

# Senegal - Birding the Sahel

Naturetrek Tour Report

15th February – 1st March 2026

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Dybowski's Twinspot



Cricket Warbler



Golden Nightjar



Scissor-tailed Kite

Tour report by Philip Thompson  
Photos by Ian Curran



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Tour participants: Philip Thompson and Tamba Jefang (leaders) with seven Naturetrek clients

## Day 1

Sunday 15th February

After a long day of travelling via Madrid, we arrived into Dakar in the evening darkness. Once we had managed to meet up with our local guide, Tamba, we exchanged some currency at the bureau de change, before loading and boarding our tour bus. After a twenty-minute drive in the dark, we arrived at our overnight accommodation, where we were quickly assigned our rooms and retired to rest up for the tour ahead. Understandably, not a dicky bird was seen on this first day!

## Day 2

Monday 16th February

With an early pre-dawn start, our first bird, heard while we ate breakfast, was a Senegal Thick-knee, which got us up and running. Once we were all packed and loaded, we set out and headed north. After a two-hour drive, during which we had picked out several species of birds that would become familiar during the tour, we took a break to stretch the legs and get the blood flowing once more. A number of interesting birds were found in an area of scrubby savannah much like any other spot, such as Chestnut-bellied Starling, Black Scrub Robin, Northern Crombec and a couple of Palearctic migrants in the shape of Common Whitethroat, Yellow Wagtail and Woodchat Shrike. Both Senegal Parrot and Rose-ringed Parakeets were seen flying over in this rather arid spot.

We pulled off in Louga, where we stopped for lunch in a service area: we ate in a fried chicken establishment, KFC-style! Refreshed, we continued our journey towards St Louis, where we took a slight detour to visit the saline creeks of the Guembuel Reserve. Here, we found a rich selection of familiar waders, among which a couple of Marsh Sandpipers were the highlights. Other birds included Greater Flamingo, Eurasian Spoonbill, and both Pink-backed and Great White Pelicans. After this pleasant interlude, we drove on through St Louis with Richard Toll, our final destination, in our sights.

Another quick stop was required when a large vulture perched in a village tree was identified as a Rüppell's, which obligingly gave some fantastic close views. We then completed the final rapid leg into Richard Toll, where we continued on to an area near the airfield for some late afternoon birding, with the temperatures beginning to cool. We struck lucky by first spotting a small group of Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse feeding on the ground, which brought us to a stop. During a little wander, we picked up a couple of Cricket Warblers, which came very close and gave great views. These were followed by a Fulvous Babbler, making a fine trio of birds before we needed to head on back to town to check in at our *gîte*, before eating out in the town. While waiting for our transport to arrive, we were entertained by the screeching of a Barn Owl which put in a brief appearance, flying from one of the surrounding buildings.

## Day 3

Tuesday 17th February

For our first excursion, we spent most of the morning slowly working our way through an area of open savannah woodland. It had a rather park-like appearance, due to the heavily grazed ground and the collection by the locals of any scrap of firewood that may have fallen from the trees. Nevertheless, feeding on the ground were several Northern Wheatears and both Greater Blue-eared and Long-tailed Glossy Starlings, among others. It was the tree canopy that mainly held our attention, as we kept an eye open for one of our target species, the Sennar Penduline

Tit. After some patient scanning and slow progress through the trees, we were successful in finding an individual, as well as both Senegal and Yellow-bellied Eremomelas. The trees held numerous feeding Western Bonelli's Warblers, which joined our list of wintering European migrants. We moved to a rather unappealing area of arid scrub where most of the town's rubbish was dumped, which surprisingly held a number of attractive birds. Black-crowned Sparrow-lark and Northern Anteater Chat were highlights among a medley of other species.

We headed back into town for lunch, before returning to our *gîte* for a short siesta in the heat of the day. Having headed back out, we paused by the Taouey River to watch Whiskered Terns perched on the wires strung across the water, before stopping at the ruined house of Baron Roger, where (among other birds) we found Senegal Batis, Yellow-crowned Gonolek, African Silverbill and Senegal Thick-knee. We spent some more time working an area of acacia woodland, before heading out alongside the old runway, where we picked out a distant Fulvous Babbler. After a careful approach, we obtained some excellent close views of a couple of birds in the late afternoon light.

## Day 4

## Wednesday 18th February

Another transfer day took us to the environs of Podor. A woodland stop en route produced a brief view of an African Collared Dove, followed by good views of a Little Grey Woodpecker, a bird we had searched for yesterday. Moving along a dirt road, we stopped in an area which looked much like the Alentejo region of Portugal! Here, to complete the illusion, we found Great Grey Shrike and Booted Eagle! To confirm we were in Senegal, a very unexpected Fulvous Babbler turned up.

We arrived at our lodge in time for a relaxing lunch and cooling drinks, before a period of relaxation in the afternoon heat. The keener members picked up the recently-discovered population of Horus Swifts that breeds among the regular Little Swifts in the steep banks above the river.

