as well as Greenshank and Black-winged Stilt. A Black Crake showed periodically but the star of the show was a Black Heron that waded in one of the shallow pools. It performed an amazing feeding strategy whereby it holds its wings bowed forward in front of its head to create a shadow beneath in which it can hunt fish.

Day 7

Thursday 1st February

For our final outing as a whole group, we took canoes for a boat ride to Kubuneh, about 30 minutes from the lodge. We picked up plenty of the usual suspects *en route*, before disembarking alongside an oyster farm on the edge of the river.

Soon we were connecting with photographable subjects including Western Red-billed Hornbill, White-crowned Robin Chat and Senegal Parrot. A few fruiting trees were good sites to spend some time viewing, and to add new species to the trip or to improve on previous day's photographs.

Hooded Vultures were nest-building and on occasion posing nicely with large branches in their small beaks. An Abyssinian Roller also posed nicely on a metal fence, before moving to a better location low in a green-foliaged tree. The final highlight came in the form of a Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher but trying to get clear shots of it proved rather difficult. Still, it was a fabulous species to see well.

After breakfast, we enjoyed some personal downtime before the final outing of the day. Most of the group wanted to return to the River Gambia, so they sped off on a speedboat to explore the mangroves and open river one last time. The group had the usual assortment of waders and herons, but tonight we struck lucky with an African Finfoot!

The remaining couple of clients walked with the leader and local guide to Nambikala mud flats where we had reasonable success with a male African Paradise Flycatcher and a female hybrid Red-bellied x African Paradise Flycatcher. We walked through dry woodland and scrub and connected with little for the first hour. The weather

was muggy and overcast, with no wind and very little activity. At the mud flats we spotted many more birds including a group of foraging Little Bee-eater and best of all a pair of Grey Kestrel.

After dinner, we said our final farewells as half of the group would be leaving before breakfast in the morning. A birthday cake was presented to one of the group too, a nice moment to share together.

Day 8

Friday 2nd February

Our final day in The Gambia, with half the group heading home and the other half with the tour leader heading into Senegal for an extension. The final key species which was seen better this morning was Northern White-faced Owl, roosting in trees in the Matasuku Forest. We'd had a great week together, sharing in some fabulous wildlife, stories and excursions. There were plenty of highlights and way too many to mention. However, for almost everyone the sunset cruises were probably the star moments of the tour.



African Darter

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Oriole Warblers



African Golden Oriole

Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	January - February 2024							
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>			✓			✓		
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>								
Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>				✓	H		✓	
Ahanta Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis ahantensis</i>						H		
Double-spurred Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>			✓	✓				
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</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>	✓						✓	
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>				✓	✓		✓	
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black-billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>					✓			
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>				✓				
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>						✓		
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>							✓	
African Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>			✓					
Black Crake	<i>Amauornis flavirostra</i>				✓		✓		
Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			✓			✓		
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		✓		✓				
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			✓	✓			✓	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>			✓	✓		✓		
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			✓					
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>			✓	✓				
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			✓					
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>			✓					
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			✓			✓		
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			✓			✓		

Common name	Scientific name	January - February 2024							
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>			✓					
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>			✓					
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			✓					
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>		✓					✓	
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
West African Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus albididorsalis</i>		✓	✓					
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>			✓	✓	✓			
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>		✓				H		
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>			✓					
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>		✓		✓			✓	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Yellow-billed Egret	<i>Ardea brachyryncha</i>		✓	✓			✓		
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓					
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>			✓	✓				
Western 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>		48	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Beaudouin's Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>		4		✓				
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>						✓		
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>				✓				
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>				✓		✓		
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>		✓			✓			
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>				✓	✓		✓	
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		✓		✓		✓		
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
African Wood Owl	<i>Strix woodfordii</i>						✓		
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>				✓				
Northern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>					✓			✓
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			✓					
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>		3				✓	✓	
Western Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus kempii</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	

