POPULATION STATUS AND BREEDING SUCCESS OF HIMALAYAN GRIFFON, EGYPTIAN VULTURE AND LAMMERGEIER IN GHERABHIR, ARGHAKHANCHI, NEPAL

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RECOMMENDATION

It is my pleasure to mention here that **Mr Krishna Prasad Bhusal** completed his dissertation work entitled **"STUDY OF POPULATION STATUS AND BREEDING SUCCESS OF HIMALAYAN GRIFFON, EGYPTIAN VULTURE AND LAMMERGEIER IN GHERABHIR, ARGHAKHANCHI, NEPAL"** under my guidance and supervision. This is the candidate's original work aiming to document relevant information on status and breeding success of three diferent species of vultures in a single habitat Gherabhir Arghakhanchi, Nepal. To the best of my knowledge, this dissertation work has not been submitted for any other degree.

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Supervisor

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Associate Professor

Central Department of Zoology

Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur

Kathmandu, Nepal Date.....

LETTER OF APPROVAL

On the recommendation of supervisor Associate Prof. **Dr. Mukesh Kumar Chalise**, this dissertation work entitled**"STUDY OF POPULATION STATUS AND BREEDING SUCCESS OF HIMALAYAN GRIFFON, EGYPTIAN VULTURE AND LAMMERGEIER IN GHERABHIR, ARGHAKHANCHI, NEPAL"** presented by **Krishna Prasad Bhusal** has been accepted as partial fullfillment of Master's Degree of Zoology in IOST, T.U.

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work presented in this dissertation has been done by myself, and has not been submited elsewhere for the award of any degree. All sources of information have been specifically acknowledged by reference to the authors or institutions.

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ABSTRACT

The present study entitled **‘‘Population Status and Breeding Success of Himalayan Griffon, Egyptian vulture and Lammergeier in Gherabhir, Arghakhanchi, Nepal’’** focusing on vultures diversity, population status and their breeding success was conducted in newly discovered habitat Gherabhir Arghakhanchi from January to June 2010. The estimated population size of three vultures in Gherabhir Arghakhanchi using Jacknife technique was 74 individuals among them Himalayan Griffon was estimated to be 57, Egyptian vulture 10 and Lammergeier 6. The average flock size of vultures recorded was 64.71 with Standard deviation 6.72. The average flock size of Himalayan Griffon, Egyptian and Lammergeier were 48.71, 5 and 3.81 respectively with standard deviation of Himalayan Griffon, Egyptian and Lammergeier vultures were 5.09, 0.58 and 0.39 respectively. According to the Chi Square test there was no significant difference in the flock size of Himalayan Griffon, Egyptian vulture and Lammergeier in different months at Gherabhir Arghakhanchi in 2010 field season.

Among 20 active nests only 13 nests were productive of Himalayan Griffon. Based on active nests as primary unit the breeding success of Himalayan Griffon was 65% while based on occupied nest as primary unit the breeding success was 46.43%. The breeding success of Lammergeier based on active nest as primary unit was 100% while based on occupied nest as primary unit was 50%. The breeding success of Egyptian vulture based on active nest as primary unit was 50% and based on occupied nest as primary nest was 33.33% in Gherabhir, Arghakhanchi in 2010 breeding season.

Different public awareness programme were launched. Newspaper article and news were written and broadcast highlighting the vulture conservation in that area. Questionare survey was done to know the current trend on NSAIDs, their use and prevailing stocks in the Agro-vet shops of Arghakhanchi district. Thereafter Arghakhanchi district was declare as Diclofenac Free District.

Key Words:- *Gherabhir, Population status, Breeding Success, Himalayan Griffon, Egyptian vulture, Lammergeier*.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER-THREE

CHAPTER –FOUR

CHAPTER-FIVE

CHAPTER- SIX

CHAPTER-SEVEN

LIST OF TABLES

Page No.

LIST OF FIGURE

Page No.

LIST OF PHOTO PLATE