Red-breasted parakeets eating rambutan


Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Choa Chu Kang estate, Choa Chu Kang North 7; 1 August 2015; around 1830 hr.

Habitat: Urban parkland. Roadside trees in residential housing estate.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: Five red-breasted parakeets were observed feeding on the ripe fruits of a rambutan tree at the roadside. They peeled the skin off the red-coloured fruit, then removed and discarded the pulp (see accompanying pictures), consuming only the seeds. Occasional screeching was heard from the feeding birds.

Remarks: The red-breasted parakeet is an introduced species with well-established populations in Singapore (Neo, 2012). It has been photographed eating green rambutan fruit (Wee, 2015). The related alexandrine parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*) has also been photographed eating rambutan, similarly preferring the seed over the pulp (Wee, 2013).

![Red-breasted parakeets eating rambutan by skinning the fruit (left) and removing the pulp and seed (right). Photographs by Tan Heok Hui](image1)

References:

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