

OCCURRENCE OF THE DUSKY HORNED OWL IN KOSI TAPPU

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A number of American Peace Corps Volunteers including D.L. Golobitsh, Cathy Johnson and Tom Dahmer, have had an active part in Nepal's wild life program. Tom Dahmer was stationed in the Kosi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in eastern Nepal where there is a remnant of a sub-tropical deciduous riverain forest. It formerly covered up to twenty per cent of the Reserve area but is now rapidly diminishing in range, height and density of canopy and species diversity due to illicit timber harvesting for house construction, fuel and fencing.

I was in the forest near Hardibari where the Dusky Horned Owl was located which has not been reported from Nepal since 1846. The nest was in the top of a lofty *Bombax ceiba*. It seems the optimum environment contains a lower canopy and scrub layers below the tree. When cultivation is introduced the owls move out. Since the forest is rapidly diminishing, it is recommended that a guard post be constructed and maintained with two or three guards in order to save the forest.

(The Editor has heard comments regarding the gazetted area for the Kosi Tappu Reserve that it is much too small. Major Gregory-Smith recommends a reserve from the Kosi Barrange up to seventeen miles north of it.)

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