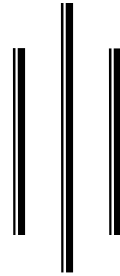


**POPULATION STATUS, DISTRIBUTION AND CONSERVATION
THREATS OF SWAMP FRANCOLIN (*Francolinus gularis* Temminck, 1815)
IN KOSHI TAPPU WILDLIFE RESERVE, NEPAL**

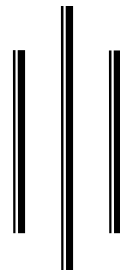


A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER'S DEGREE IN

ZOOLOGY (ECOLOGY)

BY

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ABSTRACT

Swamp Francolin (*Francolinus gularis*), is one of the globally threatened bird and classified as **vulnerable** species. The bird is **endemic** to Indian sub-continent and in Nepal, it is restricted to Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and KTWR.

The study entitled "Population Status, Distribution and Conservation Threats of Swamp Francolin (*Francolinus gularis*)" was carried out in KTWR from June 11 to July 16, 2007 with aim to estimate the population status, distribution and threats, hence to recommend for appropriate management. The direct observation method was used to determine the population status along with biophysical status of area and questionnaire surveys to access of habitat utilization and threats.

A maximum of 87 individuals were recorded in the eastern part of the reserve with a clumped distribution pattern. The maximum number of the species was found at Kushaha area. The population of the species were seen distributed in a little bit fragmented fashion in swampy grassland of the eastern part although the number of Francolins were encountered throughout the way from Haripur to Prakashpur but some phantas in between were found completely out of the species.

Destruction of habitat is major problem in the KTWR, either by the encroachment or due to the flood in Koshi River. Another major problem is the disturbance either by human interference or by cattle/livestock. Overgrazing on vegetation, cutting trees of habitat, active human pressure and worse management reflected critical situation of overall KTWR.

The degradation of habitat quality and the loss of space are not supporting the viable self sustaining population of swamp Francolin at natural condition. For in-Situ conservation of Swamp Francolin population restoration, management and extension of existing habitat at KTWR is important.

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ACRONYMS

ANOVA	:	Analysis of Variance
BCN	:	Bird Conservation Nepal
°C	:	Degree Celsius
CDB	:	Central Department of Botany
CDZ	:	Central Department of Zoology
DNPWC	:	Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation
H.Q.	:	Headquarter
ICIMOD	:	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IUCN	:	International Union for Conservation of Nature and natural resources
Km.	:	Kilometer
KMTNC	:	King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation
KTWR	:	Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve
m.	:	Meter
T.U.	:	Tribhuvan University
TUCI	:	Tribhuvan University Central Library
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
WMI	:	Woodlands Mountain Institute
WPA	:	World Pheasant Association
WWF	:	World Wildlife Fund