The afternoon was spent making a drive towards Podor, before we turned off into an area of agricultural land. Here, we were met by a local guide who led us on foot through this area of ditches, arable fields and dry scrub, before stopping and directing our attention to a couple of small bushes among a multitude of other small bushes, beneath which were roosting a pair of Golden Nightjars! The photographers were able to approach and obtain some great shots of these much-sought-after birds. The area held numerous other species, including Chestnut-backed Sparrow-larks and a range of seedeaters, weavers, bishops and finches.

## Day 5

## Thursday 19th February

We began the retracing of our route, for a transfer to the Djoudj National Park, with a few stops along the way. The first was at an area of roadside irrigation dykes lined with tall, lush vegetation, where we could stretch our legs and enjoy a short spell of pleasant birding. Several waterside birds were seen, including African Jacana, with the highlight being some good views of the usually very skulking Greater Swamp Warbler.

Moving on, we arrived back in Richard Toll, where we stopped to refuel and buy some fresh fruit from the roadside vendors: always a fun activity! Continuing our journey, we encountered a large troop of Patas Monkeys in the nearby scrubby habitat, while a stop a little further on to check out a gathering of kites produced an apparent vagrant Red Kite, which would be an extreme rarity in Senegal. It unfortunately did not hang about, and was only

seen by a couple of the group. While it was not a major issue for the group clients who were familiar with this bird from home, it was of great potential significance for Tamba, who had never seen this species in Senegal!



Cut-throat Finch



Mali Firefinch



Little Grey Woodpecker



Pel's Fishing Owl

We had made good time, and turned off the main tarmac road to take the rather long, slow and bumpy dirt road to Djoudj, to arrive in time for lunch at the lodge, followed by a siesta in the hottest part of the day. Once we had regrouped after this period of rest, we took a very productive loop walk from the lodge around a couple of large shallow lagoons, during which a very rich and diverse range of birds was seen. The water held a huge flock of White-faced Whistling Ducks, among which we picked out a couple of Fulvous Whistling Ducks, and numerous Lesser Flamingoes. The shoreline attracted a rich mix of migrant waders, joined by several Kittlitz's Plovers. Perched prominently on the dried plant stems nearby was a pair of striking African Stonechats. The sharp eyes of one group member picked out a small group of the sought-after Greater Painted Snipe, quietly roosting beneath some waterside shrubs: they gave some wonderful views. Our route led through the compound of the park headquarters: it looked a little worse for wear, and was clearly in need of some funding! We passed the opposite side of the lagoon as the daylight was beginning to wane, to arrive back at the lodge with time to freshen up before dinner.

## Day 6

## Friday 20th February

We had an early start at sunrise, to head out in the vehicle and to explore the dry semi-desert habitat that surrounds the water-filled lagoons of the park. A notable early sighting was of a couple of groups of handsome Black Crowned Cranes in the sparse scrubby grasslands, before a few took off, passing in front of the rising sun for a great photo opportunity. The habitat included large areas of salt flats, comprising very fine, talcum-like sediment. Here, we had a number of sightings of the recently split African Golden Wolf. We eventually arrived near the Grand Lagoon, where we disembarked for a walk towards the shoreline. Abundant Sand Martins were whizzing about us,

apparently having been resting/roosting on the ground all around. The lagoon was an incredible birding spectacle, with huge numbers of wildfowl present. Most were White-faced Whistling Ducks, which were in huge dark flocks covering the water, with good numbers of migrant Shovelers, Pintails and Garganeys joining a few Knob-billed and Fulvous Whistling Ducks. In the distance, large numbers of Greater Flamingoes formed a pink haze. In the shallow waters at the margins, which had lush vegetation, a mix of herons and egrets was picked out. A fast-flying group of Collared Pratincoles sped past to complete the picture. It was a sight to remember!

We began our route back via the lodge and on to the Djoudi River, where we were due to catch a boat. En route, great excitement, followed by great disappointment for most, was elicited by the sighting of an Arabian Bustard from the vehicle through a small gap in an area of dense bushy scrub. Only a couple of the group caught a glimpse, and the habitat couldn't have been much worse to allow us to refind the bird, despite our best efforts!

Arriving at the riverside, we were soon ushered onto our boat, separate from the numerous tourists who travel here from Dakar, for our trip to view the huge Great White Pelican breeding colony. As we set off, good numbers of Knob-billed Ducks were seen in the quieter backwaters, but these were overshadowed by the enormous flock of pelicans we cruised through on our route: it was overwhelming! Despite this obvious attraction in the riverside trees and vegetation, we saw a great range of other birds, notably perched African Fish Eagle, African Swamphen, Caspian Tern, a flock of the usually solitary Yellow-billed Storks, both species of spoonbill, African Sacred Ibis, herons, egrets and kingfishers, before we picked up the unmistakable aroma of a large breeding colony of fish-eating birds! Sure enough, we were soon approaching the colony of pelicans in all its glory. Despite having already passed through the huge flocks of swimming pelicans, we were stunned by the many hundreds present at the colony itself: this is one of the largest colonies in the world. We slowly cruised past and explored a few quieter corners of wetland habitat in search of birds, before heading back. On our return, we came upon a large roosting group of Black-backed Night herons that we had somehow missed on the outward leg of our excursion, which was a spectacular sight.

