

Species of the Month 09/2017 || Oriental Honey Buzzard

31 October 2017 || 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.

NUS SAVE Presents: CAMPUS IN A TROPICAL RAINFOREST

Species of the Month

Issue #21: October 2017



Photo by: Lim Zong Xian

Oriental Honey Buzzard

Species: *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

Family: Accipitridae



Appearance

- The Oriental honey buzzard is a predatory bird that hunts and feeds on rodents and other small animals. It has a grey head and a brownish body
- The feathers around the forehead and eyes are scale-like for protection from insect stings during foraging



Habitat

- This raptor can be found in woodland habitats with a preference for broadleaf forests
- They can typically be spotted in mid-flight from Kent Ridge campus



Diet

- The Oriental honey buzzard mainly raids the nests of bees, wasps and hornets, and is especially fond of larvae
- They may also feed on other insects as well as small reptiles, mammals and birds



Fun Facts

- Their courtship display involves a distinctive undulating flight pattern which is likened to a roller-coaster
- They are migratory birds and can be seen in Singapore from September to May
- This predator is preyed upon by larger raptors. To deter predation, it mimics the appearance of other more powerful predatory bird species

Initiative by:



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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.