

later, the bird flew out of the tree and circled directly overhead, giving good views of its underside. After about two minutes it landed in a nearby *Albizia* tree to the south and soon after flew away in a south-westerly direction.

Thanks go to Alfred Chia and Raj Krishnan for sharing their records and Kelvin Lim of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore, for identifying the snake.

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Editors' note: The great interest in this species in South-East Asia continues and as we went to press, we received a manuscript detailing the recent observations of Jerdon's Baza in Singapore, Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra and Thailand. This will be published in *BirdingASIA* 16.

Aggressive nest defence by Black-winged Kites *Elanus caeruleus* in Muara Gembong Nature Reserve, West Java, Indonesia

Dear Editors

On 8 April 2010 at about 17h15, a group of 10 observers in Muara Gembong Nature Reserve, Bekasi, West Java, Indonesia (5.99°S 107.52°E) saw aggressive interaction between a pair of nesting Black-winged Kites *Elanus caeruleus* and a Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* of the very dark plumaged resident Javanese race *ernesti*. The nest was located by a fishpond and the contact began when the falcon suddenly appeared from the east and entered the kites' nesting territory. At the time one of the pair was perched on an *Avicennia* tree about 10 m north-east of the nest and the falcon flew directly at this bird.



IMAM TAUFIQUEURRAHMAN

Plate 1. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* driving off Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*, Bekasi, West Java, 8 April 2010.

The kite immediately took off and tried to attack the falcon with its talons. This did not drive off the falcon, which soared to the west, about 10 m from the nest and the kite made a second rapid attack similar to the first (Plate 1). The second attack happened so quickly we were unable to see whether there was physical contact or not. But this time the attacker succeeded in driving off the falcon which it chased away. The second kite, which had been perched in another *Avicennia* tree to the east of the nest, joined in the chase.

Sarifudin, a local birdwatcher, told us that this was the third time he had seen the nesting kites drive off a Peregrine Falcon in this way. Talon presentation and occasionally talon-grappling between pairs of Black-winged Kites occurs during the breeding season and talon-grappling by the closely related White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus* is also reported (Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001). But as far as we can establish there are no previous reports of aggressive use of talons by Black-winged Kites towards Peregrine Falcon or other raptor species.

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