After our very rewarding boat trip, we got back in the vehicle and returned to the lodge for lunch and siesta, before meeting up for our late afternoon exploration. We again concentrated on the semi-desert sections of the park. A first stop was among a very dense, spiny thicket of low shrubby trees, among which we were able to find several roosting Long-tailed Nightjars in rather difficult viewing conditions. A further stop alongside a small irrigation canal in the hope of finding River Prinia was sadly fruitless, although we did find a wintering Savi's Warbler by way of compensation. We drove on for a further view of the Grand Lagoon from a different spot in the hope of finding Marbled Duck, which eluded us. We were pleased to encounter a small group of Orange-breasted Waxbills in the short, tussocky surrounding vegetation to ease the disappointment. Continuing our walk through the nearby areas, we found Common Quail, Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin and Montagu's Harrier alongside several commoner species. With the day drawing to a close, we then drove the bumpy route back to the lodge.

## Day 7

## Saturday 21st February

Following our brief and disappointing encounter with Arabian Bustard yesterday, we opted for an early morning final excursion in the drier habitats of Djoudj NP before our departure south. It was an evocative and enjoyable early morning outing as the sun rose, with several re-encounters with birds seen previously. Despite drawing a blank on the bustard, we did succeed in connecting with a couple of River Prinias among a small mixed flock of birds.

Having left Djoudj, we set out on the dirt road leading towards the tarmac. We encountered a section of roadworks which made a detour necessary. Our driver seemed confident of his whereabouts and the direction to take, and drove us into an area of attractive habitat, leading the group to think that maybe this was another 'secret site' for a sought-after bird, only to be disappointed when we continued into a small, isolated village with soft sandy roads, where we momentarily got a little stuck! With everyone giving a shove, we got onto firmer ground, and following a chat with the locals we were sent back on course, eventually reaching the tarmac highway back towards St Louis. Here, we had a brief stop to check out the gulls and other birds on the exposed mudflats next to the town. Nothing of major significance was seen, but it was always welcome to get out and have a walk, despite the rather rubbish-strewn nature of the area.

We continued into Louga once more, where we pulled in to visit our favourite fried-chicken establishment for lunch! We had a rather lengthy final stretch into Touba, broken by a roadside stop when a mixed group of vultures was spotted resting on the ground. The group contained all five species of regularly seen vulture in Senegal! The star of the show was the large and imposing Lappet-faced, joined in diminishing order by Rüppell's, Griffon, White-backed and finally Hooded. A good little stop!

We arrived in Touba and at our overnight accommodation in the mid-afternoon, allowing us to drop our bags and get ourselves settled before heading out once more, to pull off at a seemingly inauspicious area much like any other. Here, we took a couple of slow walks strung out across fallow agricultural fields. In short order, we managed to flush (among several Singing Bush Larks) both Common Quail and Common Buttonquail. All these were great birds, but not our main target. We walked into an area with taller bushes and trees scattered among the grassland, where we were successful in finding a few Saville's Bustards, one of which showed very well after the first rather flighty and nervous individuals. Beginning our return, we had another walk through the open field, and were then successful in finding our main quarry: Quail Plover! After a careful and slow approach, we were able to get some wonderful views of this odd and enigmatic species. Flushed with success we headed back to our accommodation for dinner.

## Day 8

## Sunday 22nd February

A lengthy transfer lay ahead of us today, which was eased by several stops along the way, beginning with a pit stop for fuel and refreshments in Kafrine. A first birding stop was in another area of typical habitat, with scattered trees and bushy grassland. Here, we heard the calls of Temminck's Courser, which eluded us, perhaps understandably considering the thick vegetation. We did succeed in finding our first Yellow-billed Shrike and Red-necked Falcon. After receiving a tip from Solomon, Tamba's colleague who was leading another tour at the same time, we drove on and took a dirt road before disembarking and beginning a careful search of a spot among open woodland. Luck was with us: it was not long before we found a couple of Bronze-winged Coursers roosting under the shade of the bushes.

Arriving in Tambacounda, we pulled in to the Relais de Tamba Hotel in time for lunch and refreshments, after a long morning of travel. It was then a short hop to complete our journey to Wassadou Camp, which has a fine location on the River Gambia and 'rustic' charm! Once our rooms had been allocated, most of the group spent some time birding from the elevated viewpoint over the river, from which a splendid variety of desirable birds was seen, including gems such as African Hawk Eagle, Western Banded Snake Eagle, Broad-billed Roller and African Finfoot!

