

NOTES ON THE AVIFAUNA OF THE HIGHLAND OF AGUSAN DEL NORTE, MINDANAO ISLAND, PHILIPPINES

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The research staff from the Mindanao State University Natural Science Museum explored the highland of Agusan del Norte, particularly the Maguinda area and nearby localities in the northeastern part of Mindanao Island, from November to December, 1976. The purpose was to survey the land vertebrates—amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals—in these areas.

Studies so far on the Avifauna of Mindanao Island include those of Gonzales (1968, 1969), Rabor (1968), Rand and Rabor (1960) and Ripley and Rabor (1961). Taxonomic works of the Mindanao Avifauna is included in the works of Delacour and Mayr (1946) and DuPont (1971).

The last collection of land vertebrates in the Agusan area, Mindanao Island, was conducted by D.S. Rabor in 1963. This was in the localities of Mt. Hilong-Hilong. The senior author was with this group of researchers. The rapid disappearance of original forests in the area caused primarily by logging activities and the slash-and-burn farming will give us an account on the existing land vertebrates in the area, after the Rabor collection in 1963.

The present paper reports on the birds collected and observed in the localities of Maguinda, Butuan City, in Agusan Norte Province, Mindanao Island. The mammals, reptiles and amphibians will be dealt with in a later publication.

Study Areas and Methods

The base camp was established at Area Maguinda, which is two hours travel by a 12 hp pumpboat following the Agusan River from

Butuan City (see Fig. 1). The collecting sub-camp was established in Sumile and from there collections and observations were made in Limatok and Isdaon areas. No original forest could be seen in the area. The disappearance of the original forest is no doubt due to the logging activities in the area and man's activities, as evidenced by large percentage of the area planted to cultivated species. There were signs of forest regeneration in the areas especially following the abandoned logging road from Maguinda to Sumile and from Sumile to Isdaon. This is shown by the presence of secondary forests and wooded grasslands both of which are several stages in the natural succession. However, because of the continuous pressure from the human population, it is doubtful whether these communities will finally give rise to the original lowland forest.

Three experienced technicians were utilized to observe and collect the birds present in the various localities. Most birds were caught by mist nets. Some were shot with air rifles. Study skins of the avian collection are deposited in the MSU—Natural Science Museum.

Species Collected and Observed

A total of 263 specimens of birds belonging to 54 species were collected (Table I). The total number of bird species observed and collected was 96 species. It is possible that because the study of the team in these localities was rather short, some species of birds have been surely missed. However, the chance of missing larger species of birds is probably small.

