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Lonchura malacca Chestnut Munia. Ro. One record, a single bird In Jan.
Lonchura maja White-headed Munia. Ro. A small group, seen once in Oct.

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BREEDING NOTES ON SOME PADANG-SUGIHAN BIRDS.

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Introduction.

Summarized herein are various breeding and nesting observations on 34 species of lowland birds, compiled between September 1984 and August 1985, in the Padang - Sugihan Wildlife Reserve, South Sumatra. The reserve, with an area of 75,000 ha, lies approximately 45 km north-east of Palembang. The habitat types of the reserve are described in the checklist elsewhere in this issue.

A feature of the reserve is the regular series of man-made canals, which affect all habitat types, primarily by creating extensive openings and clearings in the forest, and by lowering the water table. In peat swamp areas, this results in a high number of dead trees along the canal edges. By increasing the number of suitable nesting sites, this has encouraged cavity-nesting species and those that prefer forest-edge habitats.

Systematic record:

Ibis cinereus Milky Stork.

In May, one bird seen over the reserve was in breeding plumage.

Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus Grey-headed Fish-Eagle

April 18, one bird was carrying a stick to a nearly completed nest 15 meters up in a 20-meter *mature* Paperbark tree, on the edge of the Sugihan grassland.

Microhierax fringilarius Black-thighed Falconet

September 1, one young was begging food from adults in riverine forest

February 5, one active nest hole approximately 20 meters high in a 21-meter dead tree, in peat swamp forest.

April 28, one active nest hole 6 meters In a 7-meter dead tree, In riverine forest. June 28, one pair was copulating while another falconet was perched less than 1 meter away from the pair. In peatswamp forest.

Treron curvirostra Thick-billed Pigeon

January 22, one male was gathering nest materials (small branches broken from a dead tree) in riverine forest.

Treron vemans Pink-necked Pigeon

January 29, one male was carrying nest materials (small branches) in Paperbark forest.

Treron olax Little Green Pigeon

January 29, one male was carrying nest materials In open Paperbark forest.

Psittacula longicauda Long-tailed Parakeet

October 20, one pair was excavating a nest hole, 10 meters up in a dead tree, in peatswamp forest.

Phaenicophaeus diardi Black-bellied Malkoha

September 19, one fledged young was begging food from adults, in riverine forest. The young bird's bill was grey and the skin around the eye was brownish grey.

Phaenocophaeus chlorophaeus Raffles's Malkoha

November 1, two adults with three fledged young were seen in riverine forest.

Cypsiurus balasienis Asian Palm-Swift

April 12, one bird was flying to the underside of an *Oncosperma* palm leaf (presumably to a nest site), in peatswamp forest.

Halcyon smyrnensis White-throated Kingfisher

June 8, one nest burrow containing three newly-hatched nestlings was seen in a mud bank along a canal, facing the Paperbark forest. The burrow's dimensions were 8 cm diameter and 45 cm length.

Eurystomus orientalis Dollarbird

January 10, one active nest hole was 6 meters up in an 18 meter tree, in peatswamp forest. April 17, an active nest hole was in the top of a dead *Oncosperma* palm, in Paperbark forest outside the reserve's western boundary.

Buceros bicornis Great Hornbill

December 15, a male bird was feeding a female imprisoned Inside a nest cavity 10-15 meters up in a dead tree facing the Padang river in riverine forest.

Megalaima rafflesi Red-crowned Barbet

December 23, two adults were feeding two fledged young in riverine forest. March 23, one bird was excavating a nest hole 4 meters up in a 4.5-meter tree in peatswamp forest.

Megalaima australis Blue-eared Barbet

September 1 to 4, a pair of barbets were occupying a nest hole 50 cm above an active Grey-and-Black Woodpecker *Hemicircus concretus* nest, approximately 10 meters high in a dead tree in riverine forest. March 24, one bird was excavating a nest in a 6-meter tree in peatswamp forest. March 28, one bird was carrying food to a nest 10 meters up in a 14-meter tree, in riverine forest. May 11, one bird was excavating a nest hole 5-meter up, in riverine forest. By June 18, both adults were making regular visits to the nest, presumably incubating eggs.

