

Species of the Month 5/2023 || Long-tailed Shrike

5 May 2023 || TO NUS Community

To search for prey, the Long-tailed Shrike frequents perches that overlook open habitats. Try spotting it in the open areas around the NUS track and the lightly forested areas behind the University Sports Centre! Despite its docile appearance, it is a formidable predator that catches and feeds on a variety of prey, sometimes impaling them on thorns and twigs!

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 78 | MAY 2023



Photo by Ryan Fan

LONG-TAILED SHRIKE

Lanius schach

APPEARANCE

- Adults have reddish-brown flanks and vent, and a thick black eyestripe!
- They also have a white throat, and black wings, with accompanying black bill and tail.
- Juveniles have duller colouration.

HABITAT

- The Long-tailed Shrike is often found in open habitats across Asia.
- They can be found as far as India and Korea, as well as closer to home (e.g. Myanmar)!

Diet

- Voracious predators, the Long-tailed Shrike feeds on insects and lizards!
- They also prey on small birds and mammals, although insects are primarily used to feed their young.

FUN FACT

Despite their adorable appearance, the Long-tailed Shrike has an... interesting habit of impaling its prey on thorns and twigs, which help it to easily tear strips of meat off. Which goes to show - Don't judge a book by its cover!

**READ MORE ABOUT THE HABITAT OF THE
LONG-TAILED SHRIKE ON CAMPUS BELOW!**

CAMPUS IN A TROPICAL RAINFOREST

Life in a Concrete Jungle - Urban Adaptors

A superb predator, the **Long-tailed Shrike** frequents perches that overlook open habitats, enabling them to easily find prey like lizards, as well as small birds and mammals.



They have adapted with ease to urban environments, and can sometimes be seen hanging out on fence lines! These may serve as man-made lookout perches for their hunting activities.



Certain spots in NUS that fit the bill include the open areas around the NUS track and the lightly forested areas behind the University Sports Centre! Be sure to look out for their distinctive reddish brown tinge.



As habitats continue to shrink due to human activity, more species will run into human-wildlife conflict. We can only hope they adapt as successfully as the **Long-tailed Shrike**.



Brought to you by:



Campus Asset Management
University Campus Infrastructure



@NUSSAVE

@NUSSAVEBIODIVERSITY