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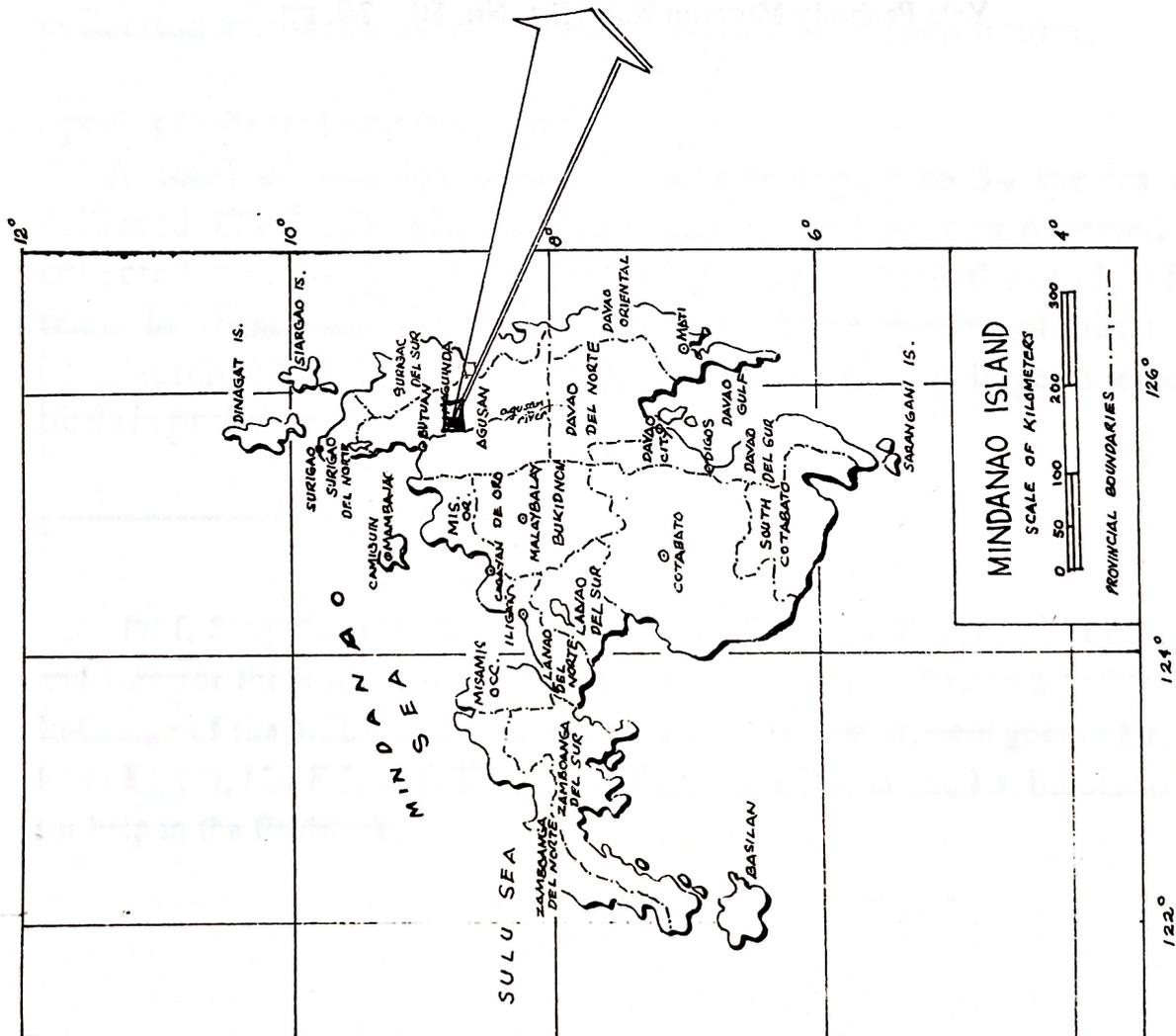
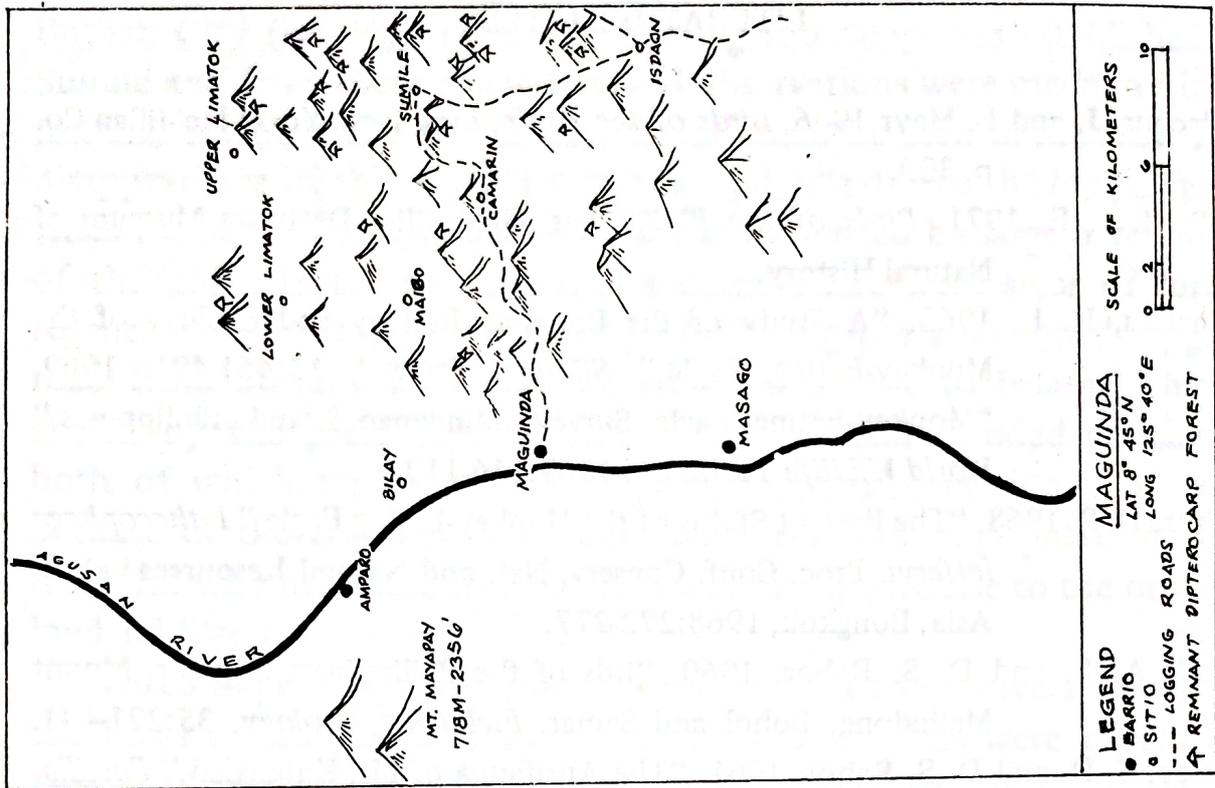


