

Biodiversity Record: Pink-necked green pigeons nesting in a balcony garden

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Subjects: Pink-necked green pigeon, *Treron vernans* (Aves: Columbiformes: Columbidae).

Subjects identified by: Tan Heok Hui.

Location and dates: Singapore Island, Choa Chu Kang, Yew Tee residential estate; 6–22 March 2022.

Habitat: Urban. Balcony on the second level of a highrise concrete building. Balcony facing 2° south, with numerous ornamental plants grown in hanging plastic baskets, as well as in pots placed on the floor.

Observers: Tan Heok Hui and Koh Li Ling.

Observations: The first indication of nesting was the discovery of coiled droppings of about 3–4 cm diameter in the plant pots directly beneath hanging baskets (Fig. 1). A pink-necked green pigeon was found sitting on a nest composed of a mat of twigs in one of the hanging baskets, which is black with vertical slits. Sporadic and brief observations on the nesting activities of a pair of pigeons in the same basket are recorded below in chronological order:



Fig. 1. Coiled fecal matter, found on 6 March 2022. (Photograph by: Tan Heok Hui)

6 March, 1300 hrs – male in nest. Assumed to be brooding, although no egg was seen (Fig. 2).

8 March, 1120 hrs – male in nest (Fig. 3).

12 March, 0930 hrs – male in nest.

15 March, 1815 hrs – female in nest. Presumably brooding, although no egg was seen (Fig. 4).

19 March, 1835 hrs – female in nest.

20 March, 0930 hrs – male in nest with two chicks that were covered with some down feathers (Fig. 5).

1310 hrs – two chicks in the nest, both adults absent (Fig. 6).

21 March, 0730 hrs – two chicks in the nest, adults absent.

1930 hrs – only one chick present in the nest. No sign of the other one.

22 March, 1017 hrs – the single chick chirped in short bursts, climbed onto the rim of the basket (Fig. 8) and flew away.

Remarks: In the featured observation, the entire process of egg incubation to chick fledging took around 16 days. The male parent incubated the eggs and tended to the chicks during the day, and the female took over parenting duties in the evening. The pink-necked green pigeon is a common bird in Singapore that inhabits secondary forest and urban gardens (Yong et al., 2016). A similar situation in Singapore that involved a pair of pink-necked green pigeon nesting in a pot with a live plant in a human residence was reported by Tan (2021). The coiled feces are distinctive and unlike the droppings of many birds. However it is not known if it is specific to the pink-necked green pigeon.

Literature cited:

Tan F (2021) S'pore resident in dilemma after pink-necked green pigeon couple comfortably nests on his potted plant.

Mothership, 22 June 2021, 07:24 PM. www.mothership.sg/2021/pink-necked-green-pigeon-pot-singapore

Yong DL, Lim KC & Lee TK (2016) A Naturalist's Guide to the Birds of Singapore. 2nd edition. John Beaufoy Publishing Limited, 176 pp.



Fig. 2. 6 March 2022 at 1300 hrs.



Fig. 3. 8 March 2022 at 1120 hrs.



Fig. 4. 15 March at 1815 hrs.



Fig. 5. 20 March 2022 at 0930 hrs.



Fig. 6. 20 March at 1310 hrs.



Fig. 7. 21 March at 0730 hrs.

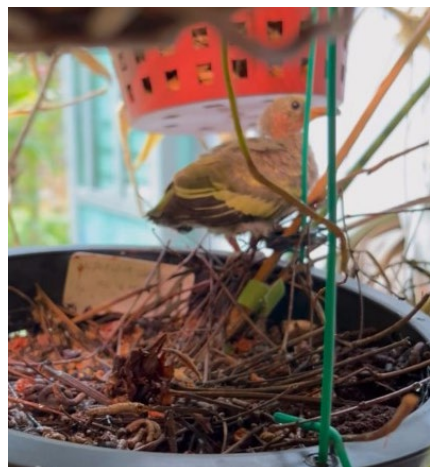


Fig. 8. 22 March at 1017 hrs.

(Photographs by: Tan Heok Hui)