

AN EXTREME EXAMPLE OF AGGRESSION DISPLAYED BY THE GREATER RACKET-TAILED DRONGO

by Anne D. Nash and Stephen V. Nash .

On January 7, 1985, on the western edge of the Padang-Sugihan. Wildlife Reserve. South Sumatra Province, two Great Hornbills *Buceros bicornis* were attacked by a Greater Racket-Tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus* while flying over the Padang River. The drongo dived at one of the hornbills, then on the second dive landed on the lower back of the same hornbill, and remained for three or four seconds.

The attacked hornbill tried to shake off the drongo, by twisting its body. The drongo left the hornbill, and returned to its territory on the east side of the river, and the hornbills continued westward. The hornbills were calling continuously throughout the attack.

The genus *Dicrurus* is well known for its aggressive behavior, but this incident appears to be the first observed occasion of actually landing on another bird in flight to continue an attack.

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SCARLET-HEADED FLOWERPECKER *DICAENUM TROCHILEUM*; A NEW BIRD FOR SUMATRA

by K. D. Bishop

The Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker is represented by two distinct populations: the nominate subspecies *D.t. trochileum* southern Kalimantan (Smythies 1960) and Java, Bali and the Kangean Islands (Salomonsen 1967) and Stresemanni on Lombok in the Lesser Sundas (Salomonsen 1967). On Java and Bali it is widespread from sea level to about 1500m (Hoogerwerf 1948). It is frequently observed in urban gardens and I have occasionally seen it feeding in the centre of Jakarta city: elsewhere it is a common inhabitant of open woodland and lightly wooded cultivation. It is not normally found in forest (Bishop pers obs).

On 25 July 1983 a single male Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker was observed singing loudly from the crown, about 5m above the ground, in a half-hectare remnant patch of *Rhizophora* mangroves, on the southern tip of Sumatra on the west side of Lampung Bay, about 20km south-west of Tanjung Karang (105° 16' E, 5° 26' S).

The male Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker is strikingly beautiful and readily identifiable. Its entire head, neck, chin, throat, mantle and rump are brilliant scarlet red. This contrasts dramatically with its jet black wings and charcoal grey underparts. The bill is noticeably thin and black extending as a line to the eye which is also dark. This record supports two previously undocumented observations briefly mentioned in Holmes (1977). D.A. Holmes (pers comm) on 30 May 1976 noted a possible male flying over Camp D in the Way Kambas nature reserve, Lampung province, and later on 7 August observed a probable second male late in the afternoon on the east side of Lampung Bay, It