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Calorhamphus fuliginosus Brown Barbet

March 23, one bird of a palentered a nest hole 15 meters up in a 17-meter tree in peatswamp forest.

Microptemus brachyurus Rufous Woodpecker

March 23, a pair was excavating a nest hole at the top of an 8-meter dead tree in peatswamp forest. August 4, an active nest cavity was 9 meters up a 10-meter dead cavity tree in peatswamp forest.

Picus puniceus Crimson-winged Woodpecker

April 11, one bird was excavating a nest cavity halfway up a 7-meter dead trunk in riverine forest.

Picus miniaceus Banded Woodpecker

August 5, two fledged young were with parents in riverine forest. They were seen again on August 28.

Meiglyptes tristis Buff-rumped Woodpecker

April 16, a male bird was excavating a nest cavity 5 meters up in a 6-meter dead trunk in peatswamp forest.

Dryocopus javensis White-bellied Woodpecker

November 4, an active nest hole was approximately 10 meters up in a 15-meter dead trunk in peatswamp forest.

Hemicircus concretus Grey-and-Buff Woodpecker

September 1, an active nest cavity was 10 meters up a dead tree, the nest being 50 centimeters below an active Blue-eared Barbel *Megalaima australis* nest cavity, in riverine forest. On September 29, the woodpecker nest was depredated by a blackthighed Falconet *Microhierax fringillarius*. The same woodpecker pair started a new nest in a dead tree 30 meters away from the first site. On October 10, the falconet was seen around the nest and was chased away by the female woodpecker. By October 17, the woodpeckers were again incubating eggs, but on the next day, a falconet ' was seen entering the nest hole, and the nest was abandoned by the woodpeckers. April 30, a male bird was excavating a nest hole just below the top of an 18-meter high dead tree in peatswamp forest.

Corydon sumatranus Dusky Broadbill

June 28, two birds were found completing a nest In peatswamp forest. The nest was an untidy ball of vegetation attached to a rattan runner, hanging approximately 60 centimeters below the main stalk, about 8 meters above the ground. Both birds were seen adding material to the nearly-completed nest.

Eurylaimus ochromalus Black-and-Yellow Broadbill

June 15, a nest was being constructed approximately 12 meters up in a tree near the river's edge in riverine forest. The hanging nest was made of twigs, and in early stages of construction. By June 18, the nest was bulkier, and lichen had been added to the exterior. On July 22, the nest was found destroyed.

Pycnonotus plumosus Olive-winged Bulbul

September 1, a bird was carrying nest material in riverine forest. September 2, one flightless young was being fed by an adult in riverine forest. March 23, a bird was carrying nest materials in peatswamp forest.

Trichastoma abbotti Abbott's Babbler

January 18, several fledged young were with adults in riverine forest.

Stachyris macilata Chestnut-rumped Babbler

March 24, one bird was gathering nest material In peatswamp forest.

Macronous gularis Striped Tit-Babbler

September 3, one bird was gathering nest material in Paperbark forest. October 16, one fledged young was begging food in Paperbark forest. April 2, a nest containing one egg was located 1.3 meter high in a young 2-meter high Paper-bark tree in Paperbark forest. The nest was loosely constructed of bark strips and lined with fine grass; the egg was white, finely speckled with brownish red.

Copsychus saularis Magpie Robin

October 1, a pair with fledged young were seen at the riverine forest edge. June 12, a nest was nestled between two beams at the top of an observation tower set at the Paperbark forest edge. The nest was constructed of fine rootlets forming a compact cup, and contained two eggs. One June 25, the nest contained one nestling with its eyes closed. June 23, one fledged young was with an adult pair in riverine forest.

Orthotomus atrogularis Dark-necked Taylorbird

March 25, one pair was with fledged-young in peatswamp forest.

