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Record shot of Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis* (Temminck, 1822) at Kamjong, Indo-Burma region

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Abstract

As per the objectives of the Bioresources Database and Bioinformatics Division of the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) an autonomous institute of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India; a survey was made for the documentation of bioresources of the North-eastern region. During the survey in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot, which is a well known treasure of flora and fauna in sub-tropical pine and Dry temperate ecosystems. We were surveying for bar-backed pheasant around the town where we sighted couple of raptors at the end of Kamjong town (25° 00' 53" N & 94° 19' 7.6" E; 1408 m) near Indo-Myanmar border region dt. 26 November 2017 in the morning about at 11:15

AM. We notice that the raptors were Black Eagle [*Ictinaetus malaiensis* Temminck, 1822; family – Accipitridae; Figure 1] perching on the tree of *Bombax ceiba* (Malvaceae). After critical analysis of literature survey and referring eBird data (1900-2017); it was found to be a new sighting of this bird in this region (Figure 2). It is a large raptor. It has about 65-85 cm length and about 165-180 cm wingspan. It has about 1000-1650 gm. It has all black plumage, yellow base and feet. Wings are held in a shallow 'V' in flight. They eat mammals, birds and eggs. They are prolific nest-predator and are known for their slow flight just over the canopy (Hodgson 1843; Temminck & Laugier 1839; Ali & Ripley 1978; Rasmussen et al. 2005; Grimmett et al. 2011; Lebossé & Bour 2011). After the sighting of the

Black Eagle, we decided to carry out the population inventory of this bird using imaginary grid method (8 grid of 1 km x 10 meters) and line transect method by Gaston (1973) dated 26th November 2017 from Kamjong to Ukhrul town for around 100 kilometers till the evening; however no sightings of Black Eagle was recorded (Figure 3). Results of eBird analysis and our observation revealed that the bird is rare in the Indo-Burma region and needs re-inventorization for categorizing the current threatened status. The present studies recommend the following measures for conservation and ecological balance in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot:

- i. To cease the deforestation of bigger trees like *Bombax ceiba*, - for perching of raptors.
- ii. Jhum (shifting) cultivation should be stopped to protect shrubby vegetation which are the shelters of the prey of raptors.
- iii. To discourage the mining activities in the forest area to avoid pollution.
- iv. To create awareness programme to check bird hunting.
- v. To control the harvesting of prey food for sustainable management of the ecosystem.

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Figure 1: Black eagle in study area

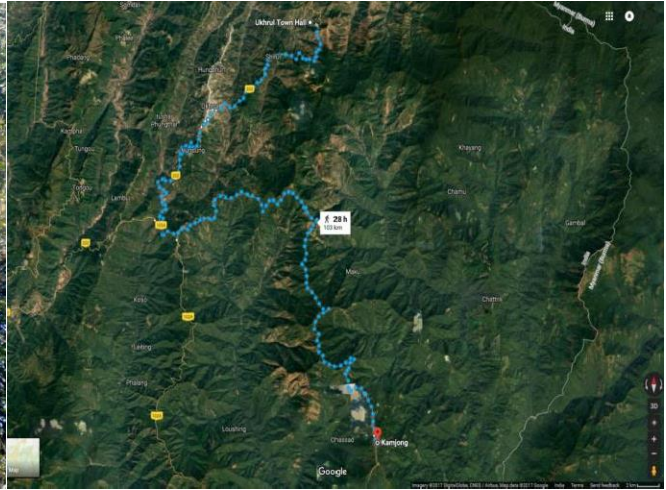


Figure 2: eBird data on Black eagle

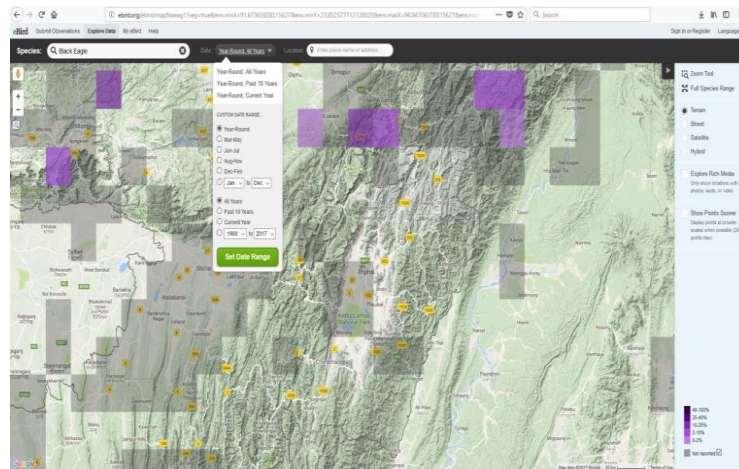


Figure3: Population inventory