The Malabar Parakeet *Psittacula columboides* is one of 16 bird species endemic to the Western Ghats, India (Stattersfield *et al.* 1998). It occurs in the Western Ghats from north Maharashtra to south Kerala, chiefly between 500 and 1,500 m (Ali and Ripley 1987). Although a common endemic (Gaston and Zacharias 1996), the Malabar Parakeet is poorly studied. We investigated the foraging and breeding behaviour of this species in the moist deciduous forest of the Siruvani foothills, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India, from October 1995 to April 1996.

The Siruvani foothills lie in the core area of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve from 10º56´N to 10º58´N and from 76º42´E to 76º44´E, at an elevation of 350–650 m. The area receives both south-west and north-east monsoons, with a mean annual rainfall of c.840 mm. The river Noyil drains this area. The vegetation type has been classified as southern tropical moist deciduous forest (Champion and Seth 1968), which merges with southern tropical evergreen forests at higher elevations in Muthikolam area of Kerala state. The commonest tree species in the study area are *Lagerstroemia lanceolata, Terminalia bellirica, Terminalia paniculata, Antidesma diandrum, Bauhinia malabarica, and Bauhinia racemosa* (Gokula *et al.* 1999).

**METHODS**

Foraging behaviour was quantified following Holmes *et al.* (1978). Birds were followed, and the first instance of taking a particular food item was recorded, along with the height, foraging method, substrate, plant species and food type. Foraging attempts were divided into seven height classes (0–2 m, 2.1–4 m, 4.1–6 m, 6.1–8 m, 8.1–10 m, 10.1–12 m and >12 m). All foraging attempts were assigned to ten substrate categories in three major classes: (1) plant form (tree, shrub); (2) branches (primary, secondary, tertiary, twigs); and (3) canopy (top, side, middle and lower). Most data were collected within the first four hours after sunrise. Each foraging attempt was considered as an independent observation for all analyses.

Breeding

The Malabar Parakeet breeds in the study area during the dry season after the north-east monsoon (which falls in September–November), and nestlings fledge before...
Breeding behaviour of Jerdon’s Baza Aviceda jerdoni at Gunung Leuser National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia: the first nesting record for Sumatra

RALPH BUIJ

Jerdon’s Baza Aviceda jerdoni is a widely distributed species which is largely resident in a discontinuous range from south-west India and Sri Lanka through parts of South-East Asia, the Philippines, and Indonesia (del Hoyo et al. 1994). It is relatively uncommon to rare throughout its range (del Hoyo et al. 1994, Ferguson-Lees et al. 2001). Due to its secretive breeding behaviour, its status in some parts of its range, in particular Sumatra, Vietnam and Peninsular Malaysia, is uncertain (Ferguson-Lees et al. 2001). It has been suggested that the handful of records from Sumatra (van M arle and Vouos 1988, Holmes 1996) may at least partly be assigned to resident breeders (van M arle and Vouos 1988). However, since no evidence exists to confirm breeding, records are generally ascribed to juvenile birds dispersing or migrating into Sumatra from breeding sites in southern Thailand (Ferguson-Lees et al. 2001).

Between July 1998 and March 1999, I regularly observed an adult male and female Jerdon’s Baza in the surroundings of the Ketambe Study Area, located in the centre of the Gunung Leuser National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia. The Ketambe Study Area (03º41´N 97º39´E, 350–700 m) comprises primary tropical lowland alluvial rainforest (Rijksen 1978). The Alas river, which is 50–100 m wide and edged by low scrubs, flows through the area. The K utacane-Blingkejeren road (c.5–7 m wide) runs parallel to the river. The birds were identified as belonging to the subspecies A. j. jerdoni (four other subspecies are recognised: del Hoyo et al. 1994). In January 1999, the female was discovered sitting on

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