

Species of the Month 3/2023 || Black-naped Oriole

3 March 2023 || TO NUS Community

Immediately identifiable by its bright yellow body and black wing, with a distinctive black band across its eyes, the Black-naped Oriole is frequently seen on at the forested areas around the Medicine and Science Faculties, and the pathway leading to King Edward VII Hall.

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

BLACK-NAPED ORIOLE

Oriolus chinensis

APPEARANCE

- Black-naped Orioles are immediately identifiable by their bold yellow body with black wings.
- They have a distinctive black band across their eyes!
- They also have red irises and a pink bill.

HABITAT

- Black-naped Orioles have a widespread range across South Asia!
- Locally, they can be seen frequenting urban parks, forests, and even mangroves.

Diet

- They are omnivorous, eating both fruits and insects.
- Some fruits they have been observed to snack on include papaya, those of introduced palm trees, and many fig species!

FUN FACT

There are two subspecies of Black-naped Oriole in Singapore, albeit difficult to tell apart. One is a migratory population, while the other residential population was established by an invasion from Indonesia and an escape of caged birds in 1920!

**READ MORE ABOUT THE HABITAT OF THE
BLACK-NAPED ORIOLE ON CAMPUS BELOW!**

CAMPUS IN A TROPICAL RAINFOREST

Trees are Friends - and Food!

The vivid colouration of a **Black-naped Oriole** matches its energetic personality. They can often be heard making a "ku-eyou-ou" sound, although they have a variety of different calls!



While relatively common, there are specific spots on campus where the **Black-naped Oriole** have been seen frequently! Such spots include the forested areas around the Medicine and Science Faculties, as well as the pathway leading to King Edward Hall!



Certain tree species, such as *Swietenia macrophylla* and *Alstonia angustiloba* (pictured right) are popular choices for our sprightly oriole to nest in! The latter can be found across NUS, in places like Utown and Yale-NUS College.



So the next time you hear the melodious calls of a **Black-naped Oriole**, take a look around for the fruiting trees where they may be feeding or nesting. You never know what you might see!



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