

Kaziranga Records High Diversity of Grassland Birds

Source: TH

Kaziranga National Park, Assam best known for its **one-horned rhinos**, has now emerged as a biodiversity hotspot for grassland birds.

- First dedicated grassland bird survey conducted in Kaziranga recorded 43 species across its three wildlife divisions. Includes rare and threatened species like:
 - Critically Endangered: Bengal florican
 - **Endangered:** Finn's weaver, Swamp grass babbler
 - Vulnerable (6 species): Black-breasted parrotbill, Marsh babbler, Swamp francolin, Jerdon's babbler, Slender-billed babbler, Bristled grassbird
 - Finn's weaver found to be breeding successfully, indicating healthy grassland ecosystems.
 - Kaziranga's 1,174 sq. km habitat supports rich birdlife, with grassland bird diversity comparable to Gujarat and Rajasthan.
 - The study marks as a key step in avian conservation in Northeast India.

Kaziranga National Park:

- It was established as a Reserve Forest in 1908 to protect the Indian rhinoceros, it became a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1950, National Park in 1974, and a <u>UNESCO World Heritage Site</u> in 1985. And it was declared as a <u>Tiger Reserve</u> in 2007 due to high tiger density.
- It is known for the Big Five: Rhinoceros, Tiger, Elephant, Asiatic Wild Buffalo, and Eastern Swamp Deer. Nearly the entire population of Eastern Swamp Deer is found here.
- It is located along the **Brahmaputra River** which brings rich nutrients but also causes habitat loss through erosion.



7 NATIONAL PARKS IN ASSAM

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Vision

