The Asian songbird crisis: just how bad is it, and what can we do?

Nigel Collar

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Jepson 2005–2011

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Bird-keeping in Indonesia: conservation impacts and the potential for substitution-based conservation responses

Paul Jepson and Richard J. Ladle

Abstract Bird-keeping is an extremely popular pastime in Indonesia, where there is a thriving internal market in both wild-caught and captive-bred birds. However, little is known about whether the scale of bird-keeping represents a genuine conservation threat to native populations. Here we present the results of the largest ever survey of bird-keeping among households in Indonesia's five major cities. Birds were found to be urban Indonesia's most popular pet (kept by 21.8% of survey households) and we conservatively estimate that as many as 2.6 million birds are kept in the five cities sampled. Of bird-keeping households, 78.5% kept domestic species and/or commercially bred species and 60.2% kept wild-caught birds that we classified into three conservation categories: native songbirds, native parrots and imported songbirds. Compared to non-bird owners, households keeping wild-caught birds in all three conservation categories were richer and better educated, whereas households owning commercially-bred species were richer but not better educated and households keeping domestic species did not differ in educational or socio-economic status. We conclude that bird-keeping in Indonesia is at a scale that warrants a conservation intervention and that promoting commercially-bred alternatives may be an effective and popular solution.

Keywords Birds, bird trade, CITES, culture, Indonesia, market-led conservation.

Jepson 2005–2011

SPECIAL REPORT

Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina* and the avian X-factor

PAUL JEPSON

In 2005 an Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina* called Valium scored a hat-trick by winning all three of the top classes at an Indonesian national songbird contest. The bird's owner received an offer of Rp 250 million (€18,000) but declined to sell. He didn't need the money: what he valued was the pride and prestige accrued from owning a champion songbird, which five years ago was hatched in a forest on Java. This is the world of *kicau-mania*, a way of enjoying birds quite different from the western focus on bird finding and identification, scarcity and counting. The Indonesian passion for songbirds is centred on the aesthetic of song, form and posture, and the song contests are where tastes are developed and judged, where reputations are made, and where men let off a bit of steam.

The Orange-headed Thrush is the star species but nine others have official song contest classes. In order of popularity and prestige these are: Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*, Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*, Oriental Magpie Robin *C. saularis*, Chestnut-capped Thrush *Z. interpres*, Straw-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*, Canary *Serinus canarius*, Lovebird *Agapornis* spp., Greater Green Leafbird *Chloropsis sonnerati*, Blue-winged Leafbird *C. cochinchinensis* and Hill Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis banyumas*. Canaries, lovebirds, Straw-headed Bulbuls and the majority of Chestnut-capped Thrushes are now captive-bred on Java, but the remainder are caught from the wild.

Competing Zebra Doves *Geopelia striata* is a traditional Javanese pastime but it is only in the last 30 years that competing songbirds has become popular. The hobby was started during the 1970s by a group of bird enthusiasts among the Jakarta elite who waged fabulous prizes on the outcome of the song contests. Initially imported Chinese laughingthrushes (Hwamei *Garulax canorus* and Black-chinned Laughingthrush *G. chinensis*) and

Jepson 2005–2011

Governing bird-keeping in Java and Bali: evidence from a household survey

PAUL JEPSON and RICHARD J. LADLE

Abstract The Indonesian pastime of keeping wild birds as pets is threatening the long-term survival of many songbird species on the islands of Java and Bali. Here we present the results of a large-scale household survey of bird-keeping in the six largest cites of Java and Bali that investigates: (1) the scale and conservation significance of bird-keeping and (2) the relative merits of regulatory versus market-based approaches as means to reduce the enormous demand for wild-caught birds. We found bird-keeping is widespread across social groups, with a rising demand for certain species of conservation importance. Specifically, 35.7% of households surveyed keep a bird and 57.6% of households had kept a bird in the last 10 years. Overall, we project that 584,000 households keep almost 2 million songbirds, the category of most conservation concern. Just over half of songbirds kept are wild-caught. We identified an increase in popularity (since 1999) of three native species (long-tailed shrike *Lanius schach*, orange-headed thrush *Zoothera citrina* and white-rumped shama *Copsychus malabaricus*) attributable to their popularity in bird song contests. In the latter two species this keeping can be considered one of the most important ways of promoting interest and respect for the non-human world and, unlike zoological parks, allows intimate interactions with strong psychological and social benefits. Put in another way, affection and admiration for pets may also promote positive attitudes towards the continued protection of wild animals in their natural habitats.

