

Spotted dove fledglings' boisterous feeding behaviour

Subjects: Spotted dove, *Streptopelia chinensis tigrina* (Aves: Columbiformes: Columbidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Kent Ridge, campus of National University of Singapore, Science Drive 2; 8 April 2014; 0830 hrs.

Habitat: Urban parkland surrounded by concrete buildings.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: Two fledgling spotted doves were observed chasing and harassing an adult conspecific, presumably their parent. One of the juveniles shoved its bill into the adult's open mouth, most likely to obtain crop milk. The other juvenile even climbed onto the back of the adult, apparently trying to access the latter's bill to be fed. See attached images.

Remarks: Immature spotted doves can be identified by the much less distinct dark brown neck-collar (Robson, 2011: 351). This observation shows that fledglings can be extremely boisterous and rough with their parents when demanding to be fed. Sreedharan (2011) provides a fairly comprehensive account of this common bird.

References:

Robson, C., 2011. *A Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia*. Updated edition. New Holland Publishers, London, UK. 544 pp.

Sreedharan, S., 2011. Birds of Singapore. http://singaporebirds.net/npassers_02/spotted_dove.html. Accessed on 8 April 2014.



Two fledgling doves jostling for access to the adult's bill to be fed. Picture on the left shows one of the juveniles clambering onto the adult's back to reach the parent's bill. Photographs by Tan Heok Hui

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