

WEST

- The Western Adventure Loop takes you through the parks and greenways in western Singapore.
- Jurong Lake Gardens is a great place to start for bird watchers with children.
- While housing the largest nature-themed play space in the heartland, it is also home to various garden and wetland birds such as the black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) and savanna nightjar (*Caprimulgus affinis*).

BIRD FUN FACT

The black-crowned night heron's (right) scientific name means "night raven", because of its nocturnal nature and raven-like call. This patient bird hunts by standing still in the dark for long periods of time at the fringe of water bodies.

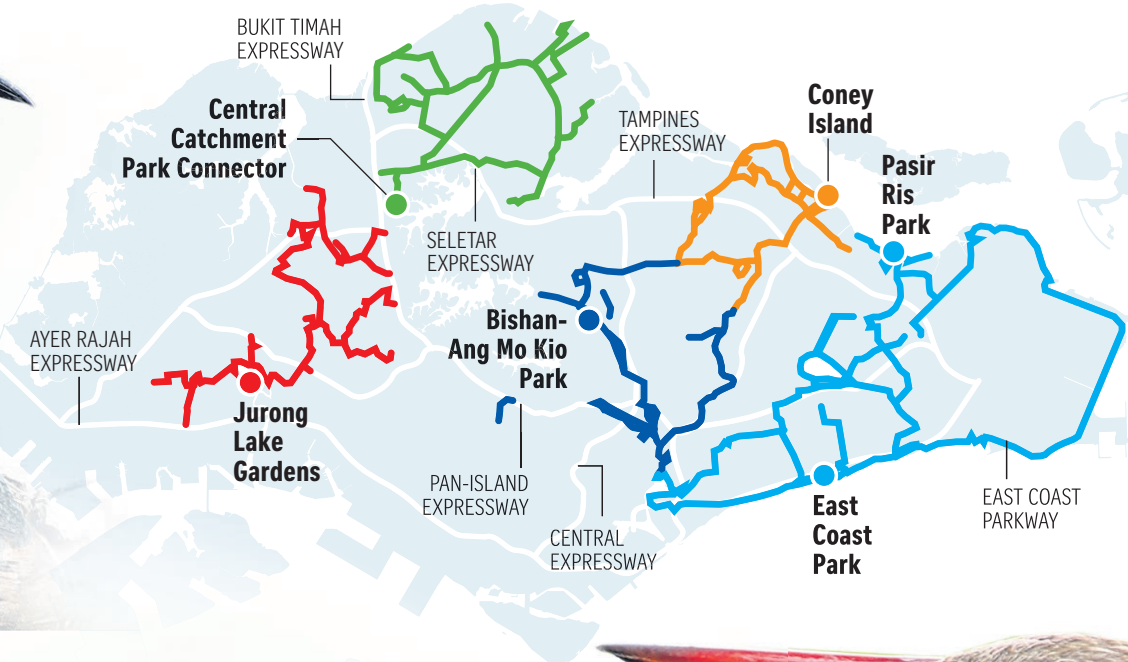


Jurassic Mile in the wild

Unable to snag a spot at Changi's Jurassic Mile? You can find the living descendants of dinosaurs along Singapore's Park Connector Network (PCN). Although birds may not be as huge or terrifying as their ancestors, they are just as dazzling. Grab your binoculars and check out some of these avian hot spots along the PCN. **Ang Qing** points out some highlights.

LOOPS

- Western Adventure
- Northern Explorer
- Central Urban
- Eastern Coastal
- North Eastern Riverine



NORTH

- Located on the Northern Explorer Loop, the Central Catchment Park Connector is a gritty 1.9km trail that links Mandai Road to the Gangsa Trail that runs along the Bukit Timah Expressway.
- Trekkers can spot birds such as the greater racket-tailed drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*), the oriental dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*) and the crimson sunbird (*Aethopyga siparaja*).

The crimson sunbird (right) was unofficially crowned the national bird of Singapore by the Nature Society in 2015, after topping its poll on the topic. The tiny red bird was selected by some voters for embodying Singapore's nickname of the Little Red Dot. Only males of this species have its distinctive crimson breast.



CENTRAL

- The Central Urban Loop is a 36km trail that showcases greenery amid Housing Board estates in central Singapore.
- It connects to the 3km-long Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park, which has a naturalised river that attracts water birds such as the purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*) and other species like the stork-billed kingfisher (*Pelargopsis capensis*).

The stork-billed kingfisher (right) is the largest kingfisher found in Singapore, growing up to 35cm in length. While it is shyer than other kingfishers, it has a distinctive "ka-ka-ka" call.



NORTH-EAST

- Over 80 species of resident and migratory birds live on Coney Island.
- Part of the North Eastern Riverine Loop, the island has coastal forests, grasslands, mangroves and casuarina woodlands.
- Birds that can be found there include the scaly-breasted munia (*Lonchura punctulata*) and baya weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*).

The baya weaver (left) is known for its globular nests, which are usually found hanging from acacia trees. These intricately built chambers are inspected by female weavers, which allow only males that pass their quality control to mate with them.



EAST

- The Eastern Coastal Loop is perfect for beach-loving bird watchers.
- The trail cuts through Pasir Ris Park, which is home to owls such as the buffy fish owl (*Ketupa ketupu*) and the spotted wood owl (*Strix seloputo*).
- East Coast Park is another pit stop with a variety of birds such as the little bronze cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx minutillus*) and laced woodpecker (*Picus vittatus*).

The little bronze cuckoo (right) is one of the smallest cuckoo species in the world. This parasitic bird lays eggs in the nests of smaller garden birds so that its chicks can be raised by these foster parents.