TABLE I — Birds collected and observed in the different localities of the highland of Agusan Norte during November-December, 1976. Xc marks species collected and Xo marks species observed only.

BIRDS	MAGUINDA (50-100 M)		SUMILE (100-500 M)		LIMATOK (400-600 M)		ISDAON (400-600 M)	
	Collected	Observed	Collected	Observed	Collected	Observed	Collected	Observed
1. <i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>		Xo		Xo		Xo		Xo
2. <i>Dendrocygna arcuata</i>		Xo		Xo		Xo		Xo
3. <i>Anas luzonica</i>		Xo		Xo		Xo		Xo
4. <i>Aveceda jerdoni</i>		Xo		Xo		Xo		Xo
5. <i>Haliastur indus</i>		Xo		Xo		Xo		Xo
6. <i>Spilornis cheela</i>		Xo		Xo		Xo		Xo
7. <i>Accipiter virgatus</i>		Xo		Xc		Xc		Xc
8. <i>Microhierax erythrogonyx</i>		Xo		Xc		Xc		Xc
9. <i>Falco severus</i>		Xo		Xo		Xo		Xo
10. <i>Excalfactoria chinensis</i>		Xo		Xo		Xo		Xo
11. <i>Rallus striatus</i>		Xo		Xo		Xo		Xo
12. <i>Rallus torquatus</i>		Xo		Xo		Xo		Xo
13. <i>Charadrius dubius</i>		Xo		Xo		Xo		Xo
14. <i>Phapitreron leucotis</i>		Xo		Xo		Xo		Xo
15. <i>Phapitreron amethystina</i>		Xo		Xo		Xo		Xo

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	Collected	Observed	Collected	Observed	Collected	Observed	Collected	Observed
16. <i>Ptilinopus occipitalis</i>		Xo	Xc		Xc			
17. <i>Ducula aenea</i>		Xo	Xc		Xc			
18. <i>Ducula carola</i>		Xo	Xc		Xc		Xc	
19. <i>Prioniturus discurus</i>				Xo			Xo	
20. <i>Tanygnathus lucionensis</i>		Xo	Xc		Xc			
21. <i>Loriculus philippensis</i>		Xo		Xo			Xo	
22. <i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>		Xo		Xo				
23. <i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>		Xo		Xo			Xo	
24. <i>Surniculus lugubris</i>			Xc		Xc			
25. <i>Centropus melanops</i>		Xo	Xc		Xc			
26. <i>Centropus viridis</i>		Xo	Xc					
27. <i>Tyto capensis</i>		Xo		Xo				
28. <i>Mimizukia gurneyi</i>				Xo				
29. <i>Eurostopodus macrootis</i>		Xo		Xo				
30. <i>Collocalia esculenta</i>		Xo		Xo			Xo	

