

**AVIFAUNA OF MT. HILONG-HILONG,
AGUSAN DEL NORTE, MINDANAO ISLAND**

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A research team from the Natural Science Museum (NSM) of Mindanao State University was sent to Mt. Hilong-Hilong and vicinity from July 18 through July 30, 1980 to collect and study the vertebrate fauna of the area. The last time the mountain served as a collection site was in 1963, when an expeditionary team from Silliman University headed by Dr. Dioscoro S. Rabor collected and studied the avifauna of the area. Since then, there has been no subsequent study or collection made. Hence, this expedition was enthusiastically conducted to gather more data on the extant diverse vertebrate population of the area.

Several studies have been made on the systematics, distribution, breeding biology and ecology of the birds of Mindanao, and included are the outstanding works of Gonzales (1968, 1969), Rabor (1968, 1977), Rabor and Rand (1960), Ripley and Rabor (1961), Delacour and Mayr (1946), DuPont (1971), Sanguila and Tabaranza (1979), and Tabaranza and Alconcel (1979).

This paper is the first of the series that will report on the result of the recent Mt. Hilong-Hilong exploration during which several specimens were collected. It will report on the birds collected and observed. The mammals, reptiles, amphibians, ectoparasites, endoparasites and food habits of birds will be dealt with in separate reports.

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Study Area and Methods

The collection site is approximately 19 kilometers east of Cabadbaran, a town nearest the mountain, and 29 km north of Butuan City. The highest peak of the mountain has an elevation of 2,012 meters or 6,641 feet above sea level, with an average temperature of 70^o Fahrenheit. The mountain lies between latitude 90^o3 and 90^o9 North and between longitude 125^o38 and 125^o38 and 125^o44 East. The campsite was located along the Pinaglagdaan River five kilometers west from the foot of the mountain.

Four field collectors composed the main collecting force of the research team. The birds were either caught by means of mist nets or shot with air rifles. Some birds which have been observed were identified by their distinct songs or calls or by means of binoculars. The specimens were stuffed and are now deposited in the Natural Science Museum, MSU.

The scientific names of the birds are those by DuPont (1971), Delacour and Mayr (1946) and Rabor (1977).

Results and Observation

The research team was able to harvest 90 bird specimens representing 32 species. The uncollected or observed bird species were listed at 52, yielding a total record of 84 bird species inhabiting the mountain and vicinity (See Table I). Observations clearly revealed the Philippine Bulbul, *Hypsipetes philippinus*, as the most abundant species, followed by the Pygmy Tree Babbler, *Stachyris plateni*, which the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) declared as one of the rare and threatened species in the country. *Dicacum trigonostigma*, *Dendrocopus maculatus*, *Pycnonotus urostictus*, *Zosterops everetti*, *Buceros hydrocorax*, *Cellocollia esculenta*, *Eurostopodus macrotis*, *Haliastur indus* and *Spilornes cheela* are still relatively common inhabitants of the mountain.

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Birds Collected and Observed in Mt. Hilong-Hilong from July 20-30
from July 20 - 30. (XO = observed)

SPECIES	COLLECTED	OBSERVED
1. <i>Aethopyga pulcherima</i>	1	
2. <i>Arachnotera clarae</i>	1	
3. <i>Aethopyga shelleyi</i>		XO
4. <i>Arachnotera longirostris</i>		XO
5. <i>Arachnotera flammipera</i>		XO
6. <i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>		XO
7. <i>Aplonis panayensis</i>		XO
8. <i>Alcedo atthis</i>		XO
9. <i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>		XO
10. <i>Buceros hydrocorax</i>		XO
11. <i>Bolbopsittacus lunulatus</i>		XO
12. <i>Centropus melanops</i>	2	
13. <i>Centropus viridis</i>	1	
14. <i>Ceyx argentatus</i>	1	
15. <i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	2	
16. <i>Cervus macrorhynchus</i>	2	
17. <i>Collocalia esculenta</i>		XO
18. <i>Cacomatis merullinus</i>		XO
19. <i>Copsychus saularis</i>		XO
20. <i>Chalcophaps indica</i>		XO
21. <i>Cuculus fugax</i>		XO
22. <i>Dicaeum hypoleucum</i>		XO
23. <i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>		XO
24. <i>Dendrocopus maculatus</i>	4	
25. <i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>		XO
26. <i>Dicaeum australe</i>		XO
27. <i>Ducula poliocephala</i>		XO
28. <i>Eudunamys scolopacea</i>		XO
29. <i>Eurostopodus macrotis</i>		XO
30. <i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>		XO
31. <i>Eurilaimus steerii</i>		XO
32. <i>Gallus gallus</i>		XO
33. <i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	1	
34. <i>Hypsipetes philippinus</i>	18	
35. <i>Harpactes ardens</i>	2	
36. <i>Hemiprocne comata</i>	2	

37. <i>Hirundo tahitica</i>		XO
38. <i>Halcyon Chloris</i>		XO
39. <i>Haliastur indus</i>		XO
40. <i>Irena cyanogaster</i>	3	
41. <i>Lonchura leucognater</i>	1	
42. <i>Loriculus philippensis</i>		XO
43. <i>Lalage nigra</i>		XO
44. <i>Lonchura mallaca</i>		XO
45. <i>Macronus striaticeps</i>	3	
46. <i>Muscicapa rufigaster</i>	1	
47. <i>Microhierax erythrogonys</i>		XO
48. <i>Macropygia phasianella</i>		XO
49. <i>Merops philippinus</i>		XO
50. <i>Merops viridis americanus</i>		XO
51. <i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>		XO
52. <i>Nectarinia sperata</i>	3	
53. <i>Nectarinia jugularis</i>		XO
54. <i>Orthotomus sepium</i>	1	
55. <i>Oriolus chinensis</i>		XO
56. <i>Oriolus xanthonotus</i>		XO
57. <i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>		XO
58. <i>Orthotomus nigriceps</i>		XO
59. <i>Parus elegans</i>		XO
60. <i>Pycnonotus urostictus</i>	4	
61. <i>Pachucephala philippensis</i>	1	
62. <i>Phapitreron amethystina</i>	1	
63. <i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>	1	
64. <i>Phapitreron luecotis</i>	1	
65. <i>Prioniturus discurus</i>		XO
66. <i>Passer montanus</i>		XO
67. <i>Ptilinopus occipitalis</i>		XO
68. <i>Perocrocotus flammeus</i>		XO
69. <i>Phyloscopus olivaceus</i>		XO
70. <i>Ptilocichla mindanensis</i>	2	
71. <i>Pernis ptilorhuchus</i>		XO
72. <i>Pitta erythrogaster</i>		XO
73. <i>Penelopides panini</i>		XO
74. <i>Phynomias furicauda</i>	3	
75. <i>Phabdomis musticalis</i>	2	
76. <i>Phipidura javanica</i>		XO
77. <i>Phipidura superciliaris</i>	4	
78. <i>Rallus toruatus</i>		XO

79. <i>Stachyris plateni</i>	10	
80. <i>Sitta frontalis</i>	1	XO
81. <i>Spilornis cheela</i>		XO
82. <i>Stachuris capitalis</i>		XO
83. <i>Sarcops calvus</i>		
84. <i>Zosterops everetti</i>	5	
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Total =	90	