

NEST SITE OF MOLLUCCAN HANGING PARROT IN THE WILD

by
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On October 21 1991, an occupied nest site of Moluccan Hanging parrot *Loriculus amabilis* was discovered on Pulau Seho, off south west Taliabu. White & Bruce (1986) recognise the Moluccan Hanging parrot as a resident breeding species on the Sula islands. This was supported by a recently captured young bird that had been brought to us by local camp people. It is customary for both local people and logging camp workers to retain parrot species as pets. As elsewhere on Taliabu, the Moluccan Hanging parrot is a common bird of forests and agricultural areas.

My attention was drawn to the nest hole of the Moluccan Hanging parrot by an individual flying across my field of view and disappearing into a hole in a tree stump. The tree bole was approximately 2 metres in height, and 100 cm girth. The remainder of the tree had snapped off and was lying on the forest floor.

An entrance hole of approximately 20 cm in diameter led to a tunnel of approximately 45–60 cm in length. The tunnel was near vertical, and the entrance hole faced in the direction that the tree had fallen, and was inclined slightly towards the ground. There was one egg present in the nest. This was white in colour, with faint, irregular brown blotching. The egg was approximately 2 cm long and 1.5 cm across. There was evidence of nest material present—the egg was lying on a bed of leaves. Fresh leaves had been shredded into strips approximately two inches long by approximately half an inch in width.

This appears to represent the first documented evidence of a nest in the wild of the Moluccan Hanging parrot. The breeding date of this species accords with field and captive breeding dates of other *Loriculus* species (Thomas Amdt pers. comm.). A photograph of this individual at the entrance to its nest hole was obtained by Nigel Bean and published in OBC Bulletin 18.

References:

- Bostock, N. & Sujatnika (1993). Indonesia Birding Itineraries. *Oriental Bird Cl. Bull.* 18: 1–16.
White, C.M.N. and Bruce, M.D. (1986) *The Birds of Wallacea (Sulawesi, the Moluccas and Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia)*. An Annotated Checklist. London, UK. British Ornithologists Union (Checklist 7).