

## An observation of coconut lorikeets at the Botanic Gardens

Tan Heok Hui

[heokhui@nus.edu.sg](mailto:heokhui@nus.edu.sg)

**Subjects:** Coconut Lorikeet, *Trichoglossus haematodus* (Aves: Psittaciformes: Psittaculidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Tan Heok Hui.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Cluny Road, Singapore Botanic Gardens; 26 December 2019, 1350-1415 hrs.

**Habitat:** Urban parkland.

**Observer:** Tan Heok Hui and Koh Li Ling.

**Observations:** Three coconut lorikeets were observed flying and landing on a tree. They proceeded to clamber around the canopy, foraging. One of the lorikeets was observed to have a metal ring with a hook around its right leg (Fig. 1). The birds were feeding on small fruits or seed pods of the tree, which, concurrently was still in flower (Fig. 2).

**Remarks:** The coconut lorikeet, an introduced species in Singapore, is known to be present at the Botanic Gardens (Yong et al., 2017: 76). This species is native to the central Maluku Islands and New Guinea (Eaten et al., 2016: 232).

The bird with the metal ring around its leg may have recently escaped captivity, or been intentionally set free.

### References:

Eaton JA, van Balen B, Brickle NW & Rheindt FE (2016) Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago. Greater Sundas and Wallacea. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. 496 pp.

Yong DL, Lim KC & Lee TK (2017) A Naturalist's Guide to the Birds of Singapore. Third edition. John Beaufoy Publishing Limited, United Kingdom. 176 pp.

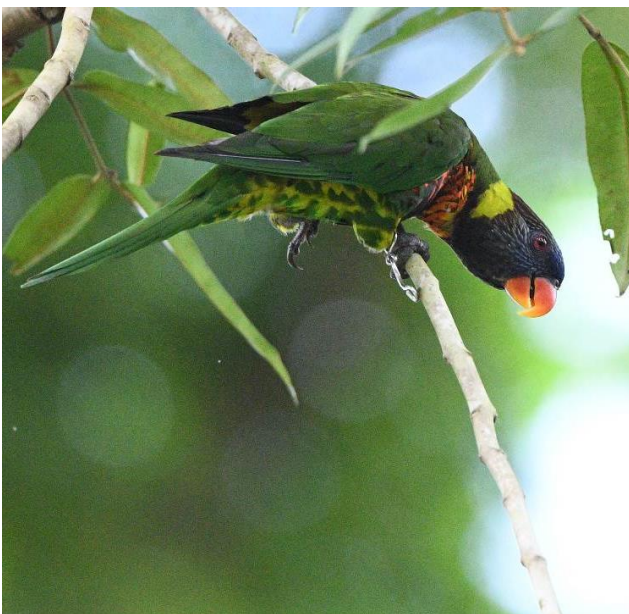


Fig. 1. Coconut lorikeet with a metal ring and hook around its right leg.



Fig. 2. The same lorikeet feeding on seed pods. Note the S-shaped metal hook beneath the base of its tail.

Photographs by Tan Heok Hui