

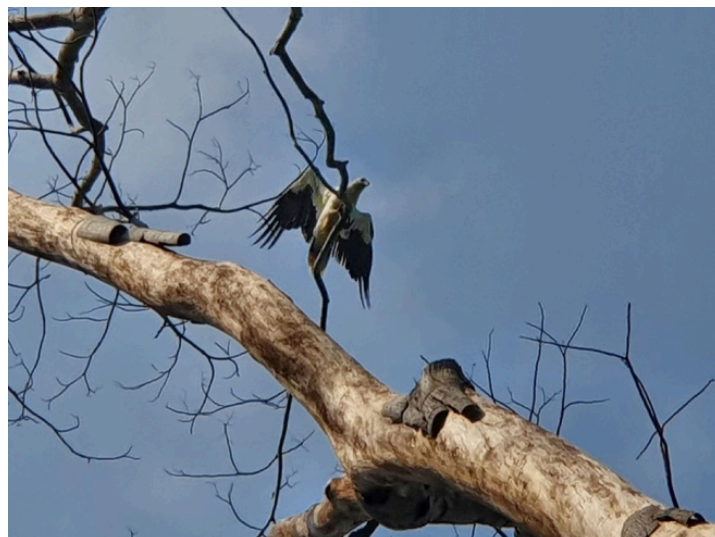
Loss of Albizia Woodland Habitat

Albizia Woodland is a unique and special habitat in Singapore and is typically found at former farming areas. The Albizia Woodland is dominated by fast-growing large trees of the species *Falcataria falcata* which is considered to be a naturalised species. The Albizia tree is considered to be a dangerous tree due to its brittle wood and tendency to drop branches during windy conditions and wherever the tree occurs in public areas it is removed.



A standalone Albizia Tree

However, the Albizia trees are a preferred nesting habitat for our native raptors and in particular the White Bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) due to the sparse foliage and tall habit of the mature trees.



White-bellied Sea Eagle perched near its nest



White-bellied Sea Eagle nest in Albizia tree

In addition, the understory of an Albizia Woodland is characterised by vigorous growth of typically native plant species due to the amount of sunlight that is able to pass through the canopy. This vigorous understory and undergrowth often consists of common fig species such as *Ficus fistulosa*, *Ficus variegata* and *Ficus grossularioides* as well as Fish Tail Palm (*Caryota mitis*) all of which are considered keystone species due to their prolific food production (for fauna) capability. Our current best estimate for Albizia Woodland coverage is 370 hectares only as of 2019.

The map below illustrates the extent of Albizia Woodland coverage over Singapore:



Map showing visually interpreted (from satellite imagery) areas of Albizia woodland over Singapore. The map is subject to omissions and false positive identifications pending ground truth efforts which are currently being planned.

These losses of Albizia Woodland habitat may reduce nesting opportunities for the White-bellied Sea Eagle as well as other raptors. We believe alternate suitable tree species should be investigated and added to our planting palette.