

# Species of the Month 03/2016 || Collared Kingfisher

28 March 2016 || TO NUS Community

NUS Students Against Violation of the Earth (SAVE) and the Office of Environmental Sustainability present “Campus in a Tropical Rainforest”, an initiative that aims to create awareness of the biodiversity that surrounds us in NUS. In each issue, we will be featuring a species that can be spotted or found in NUS to help us get to know them better. So, if you happen to be travelling around NUS between classes, remember to stop and look around your surroundings, for you may be surprised to come across some of the other inhabitants of NUS.

From its blue plumage to its close relation to water for its survival, the Collared Kingfisher has been chosen as the CiTR species of the Month as a tribute to World Water Day which fell on 22 March 2016.

NUS SAVE  
- presents -

## CAMPUS IN A TROPICAL RAINFOREST

Species of the Month  
Issue #3: March 2016






Photo by: Lim Zong Xian

### Collared Kingfisher


*Todiramphus chloris*  
Family Halcyonidae

 **Appearance**


Collared kingfisher has a aquamarine-blue coloured head and back, with white underparts. Both the bill and the feet are black in colour. The name of the bird is derived from its broad white collar which is bordered by a narrow black line.

 **Habitat**

Native to Singapore. Most commonly found along the coast and mangroves in the past. Now, they have moved inland into freshwater wetlands, parks and gardens, though they tend to avoid forested areas.

 **Diet**

- Feed on a wide variety of prey. Ranging from fishes to crustaceans (prawns, crabs) to earthworms, lizards and small snakes.
- They are also pretty smart birds who know how to hammer the shells on the rocks to get the mollusc or hermit crab out.

 **Fun Facts**

- The most common subspecies that can be found in Singapore is the *todiramphus chloris humii*.
- Their calls are super distinctive with their harsh loud *kek-kek, kek-kek* (sounds like someone laughing at you maniacally).
- They are pretty aggressive and had been seen snatching prey from other birds, e.g. snatching a prawn from the Little Heron.



Supported by:



For more information and pictures on the Collared Kingfisher and to check out the “Campus in a Tropical Rainforest” series, click on this link - [www.tiny.cc/CiTR](http://www.tiny.cc/CiTR)

Also, check out other sightings of NUS biodiversity on the Campus Creatures Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/campuscreatures/>

You can also join the community in spotting the flora and fauna in NUS by sharing your sightings with pictures on the Campus Creatures Facebook page and Instagram the photos with #NUSCiTR and #NUSbiodiversity.