

AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR DISPLAYED BY THE GREY-NECKED FRIARBIRD.

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(Received 31 January 1989)

On 18 August 1987 at an attitude of 550m on the north face of Gunung Kobipoto in the Manusela National Park, Seram, a pair of Red Lories *Eos bornaa* was attacked by a Grey-necked Friarbird *Philemon subcomiculatus* whilst inspecting a nest hole.

The Red Lories were watched for a period of 135 minutes, and one of the pair was observed to enter a nest hole, 25m up a mature forest tree on five occasions, while the second bird remained perched just outside the hole. On three separate occasions a Grey-necked Friarbird, which had been calling from an adjacent tree, mobbed the perched Lory. The mobbing consisted of a vigorous downward flight swooping at the Lory causing it to visibly duck its head. On the third occasion the mobbing was persistent and vigorous, the Lory being physically struck from behind four times and pushed along the perching branch away from the nest hole. The Lory became increasingly agitated, emitting a "meati, meep" alarm call, before finally leaving the site, closely followed by the second bird which flew out of the hole.

The area was revisited the next day when the Lories were again noted to be present at the nest hole. However, the Friarbird was calling some distance away from the site and no further interactions between the two species were observed.

Such vigorous interspecific interactions are rarely recorded, and usually involve small birds mobbing larger birds which might be perceived as possible predators. The Grey-necked Friarbird is distinctly larger than the Red Lory and the observed attacks may possibly represent a form of territorial defence.

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RINGKASAN

Dipertelakan interaksi antara *Philemon subcomiculatus* dan sepasang *Eos bornea* di Taman Nasional Manueela, Seram.