

Project Update: January 2017

I put up 120 nest boxes at 200 m elevation in Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary in the summer of 2016 to examine if weaver ants have any effect on nesting success of birds. Almost 50% of the nest boxes were occupied, all of them by white-rumped shamas (*Copsychus malabaricus*) and some nest boxes were occupied within a week of putting them up. We didn't find any effect of weaver ants on nest site selection or nesting success of birds. In some of the nest boxes, after a nesting attempt by birds, we found ant colonies nesting inside the box. Thus, there may be competition for nesting cavities between ants and birds especially because none of the 30 nest boxes we put up at 1100 m elevation were occupied by birds. Byproducts of this experiment were photos of nest predation by civet cats, snakes, squirrels and in one case, by a monitor lizard.



Camera: a/Nattie 84.928 °C 05-21-2016 13:16:35



Camera: a/Nattie 84.920 °C 05-07-2016 02:45:06