

The Gambia in Style - Photography Special

Naturetrek Tour Report

23rd – 30th January 2026



Black Heron



Blue-breasted Kingfisher



West African Crocodile



Wire-tailed Swallows

Tour report by Oliver Smart



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Tour participants: Oliver Smart (leader) with eight Naturetrek clients

Summary

Nestled within the heart of Senegal, The Gambia extends deep into the interior from the coast along the impressive Gambia River. This incredible waterway is home to hundreds of species of birds, many of which from the northern hemisphere for the winter, and much other wildlife. This tour focussed on connecting with some of the colourful species among the mangroves, waterways, forest, scrub and marshland of the Coastal Division of The Gambia. The eight-day holiday was based in a single centre at Mandina Lodges, near Brikama on the southern shores of the river. The group's aim was to photograph as much of the birdlife as possible, and we encountered some great species, including Verreaux's and Greyish Eagle-owls, African Finfoot, Goliath Heron, Osprey, Giant, Pied and Malachite Kingfishers, White-throated Bee-eater and White-crested Helmetshrike. There were too many species to list here, but the standout highlight was a foraging Black Heron. We not only had the bird at close range, but it gave us the full nighttime-daytime display, with a perfect reflection in the most beautiful evening light.

Day 1

Friday 23rd January

Heathrow to Banjul – Mandina Lodges

Most of our day was spent in the air as we made our way across continents. Our early 7.50am flight departed on time and arrived twenty minutes ahead of schedule. We cleared immigration and paid our entry fee in quick time, partly due to the flight being only half-full. We collected our luggage, sorted our SIM cards and changed a little local currency, before making our way by coach to Mandina Lodges.

Once at the lodge, we were warmly met by Linda and her wonderfully friendly hotel staff. After a bird-interrupted briefing, we headed off to unpack, and reconvened at 7.00pm for a chat and to get to know each other. A few in the group birded different parts of the lodge, and several nice birds were spotted, including Green Wood Hoopoe, Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Whimbrel, African Thrush and Mangrove Sunbird.

We enjoyed our first amazing dinner, cooked by the resident chef Pa, before retiring for the night.

Day 2

Saturday 24th January

Buffulotto – Sunset Cruise/walk to mudflats

Having met at 7.00am, we had tea, coffee and biscuits before heading off for our excursion to Buffulotto. We were in three canoes, expertly paddled by local guides Lamin, AJ and Lamin Jr. They are part of a super team of six local guides at Mandina, who between them would be with us throughout our trip.

We gently headed downstream, spotting a variety of wetland species including Giant, Blue-breasted, Malachite and Pied Kingfishers, along with Purple, Western Reef, Goliath and Little Herons. Waders included Common Sandpiper, Redshank, Greenshank, Senegal Thick-knee, Spur-winged Lapwing and Whimbrel. A real highlight was an African Finfoot, which we were able to track swimming under the shade of the mangroves. The light was too poor for photography, but it was great to see such a shy species.

We disembarked and took a walk, and completed a short circular loop of some scrub with scattered trees. We found a number of birds, although many were a little shy of having their pictures taken! Along with lots of common species, we enjoyed good views of Little Bee-eater, Beautiful and Variable Sunbirds, West African Pied Hornbill, Senegal Parrot, Bearded Barbet and Blue-bellied Roller. A female Village Indigobird was a nice find, too.

After brunch, Oliver gave an hour's tuition on using Lightroom, and with many of the group keen to learn from the start of the workflow, we covered importing images, general Library module navigation, and editing. We would do more later in the week.

At 4.30pm, we met to order dinner, and then headed off in two directions. Half went with Lamin and Oliver on a Sunset Cruise to the Gambia River, and the other half walked with Lamin junior to the mudflats.

With the sky slightly cloudy, we were not sure how productive the evening would be. However, the walking group enjoyed a number of good birds including Violet Turaco, Lizard Buzzard and African Grey Hornbill. For the boat party, they enjoyed trying out some new techniques with birds taking off and in flight, as well as setting up for shooting birds in silhouette at sunset. Thankfully, an Osprey obliged, and we were able to capture some pleasing compositional images of one perched on top of the mangrove trees. The group also spotted several Sandwich, Gull-billed and Caspian Terns, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater and African Grey Woodpecker.

