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CHAPTER 8

BIRD DIVERSITY, BIOGEOGRAPHIC PATTERNS, AND ENDEMISM OF THE EASTERN HIMALAYAS AND SOUTHEASTERN SUB-HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINS

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ABSTRACT.—Species distribution and species diversity pattern have vexed ornithologists in Southeast Asia and the Himalayas. The species diversity debate continues, because the baseline data for such analysis are still very incomplete, especially in some parts of Asia. We conclude, from currently available data sets such as museum specimens, that the ornithological affinities of northern Kachin State are rather with the eastern sub-Himalayas and western Yunnan, and we cannot (yet) confirm a spatially narrow turnover zone between South and Southeast Asia. Nevertheless, the local endemism of bird species (i.e., sub-Himalayan slopes of northern Kachin State) is high and there is a strongly marked elevational turnover from south to north. Recent surveys in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh (northeast India), Yunnan (southwest China), and Kachin State (northern Myanmar) have revealed taxa not previously known, including three from Arunachal Pradesh and Kachin State since 1997. The descriptions are based on museum work in combination with genetic analysis and extensive field studies (e.g., *Jabouilleia naungmungensis* and *Tesia olivea chiangmaiensis*). Additionally, several taxa have been revised on the basis of new insights from surveys of the region (e.g., *Cyornis banyumas*—*C. magnirostris*) or phylogenetic analysis (e.g., *Phylloscopus*). We present data on these new species and discuss distributional areas in the context of species richness gradients.

Key words: collection gaps, distribution gaps, new descriptions, species distribution, species richness, taxon rank change.

Diversidad de Aves, Patrones Biogeográficos y Endemismo de los Himalayas del Este y de las Montañas Sub-Himalayas del Sudeste

RESUMEN.—En el sudeste de Asia y en los Himalayas los patrones de distribución y diversidad de especies han sido un problema para los ornitólogos. El debate sobre la diversidad de especies continúa porque los datos de base para realizar ese tipo de análisis todavía son muy incompletos, especialmente en algunas partes de Asia. A partir de base de datos disponibles actualmente, tales como conjuntos de especímenes de museo, concluimos que las afinidades ornitológicas del norte del estado de Kachin son más bien con el este de los sub-Himalayas y el oeste de Yunnan, y no podemos confirmar (todavía) una zona estrecha de intercambio entre el sur y sudeste de Asia. Sin embargo, el endemismo local de especies de aves (i.e., en las laderas subhimalayanas en norte del estado de Kachin) es alto y existe un fuerte recambio de especies con la elevación desde el sur al norte. Muestreos recientes en Assam, Arunachal Pradesh (noreste de India), Yunnan (sudoeste de China) y en el estado de Kachin (norte de Birmania [Myanmar]) han revelado la existencia de taxones desconocidos hasta el momento, incluyendo tres de Arunachal

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