

## Species of the Month 03/2018 || Eurasian Tree Sparrow

29 March 2018 || 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 monthly 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 campus 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.

**NUSSAVE PRESENTS:**

### Campus In a Tropical Rainforest

**SPECIES OF THE MONTH**  
**ISSUE #26: MARCH 2018**



**Eurasian Tree Sparrow**  
Species: *Passer montanus*  
Family: Passeridae

 Appearance	 Habitat	 Diet	 Fun Facts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This small bird has a predominantly brown body, with black streaks on its upper parts</li><li>• It also has characteristic white cheeks with black patches</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Native to Singapore, the sparrow is well-adapted to urban areas, nesting in small spaces such as light fittings in buildings</li><li>• They like to forage in open, grassy areas in flocks</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• These sparrows typically consume seeds, grain and insects but it's not uncommon to find them scavenging for leftover food at open-air coffee shops</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In 1958, Chairman Mao Zedong of China ordered the mass eradication of sparrows to reduce crop damage. People destroyed nests, shot sparrows down in mid-flight and made loud noises to prevent the birds from landing or resting. The sparrows were driven to near extinction, but ironically, crop damage increased as insect populations boomed.</li></ul>

Initiative by:  

Supported by:  

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.