

**Population Status, Habitat Preferences and Conservation Threats of Kalij
Pheasant (*Lophura leucomelana leucomelana*) in Narmadeswor VDC,
Okhaldhunga, East Nepal**



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Master of Science in Zoology with special paper Ecology.**

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RECOMMENDATIONS

This is to recommend that the thesis entitled “**Population Status, Habitat Preferences and Conservation Threats of Kalij Pheasant (*Lophura leucomelana leucomelana*) in Narmadeswor VDC, Okhaldhunga, East Nepal**” has been carried out by Sirjana Dhungel for the fulfillment of **Master’s Degree of Science in Zoology** with special paper Ecology. This is her original work and has been carried out under my supervision. To the best of my knowledge, this thesis work has not been submitted for any other degree in any institutions.

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LETTER OF APPROVAL

On the recommendation of the Supervisor Dr. Mukesh K. Chalise, Associate Professor of Central Department of Zoology, Tribhuvan University, this thesis submitted by Sirjana Dhungel entitled **“Population Status, Habitat Preferences and Conservation Threats of Kalij Pheasant (*Lophura leucomelana leucomelana*) in Narmadeswor VDC, Okhaldhunga, East Nepal”** is approved for the examination and submitted to the Tribhuvan University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for **Master’s Degree of Science in Zoology** with special paper Ecology.

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work presented in this thesis has been done by myself, and has not been submitted elsewhere for the award of any degree. All sources of information have been specifically acknowledged by reference to the author(s) or institution(s).

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to estimate population status, habitat preferences and conservation threats of Kalij pheasant (*Lophura leucomelana leucomelana*) in Narmadeswor VDC, Okhaldhunga district. Roost survey method was used to collect data on population status of bird, habitat preferences index (HPI) method was used to assess the habitat preferences and conservation threats was evaluated by questionnaire survey.

A total of an average of 14 individuals of Kalij pheasant were recorded from the study area in altogether four visits in April – June, August – September, October - December and January – March, 2011-2012. The result showed highest monthly density (5.55 individuals per sq. km.) in August - September and lowest (1.11 individuals per sq. km.) in March. Among four types of habitats, the closed forest with high understorey was most preferred by the Kalij (HPI = 1.30) followed by closed forest with low understorey (0.92), open forest (0.75) and terraced field (0.74). In Narmadeswor, 22 species of trees, 8 species of shrubs and 29 species of herbs, 8 species of climbers and 16 species of grass were recorded. Altogether 30 roosts were found, among the roosting trees *Pinus roxburghii* (50%) was mainly used by Kalij pheasant in the study area followed by *Shorea robusta* (33.33%), *Mangifera indica* (10%), *Phyllanthus emblica* (6.67%). Mean height, mean girth at breast height and mean height of lowest branch of roost tree was 9.69m, 0.92m and 5.27m respectively. Most of the respondents showed negative attitude towards Kalij in Narmadeswor areas. Evaluation of Conservation threats from the information given by respondents suggests feeding of Kalij pheasant on crops were the most important threat whereas other threats were fire wood collection, disturbance by people in the roost, timber collection, poaching, egg collection and grazing.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

C.	Centigrade
CFHU	Closed forest of high understorey
CFLU	Closed forest with low understorey
CITES	The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
Cm	Centimeter
DBH	Diameter by Breast Height
HPI	Habitat preferences rating index
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
Km	Kilo meter
OF	Open Forest
Sq.	Square
TF	Terraced Field
VDC	Village Development Committee
WPA	World Pheasant Association