

A Report on Wild Life Surveys in North India and Southern Nepal

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BY

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(With two coloured and ten monochrome plates and eight maps)

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INTRODUCTION

At the request of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Assam, Mr. E. P. Gee, member of the Indian Board for Wild Life, informally applied at the First World Conference on National Parks (held in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A., in 1962) that an ecological survey of the Great Indian One-horned Rhinoceros be undertaken in northern India. This became the World Wildlife Fund Project No. 47 of 1962 and received the official welcome of the Indian Board for Wild Life. Although this

project was given high priority by the World Wildlife Fund Board of Trustees, lack of funds prevented any further action being taken until in 1965. The Foundation Volkart Brothers of Winterthur, Switzerland, then sponsored the study, which became World Wildlife Fund Project No. 173 : The Wild Life of India.

I was invited to undertake this survey of the Indian rhino, as well as several other short studies contained in this report. These were officially sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund, Morges, Switzerland. However, the project was assisted by The Johns Hopkins University Center for Medical Research and Training, Calcutta, India, and Baltimore, Maryland (U.S.A.), supported by U. S. Public Health Service Grant ROTTWOOYL. Mr. E. P. Gee made the necessary arrangements with the Government of India and the State Forest Departments of Assam, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh. The sanction of the Rajasthan Forest Department was also obtained. In order to obtain an overall status of the Indian rhino, it was necessary to include Nepal, which extended the fullest co-operation. In addition, Mr. Gee supervised and assisted me in every way possible, and I particularly want to thank him for his counsel and advice.

Messrs. Joel E. Cohen and Rames C. De assisted me in a large mammal census of the Keoladeo Ghana Sanctuary, Rajasthan, the latter part of January 1966. Mr. Cohen was a Frederick Sheldon Travelling Fellow, 1965-1966, of Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts (U.S.A.). Mr. De then conducted a study of the spotted deer in Corbett National Park, Uttar Pradesh, from February 1 through 29 May 1966, with my assistance. He was a research assistant, supported by The Johns Hopkins Center for Medical Research and Training, and his study is included in this report.

Mr. E. P. Gee and I had also proposed a census of the Kashmir Stag on its wintering grounds. The Forest Department of Kashmir had extended an invitation to us and had promised to assist in every way possible with this undertaking. We attempted to travel to Srinagar for five successive days but, although we travelled as far as Jammu twice, we were unable to reach our destination because of inclement weather. Therefore, this study was regretfully abandoned.

The author received an M.S. in Wildlife Resource Management from Utah State University, Logan, Utah (U.S.A.). Since October 1964 he has been conducting ecological research in India for his doctorate in animal ecology from The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland (U.S.A.).

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