

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 9: Pink-necked Green-Pigeon (Punai Kocok) *Treron vernans* Amar-Singh HSS

This pigeon has been increasing in many urban areas in the past few decades but often goes unnoticed by the majority of city dwellers. They are very beautiful with the male having a purple neck and orange breast. The female lacks the brilliant colours but is still a pretty sight. They have a double coloured iris, lavender-pink outside with a bright blue inner ring.



They generally do not come to the ground but feed on fruits in trees, especially palm and ficus fruits. The increase in urban numbers may be a result of the tendency of city councils to plant more palms.

They tend to stay in flocks and fly together to regular feeding sites every day. They have an interesting, hard to describe, whistling call; often heard when roosting.

They are swift fliers. They remain wary of mankind, perhaps some genetic memory of having been hunted for a long time. So getting close to them is not easy. They however will allow some viewing if they are secure in a tall tree or on a high wire or pole. We have a flock that roosts daily in our garden and occasionally builds nests.