

# A rapid assessment of Kumbira Forest in the Angolan Escarpment

## About the Talk

Angola is one of the 19 Endemic Bird Areas in Africa, and yet is one of the least known countries for birds on the continent, with most of the information on bird distribution based on data collected before 1975. An ornithological expedition to Kumbira Forest, Gabela was undertaken in January 2004 to investigate its bird community. The rapid assessment indicates that this forest still supports majority of the endemic and threatened species, including the Gabela Akalat, which was found to be rather common in modified "coffee forest" understory. Further research may show that other globally threatened species are more common than presumed. It is hoped that the ornithological importance of Kumbira Forest will lead to detailed studies, community-based ecotourism, and official protection.

## About the speaker

Cagan Sekercioglu is a Turkish ecologist, conservation biologist, ornithologist, and nature photographer doing his postdoctoral research at Stanford University Center for Conservation Biology. His research focuses on the causes and consequences of bird extinctions around the world, with work in areas such as Costa Rica and Uganda. He is investigating the ecological factors behind extinction-proneness, the factors behind the survival of some tropical forest bird species in human-dominated landscapes and the consequences of avian extinctions on bird-mediated ecosystem processes and services. In addition to his empirical research, he is interested in how ecotourism, especially birdwatching, can contribute to community-based conservation in the developing world and improving the role of the private sector in the conservation of biodiversity.

**Cagan H. Sekercioglu**

Center for Conservation Biology  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Stanford University

**Date:** 12 Oct 2005, Wed  
**Time:** 3 - 4 pm  
**Venue:** DBS Conference Room  
**Host:** A/P Sodhi N

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Department of Biological Sciences  
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Seminar Announcement

