

# Notes on the breeding of the Crested Jay *Platylophus galericulatus*

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On 15 June 1995, whilst surveying the northwestern slopes of Mt Lumping (7°07'S, 109°38'E; Dieng Mts, Central Java), the authors found a nest (see Fig. 1) that at first sight looked like a pigeon's. The nest was *c.* 2 m up in a thinly branched 4–5 m tall *simbukan* tree (15 cm d.b.h.), and lay on a thin branch at *c.* 60 cm from the main stem. It consisted of a coarse lower layer of twigs, and was lined copiously and neatly with fine, brown and curly strips of fern fronds which were not mixed with the lower layer, but formed a sturdy shallow cup on top of it. The greatest length of the nest was 60 cm (including some protruding twigs), the more compact part being 18 × 18 cm; height of nest 7 cm with inner diameter of the nest cup 6 cm and depth 3 cm.

The nest contained one egg, dirty white, with sparse, coarse red-brown spots, especially on the blunt end; length 30.2 mm, width 22.8 mm, fresh weight 7.9 g, volume 7.8 cc. The egg was identified as

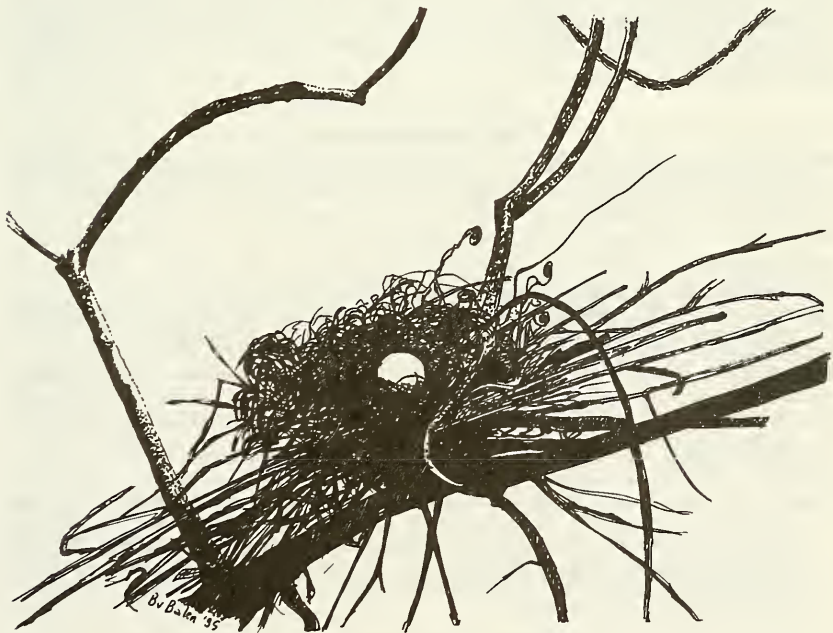


Figure 1. Nest of Crested Jay *Platylophus galericulatus*, Mt Lumping, Central Java, 15 June 1995.

that of the Crested Jay *Platylophus galericulatus* (using Hoogerwerf 1949 as a reference) and has been deposited with the Zoological Museum of Bogor (MZB Nr 1047).

The nest tree stood on a rather steep (40–45°) west slope, at an altitude of 950 m, *c.* 100 m from a small river. In the surrounding habitat were many large trees, with a rather sparse middle storey. Crested Jays were rather common in the area and distant calls of this species were heard when the nest was discovered.

The Crested Jay is a widespread inhabitant of primary lowland forest throughout Java, and is mainly found in pairs at 0–600 m, occasionally up to 1000 m (Bartels 1936; SvB pers. obs.). Madge & Burn (1994) reported that the nest is said to be jay-like but that otherwise the breeding of the Crested Jay is essentially unknown. The latter may be true for the other parts of its range (Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra and Borneo), but there is some literature available on its nesting in West Java, of which a brief summary follows.

The first single egg reported in literature was found in October 1928 by van Steenis on Gunung Paniisan (Mt Salak, West Java) at 500 m asl (Hidma & Hoogerwerf 1935). The nest was sited on the main nerve of a robust fern frond; egg light blue-green with rufous brown spots, becoming dense near the blunt end and thus forming a broad circle. Hoogerwerf (1949) and Hellebrekers & Hoogerwerf (1967) describe in great detail this single egg; they also report two clutches of one and two eggs, collected respectively in January and December by Bartels on Mt Masigit (West Java). MacKinnon (1988) reported breeding in October, with two white eggs, blotched with purple and brown, laid in a solid twig nest.

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