

Azamidani Valley Bird Watching

A number of wild bird species, some migratory, populate this area of the forest, and come to the small pond. The summer months are especially good for birdwatching.

Narcissus flycatcher

The narcissus flycatcher migrates long distances, arriving in this area in spring and summer. The male has a distinctive pattern of a black crown and bright orange throat, while the female plumage is largely brown tones. The male's song is a melodious series of whistles.

Varied tit

While a member of the tit family, the varied tit is quite different than the others. Its plumage of a brown chest and blue-gray wings is striking. The varied tit can be seen here year-round, often feeding by holding acorns in its feet, cracking them with its strong beak.

Blue-and-white flycatcher

This member of the flycatcher family is also migratory. It winters in south-east Asia, but can often be seen in this forest in the summer. The male, with a striking contrast of a blue back and white chest, tends to perch for long periods of time on the ends of high branches and has a beautiful singing voice. It repeats a pattern of leaving its perch to catch insects in mid-air and returning.

Japanese bush warbler

The Japanese bush warbler, once known as the Japanese nightingale, is more often heard than seen. It holds a special place in the hearts of Japanese and is a frequent motif in poetry. Its breeding call, "ho-hokekyo," can be heard from early spring. In winter, it moves to lower elevations.