

## Project Update: June 2019

The project field site is in the state of Uttarakhand - Pawalgarh Conservation Reserve (PCR) and its boundary is governed by two forest divisions viz., Ramnagar Forest Division and Terai West Forest Division. I acquired the permission from Ramnagar Forest Division in November 2017, however didn't receive the permission from Terai West Forest Division. Therefore, I started my field work covering major part of PCR which falls in Ramnagar Forest Division in the month of October 2018.

An account of my field activities is as follow:

1. The field data collection has been achieved for two seasons viz., post-breeding season (October 2018 – January 2019) coinciding with winters and half of the breeding season (April 2019 – June 2019) which will last till August and, coincides with summer as well as monsoon seasons.
2. I have completed a minor stakeholder meeting with the forest department, and for villagers and students, the awareness programmes will be conducted in October 2019.
3. **Objective 1** To assess the distribution and abundance of great-slaty woodpecker in and around Pawalgarh Conservation Reserve.
  - a) At present, 12 groups of great slaty woodpecker have been identified both in and around the conservation reserve.
  - b) In total 48 individuals of great slaty woodpecker have been recorded in and around Pawalgarh Conservation Reserve.
  - c) All the groups have varying number of individuals ranging from three to five.
  - d) In addition, with the help of three local villagers (field support staff) and forest watchers, I have mapped eight nests of the great slaty woodpecker in the reserve and two nests outside the reserve.
4. **Objective 2** To study the foraging strategies adopted by the great-slaty woodpecker during seasonal change.
  - a) Great slaty woodpecker was found utilising different food resources during different seasons.
  - b) Insect collection has been carried out for each season for the species and identification is being carried out.
5. **Objective 3** To address the potential threats and disturbances to the species in and around the study area.

So far, I have recorded Indian gray hornbill predating on the eggs of great slaty woodpecker and common myna displacing one group of nesting great slaty woodpecker and using the nest for themselves.

6. Data are currently being entered and analysed for final technical report preparation which I will be submitting in December 2019.

7. Pending works to be completed in October 2019 - printing of educational materials (poster and pamphlets), wide circulation of the printed materials, stakeholder workshops, and awareness programmes during the last week of October 2019 in village Pawalgarh. The final report will be submitted in December 2019.