



## Birds of the Gulf of Guinea

Islands are unique environments home to many animals found nowhere else in the world, including many birds. The islands of São Tomé and Príncipe, located 155 miles off the west coast of Africa, are no exception.

**São Tomé scops owl:** This small rufous owl is 1 of only 3 owls found on the islands of São Tomé and Príncipe. The 2 others are the barn owl and a currently undescribed (as of 2022) Príncipe scops owl.

**Newton's Fiscal:** With its black-colored back and yellow belly, the Newton's Fiscal is the only shrike living on São Tomé. They are also one of the few shrikes that live in forested environments.

**White-tailed Tropicbird:** Tropicbirds are known for their brightly colored bills and long tail feathers. White-tailed Tropicbirds can be found near tropical and subtropical waters, including around Hawai'i and Florida.

**São Tomé Grosbeak:** The chestnut-colored member of the finch family was once thought to be extinct, but it was rediscovered during a survey in 1991.

**Dwarf Olive Ibis:** The smallest member of the ibis and spoonbill family, Threskiornithidae, the dwarf olive ibis lives primarily in forests. They use their down-curved bills to probe for invertebrates in the dirt.

**Malachite Kingfisher:** This small kingfisher looks like a gem with its blue back, orange belly, and reddish bill as it perches on reeds looking for food in the water below. Subspecies of this bird can be found on both São Tomé and Príncipe.

**Giant Sunbird:** The giant sunbird is one of the largest members of the sunbird family, Nectariniidae. Sunbirds have long down-curved bills to feed on nectar. These birds can often be found in pairs or small groups in forest canopies.

**Príncipe Starling:** This endemic starling of Príncipe is related to the European starling we see in North America and Europe. They have iridescent feathers that can appear black from one angle and green, black, copper, and purple from another.