We all met up for a late afternoon walk along the river, during which, once again, we picked up several exciting birds such as Pearl-spotted Owlet, Village Indigobird, African Harrier-Hawk and Red-throated Bee-eater. Joining them were both European Turtle Dove and Pied Flycatcher, to add to our growing list of wintering migrants. Our track led to a rather overgrown dirt 'road' that led down to the river. Nearby, we encountered a passing troop of Guinea Baboons working their way through the forest. Drinking from the river on the exposed sandbanks was a mixture of doves, among which were a couple of Adamawa Turtle Doves, alongside a couple of Egyptian Plovers! They were initially rather distant, but they moved and made a close fly-by, to the delight of the group. With this highlight under our belts, we began the walk back for dinner.



Black Crowned Crane



Common Buttonquail



Orange-breasted Waxbill



Red-throated Bee-eater

A final excursion of the day was taken after dinner, when we set out in the darkness back along the track we had taken earlier, to scan the palm trees fringing the river. We were soon enjoying amazing views of a fantastic Pel's Fishing Owl picked out by torchlight.

## Day 9

## Monday 23rd February

We were off on the road once more this morning, heading towards Kedougou. As usual, it was not just travel, and we began with a short walk in the lodge grounds before we left. It was clear that the Green Monkeys had the run of the lodge grounds: they were scampering about all over and keeping a very close eye on the camp residents as we all enjoyed breakfast. It would not be a wise move to leave your food unattended here! Long-tailed and Purple Glossy Starlings were very much in evidence as we made slow progress along the path. On our return, a large troop of Banded Mongooses crossed the path, making a change from the usual rapidly disappearing shape of most sightings. A final highlight was a stunning Grey-headed Bush Shrike, which spent considerable time on show in the canopy of the large trees around the camp. By good fortune, as we were loading the bus with luggage and

preparing for our departure, we encountered a group of endangered Western Red Colobus monkeys in the trees alongside the car park. The canopy was only very lightly in leaf, allowing for some great views.

Our route led us through the Niokolo-Koba National Park, a huge expanse of untouched wilderness of gently rolling forested hills, in the otherwise very flat countryside of Senegal. While we were not officially allowed to stop during our transfer through the park, we did take a couple of short 'pauses' to admire a couple of Abyssinian Ground Hornbills and an impressive Martial Eagle. Several Bateleurs were also seen, before we exited the park and arrived at our comfortable hotel in Kedougou, where we had lunch, followed by a period of relaxation.

In the afternoon, we drove out to a prominent rocky hillside rising from the low-lying ground. When we arrived, it was still pretty hot, and we made a slow and steady ascent up the track to the base of the rocky escarpment. Plentiful Sahel Bush Sparrows, previously known as Bush Petronias, were evident in the surrounding trees, with a couple of Yellow-fronted Canaries also present. Upon reaching the top of the track beneath the rock face, we began some careful and patient scanning. A pair of Lanner Falcons clearly seemed to be on territory, as they were seen on a number of occasions cruising along the face of the cliff. Rather less expected was a Violet Touraco perched in a leafless tree growing out of the rocks: it stayed immobile for a considerable time. Using some tape playback of Pearl-spotted Owlet to see what smaller birds could be drawn in, we were pleasantly surprised by an owl itself, plus a mix of sunbirds, and smaller finches and sparrows. The rather eerie and evocative calls of Western Banded Snake Eagle could be heard emanating from the forest-clad lower slopes, but we failed to spot the bird itself.

On the bare rock-faces above us, a distant Mocking Cliff Chat was found, followed by another which over time came progressively closer, allowing for views that enabled us to discern all the relevant identification features. Always crowd-pleasers, a group of White-crested Helmetshrikes caught our attention as a family group passed by. Mild panic was beginning to set in among the leaders, as the key target bird had still not put in an appearance. But with time starting to run out, we were rewarded with the arrival of a couple of birds which perched on bare branches against the rockface showing well: they were Neumann's Starlings, a very range-limited species. It was great finally to get a sighting! We headed back to the hotel for a cooling beer and dinner to celebrate our success.

## Day 10

## Tuesday 24th February

We set out southwards towards the Guinea border, and a visit to the beauty spot of the Dindéfelo Falls. We made a stop en route once we had started on the dirt road, alongside a water culvert beneath the road. We spotted an interesting mix of birds, among which a Violet Turaco showed well, but the undoubted, and very unexpected, highlight was an African Finfoot swimming in this isolated, short stretch of water! Further short stops along the way produced a number of exciting raptors, such as Long-crested Eagle, Brown Snake Eagle, Grey Kestrel and Lizard Buzzard.

In the small village of Dindéfelo, a short walk into a family compound produced another unexpected bird most of the group hadn't even heard of before. It did not take much searching before we were admiring a Turati's Boubou, seemingly well out of its known range. After this initial success, we parked and began the walk up through the forested hills that form the border with Guinea. It was not long before we paused beneath a large tree and scanned among the canopy foliage for another out-of-range gem: Willcock's Honeyguide. We managed some excellent views of this small species, with its distinctive short stubby bill. Perhaps the field guide maps need an update? As

we made slow progress through the high canopy forest, we made a few choice stops to see what birds could be drawn in. We were once again very fortunate in finding a pair of Dybowski's Twinspots in the thick bushes alongside the path: it is a very attractive species, with a very localised global distribution. Another highlight was a striking African Blue Flycatcher, which was part of a mixed flock of birds passing through. The Guinea Turaco picked out briefly in the treetop canopy was not so obliging and soon moved off, having only given rather disappointing views.