Unfortunately, pet-keeping can also generate threats to populations of wild species. For example, recent models suggest that domestic cats *Felis catus* in the UK may cause decreases of urban songbird abundance of up to 90% (Beckerman et al., 2007). More relevant to the present study, consumer demand for pets taken from the wild can promote unsustainable supply chains in wildlife in countries and regions that are poorly regulated. For example, the global trade in ornamental fishes was estimated in the mid 1990s to involve c. 350 million fish annually with a combined value of > USD 900 million (Young, 1997, cited in Tissot & Hallacher, 2003). Although the figures may be less startling for other vertebrate groups the conservation significance of

Jepson 2005–2011

Assessing market-based conservation governance approaches: a socio-economic profile of Indonesian markets for wild birds

PAUL JEPSON, RICHARD J. LADLE and SUJATNIKA

Abstract One of the most difficult situations for conservation is where state capacity to regulate is weak, major corporate organizations are absent, and the population does not have a strong culture of wildlife conservation. All these apply to the hugely popular urban Indonesian pastime of keeping wild songbirds, thought to be responsible for rolling local extinctions of several native species. In such situations the introduction of a voluntary, market-based approach could interact with regulation to create new and more effective approaches to reducing the negative conservation impacts of the associated trade. Here we assess the potential of such an approach through an in-depth analysis of the socio-economic and cultural aspects of bird keeping. We project that overall the pastime contributes USD 78.8 million to the economies of the six cities surveyed, supporting a range of associated small-scale rural and urban livelihoods relating to the production of cages and collection of live bird food. Finally, we describe five general bird-

Introduction

The international conservation movement is unified in its aspiration that the trade and utilization of species should not endanger their wild populations. Over the past 4 decades the conservation movement has developed two contrasting approaches for dealing with the trade in wild species. The first is the creation of an international regulatory regime and supporting institutions, linked to domestic legislation, to control the harvest and international trade in specified species identified as being at risk of extinction. The 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is central to this approach and was developed when the state was the main body in conservation governance.

The second general approach involves the development of non-state, market-driven policy approaches that enrol market forces to embed environmental and social values

Jepson 2005–2011

Harvesting orange-headed thrush *Zoothera citrina* chicks in Bali, Indonesia: magnitude, practices and sustainability

IGN KRISTIANTO and PAUL JEPSON

Abstract Market demand for the orange-headed thrush *Zoothera citrina*, a prestigious songbird competition species in Indonesia, is supplied by chicks harvested from Bali Island. Using ethnographic and interview surveys conducted during the 2008–2009 breeding season we established the structure and scale of this trade and investigated means to improve its sustainability in two districts of Bali. We found that well-organized agent networks supplied an estimated 116,000 chicks worth EUR 3.175 million from Bali during the 6-month harvest season. Chicks are harvested when 4–16 days old and exported from Bali when 16–18 days old. Of 50 nests followed 60% were harvested and just 6% fledged young. Farmers deploy techniques to improve thrush food supply but lack practices to ensure continued recruitment to the thrush population. The practice of thrush harvesting started in the mid 1990s and is not yet regulated by the traditional institutions (*Subak*) that govern collective farming practices. Three networks determine the sustain-

popularize a new form of competition (called *Kicau-mania*) in the urban culture of West Indonesia (Jepson, 2008). *Z. citrina* is the most popular and prestigious of the species involved and increasing demand since the mid 1990s led to all forest blocks on Java being systematically 'caught out' by 2003 or 2004 (Jepson & Ladle, 2009).