Orthotomus ruficeps Ashy Taylorbird

April 3, a pair was building a nest in a low shrub in a clearing in riverine forest. The nest consisted of three leaves stitched together, with an inner nest cup of fine grasses thickly lined with plant down. On April 4, the pair was still building. On April 9, the nest contained 2 eggs and the third egg was laid by April 11. On April 27, the nest contained three recent hatchlings. On May 5, the nest was found empty, presumed depredated. June 18, two adults were with fledged young in riverine forest.

Prinia flaviventris. Yellow-bellied Prinia.

August 2, two adults were attending to fledged young in shrub beside Paperbark forest.

Gracula religiosa. Hill Myna

January 26, one bird of a pair entered a nest hole carrying nest material, in peatswamp forest. The nest was about 20 meters up in a straight dead trunk along the forest edge. February 5, another nest was in a dead tree in a peatswamp forest clearing. The nest was also about 20 meters up. On April 7, this same nest was still active.

Dicaeum trigonostigma. Orange-bellied Flowerpecker.

July 22, a female bird was constructing a nest at the riverine forest edge. The nest was 2 meters up in a 2.5-meter bush, the bush covered by vines. The nest was egg-shaped, suspended from a branch by the narrow end, made of ferns and tiny pieces of wood, and bound together with cobwebs. On July 26, this nest was depredated by a green lizard. The female repeatedly attacked the lizard and constantly uttered sharp alarm notes. After the lizard left, clear egg albumen was found at the bottom of the nest.

Conclusions

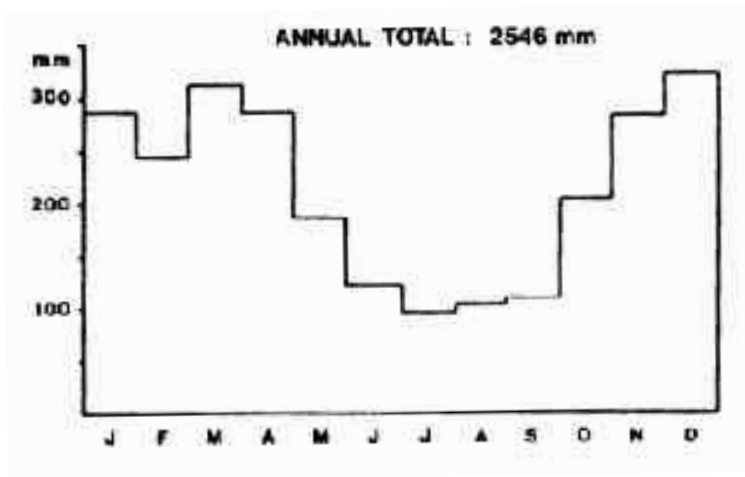
The observations are incidental rather than systematic, so it would be unwise to draw firm conclusions on breeding seasons. However, while some breeding activity occurred in every month of the year, the 53 observations do show some seasonal concentration. The 38 observations of nest activity (nest building, incubation) peaked in March and April, especially April, and to a smaller degree in January. The remaining 15 observations were of fledglings or juveniles out of the nest, and were mostly encountered between June and October.

These tentative peaks appear to support the conclusions of Voous (1950), who reports on breeding records near Medan in N.E. Sumatra (de Beaufort and de Bussey, 1918) and elsewhere in Indonesia, and concludes that in areas having rather even distribution of rainfall, there is a distinct breeding season following the rainier periods; some species breed throughout the year but very few at the height of the main rainy season.

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The rainfall regime at Palembang is bimodal (see Fig. 1) with peaks in December and March and a dry season from June to September, though no month has significantly less than 100 m. Thus, more systematic observations would be expected to confirm the trends indicated above, with breeding activity commencing at the end of the two wet seasons, in January and more especially in March - April. Some breeding activity commences throughout the dry season, but declines in November - December.

Figure .1 MONTHLY RAINFALL PALEMBANG



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