Several schoolchildren were also using the path heading up to the waterfall, and enjoyed the cooler conditions in the forest, while at a couple of spots along the way, their mothers were hard at work doing the laundry in the stream flowing from the base of the cataract. The loud slaps of washing being beaten on the rocks accompanied our trip. With our arrival at the waterfall, we were able to relax and admire the stunning hundred-metre drop to the large pool at the base. Several attractive species of butterfly were flitting among the sunny glades and patches of damp sand nearby. After this pleasant and rewarding morning excursion, we headed back to the village, where we had our lunch in a local restaurant. It was then back to our hotel for a brief spell of relaxation, before our customary late afternoon drive and exploration of the surrounding area. We drove south-east and took a walk in an area of scrubland, where a Striped Kingfisher was the highlight.

## Day 11

## Wednesday 25th February

We took a short excursion westward to a rather unprepossessing site, which looked at first glance nothing special, with a couple of abandoned large earth-moving vehicles present. But this was prime habitat for Mali Firefinch, and it did not take long for us to find a couple perched on the vehicles! We walked a short distance in a looping route, finding Orange-cheeked Waxbills, several other grassland finches, and both Brown and Blackcap Babblers.

Back at our hotel, we loaded up and commenced the return leg of our trip, initially back to Wassadou Lodge. This entailed passing through Niokola Koba National Park once more, this time seeing little other than several Bateleurs. We arrived in time for lunch, followed by a siesta.

We spent time at the viewpoint over the river, before the group was split in two for a boat ride upstream through vegetated sandbanks and riverside trees. The first group was dropped off, before the boat returned to pick up the second contingent. Despite the short period of time between the two groups' journeys, they saw widely different species. The first group saw several Brown Snake Eagles, followed by an African Hawk Eagle drinking from the riverside. The second group had a brief viewing of an African Civet: they are usually strictly nocturnal. Both groups had excellent views of both White-crowned Lapwing, with incredible pointed spurs on the wings, and Northern Carmine Bee-eater cruising overhead. Surprisingly, we spotted our only Malachite Kingfisher of the trip! On the return trip, the first group were once again very fortunate in spotting a cobra on the bank. Unfortunately, only its rear end was visible, preventing a definitive identification of which species was involved: either Forest or Black Spitting Cobra were the likely candidates.

## Day 12

## Thursday 26th February

Another long transfer lay ahead of us. We spent a short period at the river viewpoint and had a wander in the lodge grounds before heading off. A final viewing of the African Finfoot on the river was a highlight, alongside Giant Kingfisher. A Slender Mongoose at the trackside as we left the lodge was a good spot.

Once on the road, we made good progress before taking a break at a roadside waterhole a little beyond Tambacounda. In the hot, dry environment, the water was clearly a welcome resource, not only for the local cattle, but also for a mixed party of hirundines and swifts zipping through and drinking on the wing. Highlights among this flock were a few Mottled Spinetails among the Little and Palm Swifts, and a couple of large Mosque Swallows. The cattle were accompanied by our first sighting of a couple of Yellow-billed Oxpeckers, which are now becoming rather threatened due to chemical treatments on the livestock, unfortunately. We took our lunch break in a restaurant in Kafrine and had a leg stretch, the restaurant kindly having opened for us during Ramadan.

A shorter stretch of travel lay in completing our transfer to Kaolack, where we soon checked in and heading out once more towards Ndiaffate, a cluster of small villages located among a jumble of dirt tracks. This resulted in a little bit of head scratching, but we eventually tracked down the local boatman awaiting our arrival. With him on board the bus, we drove on out onto the saltflats as far as possible, before we disembarked and headed to his small canoe. Unfortunately, the ground underfoot was pretty firm and dry, except for the last metre alongside the tidal creek, which was soft black sedimentary mud! This necessitated removal of our boots and shoes to board the canoe in stages, and a rather make-do washing of our feet on the other side in a plastic container.

With everyone safely across to the island in the Saloum River and reshod, we walked across the flats towards the wooded centre of the island. A number of waders and terns had been seen in the area already, but the highlight lay ahead of us. After a short walk into the woodland, we were soon waiting alongside the roosting trees of the large population of beautiful Scissor-tailed Kites that arrive each evening. We spent some considerable time enjoying the spectacle of these wonderful birds swooping around overhead and perched on the branches of the leafless trees. Mixed among them were smaller numbers of Lesser Kestrels joining the aerial *melée*. The walk back allowed us time to admire a number of African Collared Doves: they seemed to be the commonest dove on the island, despite their scarcity elsewhere. Now, all that remained was to run the gauntlet of the black mud once more during our canoe ferry back to the mainland. Luckily, the tide had come in a little since our arrival, and we were able to land on firmer ground this time! It was all good fun, and nobody fell in, thankfully.