Recent research on policy approaches to mitigate the negative conservation impacts of Indonesian bird-keeping (Jepson & Ladle, 2006, 2009, Jepson et al., 2011) revealed that markets for *Z. citrina* are supplied by chicks harvested from agro-forests on the island of Bali. Moreover, reports suggested that this practice was governed by customary village law and might be sustainable. Here we present the results of a study that aimed to: (1) investigate the bodies and practices involved in the harvesting, distribution and selling of chicks, (2) provide an indicative estimate of the number and value of birds harvested, (3) evaluate the potential of traditional village and bird-keeper institutions to

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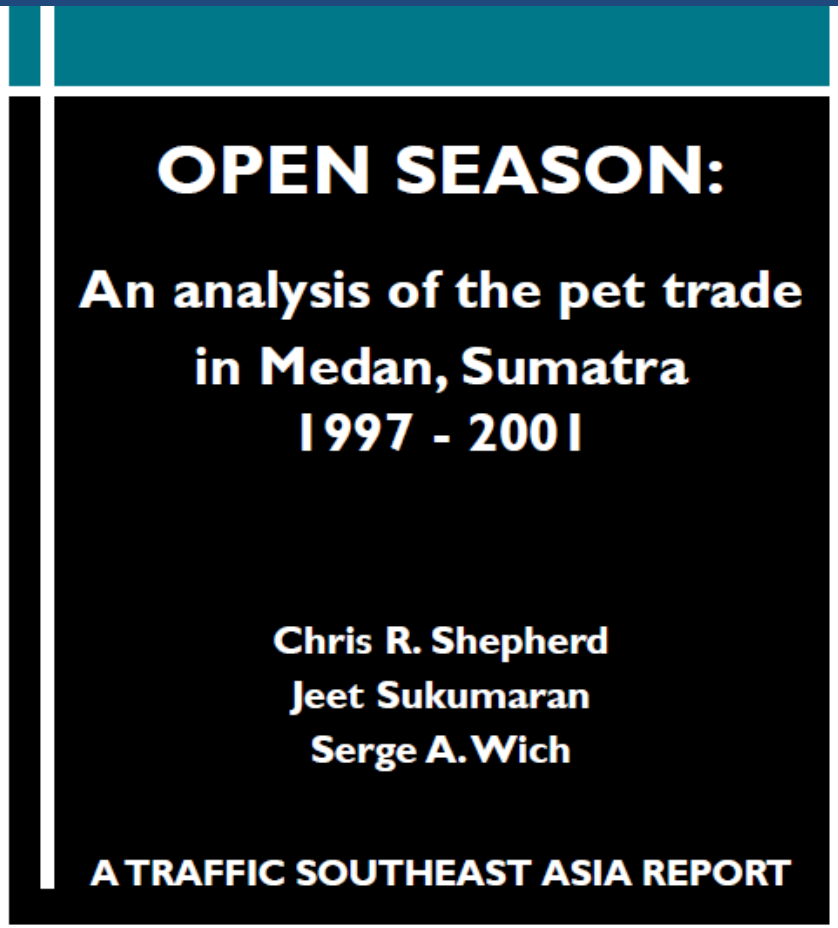

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SPECIAL REPORT

The bird trade in Medan, north Sumatra: an overview

CHRIS R. SHEPHERD

Introduction

Trade is a serious threat to the conservation of numerous species of birds in Indonesia. Keeping birds as pets in Indonesia is a very popular and widespread hobby (Shepherd *et al.* 2004, Jepson & Ladle 2005). While some of the birds are intended for international export, the bulk of the trade supplies local demand. This trade involves large volumes of birds, with the vast majority of them being wild-caught (Shepherd *et al.* 2004). Virtually all towns and cities in Indonesia have bird markets and very little is done to regulate or monitor the trade and to ensure it is both legal and sustainable. Most bird species are traded for pets, while a few species are traded for food, and to a far lesser extent,

numerous informal interviews and conversations which took place during the repeated visits made to the markets.

