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LARGE FROGMOUTH
BATRACHOSTOMUS AURITUS
MOBBED BY A GREATER RACKET-TAILED DRONGO
DICRURUS PARADISEUS

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On August 31 1984, between 1600 and 1800 hours in the Padang-Sugihan Wildlife Reserve in South Sumatra province, a Large Frogmouth *Batrachostomus auritus* was observed being mobbed by a Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*

The frogmouth was first seen sitting in an upright position on a one-metre high stump situated on the edge of dense riverine swamp forest. The drongo flew twice at the frogmouth from a nearby tree, the second attack forcing the frogmouth to move to another perch. As the drongo commenced a third attack, the frogmouth entered the forest. The drongo remained at the forest edge, calling continuously as it had during the attack. The frogmouth was silent throughout the incident.

Although imperfectly seen, the frogmouth was identified as *auritus* from its colour, shape and tail pattern, and by size, being larger than the drongo. Drongos are well known for their aggressive behaviour, and were the subject of a previous note (Nash & Nash 1985).

As frogmouths are nocturnal in their habits, it would seem unlikely that this group would be bothered by drongos in normal circumstances, unless an improperly hidden roosting bird was inadvertently discovered. In this instance the frogmouth was seen by both the first author and the drongo in the open in daylight, and it can be argued that the frogmouth was neither hidden nor roosting, although the initial upright posture may have been an attempt at concealment. The authors assume that the frogmouth was for some reason disturbed from its roost, and subsequently attracted the drongo's attention.

Reference.

Nash, A.D. & S.V. 1985. An extreme example of aggression displayed by the Greater Racket-tailed Drongo. *Kukila* 2 (1):7.

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