Birds in the Backyard

Coppersmith Barbet (*Psilopogon haemacephalus*)

The Coppersmith Barbet is the most widespread barbet in Asia, ranging from Pakistan to Bali. It is green above and streaked grey below. The head is strikingly patterned in yellow, black, and crimson, with yellow on the eyebrows, cheeks, and throat, and crimson on the forehead and breast. There is another morph with only red on the head, found in Java, Bali, and the Philippines, which seems to have evolved from the yellow morph at least twice (<https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2014.00016>).

The Coppersmith has an easily recognizable, monotonous *tuk...tuk...* call, like the sound of a copper sheet being beaten, giving it its name. Birds are often seen perched on bare branches, moving the body vigorously but keeping the beak closed while calling. Simultaneously vocalizing birds may use different frequencies to segregate their calls (<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/754580v2.full>). Coppersmith barbets nest in tree holes, excavating them on the underside of branches, and sometimes also roosting in them. They feed on fruits and, occasionally, insects.

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