

RECENT HOOLOCK GIBBON, *HYLOBATES HOOLOCK*,
OBSERVATIONS IN WEST MYANMAR (BURMA)

On a recent expedition to West Myanmar (Burma) we found Hoolock Gibbons, *Hylobates hoolock*, in three localities, two in southeastern Chin State and one in southern Sagaing Division.

A single group was heard on the northern forested slopes of Mt. Victoria at about 2,300 m elevation. Our camp was at N 21° 13.348', E 93° 57.880' and the gibbons were about 1 km to the northeast on a steep slope. The group was heard on 2 and 3 April, 1995. Mt. Victoria is in the process of being declared a national park. Above 2,100 m elevation there is some magnificent primary forest and the area has the potential for a world-class national park. A newly completed road to 2,900 m elevation will provide easy access to ecotourists and loggers. Logging, coupled with the already extensive hunting and trapping, will destroy its value as a national park. We're hoping the decision is made to protect Mt. Victoria and eliminate logging, trapping and hunting.

Two other groups were heard on steep slopes about 1 km south (2,200 m) of, and 3 km west northwest (2,300 m) of N 21° 23.891', E 93° 49.091' on 6 April 1995. The coordinates are at mile 16 on the Mindat-to-Matupi road. This site is about 22 km (direct) NW of the Mt. Victoria site on a parallel east/west ridge on which Mindat lies.

Several groups were heard and one seen at about 450 m elevation on 12 April 1995 at N 23° 20.502', E 94° 39.827' in the Sagaing Division. These observations were made in what we were told is the largest tract of primary forest remaining in Myanmar, called Mahamyaing, along a newly constructed road that is meant to extend all the way to the Upper Chindwin in northern Myanmar. There has been some cutting along the road and it can be expected there will be more as the new road makes for easy transport of logs. This is unfortunate as the area would make a superb national park. We stayed at a place called Aung Chan Tha Village at N 23° 12.179', E 94° 35.243', which lies along the main road from Kalewa to Taze.

The expedition was conceived, organized and led by Dr. Hugh Buck of Kuala Lumpur and operated by Dr. Htin Hla of Yangon.

Ben King

Ornithology Dept.
American Museum of Natural History
C.P.W. at 79th St.
New York, NY 10024
USA

Dave Farrow

c/o 532 Whippendell Rd.
Watford, Herts. WD17QN
ENGLAND

Craig Robson
63 Stafford St.
Norwich, NR2 3BD
ENGLAND

Hugh Buck
3 Pinggir Ridley
55000 Kuala Lumpur
MALAYSIA

Tim Fisher
AA331 Galeria de Magallanes
Lapu-Lapu Ave., Magallanes Village
Makati, Metro Manila
PHILIPPINES