## Day 13

## Friday 27th February

We continued west towards the coast and the Saloum Delta, where we would be staying in the village of Toubacouta. As usual, a few stops were made along the way, beginning with an area of fallow peanut fields among the saltflats. A slow walk out into the field soon had us admiring a small group of Temminck's Coursers, which we were able to approach, allowing better and better views. We scanned the nearby estuary mudflats with little result. The nearby vegetated sandy ground proved more productive, with further sightings of African Silverbill and a very confiding couple of Cut-throat Finches on the ground. This was followed by a fly-by Montagu's Harrier, a bird especially requested by one client who had missed our previous sightings! Another stop was taken to walk out onto the pancake-flat estuarine sands, to approach a few tidal creeks in the hope of finding White-fronted Plover. We drew a blank on this species, as the waders present were far too distant, and further approach was decided against. We did pick out a raptor settled on the sands which caused a bit of discussion as to its identity given the distance. One keen client hiked off to get a closer view, while the group continued their discussion and theories. It was eventually identified as a Peregrine, which was confirmed by our intrepid client returning with photo evidence.

Moving on, we stopped by another roadside pool within quite dense woodland and scrub. A rather unexpected large West African Crocodile was sunning itself on the bank, allowing for some good photo opportunities. Bird wise, there was nothing new or of particular note among the species present. Having made the best use of our morning, we arrived in Toubacouta for lunch at a small local restaurant, before heading to our comfortable hotel near the waterfront for check in. We headed straight down to the jetty for a boat tour through the mangrove-lined creeks of the Saloum Delta.

Our boat trip produced a number of good birds, mainly Palearctic migrant waders on the exposed sand bars, herons, gulls and terns, as would be expected. Our main target was the elusive White-crested Tiger Heron, of which a brief sighting was obtained by a very few of the group, and to the disappointment of most! Despite our prolonged further explorations, a second sighting eluded us. We arrived back at our hotel and bar to drown our sorrows before our evening meal.

## Day 14

## Saturday 28th February

Our day began with a short drive to an attractive area of woodland in the protected Sangako Forest. Among a range of woodland birds seen, the highlights were a party of White-crested Helmetshrikes, Wahlberg's and Tawny Eagles, various sunbirds, Blackcap Babbler and our only Willow Warbler of the trip. Passing through on the forest floor was a small group of Patas Monkeys, which watched us warily from a safe distance. After this pleasant morning excursion, we headed back to the hotel where we had arranged a second boat trip, for another try for the tiger heron. As we approached the jetty, we were lucky to see a Marsh Mongoose crossing the open ground.

We had slightly less time available, so we concentrated our efforts on scanning the fringing mangroves for our target. After some time, and beginning to lose a little hope, we were rewarded with a splendid White-crested Tiger Heron very close to the water's edge, perched among the fringing mangrove branches. This individual amazed us by how dark and grey its plumage was. We had all been expected a rather golden, sandy-plumaged bird as per the field guide illustration. We all obtained fantastic views of the bird with some careful manoeuvring of the boat.

Elated, we headed back to the hotel to freshen up and change clothes, before lunch and then our final return to the airport. We still had time in hand before our evening flight, and had planned on a final bit of birding in parkland near the airport. Unfortunately, during our drive news came through that our flight had been cancelled, so we opted to head directly to the airport and begin to make the necessary arrangements to get the group home. Three of the group managed to be flown out on an earlier flight that evening, while the remainder were ferried to a hotel in Dakar for an overnight stay. This resulted in a further day's birding at a selection of top spots near to Dakar for those 'stranded'!

## Days 15 & 16

## Sunday 1st and Monday 2nd March

Clients finally arrived home!

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## Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

I=Introduced		February 2026													
Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	White-faced Whistling Duck				✓	✓	✓								
	Fulvous Whistling Duck				✓	✓									
	Spur-winged Goose					✓	✓								
	Knob-billed Duck					✓									
	Egyptian Goose					✓									
	African Pygmy Goose					✓									
	Garganey					✓									
	Northern Shoveler				✓	✓									
	Northern Pintail					✓									
	Helmeted Guineafowl										✓	✓			
	Stone Partridge								H						
	Common Quail					✓	✓	✓	✓						
	Double-spurred Spurfowl									✓	✓	✓			
	Golden Nightjar			✓											
	Long-tailed Nightjar				H	✓									
	Mottled Spinetail											✓			
	African Palm Swift	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Pallid Swift										✓				
	Little Swift	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓			
	Horus Swift			✓	✓										
	Western Plantain-eater								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Violet Turaco								✓	✓					
	Guinea Turaco									✓					
	Arabian Bustard					✓									
	Savile's Bustard						✓								
	Senegal Coucal	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
	Blue Malkoha													✓	
	Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
	Feral Rock Dove - I	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	February 2026												
			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>							✓						
	Adamawa Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia hypopyrrha</i>							✓						
	African Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia roseogrisea</i>			✓							✓	✓		
	Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	✓								✓		✓		
	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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Bruce's Green Pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>										✓			
	African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>							✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓							
	African Swamphe	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>					✓								
	Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>				✓	✓					✓			
	Black Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica pavonina</i>					✓	✓							
	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	
	Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>				✓	✓								
	Common Buttonquail	<i>Turnix sylvaticus</i>						✓							
	Quail-plover	<i>Ortyxelos meiffrenii</i>						✓							
	Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>	H	✓		✓	H	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓
	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓					✓		
	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				✓	✓								
	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	✓											✓	✓
	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓						✓	✓
	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓
	Black-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus tectus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓					✓	
	White-crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>									✓				
	African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>							✓		✓				
	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Anarhynchus pecuarius</i>				✓	✓								
	Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>				✓									

