

## POST FLEDGING



A newborn chick looks much like his/her father except that it has a smooth yellowish beak and pinkish orbital-skin around its eye. After the chick emerges, parents help them to learn life-skills. And in the next breeding season, the same chick or chicks, may very well be busy helping their parents to raise a family again.

JULY ONWARDS

## FEMALE AND CHICK EXIT FROM NEST



During the monsoon, the chick fledges from the nest and flies to the nearest perch to look around. The chick generally comes out along with its mother. But sometimes, may also emerge a day or two later. Sometimes, there could be two or more chicks. The length of the nesting cycle from female entry to chick exit is 92-97 days.

JUNE-JULY



Secretly watching the Brown Hornbills is a fascinating experience during the breeding season.



## BROWN HORNBILL

# HOW HORNBILL BREED



## COOPERATIVE BREEDING



The Brown hornbill is the only species of hornbill in India which breeds cooperatively. This means that the adult male has helpers who assist in feeding and guarding the nests. It is like an entire family taking care of the female to raise her chicks. Some helpers use stealth to ward off predators too!

MARCH-JULY

## NEST SEARCHING AND PRE-BREEDING COURTSHIP



A male hornbill will try hard to please his mate with gifts of fruit. If she accepts him, together, they look for a suitable cavity to nest in. Once they find that perfect nest, the female would enter between 15<sup>th</sup> March and 15<sup>th</sup> April.

MARCH-APRIL

## NEST SEALING BY FEMALE AND CHICK HATCHING



The female seals herself inside the nest with her droppings, leaving just a small slit for the male and his helpers to bring food to the nest. For about three months, the male along with his helpers will be busy bringing a variety of food for the female and her chicks. The menu consists of fruits, and a variety of insects, eggs, snakes and sometimes, crabs.

MARCH-JULY