



Birds of Nagaland



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ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY OF NAGALAND

Birds
of
Nagaland

Environmental Society of Nagaland
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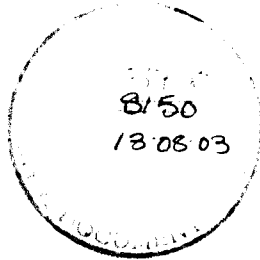
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Introduction

We were aware that the Dzukou Basin was an important eco-centre in the region and a bio-diversity hot-spot and that the villages in which the Environmental Society of Nagaland (ESN) was carrying out the major part of its activities had certain unique knowledge systems. But the importance of documenting indigenous knowledge systems impinged upon us when we started carrying out joint activities and programmes with Dr A.K. Gangwar, former Scientist-in-charge, and his team at the Centre for Environment Education (CEE-North East), Guwahati, and together also developed an easy-to-use format for documentation purposes.

This awareness gradually became a certainty as more and more of our members and the villagers themselves got exposed to various camps and workshops outside the State. As a result, the ESN decided to start the process of identifying the different areas in which research and documentation needed to be carried out. Seven such areas were identified including bamboo and cane works, woodcraft, weaving and processing plants to make cloth etc. (*Kindly also refer to the brief background history of the society at the end*). Experiments were also carried out and the results were exhibited at the All

observatory book for school children and suggested that we apply for it. Since this was in our area of interest, we applied for a Birds of Nagaland book. Our application was accepted and sponsorship came from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, through CEE. And a few of the members were entrusted to carry out the responsibility.

All kind of birds were available in Nagaland, some not shown in any book or even in the list of the Chief Wildlife Warden's office in Dimapur, Nagaland. The birds seem to be more concentrated in a few areas around the Dzukou Basin and in Phek and Tuensang Districts near/along the Myanmarese border. Even in the Khonoma-Dzulekie area, many birds have come back after hunting was banned by village authorities. Some were seasonal birds. Unfortunately, seeing was one thing and documenting them pictorially was another. Photography was tried but in the absence of professional personnel and equipment, it became a hopeless task. Frustration and delay were the results. Finally, we decided that we would bring out whatever we could without waiting anymore.

What has been published in this edition is a very modest effort. We realize it does not do justice to the birds of Nagaland! But it is a beginning.

some day in the future, adequate sponsorship would be available or a collaborative effort would materialize and a proper 'census' could be carried out.

We have become indebted to many in the course of preparing and bringing out this book. Our deepest gratitude to Dr A.K. Gangwar, the CEE-North East office Guwahati, CEE, Ahmedabad, and the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. This publication would not have been possible without their assistance and support.

Our thanks also to the office of the Chief Wildlife Warden; the Department of Forests, Wildlife, Ecology and Environment, Government of Nagaland; to Pune-based NGO **Kalpavriksh** and their book, "Birds of Pune"; to the many villagers who not only provided inputs but other significant insights about various birds; and to our own ESN members for being ever ready to volunteer whenever something needed to be done.

Finally, our thanks to Mr R.S. Pandey, the Chief Secretary, Government of Nagaland, for being kind enough to write words of encouragement and support in our endeavour to publish this first book.

Editors