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	February 2026													
			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	Egyptian Plover	<i>Pluvianus aegyptius</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 Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓			✓	✓					✓			✓	
	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	✓									✓				
	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	✓													
	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				✓	✓									
	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	✓			✓	✓								✓	✓
	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				✓	✓									
	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	✓				✓							✓	✓	✓
	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	✓													
	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	✓			✓	✓							✓		
	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	✓			✓	✓									
	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	✓			✓	✓									✓
	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓							✓	
	Bronze-winged Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus chalcopterus</i>								✓						
	Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>													✓	
	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>				✓	✓									
	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	✓			✓	✓							✓	✓	✓
	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					✓								✓	✓
	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓								
	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>													✓	
	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>												✓	✓	
	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓				✓	✓							✓	✓
	Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>	✓	✓				✓						✓	✓	✓
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	✓													✓
	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>				✓	✓									
	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				✓	✓									
	African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>					✓								✓	✓
	Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	✓			✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	February 2026												
			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Great (White-breasted) Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus</i>	✓				✓						✓	✓	✓
	African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	✓				✓							✓	
	Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>								H			✓		
	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>						✓							
	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	✓			✓	✓								
	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>					✓								
	White-crested Tiger Heron	<i>Tigriornis leucolopha</i>												✓	✓
	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>						✓							
	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>				✓							✓		
	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓			✓				✓			✓	
	Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>	✓			✓							✓	✓	✓
	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</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>												✓	✓
	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	✓			✓	✓							✓	
	Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>	✓	✓				✓					✓	✓	✓
	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	✓				✓	✓					✓	✓	✓
	Scissor-tailed Kite	<i>Chelictinia riocourii</i>											✓	✓	
	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	✓					✓			✓	✓			
	African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>										✓		✓	✓
	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>						✓							
	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	✓					✓				✓			
	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>						✓							
	Rüppell's Vulture	<i>Gyps rueppelli</i>	✓					✓							

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	February 2026													
			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	✓						✓							
	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>									✓		✓			
	Western Banded Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinerascens</i>								✓	H					
	Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>								✓		✓	✓			
	Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>									✓					
	Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>										✓				
	Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>												✓		✓
	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>			✓											
	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>														✓
	African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>								✓			✓			
	Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>	✓		✓				✓			✓	✓			
	Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>										✓	✓	✓		
	Shikra	<i>Tachypiza badia</i>								✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>						✓		✓					✓	
	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	
	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>				✓										
	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	African Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga vocifer</i>						✓		✓		✓				
	Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	H	H	H								
	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>								✓	✓		H			H
	Pel's Fishing Owl	<i>Scotopelia peli</i>								✓						
	Blue-naped Mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓							
	Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>		✓							✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Black Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>			✓											
	Abyssinian Ground Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus abyssinicus</i>									✓		✓			
	Western Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus kempii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	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>												✓		

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	February 2026													
			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>								✓			✓	✓		
	Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>											✓			
	Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>										✓				
	Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>									✓		✓			
	Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>											✓			
	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>		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓			
	Red-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops bulocki</i>			✓					✓		✓	✓	✓		
	African Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridissimus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓								✓		
	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>			✓		✓								✓	✓
	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>													✓	
	Northern Carmine Bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicus</i>											✓			
	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>									H	✓	H			
	Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieillotii</i>		✓	✓	✓										
	Bearded Barbet	<i>Pogonornis dubius</i>										✓			✓	
	Willcocks's Honeyguide	<i>Indicator willcocksii</i>										✓				
	Little Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos elachus</i>			✓											
	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>								✓		✓				
	African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>				✓					✓	✓				
	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>		✓	✓									✓		
	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓								
	Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>										✓		✓		
	Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>								✓						
	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>									✓	✓	✓			
	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>													✓	
	Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>	✓								✓	✓			✓	✓
	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓
	Senegal Batis	<i>Batis senegalensis</i>		✓						✓		✓				
	Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>										H			H	
	Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>									✓	✓				