During these surveys, all species observed and the quantities of each species were recorded.

Estimates of the quantities of species that were very common and numerous, and legally unprotected, were made. Accurate counts of all other species were made. Species identification was made on the basis of personal knowledge and with reference to field guides. Photographs were taken whenever possible to assist in identification. A total of 16 avian species that could not be identified at least to a genus level were omitted from the analysis of the trade in these markets.

Shepherd TRAFFIC 2004–2017

BirdingASIA 8 (2007): 49–52

SPECIAL REPORT

Trade in the Black-and-white Laughingthrush *Garrulax bicolor* and White-crested Laughingthrush *G. leucolophus* in Indonesia

CHRIS R. SHEPHERD

Introduction

The White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus* is found from the north and north-eastern Indian subcontinent, south-eastern Tibet and south-western China, Myanmar, Thailand and Sumatra (Indonesia), but is absent from central and southern Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. However, it has become a common introduced bird in Singapore (Sodhi & Sharp 2006). Recently this species has been split, with the Sumatran race being elevated to species level, the Black-and-white or Sumatran Laughingthrush *G. bicolor* (Collar 2006).

While the Black-and-white Laughingthrush has only recently been treated as a species, bird dealers in Sumatra have always regarded it as such. The local name used for the White-crested Laughingthrush is *Poksai Lokal* (Indonesian word for "local"). In Jakarta both species are known as *Poksai Jambul Putih*, although bird dealers state that the Black-and-white Laughingthrush was from Sumatra and that the White-crested Laughingthrush was from Hong Kong.

The Black-and-white Laughingthrush, endemic to the island of Sumatra, is found in mountainous regions (van Marle & Voous 1988, MacKinnon & Phillipps 1993). Its conservation status in Sumatra is largely unknown, although it is reportedly becoming increasingly scarce (BirdLife International 2006, Shepherd 2006). The decline in this species is due to a combination of habitat loss and, perhaps of more urgent concern, capture for commercial trade.

Shepherd TRAFFIC 2004–2017

Bird Conservation International, page 1 of 6. © BirdLife International, 2010
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Observations on trade in laughingthrushes (*Garrulax* spp.) in North Sumatra, Indonesia

CHRIS R. SHEPHERD

Summary

The trade in laughingthrush species native to Indonesia is not carried out in accordance with Indonesian legislation and regulations. During 65 surveys carried out in bird markets in 1997–2008, more than 11,000 laughingthrushes representing 10 species were observed, including all five species native to Indonesia. Bird dealers claim that these species are becoming increasingly scarce in Indonesia due to over-harvesting for trade, especially the Sumatran endemic Black-and-white Laughingthrush *G. bicolor* and the Javan endemic Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush *G. rufifrons*. Indonesia has legislation in place to protect these species from over-exploitation, yet the illegal trade continues on a large scale, carried out openly in city bird markets. Enforcement of this legislation is critical in order to prevent these species from becoming perilously threatened.

Shepherd TRAFFIC 2004–2017

CONSERVATION ALERT

Pittas for a pittance: observations on the little known illegal trade in Pittidae in west Indonesia

CHRIS R. SHEPHERD, JAMES A. EATON & SERENE C. L. CHNG

The Indonesian cage-bird trade is a threat to a wide range of avian species, many of which are purchased for their singing abilities, some for their ability to mimic human words and phrases and others for their attractive appearance. Although some species are robust and may survive for long periods in small cages, others die soon after capture from stress, inappropriate food and other causes. Unfortunately, too little is known of the scale of the trade in Indonesia and the impact it has on wild populations, but it is likely to be a significant factor in the decline of some bird species, many of which are in serious decline in Indonesia (see Shepherd 2007, Collar *et al.* 2012). Baseline data for many species and species groups are lacking,

whilst Malayan Banded Pitta *P. irena* and Bornean Banded Pitta *P. schwaneri*, endemic to Borneo, make up the new trio—the first two of which feature in the observations reported here.