With dinner complete, we all headed off for a well-deserved rest, in anticipation of a super adventure at Kartong wetlands in the morning.

Day 3

Sunday 25th January

Kartong Wetland – Sanyang – Tanji Fish Market

After breakfast at 6.45am, we headed by bus to Kartong Wetland, via Gunjur. We stopped at a small quarry near the town, where we enjoyed a number of species, many of which we could photograph. We had Giant and Malachite Kingfishers within range, along with African Jacana. There were also plenty of African Wattled Lapwings, White-faced Whistling Ducks and Black-winged Stints. A Green Sandpiper, African Harrier-hawk and Piapiac offered additional interest.

Moving on to Kartong wetlands, we made our way on foot, enjoying any birds we could find. We started with an Abyssinian Roller: most bizarrely, it was perched above a lady, bent over and ploughing her field by hand. She had her baby strapped to her back, and the little tot was fast asleep. The roller did not seem to care, and was clearly waiting for the chance of a free meal. We were able to get close for full-frame shots! We then had a great opportunity to photograph a gloriously shiny Bronze-tailed Starling, and in front of it a Whinchat. We discovered, when reviewing our pictures, that the chat had several ticks attached to its head.

Carrying on along the track, we stopped a few times to photograph a Woodchat Shrike, which allowed a close approach. Using good fieldcraft, we could get to within perfect shooting distance. A group of Spur-winged Lapwings offered some interest too. A number of other birds drew our attention, including a small flock of Wood Sandpipers, a Squacco Heron, Marsh Harrier, Varied Sunbird and Yellow Wagtail.

We finished the morning at the beach at Kartong, where we all had freshly-squeezed orange juice or coconut water straight from the coconut. Then it was on to the Rainbow Beach Café in Sanyang for lunch. We completed the day with a short visit to Tanji Fish Market, but with the light very harsh, we headed back to the hotel after only a short stay.

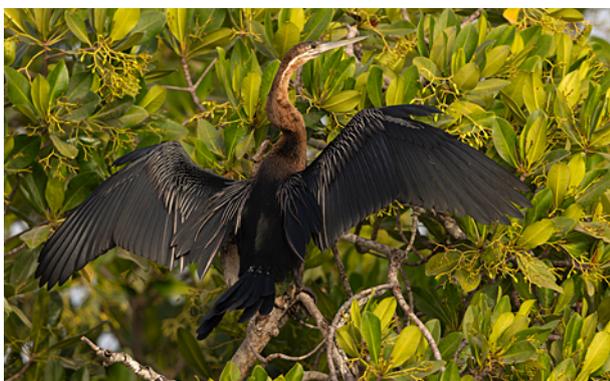
Day 4

Monday 26th January

Kubuneh – Sunset Cruise/walk to mudflats

Departing after coffee at 7.30am, we took three canoes down river to Kubuneh, a small fishing village a couple of miles away. Lamin, AJ and Lamin junior paddled the canoes and we drifted slowly towards our stop. There was light cloud and a lot of dust in the air, so the sun took a while to break through. We started to pick up some nice birds once we arrived at our landing.

Once tied up, we entered a villager's field and began our main birding for the morning. The local owner was working on his palm trees, growing a wine that they drink locally. We located several White-crowned Robin-chat, Northern Black Flycatcher and a Yellow-billed Shrike. A Yellow-crowned Gonolek and Brown and Blackcap Babblers were also seen and/or photographed by some of the group. The light was nice and soft, but getting clear shots was not easy this morning. A few birds posed well, but a Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher kept hiding on the wrong side of every branch in the tree!



Anhinga



Giant Kingfisher



Senegal Thick-knee



Western Plantain-eater

We continued to the centre of the village, where there were a number of African Baobabs and an amazing Kapok tree. We could not locate the Pearl-spotted Owlet this morning. After breakfast, we spent an hour with more

Lightroom tuition and learning how to process and crop images, taking some examples from our first day's shooting.

