

Common Garden Birds Series:

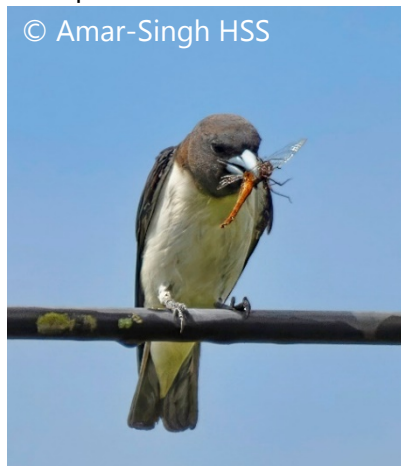
A series specially for the non-birdwatcher, children and families, to learn about our common Malaysian garden birds. And how to make our gardens and cities bird friendly to support them.

Common Garden Bird 11: White-breasted Woodswallow (Layang-Hujan Biasa) *Artamus leucorhynchus*

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The White-breasted Woodswallow is an uncommon bird in Peninsular Malaysia but is ubiquitous in the East Malaysian cities of Borneo. Look upwards and, in most cities and towns of Sabah and Sarawak, you might see a White-breasted Woodswallow circling in the air looking for prey or perched on a telephone wire. They are also common in the countryside.

They are smart looking birds with the head, throat and upperparts dark slate-grey. The underparts are white and the bill blue-grey.



They are superb fliers and make aerial sorties to take insect prey like dragonflies and butterflies. They are gregarious and often seen in noisy small groups sitting close together on a wire. They practise cooperative breeding behaviour and a small group will take collective responsibility for young from egg until they fledge.

Their small size belies the size of their courage. As a team they will attack and chase away much larger birds, even birds of prey, especially when nesting. You do not want to mess with these chaps.

