

Biodiversity Record: Sunda slow loris crossing road via connected tree canopies

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Recommended citation. Lo NYW (2024) Biodiversity Record: Sunda slow loris crossing road via connected tree canopies. Nature in Singapore, 17: e2024130. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2024-0130

Subject: Sunda slow loris, *Nycticebus coucang* (Mammalia; Primates; Lorisidae).

Subject identified by: Nicholas Lo Yong Wai.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Old Upper Thomson Road; 18 October 2024; around 2254 hrs.

Habitat: Edge of secondary forest.

Observers: Nicholas Lo Yong Wai, Jeffrey Teo and Ang Jun Yang.

Observation: An individual of about 30 cm in body length was spotted with its eye-shine along the edge of the road. It was in a tree, approximately 8 to 10 m above the ground. The animal ascended a branch of the tree and clambered onto a branch of another tree growing on the other side of the road (Fig. 1). In doing so, it used the interconnecting canopies of two trees to cross the road (Figs. 2 & 3). Once on the other side, it gradually moved out of the observers' sights.



Fig. 1. Ventral view of slow loris in the tree canopy using the connecting tree branches to cross the road (Photograph by: Nicholas Lo Yong Wai).



Figs. 2 & 3. Slow loris crossing the road by moving along branches in interconnecting tree canopies (Photographs by: Nicholas Lo Yong Wai)

Remarks: The featured record provides evidence that interconnecting tree canopies enable arboreal animals such as the locally endangered Sunda slow loris (see Lim et al., 2024) to cross roads safely without the risk of getting hit and killed by motor vehicles. In July 2005, a dead slow loris found along Mandai Road was apparently killed by motor vehicles while crossing the road (Chan, 2014).

This is not the first record of the Sunda slow loris at Old Upper Thomson Road. In July 2021, one was sighted at the forest edge on the side of the Central Catchment Nature Reserve (Chua, 2021). The present record shows that it occurs on the other side of the road as well, which is Thomson Nature Park.

Literature cited:

- Chan SY (2014) Sunda slow loris carcass along Mandai Road. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*, 2014: 283-284.
Chua J (2021) Biodiversity Record: A Sunda slow loris at Upper Thomson. *Nature in Singapore*, 14: e2021100.
Lim NT-L, Lee BPY-H, Teo RCH, Chua MAH, Yeo SH, Khoo MDY & Fung TK (2024) Mammals. In: Davison GWH, Gan JWM, Huang D, Hwang WS, Lum SKY & Yeo DCJ (eds.) *The Singapore Red Data Book. Red Lists of Singapore Biodiversity*. Third edition. National Parks Board, Singapore, pp. 411–424.