

LETTER

NOTES ON THE AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR OF THE GREATER
RACKET-TAILED DRONGO

I was interested in the observations of Anne and Stephen Nash on this subject (KUKILA 2 (1), May 1986), and draw your attention to a note I published in *TROPISCHE NATUUR* in December 1941. I was studying the nesting habits of the hornbill *Buceros rhinocerus* near Gisting at the foot of Gunung Tanggamus in Lampung.

The nest tree was at the rim of a clearing in primary forest. In April 1941 I saw the drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus* attacking the male hornbill while flying to its nest tree, causing the hornbill to seek refuge in another tree, at which point the attack ceased. Subsequently I noted that the hornbill would not fly direct to his destination, but from tree to tree.

The drongo's observation point was the naked top branches of a tall tree, and the hornbill was apparently careful to keep out of sight when passing this tree. This is a notable change in behaviour of a larger bird when confronted with the aggressive attacks of a much smaller bird.

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