Our evening excursions were again split; half the group headed off for the Sunset Cruise and the other half walked to the mudflats. The cruisers captured a number of birds, including Greenshank, Senegal Thick-knee, Goliath Heron, Great White Egret and Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, and a super three-metre-long West African Crocodile. We enjoyed experimenting and improving our flight-shot skills, as well as shooting into the setting sun.

The other group walked with Lamin Jr, and had a great evening: a superb Klaas's Cuckoo was the highlight, but they also saw Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater and several hornbills. The group also looked for butterflies, adding Small Orange Acraea, River Sailor, Creamy Small White, African Spirit and African Tiger to the tally.

Day 5

Tuesday 27th January

Pirang – Marakissa

For our morning session, we headed out by bus to Pirang, an area connected to Makasutu and an old, disused shrimp farm. Most of the pans are dry now, but there are lots of wet channels, scrub and wet pans for wading birds. We set off with the local ranger and Lamin and Lamin Jr. There was a little light cloud, which soon cleared. We tried to make the most of the early light, since this site is so exposed that it's not long before photography becomes a little pointless.

We walked along the banks and had some fun photographing a pair of Wire-tailed Swallow returning to a culvert. It was fantastic: one bird would stay on the wall, while the other flew off in a loop. On its return, Oliver would shout "now!", and we'd all start shooting! The result was great, with one bird coming in to land over the top of, or to the side of, the other.

Further on, we located some wading birds, including Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Avocet, Ruff, Dunlin, Yellow-billed Stork, Greater Flamingo, Pink-backed Pelican and many more. Unfortunately, by now the light was too hazy and harsh, so we returned to Mandina for lunch.

After a short break, we set off for Marakissa, a small marsh along the roadside, close to the village of the same name. There was a lot of activity to start with, but little came close to our cameras. The shallow pools were fringed with patches of reed, and we spotted some super birds, including Black Crake, Common Snipe, Black Heron, Hamerkop and Yellow-billed Egret. The best bird was a Hadada Ibis: a surprising find.

Beyond the bridge, we took the track down to the southern side of the pools, and watched another juvenile Black Crake; a pair of Yellow-gorgeted Greenbuls flew overhead. Then, just as we were contemplating leaving, a Black Heron was spotted and proceeded to forage in its extraordinary manner, with wings bent forward to create an umbrella shape. The light was glorious, and this was certainly the photographic highlight of the trip so far. It ran around the pool, casting its shadow and chasing after fish. With warm evening light and an amazing reflection, everyone left hugely satisfied with the afternoon's entertainment.

Day 6

Wednesday 28th January

Kambujeh – Nambikala Fields

Today we headed upriver to Kambujeh. The tide was heading out, so the local guides had to work a little harder paddling upstream. We enjoyed close views of Malachite Kingfisher before arriving at the drop-off point. There were a Pied Kingfisher and a Western Reef Heron in a shallow pool produced by the falling tide, which had cut off any route of escape for fish, so this proved productive.

We travelled on to a community farm, where we enjoyed a fruiting fig tree, which attracted birds including two African Green Pigeons (which were photographable), African Golden Oriole and Yellow-gorgeted Greenbul. We also located an obliging Pearl-spotted Owlet, and a Blue-bellied Roller too.

After brunch, Oliver completed another round of Lightroom tuition, covering Collections, Virtual Copies, Filtering and Keywording. We then had time to relax around the lodge and grounds, before our afternoon walk to 'Paul's Area'.

We set off at 4.30pm with AJ and Lamin Jr, and headed along the sandy track towards Matasuku Cultural Forest. On the walk, we enjoyed a flock of six White-crested Helmetsrikes, a female Northern Puffback, Brown-throated Wattle-eye and, at the cultural centre, a fantastic Northern White-faced Owl. The latter was roosting high in the eucalyptus trees, but was clear enough to be photographable.

At 'Paul's Area', we located another Blue-bellied Roller, Black and Squacco Herons, and a Hadada Ibis. We also found our target bird, a Striped Kingfisher, but it gave us the run-around, and we didn't quite get close enough for decent shots.

