

Blue-rumped parrots feeding on starfruit

Subjects: Blue-rumped parrot, *Psittinus cyanurus* (Aves: Psittaciformes: Psittacidae);
Starfruit tree, *Averrhoa carambola* (Magnoliophyta: Oxalidales: Oxalidaceae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Upper Thomson, Venus Loop; 28 November 2015; around 1400 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: A flock of five parrots were observed eating the fruits of *Averrhoa carambola* about 5-7 m above the ground. Two male and three female birds were observed tearing at the fruit (Figs. 1 & 3), and one of the males was photographed feeding on a seed (Fig. 2). One of the females appeared to have dozed off, probably intoxicated (Fig. 4). Another female was observed lunging at a male parrot feeding on a bunch of fruits, and then flying to another branch.

Remarks: Blue-rumped parrots feeding on starfruit have been documented by Ong et al. (2013), also at Venus Loop. The birds were observed tearing at the fruit and scattering the pulp on the ground. Apparently the birds were consuming only the seeds. Another parrot, the introduced Tanimbar corella (*Cacatua goffiniana*), has also been observed to feed on starfruit (Pocklington, 2015).

In Singapore, blue-rumped parrots are regarded as 'critically endangered' (Lim et al., 2008: 266). These locally rare residents are restricted to the forests of Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves. They are usually difficult to observe as they tend to feed high up in the tree canopies, only occasionally descending to feed on fruits (Yong et al., 2013: 76).

References:

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Fig. 1. Male parrot tearing away at starfruit.



Fig. 2. Male parrot eating a seed of the starfruit.



Fig. 3. Female parrot



Fig. 4. Female parrot apparently intoxicated and appeared to have dozed off.

Photographs by Ron K. H. Yeo