

PREFACE

The present study on the ecology and behaviour of Satyr Tragopan, *Tragopan satyra* Linn. was initiated as a research project to produce information on the species in particular as well as the Singhalila National Park in general. This protected area is one of the most important forest cover areas of the Darjeeling Himalaya and no other research activity to document the flora and fauna of this National Park had ever been conducted in the recent past.

The rare and threatened Satyr Tragopan is one of the most attractive species among pheasants. Very little quantitative data have been produced on the ecology of the species throughout its distributional range from Garhwal in the west to Arunachal Pradesh or southeast China in the far east. With this kind of background a study on the ecology of the Satyr Tragopan in the Singhalila National Park was launched in June 1994. The study period covered two years from June 1994 - August 1996, and another four months from March 1997 - June 1997.

Thesis layout: I have divided the thesis into 8 chapters.

Chapter 1. Introduction: Introduces the pheasants and reviews work done on pheasants at the global, Asian and Indian level. A small section on the

review of work done on Satyr Tragopan has also been included. The last section of the chapter lists the main objectives of the thesis.

Chapter 2. Materials and methods: Describes the study area and the general methods adopted during the study. Details of methods are discussed in greater details along with each chapter separately.

Chapter 3 Distribution and abundance: Reviews the historical and current global distribution of Satyr Tragopan. I have also discussed the local distribution and abundance of the Satyr Tragopan in Singhalila National Park.

Chapter 4. Habitat studies: This chapter discusses the habitat use of the species on a seasonal basis and attempts to identify the habitat variables important to the Satyr Tragopan.

Chapter 5 Food and feeding ecology: Deals with results obtained from faecal analysis and attempts to list the food items identified from the droppings of Satyr Tragopan. I have also attempted to identify preference-avoidance of food items in Singhalila National Park on a seasonal basis.

Chapter 6. Calling behaviour and social organisation: Not much data could be generated on this chapter . Attempts have been made to study the different aspects of calling behaviour and the probable functions associated with calling. The social organisation has attempted to address the group size and crude sex ratio of the species.

Chapter 7 Threats: Deals with the general socio-economic conditions of the settlements situated in the fringe area of Singhalila National Park. Attempts have been made to identify activities which may be potential threats to the species as well as its habitat. Based on the results a few recommendations which may help in formulating management techniques have been proposed.

Chapter 8. General discussion: Discusses and tries to interrelate the various chapters which have up to now been dealt in isolation. This section also discusses the outcome of the work.