

# First breeding record of Banded Woodpecker *Picus* (*Chrysophlegma*) *miniaceus* in Indonesian Borneo

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## INTRODUCTION

THE BANDED WOODPECKER *PICUS* (*CHRYSOPHLEGMA*) *miniaceus* ranges from the Thai isthmus and Burma, south to Sumatra (including Bangka, Belitung and Nias islands), Java and Borneo (Winkler et al., 1995). There are currently four subspecies *P. m. perlutus* found in south Myanmar and the Thai isthmus, *P. m. malaccensis* found in Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra and Borneo, *P. m. niasensis* found on Nias island, off northwest Sumatra, and *P. m. miniaceus* from Java (Winkler et al., 1995; Winkler and Christie, 2002). The species is common in Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, Borneo, Sumatra, but rare in Java (MacKinnon and Phillips, 1993; Winkler and Christie, 2002).

For a species to be considered as “breeding” observation of nest-building, nests, eggs, fledging or young being fed must have been recorded (Davison, 1988). The ability to construct holes for nest sites is one of the key features of woodpeckers (Winkler et al., 1995). Nesting holes are often made in hollow tree-trunks or trunks with a rotten core at any height from the ground (Smythies, 1999). Usually, two or three white eggs are laid in a tree hole nest (Hellebrekers and Hoogerwerf, 1967; MacKinnon & Phillips, 1988). Nesting success is generally high among woodpecker species that typically raise more than 70% offspring successfully (Winkler and Christie, 2002), and in certain cases some pairs may even have produced two broods in a season in Malaysia (Wells, 1999). The high nesting success rate is attributed to these species’ ability to excavate their own nests (Winkler and Christie, 2002).

Fledglings that have vacated the nest are known to be persistently begging for food by uttering loud squeaking calls. The parents remain protective of the young for an extended period of time, and family members may even remain together when the parents begin the next reproductive cycle (Winkler and Christie, 2002)

Compared to Malaysian Borneo, records of breeding woodpeckers in Indonesian Borneo remain limited, despite being considered a resident species (Mann, 2008). Recent reports confirms the limited information on breeding records of Banded woodpecker in Kalimantan (Balén et al., 2011; Balén et al., 2011, 2013; Kamsi and Balén, 2012; Posa 2011; Posa et al., 2011; Posa and Marques, 2012; Wielstra et al., 2011; Wielstra and Pieterse, 2009, 2011; Woxvold and Noske, 2011).

Until recently, there were no breeding records of the Banded woodpecker, *P. m. malaccensis*, in Kalimantan (Mann 2008; Smythies, 1999). To our knowledge, this paper describes the first breeding record of the Banded woodpecker in Indonesian Borneo.

## STUDY AREA AND METHODOLOGY

The study site is located in Tarjun, Kelumpang Hilir subdistrict, Kotabaru district (03°16.1’S/ 11°608’E), South Kalimantan Province, Indonesia. The area consists of agriculture, settlements and small disturbed patches of forests <50m above sea level. The incident that confirms that the species breeds in Kalimantan was recorded on the 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2013, during a bird-watching trip. The bird was observed and photographed for identification and documentation.

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## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

On 29<sup>th</sup> September 2013, an incidental observation of an adult Banded woodpecker, *P. m. malaccensis*, feeding a juvenile took place. The birds were observed for approximately two minutes and identified as an adult male Banded woodpecker by its reddish-rufous ear-coverts, red crown extending to nape-sides, distinctly scaled mantle and scapulars and barred primaries (MacKinnon and Phillips, 1993; Robson, 2011; Winkler and Christie, 2002). The juvenile was identified by its duller overall colouration and having yellow-orange sides in the mouth. The feeding material is not clearly seen, but was presumed a caterpillar.

The record of fledging Banded woodpecker in Kotabaru on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2013 corresponds with the peak breeding season of Banded Woodpecker in Peninsular Malaysia and Greater Sunda (Wells, 1999; Winkler et al., 1995). The breeding season is reported to be March-April in Java and Sumatra (Hellebrekers and Hoogerwerf, 1967; MacKinnon and Phillips, 1988) with chicks emerging in May-June in Sumatra (van Marle and Voous, 1988).

It is our hope that researchers and birdwatchers in Kalimantan will put more effort into recording information about the breeding season and behaviour of the Banded woodpecker and other woodpecker species in Kalimantan.

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**Figure 1.** Banded Woodpecker feeding a juvenile in Kotabaru, South Kalimantan, on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2013. ©Ahyadi Hasyim.

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