WREATHED HORNBILL NESTING CYCLE

January–February



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 large cavity to lay their eggs in.

March





NEST ENTRY AND SEALING

Once they find that perfect nest, the female seals herself in with her droppings, leaving just a slit for the male to feed her and the chick(s). Nest entry usually occurs in March but entry dates can range from last week of February to mid-April. The median entry date is 15 March in Pakke Tiger Reserve.

April–June



CHICK DEVELOPMENT

For about 130 days, the male is busy bringing all sorts of goodies for the female and the chick(s). Mainly fruits, but also beetles, crabs and lizards. Sometimes there may even be a bird's egg or squirrel on the menu.

July–August



NEST EXIT AND FLEDGING

The chick is ready to fledge during heavy rains. Wreathed Hornbill mothers and chick(s) usually exit the nest together. The length of the nesting cycle ranges from 118 to 142 days, with average being 128 days. Nest exit dates in Pakke Tiger Reserve is between 7 July to 31 August.



September–January

POST-FLEDGING

When the nesting season is over, young hornbills stay with their parents to find food. Wreathed Hornbills gather in large numbers in the evenings at roosting sites, especially between September and January.

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