

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

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Photo by Benjamin Tan

ZEBRA DOVE

Geopelia striata

APPEARANCE

- Adult zebra doves have a pale bluish-grey forehead, and brown upperparts.
- They have pink underparts, and black & 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

Grass 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!

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