

## Rhinoceros Hornbill

### Desc:

The Rhinoceros Hornbill has a prominent golden-yellow horn, called a casque, on the top of its beak. The casque is a hollow structure made up of keratin (the same material as human fingernails) and acts as a resonating chamber, amplifying the bird's calls.

### Info:

*Buceros rhinoceros* is confined to the Sundaic lowlands of extreme south peninsular **Thailand** (where it is locally considered to be endangered, and the only suitable habitat is in extensive primary forest in the Hala Bala area [Trisurat *et al.* 2013]), Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular **Malaysia**, Kalimantan, Sumatra and Java, **Indonesia** and **Brunei** (BirdLife International 2001). It is locally extinct in Singapore. It can be found in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak but is absent from the smaller States such as Melaka, Penang and the Federal Territories. Its stronghold remains in large forest complexes and protected areas (Davison 1987; Davison 1995; Lim & Tan 2000; Wells 1999; Chong 1998; Chong 1993; Siti Hawa Yatim 1993; Siti Hawa Yatim *et al.* 1985; Ong *et al.* 2000; Choo and Teresa 2001; Norsham and Teresa 2001; Abdul Kadir Abu Hashim 2002; Wells 1999; Yeap & Perumal, *in press*; Wells 1990; Yong *et al.* 2011). In Peninsular Malaysia, most of these sites have been identified as Important Hornbill Landscapes (IHL), which are also IBAs and linked to the Central Forest Spine Masterplan for Peninsular Malaysia (Yeap & Perumal, *in press*). Forests adjacent to oil palm plantations could also support the Rhinoceros hornbills (and other hornbill species), if they still remain sizeable (Pan 1987/88).

### Characteristics:

- They have black feathers on their wings and body
- tail feathers are white.
- Both male and female Rhinoceros Hornbills are similar in appearance, but the male birds have an orange or red ring around their eyes, while females have a white ring.
- The Rhinoceros Hornbill has a prominent golden-yellow horn, called a casque, on the top of its beak. The casque is a hollow structure made up of keratin (the same material as human fingernails) and acts as a resonating chamber, amplifying the bird's calls.

### Fun fact:

For some of the native Dayak groups of Borneo, the Rhinoceros Hornbill represents the chief of the birds and it is the state bird for the Malaysian state of Sarawak.