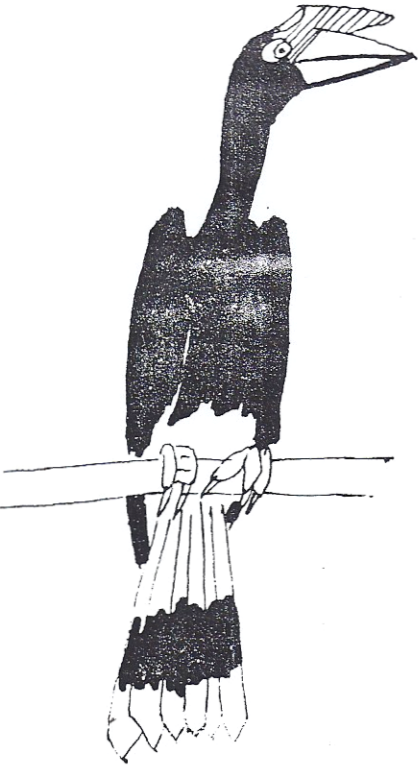


COMPREHENSION CHALLENGES



Hornbills have nesting habits which are unique in the bird world. At nesting time, a pair of red-billed hornbills look for a large hollow tree with an opening that can be walled off against its enemies. The hen picks up pellets of mud from a nearby water hole. She flies with these back to the nest until she has almost plastered over the entrance. She enters and finishes the job with mud that has fallen inside. She leaves only a narrow slit through which she can receive food from her mate. He brings insects, lizards, seeds, berries, small mammals, and snakes. He begins with thirty trips a day, and increases to seventy trips when the chicks hatch.

Hornbills lay from two to five eggs. They are incubated for twenty days, and hatch several days apart. When the chicks are twenty days old, the hen pecks away the seal and joins the male in feeding their young. Within four days the chicks have again sealed up the opening, except for a feeding slit. Then when six weeks old, the chicks break out of the nest and away they go - off on their initial flight.

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1. This story is about:
  - (a) birds
  - (b) nests
  - (c) hornbills
  - (d) molting
2. The hornbills build their nests in:
  - (a) a hole
  - (b) a wall
  - (c) a hollow tree
  - (d) the mud
3. After the chicks hatch the male hornbill makes \_\_\_\_\_ a day with food.
  - (a) thirty trips
  - (b) twenty trips
  - (c) five trips
  - (d) seventy trips
4. When the chicks are twenty days old the hen:
  - (a) teaches them to fly
  - (b) flies away
  - (c) opens the nest seal
  - (d) pushes them out of the nest
5. Put in order:
  - (a) brings seeds
  - (b) chicks seal hole
  - (c) hen helps feed
  - (d) chicks fly
6. In this story, initial means:
  - (a) the beginning letter
  - (b) to sign
  - (c) first
  - (d) last
7. For a bird, the hornbill is probably:
  - (a) small
  - (b) large
  - (c) feeble
  - (d) weak
8. The nesting habits of the hornbill are:
  - (a) common
  - (b) normal
  - (c) unusual
  - (d) depressing