



CHAPTER 2

ORNITHOLOGICAL EXPLORATION IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SUB-HIMALAYAN REGION OF MYANMAR

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ABSTRACT.—We initiated ornithological exploration of the sub-Himalayan region of Myanmar in 1997. The work had five main goals: to conduct a basic inventory of the avifauna, to identify special conservation needs, to investigate ornithogeographic affinities, to build knowledge of the ecology and seasonal movement patterns of the large number of poorly known birds, to clarify pathogen patterns, and to create a distributional database for understanding how climate change is affecting local and regional distribution over time. After five expeditions to northern Myanmar, we have recorded 413 species, expanded the known range for several species, and described a new subspecies for *Tesia olivea* and a new species of scimitar-babbler, *Jabouilleia naungmungensis*. We have also examined the forms of avian malaria and obtained information on the ecology and seasonal movements of several species.

Key words: bird surveys, Kachin State, northern Myanmar.

Exploración Ornitológica en el Sudeste de la Región Sub-Himalaya de Birmania

RESUMEN.—Iniciamos la exploración ornitológica de la región sub-himalaya de Birmania (Myanmar) en 1997. El trabajo tuvo seis metas principales: hacer un inventario básico de la avifauna, identificar las necesidades de conservación especiales, investigar las afinidades ornitogeográficas, obtener información sobre la ecología y los patrones de movimiento estacional del gran número de aves poco conocidas, aclarar los patrones de patógenos, y crear una base de datos de distribución para entender cómo el cambio climático está afectando la distribución local y regional a lo largo del tiempo. Luego de cinco expediciones al norte de Birmania, hemos registrado 413 especies, expandido la distribución conocida para varias especies y descrito una nueva subespecie de *Tesia olivea* y una nueva especie, *Jabouilleia naungmungensis*. También hemos examinado las formas de malaria aviar y obtenido información sobre la ecología y los movimientos estacionales de varias especies.

THE HIMALAYAN AND sub-Himalayan portion of Myanmar (the former Burma), hereafter referred to as the “Hkakabo Razi region,” is located in the northernmost part of the country. Bordered on the north by Tibet, on the east by the Chinese

province of Yunnan, and on the west by the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, the area is extremely remote, with nothing but foot paths connecting the few villages located north of the town of Naung Mung (Khin and Aung 1999, Win 1999).

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