All members of the Pittidae family are fully protected by law in Indonesia, under the *Act of the Republic of Indonesia No. 5 of 1990 concerning Conservation of Living Resources and their Ecosystems*, commonly known as Law No 5 (1990). This means that they cannot be hunted or traded. Violation can result in imprisonment for a maximum of five years or a fine of up to IDR100 million (about US$ 8,000 at 2015 exchange rates). Many of the family are additionally protected under Act No. 7 of 1999 (Sukmantoro *et al.* 2007).

Shepherd TRAFFIC 2004–2017

Bird Conservation International, page 1 of 7. © BirdLife International, 2015
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Short Communication

Illegal trade pushing the Critically Endangered Black-winged Myna *Acridotheres melanopterus* towards imminent extinction

CHRIS R. SHEPHERD, VINCENT NIJMAN, KANITHA KRISHNASAMY, JAMES A. EATON and SERENE C. L. CHNG

Summary

The Critically Endangered Black-winged Myna *Acridotheres melanopterus* is being pushed towards the brink of extinction in Indonesia due to continued demand for it as a cage bird and the lack of enforcement of national laws set in place to protect it. The trade in this species is largely to supply domestic demand, although an unknown level of international demand also persists. We conducted five surveys of three of Indonesia's largest open bird markets (Pramuka, Barito and Jatinegara), all of which are located in the capital Jakarta, between July 2010 and July 2014. No Black-winged Mynas were observed in Jatinegara, singles or pairs were observed during every survey in Barito, whereas up to 14 birds at a time were present at Pramuka. The average number of birds observed per survey is about a quarter of what it was in the 1990s when, on average, some 30 Black-winged Mynas were present at Pramuka and Barito markets. Current asking prices in Jakarta are high, with unbartered quotes averaging USD 220 per bird. Our surveys of the markets in Jakarta illustrate an ongoing and open trade. Dealers blatantly ignore national legislation and

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Bird Conservation International, page 1 of 7. © BirdLife International, 2016
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Short Communication

Nothing to laugh about – the ongoing illegal trade in laughingthrushes (*Garrulax* species) in the bird markets of Java, Indonesia

CHRIS R. SHEPHERD, JAMES A. EATON and SERENE C. L. CHNG

Summary

In *ad hoc* survey inventories of eight major bird markets in Java in 2014 and 2015, 615 individuals from nine species of the *Garrulax* genus were found for sale. The most numerous species was Sunda Laughingthrush *Garrulax palliatus* (215 individuals), followed by Chinese Hwamei *G. canorus* and Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush *G. mitratus*. Prices collected in Jakarta revealed that non-native species were the most expensive. Information from these and previous surveys indicate that prices for Sumatran Laughingthrush *Garrulax bicolor* appeared to have soared since 2007, suggesting increasing rarity of the species. We urge the Indonesian Government to take action against the illegal trade in laughingthrushes under existing laws, especially for the Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush *Garrulax rufifrons* which is listed on the national protected species list. We also recommend that the Sumatran Laughingthrush *Garrulax bicolor* be listed as a protected species under Indonesian law. As wild populations of Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush and Sumatran Laughingthrush are threatened by trade, we recommend an urgent review of the con-

Shepherd TRAFFIC 2004–2017

TRAFFIC

REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2015

IN THE MARKET FOR EXTINCTION

An inventory of Jakarta's bird markets

Serene C.L. Chng, James A. Eaton, Kanitha Krishnasamy, Chris R. Shepherd and Vincent Nijman

Nijman 2010–2017

Biodivers Conserv (2010) 19:1101–1114
DOI 10.1007/s10531-009-9758-4

ORIGINAL PAPER

An overview of international wildlife trade from Southeast Asia

Vincent Nijman

Abstract Wildlife trade is the very heart of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development providing an income for some of the least economically affluent people and it generates considerable revenue nationally. In Asia the unsustainable trade in wildlife has been identified as one of the main conservation challenges. Internationally, wildlife trade is regulated through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) to which all Southeast Asian nations are signatory. I obtained data on international trade in CITES-listed animals in the period 1998–2007. In all >35 million animals (0.3 million butterflies; 16.0 million seahorses; 0.1 million other fish; 17.4 million reptiles; 0.4 million mammals; 1.0 million birds) were exported in this period, 30 million (~300 species) of them being wild-caught. In addition 18 million pieces and

