

# Species of the Month 08/2018 || Brahminy Kite

31 August 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.



Photo by: Aikeen Lim

## Brahminy kite

Species: *Haliastur indus*

Family: Accipitridae



### Appearance

- The Brahminy kite is a medium sized bird of prey
- Its head and belly are white, contrasting with its chestnut brown wings and tail. It is sometimes confused with the white-bellied sea eagle, which is larger and has white feathers on the wings as well.



### Habitat

- The Brahminy kite is one of the most common birds of prey in Singapore and can be often seen soaring above urban areas
- They nest in tall trees
- They sometimes soar close to the ground - you may be able to observe them from a close distance at the open field near University Hall!



### Diet

- This raptor has a varied diet. It can catch live prey such as small mammals, amphibians and reptiles, as well as scavenge for rubbish on the sea.



### Fun Facts

- The Brahminy kite is the official mascot of Jakarta, where it is threatened by illegal trade
- This raptor was featured on the \$1000 note of Singapore's 2nd series of currency notes (also known as the bird series)

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.