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**ECOLOGY AND BEHAVIOUR OF RESIDENT RAPTORS
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ENDANGERED SPECIES**

SURVEY IN SOUTH INDIA

Team of Scientists

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The survey of raptors was conducted as done in the pervious year to assess the status and distribution of some of the rare species, especially the breeding raptors, following the standard methods of counting along road transects covered by jeep, walking transect and point count and, nest searching. A report on the survey in South India during October 1991 to March 1992 is presented here. The following regions representing different biotic provinces, namely the Western Ghats, South Deccan and West Coast were covered: 1) Indira Gandhi and Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuaries, and 2) Silent Valley National Park with nearby Attapady and Muthikulam - Siruvani areas in the Western Ghats; 3) Bannerghatta Wildlife Sanctuary in the South Deccan and 4) Bhagawan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary in the West Coast. Emphasis was given to the species listed as of concern after the preliminary survey (Birds of Prey Project- Annual Report 1990). Such species for South India are: 1) Legges Baza, 2) Black Crested Baza, 3) Crested Goshawk, 4) Rufousbellied Eagle 5) Lesser Spotted Eagle, 6) King Vulture, 7) Pied Harrier and, 8) Shahin and 9) Laggar Falcons which are not included in the previous list. Details of the habitat and abundance of birds in general were also recorded from the areas covered.

177 species of birds were sighted in the Anamalai hills and the adjoining Parambikulam sanctuary. 111 raptors of 25 species were recorded during the survey (using different methods), which includes four target species. Further studies are being continued for locating the breeding raptors, especially the Blackcrested Baza and Rufousbellied Eagle and, to assess their breeding requirements. 189 species of birds were observed at Silent Valley, Attappady and Mukkali areas with a maximum of 26 species of raptors including five target species. In the Bannerghatta Sanctuary 114 species of birds were recorded. 15 species of raptors (including the vultures) were observed here. No target species was located. 98 species of birds with only ten species of raptors were observed in the Mahavir wildlife sanctuary. Censusing in a transect of 133 km by jeep 75 raptors were found of which 60 were Whitebacked Vulture.