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31. <i>Chaetura gigantea</i>				Xo		Xo		Xo
32. <i>Hemiprocne comata</i>		Xo		Xo		Xo		Xo
33. <i>Harpactes ardens</i>		Xo		Xc		Xc		Xc
34. <i>Ceyx melanurus</i>	Xc		Xc		Xc			
35. <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	Xc		Xc					
36. <i>Halcyon chloris</i>	Xc		Xc					
37. <i>Halcyon hombroni</i>			Xc		Xc			Xc
38. <i>Merops viridis</i>		Xo	Xc					
39. <i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>		Xo	Xc					
40. <i>Penelopides panini</i>		Xo	Xc		Xc			
41. <i>Buceros hydrocorax</i>			Xc		Xc			
42. <i>Aceros leucocephalus</i>				Xo				Xo
43. <i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>			Xc		Xc			
44. <i>Dryocopus javensis</i>			Xc		Xc			
45. <i>Dendrocopos maculatus</i>			Xc		Xc			
46. <i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>				Xo				Xo
47. <i>Eurylaimus steerii</i>				Xo				Xo
48. <i>Hirundo tahitica</i>		Xc	Xc					

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	Collected	Observed	Collected	Observed	Collected	Observed	Collected	Observed
49. <i>Coracina morio</i>			Xc		Xc			
50. <i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>			Xc		Xc		Xc	
51. <i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>			Xc		Xc			
52. <i>Oriolus chinensis</i>		Xc	Xc		Xc			
53. <i>Oriolus xanthonotus</i>			Xc		Xc			
54. <i>Cornus macrorhynchus</i>		Xo		Xo		Xo		Xo
55. <i>Sitta frontalis</i>				Xo		Xo		Xo
56. <i>Macronus striaticeps</i>		Xo		Xo		Xo		Xo
57. <i>Stachyris capitalis</i>		Xo		Xo		Xo		Xo
58. <i>Pycnonotus urostictus</i>	Xc		Xc					
59. <i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>	Xc		Xc					
60. <i>Hypsipetes everetti</i>			Xc		Xc			
61. <i>Hypsipetes philippinus</i>		Xc	Xc		Xc			
62. <i>Irena cyanogaster</i>				Xo		Xo		Xo
63. <i>Chloropsis flavipennis</i>			Xc		Xc			
64. <i>Megalurus palustris</i>	Xc		Xc		Xc			

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	Collected	Observed	Collected	Observed	Collected	Observed	Collected	Observed
65. <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>			Xo	Xc	Xo			
66. <i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>		Xc		Xc		Xc		Xc
67. <i>Phylloscopus olivaceus</i>				Xc		Xc		
68. <i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>				Xc				
69. <i>Rhinomyias ruficauda</i>				Xc		Xc		
70. <i>Rhipidura javanica</i>				Xc				
71. <i>Muscicapa rufigaster</i>			Xo			Xo		
72. <i>Muscicapa griseicticta</i>			Xo			Xo		Xo
73. <i>Hypothymis helenae</i>				Xc				Xc
74. <i>Pachycephala philippinensis</i>				Xc				Xc
75. <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			Xo			Xo		
76. <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>			Xo			Xo		Xo
77. <i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>			Xo			Xo		
78. <i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>			Xo			Xo		
79. <i>Lanius cristatus</i>		Xc						

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	Collected	Observed	Collected	Observed	Collected	Observed	Collected	Observed
80. <i>Lanius tigrinus</i>		Xc		Xc				
81. <i>Aplonis panayensis</i>		Xc		Xc				
82. <i>Aplonis minor</i>				Xc		Xc		
83. <i>Sarcops calvus</i>				Xc		Xc		
84. <i>Anthreptes malaccensis</i>				Xc				
85. <i>Nectarinia sperata</i>				Xc				
86. <i>Nectarinia jugularis</i>		Xc		Xc				
87. <i>Aethopyga pulcherrima</i>				Xc		Xc		
88. <i>Aethopyga shelleyi</i>				Xc		Xc		
89. <i>Arachnothera clarae</i>				Xc		Xc		
90. <i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>				Xc				
91. <i>Dicaeum australe</i>				Xc			Xc	
92. <i>Prionochilus olivaceus</i>						Xo		Xo
93. <i>Zosterops everetti</i>				Xc				
94. <i>Passer montanus</i>				Xo				
95. <i>Lonchura leucogastra</i>				Xo				
96. <i>Lonchura malacca</i>		Xc		Xc				