
**OBSERVATIONS OF BLACK HEADED IBIS BREEDING AGAIN ON PULAU DUA,
BANTEN BAY, WEST JAVA**

by

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As part of a four year research programme on waterbirds at the Pulau Dua Nature Reserve, Banten Bay, we have made an observation of Black headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus* returning to breed at the site.

During the second week of May 1998, six Black headed This alighted on the top canopy of the mangrove for about an hour, and then flew away. They were not seen again until 1 June, when a total of 50 individuals was observed collecting nest materials on the top canopy of *Rhizophora apiculata* and *Avicennia marina* mangroves. It was noticed that the ibises were more sensitive to disturbance than the other breeding waterbird species at the reserve. Perhaps as a result of this, on 4 June there were no ibises present and the newly built nests were empty.

However, on 11 June, it was seen that more than 50 ibises had returned to these nests and were sitting. On 29 June, the research team was carefully climbing nearby trees to measure the nest characteristics of egret species, and closer observations could be made of the ibises. Totals of 11 and 26 nests were counted on *Rhizophora* and *Avicennia* trees respectively. Those nests that could be exan dried held either one or two eggs. During the second week of August, several immatures were seen at the nests, but no estimate could be made of breeding success and total number of young birds raised.

Although between 10 and 20 ibises were observed during 1999, and up to May 2000, no breeding could be confirmed.

The Black headed Ibis is recorded as resident in Java and probably Sumatra, and has vagrant status in Sulawesi and Northern Borneo (Silvius 1989). In the first half of this century, the species occurred widely in Java, where numerous colonies were reported (Hoogerwerf 1935, 1936, in Silvius 1989). On Pulau Dua, the species used to roost commonly on the mangroves. They formerly bred on the island (Hoogerwerf 1948, 1953; Harvey 1976, in Milton & Marhadi 1989), but were not observed to breed after 1975 (Wind 1978; Milton & Marhadi 1985; Rusila Noor *et al.* 1996). It is difficult to explain the disappearance of both the ibis as well as Milky Stork *Mycteria cinerea* and Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* as breeding species, as they still occur regularly on the island. However, disturbance may have been an important factor as the last reports of breeding were when overland access to the island first become possible (Wind 1976 in Milton & Marhadi 1985).

References

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LESSER ADJUTANT BREEDING IN ALAS PURWO NATIONAL PARK, EASTJAVA

by

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Ringkasan

Antara bulan Mei sampai bulan September 1999, sembilan sarang Bangau Tongtong *Leptoptilos javanicus* ditemukan di pinggir padang penggembalaan Sadengan di Taman Nasional Alas Purwo, Jawa Timur. Sarang ini berhasil 13 anak, termasuk tiga anak dari satu sarang.

The Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* is found from India through SE Asia to China and the Greater Sunda Islands and is listed as Vulnerable by Collar *et al.* (1994). Its range in Indonesia is discussed by Silvius & Verheugt (1989). There have been rather few breeding records in Indonesia, summarized as follows:

Hoogerwerf (1948, 1949, 1969) reports breeding in West Java during March to October.

Hoogerwerf & Siccama (1938): six pairs breeding in two adjacent trees in the Jakarta region, with young offered for sale in the coastal region in late June-early July.

Hellebrekers & Hoogerwerf (1967): nine clutches of one egg each in the Bartels collection from Langgen Gadung, near Sedari, West Java (the comment is made that the eggs seemed larger than normal, and the consistent single egg clutch size is also unusual).

Sody (1930) mentions breeding in February-March for East Java.