Day 7

Thursday 29th January

Bonto – Farasuto – walk to mudflats

We had another early start at 6.45am, and were excited to be heading away from the lodge area for a third time. We headed straight for Bonto Forest and met the wonderful Mariama, who guided us in the forest. We picked up African Paradise Flycatcher quickly, along with Little Greenbul and some noisy Blackcap Babbler. Off the main beaten track, we were taken to a roosting site for Verreaux's Eagle-owl: two birds were present. We tried to locate Green Crombec and Yellow-breasted Apalis, which were calling, but they remained hidden. A Scarlet-chested Sunbird and Guinea Turaco showed briefly, but did not stay long enough or in a good enough position to photograph.

Next, we headed to Farasuto and met reserve guide Denbo, who took us to see Greyish Eagle-owl and Long-tailed Nightjar. The guides here work hard to locate these species and show them to growing numbers of birdwatchers. The centre was quite busy today, with lots of photographers and birders hoping to see some of the special species of the region.

After lunch at Mandina, we had some time to ourselves before heading out for our final evening walk; this would be the last time the group would be all together, as two clients would be leaving for Senegal early in the morning.

We decided to retrace our steps back to the mudflats, an open forested and scrubby area either side of a mangrove patch. At the end of the walk, there is a large area of rice fields and vegetable plots, which are excellent for birds. We headed out through the dry forest towards Nambikala, and despite plenty of African Spirit, Small Grass Yellow and African Tiger butterflies it was very quiet going. We did see a Clouded Flat butterfly too, which was a new one for the trip.

At the mudflats, a small flock of African Wattled Lapwings posed nicely, and one client spotted movement in the mangroves: amazingly, it turned out to be a Greater Painted-snipe! We moved on to the farming enclosure, where we located a Green Sandpiper and several African Jacanas, before seeing some Cattle and Yellow-billed Egrets, Hamerkop, Little Heron and a Blue-bellied Roller.

After our final dinner together, we said goodbye to the two who were heading off early: for the rest of the party, we had one more morning's birding to come.

Day 8

Friday 30th January

Nambikala Fields

With our flight not until late in the afternoon, we had time to enjoy one last excursion to Nambikala Fields. As usual, it took a little while before the birds became fully active, so we headed to more open areas where the light was already reaching the trees and bushes. We enjoyed a variety of species, including Guinea Turaco, Tawny-flanked Prinia and Yellow-fronted Canary.

We wandered for another fifteen minutes to a more open area of scrub and African Baobab trees. Here, we located our best birds of the day, including Black Scimitarbill, Striped Kingfisher, Lizard Buzzard and a pair of Brubrus. The latter perched high in a Baobab, and thankfully posed well enough for shots.

We returned to the lodge for our final breakfast, and to complete our packing. Our leader made a short presentation to the hotel staff and guides, before we boarded the bus to the airport. After a wonderful tour with an amazing group, with so many stories to tell and much shared laughter, it was sad to say our farewells back at London Gatwick late in the evening. Hopefully, we'll all keep in touch, and maybe travel together again one day.

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Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	January 2026							
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>			✓		✓			
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>			✓		✓			
Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>						H		
Double-spurred Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>				✓			✓	H
Long-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i>							✓	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</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>				✓				✓
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</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>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
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>	✓	✓						
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					✓			
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>					✓			
Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			✓		✓			
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		✓				✓		
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				✓	✓	✓		
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>							✓	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>			✓				✓	
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>					✓			
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>					✓			
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			✓		✓		✓	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			✓		✓			
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		✓		✓	✓			
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>					✓			
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					✓			
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>					✓			
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>					✓			
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>					✓			
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>		✓			✓			

Common name	Scientific name	January 2026							
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					✓			
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>			✓					
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>					✓			
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>			✓		✓			
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			✓		✓			
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>		✓		✓	✓			
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>		✓		✓	✓			
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Great (White-breasted) Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus</i>			✓					
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>		✓		✓				
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>					✓	✓		
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>					✓			
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>					✓	✓		
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓		✓			
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
Little Heron	<i>Butorides atricapilla</i>		✓			✓		✓	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>			✓			✓		
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓		✓	✓			
Yellow-billed Egret	<i>Ardea brachyrhyncha</i>			✓		✓		✓	
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>						✓		
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>		✓		✓		H		
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>		✓	✓		✓			
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		✓	✓	✓				
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>		✓	✓		✓			
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Beudouin's Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus beudouini</i>					✓			
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraetus wahlbergi</i>							✓	
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Shikra	<i>Tachypiza badia</i>		✓						
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓		✓	✓				
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>						✓		
Northern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>						✓		
Greyish Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>							✓	
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Ketupa lactea</i>							✓	
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>	✓							
Black Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>								✓
Western Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus kempfi</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
West African Pied Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros semifasciatus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		H	
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>		✓						✓
Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>			✓					✓
Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>			✓					
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>						✓		✓

