

Parental Care as Observed in Purple Sunbird *Leptocoma zeylonica*

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The Purple sunbirds (*Leptocoma zeylonica*) are endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. These are sexually dimorphic, males are brightly coloured but females are olive above and yellow to buff below and are small in size, feeding mainly on nectar but sometimes also feed on insects, particularly when feeding the young. They can hover for short durations but usually perch to feed. They build a hanging pouch nest on tree branches. The present observations were made in the courtyard of my house situated in the city of Bikaner (28°N latitude and 73°18'E longitudes), Rajasthan, where a nest was constructed by the bird on the branch of *Bougainvillea*. As soon as the young ones hatched out of the eggs, they were observed to be fed by their parents. Both male (Figure 1) and female (Figure 2) partners took active participation in feeding the young ones which was more or less done in alternate fashion. The photographs taken confirm the findings. The birds visited *Moringa* flowers to collect nectar and were also seen to fetch drops of water from water taps.



Figure 1: Male sunbird feeding the young chick.



Figure 2: Female sunbird feeding the young chick.

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