3 February 2023 | TO NUS Community

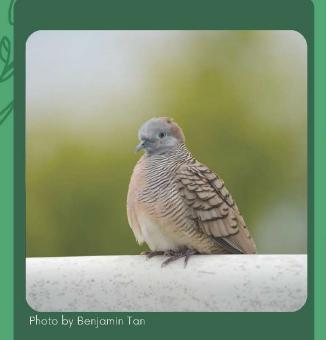
The Zebra Dove prefers the grass over trees, and can commonly be found in urban areas foraging on the ground for small grass and weed seeds along walking paths and in open grass patches, such as the Science field on campus.

Let us know what species you would like to see featured by voting for the next Species of the Month.

## **CAMPUS IN A TROPICAL RAINFOREST**

#### SPECIES OF THE MONTH

ISSUE 75 | FEBRUARY 2023



### **ZEBRA DOVE**

Geopelia striata

#### **APPEARANCE**

- Adult zebra doves have a pale bluish-grey forehead, and brown upperparts.
- They have pink underparts, and black θ white bars across their neck and flanks!
- Juveniles have a more dull colouration and fewer bars on the hindneck.

#### HABITAT

- The Zebra Dove is found in most of the Thai-Malay Peninsula, including Java and Sumatra!
- They are often seen in parks and gardens, as well as many urban areas in Singapore.

#### Diet

- Zebra doves are commonly seen on the ground foraging for small grass and weed seeds.
- However, they will also eat insects and other small invertebrates!

#### **FUN FACT**

Think getting a BTO is hard? Zebra Dove females have to attract males via their call, then build a nest together! The nests are made of leaves and blades of grass, and are usually built in bushes, trees, or even on the ground.

READ MORE ABOUT THE HABITAT OF THE ZEBRA DOVE ON CAMPUS BELOW!

# CAMPUS IN A TROPICAL RAINFOREST Srass Over Trees? A Dove's Perspective

Zebra doves are a relatively common sight in Singapore, being classified as least concern (according to Birdlife International).



Photo by Tan Yong Zi Lab (NUS)



Having adapted well to urban areas, they can usually be seen around open grass patches and walking paths, such as the Science field!
Grassy areas are usually included in urban landscaping to improve soil composition!

Planting grasses
provides a niche for
birds who feed on
grass and weed
seeds, but they also
provide a habitat for
insects, thus
supporting other
species that prey
mainly on
invertebrates!





As we live alongside

Zebra doves, watching
them scamper here
and there, it is easy to
forget that each
animal plays a role in
the environment. Keep
a lookout for them on
campus!

#### Brought to you by:







Join the community in spotting the flora and fauna in NUS by sharing your sightings on Facebook and Instagram with #NUSCiTR and #NUSbiodiversity.