Common name	Scientific name	January 2026							
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	H	
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>		✓	✓	✓				
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	✓
Bearded Barbet	<i>Pogonornis dubius</i>		✓				✓		
Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>						✓		
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>							✓	
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>		✓		✓		✓		
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>		✓	✓					
Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>	H	H		H		✓	✓	H
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>						✓		
Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>		✓	H	✓				H
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>								✓
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>				✓		✓		
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>				✓				
African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>						✓		
Fork-tailed (Glossy-backed) Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>								✓
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>				✓			✓	✓
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>							✓	
Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Lanius corvinus</i>				✓				
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			✓		✓			
Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>		✓	✓					
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>					✓			
Yellow-gorgeted Greenbul	<i>Atimastillas flavicollis</i>					✓	✓		
Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>			✓				✓	
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>	✓							
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>			✓		✓	✓		
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>					✓			
European Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis rufula</i>					✓			
Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>					✓			
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>					H			
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					H			
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>					✓	✓	✓	
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>					✓			
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>							✓	✓
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flava</i>							H	H
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>		✓						
Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>					✓			
Western Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca iberiae</i>					✓			
Northern Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>							✓	
Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>				✓				
Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>				✓	✓		H	

Common name	Scientific name	January 2026								
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Bronze-tailed starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalcurus</i>			✓		✓				
Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>					✓				
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>			✓						
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edoloides</i>		✓		✓					
White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapillus</i>				✓					
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>							✓		
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>			✓						
Mangrove Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>		✓							
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>							✓		
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓	
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>					✓				
Olive-naped Weaver	<i>Ploceus brachypterus</i>				✓			✓		
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>		✓						✓	
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalis</i>					✓		✓	✓	
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>		✓							
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			✓		✓				
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>								✓	

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	January 2026								
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Guinea Baboon	<i>Papio papio</i>		✓	✓		✓				
Green Vervet/Callithrix Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus sabaues</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓			
Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus gambianus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		

Reptiles

Common name	Scientific name	January 2026								
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Agama Lizard	<i>Agama agama</i>	✓					✓			
Senegal Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis affinis</i>			✓						
West African Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus suchus</i>				✓					

Fishes

Common name	Scientific name	January 2026								
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Atlantic Mudskipper	<i>Periophthalmus papillo</i>	✓								

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	January 2026							
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Clouded Flat	<i>Tagiades flesus</i>							✓	
Narrow-banded Green Swallowtail	<i>Papilio nireus</i>								
Citrus Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demodocus</i>				✓				
Small Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigitta</i>						✓	✓	
Creamy Small White	<i>Dixeia orbona</i>				✓				
African Spirit	<i>Leptosia alcesta</i>		✓		✓		✓		
Common Dotted Border	<i>Mylothris chloris</i>		✓				✓		
Common Zebra Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>						✓		
African Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Elegant Acraea	<i>Acraea egina</i>						✓	✓	
Small Orange Acraea	<i>Acraea serena</i>				✓				
River Sailor	<i>Neptis serena</i>	✓			✓				
Soldier Pansy	<i>Junonia terea</i>						✓		

Damselflies & dragonflies

Common name	Scientific name	January 2026							
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
a damselfly	<i>Ceriagrion glabrum</i>						✓		
Strong Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brachiale</i>						✓		

Other invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name	January 2026							
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
West African Mangrove Oyster	<i>Crassostrea tulipa</i>		✓		✓				
West African Fiddler Crab	<i>Uca tangeri</i>		✓		✓				
Spiny Orb-web Spider	<i>Gasteracantha curvispina</i>							✓	