

Bird Watching in Kibale National Park: A Haven for Avian Enthusiasts

Kibale National Park is not only a fantastic place for primates but also a haven for bird enthusiasts. The park boasts over 375 bird species, offering a great bird-watching experience, especially for forest specials like the highly sought-after African pitta. Additionally, four bird species in Kibale National Park have not been spotted in any other [national park in Uganda](#), including the blue-headed bee-eater, Cassin's spintail, Nahan's francolin, and masked apalis.

The best bird-watching spot is the Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary, a community project where experienced guides take you on a four-hour trail. This protected area covers an area of approximately 4.5 square kilometers. It boasts a rich biodiversity of over 200 bird species, several primate species, and various plant and animal life.

You can spot migratory birds in Bigodi from November to April. Common bird sightings in Bigodi include the African pied wagtail, great blue turaco, pin-tailed whydah, slender-billed weaver, and tropical boubou.

Here's a list of birds you should look for when visiting Kibale National Park.

- Afep pigeon
- Abyssinian ground thrush
- Brown-chested alethe
- Ruwenzori apalis
- Blue-breasted kingfisher
- Black-capped apalis
- Green-breasted pitta
- Western nicator
- Little greenbul
- African pitta
- Brown illadopsis
- Blue-headed sunbird
- Dusky crimsonwing
- Crowned eagle
- Yellow-rumped tinkerbird
- White-naped pigeon
- Red-chested owlet
- Black bee-eater
- Scaly-breasted illadopsis
- Masked apalis
- Nahan's francolin
- Red-faced woodland warbler
- Blue-headed bee-eater
- Grey parrot
- Cassin's spintail
- Black-eared ground thrush
- Purple-breasted sunbird

Best time to go birding in Kibale Forest

The bird population in Kibale is thriving throughout the year, with the prime time to observe them being from March to May and September to November. From June to September, there is abundant fruit, and many birds are in their breeding plumage. Migratory birds can also be spotted here from November to April. December to February and June to July experience the least rainfall, while March to May and September to November receive the most. However, keep in mind that rainstorms may affect the amount of time you have for bird-watching.

Whether you're an experienced birder or a novice, the diverse range of species and their melodious calls while exploring the Kibale Forest canopies will captivate you. So start planning your bird-watching safari in Uganda and embark on a bird-watching adventure through the park's varied habitats, including the wetlands, grasslands, and forested areas.