Common name	Scientific name	January - February 2024							
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
West African Pied Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros semifasciatus</i>		✓		✓	H		✓	
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>			✓					
Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>			✓		✓		✓	
Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>							✓	
Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>		✓	✓	✓				
African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>						✓		
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>	✓	✓	H	✓	H	✓	✓	
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>		✓		✓			✓	
White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>		H	H	H	✓	✓	H	
Bearded Barbet	<i>Lybius dubius</i>		✓				✓	✓	
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>					✓			
Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>		✓		✓				
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>					✓			
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>					✓		✓	
Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>							✓	
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>				✓				
Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Brown-necked Parrot	<i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i>						✓		
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>	H	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>					H			
Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>					✓			
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>				✓	✓			
Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>		✓		✓			✓	
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			✓					
African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>		✓		✓			✓	
Glossy-backed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus divaricatus</i>				✓				
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>					✓	✓	✓	
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>				✓	✓		✓	
Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Grey-headed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda canicapillus</i>				✓		✓		
Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			✓					
Pied-winged Swallow	<i>Hirundo leucosoma</i>							✓	

Common name	Scientific name	January - February 2024							
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>						✓		
Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>			✓					
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>			✓					
Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>				✓	✓			
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>					✓		✓	
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>			✓	✓			✓	
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>						✓		
Green Hylia	<i>Hylia prasina</i>						✓		
Oriole Warbler	<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>				✓				
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>				H		✓	H	
Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>					✓		✓	
Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>		✓			✓	✓		
Lesser Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>			✓					
Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>						✓	✓	
Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>			3					
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>					✓		H	
White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapillus</i>						✓	✓	
Mangrove Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>						H		
Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platura</i>							✓	
Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>				✓				
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastrus</i>					✓			
Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>				✓	✓		✓	
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>		✓						
House Sparrow - I	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			✓					
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>							✓	
Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>					✓	✓		
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lavender Waxbill	<i>Glaucostriola caerulea</i>				✓	✓		✓	
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>		✓				✓	✓	
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>		✓				✓	✓	
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>		✓						
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		✓	✓					
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>		✓			✓		✓	

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	January – February 2024							
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Mammals									
Western Red Colobus Monkey	<i>Procolobus badius</i>						✓		
Guinea Baboon	<i>Papio papio</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
Green Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus sabaeus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus gambianus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	

Invertebrates, Reptiles and Fish

Common name	Scientific name	January - February 2024							
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Butterflies									
Pieridae									
Zebra White	<i>Pinacopteryx eriphia tritogenia</i>		✓						
Common Dotted Border	<i>Mylothris chloris</i>			✓			✓		
Lycaenidae									
Common Scarlet	<i>Axiocerses harpax</i>							✓	
Nymphalidae									
African Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>					✓	✓		
Others									
West African Mangrove Oyster	<i>Crassostrea tulipa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Antlion	<i>Myrmeleon sp.</i>		✓			✓			
West African Fiddler Crab	<i>Uca tangeri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
African Cotton Stainer	<i>Dysdercus fasciatus</i>							✓	
Atlantic Mudskipper	<i>Periophthalmus papillo</i>		✓						
Guinean Tilapia	<i>Tilapia guineensis</i>		✓		✓				
Reptiles									
Nile Monitor Lizard	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>			2					
Agama Lizard	<i>Agama agama</i>			✓			✓		
Brook's House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus brooki angulatus</i>		✓						
West African Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus suchus</i>		✓		✓				

Plants

Common name	Scientific name	January - February 2024							
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
FLOWERING PLANTS	ANGIOSPERMS								
Cashew Family	Anacardiaceae								
Cashew Tree	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>	✓	✓						
Mallow Family	Malvaceae								
Baobab	<i>Adansia digitata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Kapok Tree	<i>Ceiba petandra</i>							✓	
Mulberry Family	Moraceae								
Strangler Fig	<i>Ficus craterostema?</i>		✓						
Four O'Clock Family	Nyctaginaceae								
Bourganvillia	<i>Bourganvillea spectabilis</i>		✓						
Water-lily Family	Nymphaeaceae								
White Water-lily	<i>Nymphaea micrantha</i>		✓						
Mangrove Family	Rhizophoraceae								
Red Mangrove	<i>Rhizophora mangle</i>	✓	✓						