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	February 2026													
			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>		✓					✓			✓				
	Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>			✓							✓				
	Turati's Boubou	<i>Laniarius turatii</i>										✓				
	Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓
	Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>		✓		✓						✓				
	White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>									✓					✓
	African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>									H					
	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>		✓	✓	✓						✓				
	African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>										✓				
	Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Lanius corvinus</i>								✓		✓				
	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>			✓			✓								
	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
	Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
	African Blue Flycatcher	<i>Elminia longicauda</i>										✓	✓			
	Sennar Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus punctifrons</i>		✓												
	Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix nigriceps</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓						
	Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>			✓										✓	
	Singing Bush Lark	<i>Mirafrja javanica</i>							✓							
	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	
	Yellow-gorgeted Greenbul	<i>Atimastillas flavicollis</i>										✓	✓			
	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓					✓			
	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>											✓			
	Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓		✓	
	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>														✓
	European Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis rufula</i>						✓								
	African Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis melanocrissus</i>	✓													
	Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>												✓		
	Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓				
	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>		✓	✓	✓										
	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>														✓

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			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓													
	Greater Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus rufescens</i>				✓										
	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>			✓											
	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>				✓										
	Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				✓	H									
	Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna opaca</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓									
	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>								✓						
	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					✓									
	Winding Cisticola	<i>Cisticola marginatus</i>				✓	✓									
	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>					✓	✓								
	Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>						✓			✓		✓			
	Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>	✓						✓			✓		✓		
	River Prinia	<i>Prinia fluviatilis</i>						✓								
	Red-winged Prinia	<i>Prinia erythroptera</i>									✓					
	Cricket Warbler	<i>Spiloptila clamans</i>	✓													
	Oriole Warbler	<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>								H						
	Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>						✓	✓		✓				✓	
	Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>	✓	✓		✓										
	Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓				
	Western Orphean Warbler	<i>Curruca hortensis</i>			✓	✓										
	Western Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca iberiae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓										
	Moltoni's Warbler	<i>Curruca subalpina</i>				✓										
	Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	✓	✓												
	Fulvous Babbler	<i>Argya fulva</i>	✓	✓	✓											
	Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>									✓		✓			
	Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>									H	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
	Bronze-tailed Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalcurus</i>									✓		✓			
	Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Chestnut-bellied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis pulcher</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓						✓	
	Neumann's Starling	<i>Onychognathus neumanni</i>									✓					

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	February 2026													
			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>												✓		
	African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>										✓				
	Black Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas podobe</i>	✓	✓	✓									✓		
	Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes minor</i>					✓									
	Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edoloides</i>										✓				
	White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapillus</i>								✓	✓					
	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>								✓						
	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		✓	✓											
	African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>				✓	✓									
	Mocking Cliff Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>									✓					
	Anteater Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla aethiops</i>		✓	✓	✓										
	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	
	Mangrove Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>													✓	
	Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platura</i>		✓							✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>								✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
	Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastrus</i>										✓				
	Copper Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>										✓				
	Sahel Bush Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris dentata</i>	✓								✓	✓	✓			
	Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓					✓
	House Sparrow - I	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓						✓
	Sudan Golden Sparrow	<i>Passer luteus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
	White-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓						✓	
	Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓
	Vitelline Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>		✓	✓							✓				
	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>		✓			✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓
	Black-headed Weaver	<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>				✓	✓									
	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>			✓					✓		✓	✓			
	Black-winged Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>													✓	
	Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>			✓		✓					✓				
	Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>										✓				
	African Silverbill	<i>Euodice cantans</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	February 2026													
			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	Lavender Waxbill	<i>Glaucostrelda caerulescens</i>										✓				
	Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>											✓			
	Black-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>										✓			✓	✓
	Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>		✓											✓	
	Orange-breasted Waxbill	<i>Amandava subflava</i>						✓								
	Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓
	Dybowski's Twinspot	<i>Euschistospiza dybowskii</i>										✓				
	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Mali Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta virata</i>										✓				
	Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>								✓			✓	✓		
	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>			✓						✓					
	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			✓	✓										
	White-rumped Seedeater	<i>Crithagra leucopygia</i>			✓											
	Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>									✓	✓				

## Mammals

	Common name	Scientific name	February 2026													
			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	Guinea Baboon	<i>Papio papio</i>								✓	✓		✓			
	Common Patas Monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>							✓			✓				✓
	Green Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus sabaesus</i>				✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Western Red Colobus	<i>Piliocolobus badius</i>									✓		✓	✓		
	African Savanna Hare	<i>Lepus victoriae</i>			✓											
	Striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>	✓		✓				✓					✓		
	Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>									✓	✓		✓		
	Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus gambianus</i>												✓		
	Naked-rumped Tomb bat	<i>Taphozous nudiventris</i>			✓											
	a serotine bat	<i>Eptesicus sp.</i>		✓												
	a house bat	<i>Scotophilus sp.</i>				✓	✓									

Common name	Scientific name	February 2026													
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>				✓	✓									
Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguinea</i>										✓	✓			
Marsh Mongoose	<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>													✓	
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>						✓		✓						
African Civet	<i>Civettictus civetta</i>										✓				
African Golden Wolf	<i>Canis lupaster</i>				✓	✓									