

Species of the Month 10/2023 || Stork-billed Kingfisher

11 Oct 2023 || TO NUS Community

The largest kingfisher in Singapore, the Stork-billed Kingfisher is easily recognisable by its scarlet beak and blue wings.

Fun fact: Did you know it bobs its head before catching its prey? 🤖

Find out why and other facts about the bird below, 🗨️ and watch a video of it bobbing its head in our [Instagram!](#)

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

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SPECIES OF THE MONTH

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Photo by Shanyl Ong

STORK-BILLED KINGFISHER

Pelargopsis capensis

APPEARANCE

- The Stork-billed Kingfisher is the largest kingfisher in Singapore, with blue wings and tail, brown head and orange-red beak and feet.

HABITAT

- The Stork-billed Kingfisher can be found anywhere around water bodies, from fresh water to brackish water like mangroves.
- They tend to be found in areas that are vegetated, such as forests, parks, or gardens.

DIET

- As the common name of this group of birds is derived from their diet, the Stork-billed Kingfisher feeds mainly on fish and aquatic organisms such as crustaceans, but they also prey on terrestrial prey such as lizards, rodents or even young birds.
- * Do note that not all kingfishers primarily feed on fishes.

FUN FACT

- Have you ever seen a kingfisher bob its head? The Stork-billed Kingfisher bobs its head to gauge the position of the fish in the water, calculating the depth of the fish before diving to catch its prey. Big brain.

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