Nijman 2010–2017

CONSERVATION ALERT

Records of four Critically Endangered songbirds in the markets of Java suggest domestic trade is a major impediment to their conservation

VINCENT NIJMAN, SUCI LISTINA SARI, PENTHAI SIRIWAT, MARIE SIGAUD & K. ANNE-ISOLA NEKARIS

Introduction

Bird-keeping is a popular pastime in Indonesia, and nowhere more so than amongst the people of Java. It has deep cultural roots, and traditionally a *kukilo* (bird in the Javanese language) was one of the five things a Javanese man should pursue or obtain in order to live a fulfilling life (the others being *garwo*, a wife, *curigo*, a Javanese dagger, *wismo*, a house or a place to live, and *turonggo*, a horse, as a means of transportation). A *kukilo* represents having a

1.2 million wild-caught birds (the vast majority of them songbirds) were sold in the Java and Bali markets each year. Taking a different approach, Jepson & Ladle (2005) made use of a survey of randomly selected households in the Javan cities of Jakarta, Bandung, Semarang and Surabaya, and Medan in Sumatra, which together make up a quarter of the urban Indonesian population, to estimate that between 600,000 and 760,000 wild-caught native songbirds were acquired each year

TASA/associates 2012–2017

SPECIAL REPORT

Conservation breeding and the most threatened birds in Asia

N. J. COLLAR, L. GARDNER, D. F. JEGGO, B. MARCORDES, A. OWEN, T. PAGEL, T. PES, A. VAIDL, R. WILKINSON & R. WIRTH

Introduction

The role of public and private zoos, aviaries and bird gardens in the conservation of threatened birds has not, for the most part, been pivotal—or at least not so far. A recent review of the value of zoos to bird conservation (Collar 2012 and in prep.) suggested that projects involving captive breeding (*ex situ*) projects—referred to by zoos as 'conservation breeding' to distinguish this from captive breeding of wildlife for commercial, recreational or other purposes—can be broken down into six general types (to some extent overlapping):

1. 'necessary'—the only conservation option available since the species is extinct in the wild

species judged appropriate to list under the 'integral' projects, the 23 species on the 'precautionary' list contain 10 Asian birds (White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*, Indian Vulture *G. indicus*, Long-billed Vulture *G. tenuirostris*, Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*, Western Tragopan *Tragopan melanocephalus*, Bornean Peacock Pheasant *Polyplectron schleiermacheri*, Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus*, Yellow-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea*, Philippine Cockatoo *C. haematuropygia* and Visayan Wrinkled Hornbill *Aceros waldeni*).

Meanwhile the 'prudent' list includes White-winged Duck *Cairina scutulata*, Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana*, Greater Adjutant *Leptotilos*

TASA/associates 2012–2017

Bird Conservation International (2013) 23:91–109. © BirdLife International, 2011
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Biology, taxonomy and conservation status of the Short-tailed Green Magpie *Cissa [t.] thalassina* from Java

S. (BAS) VAN BALEN, JAMES A. EATON and FRANK E. RHEINDT

Summary

The Short-tailed Green Magpie *Cissa thalassina*, a member of an Asian lineage of uniquely coloured corvids, is represented by two subspecies, *thalassina* and *jefferyi*, that occur on the islands of Java and Borneo, respectively. The distinct Javan nominate form is poorly described in the literature and next to nothing is published on its biology and occurrence in the wild. We here document the biology and distribution of this taxon based on hitherto unpublished historical data and on our own fieldwork. We also analyse vocal data of *jefferyi*, *thalassina* and two other *Cissa* species and show that *jefferyi* and *thalassina* are well-differentiated, and that *thalassina* is bioacoustically more similar to another *Cissa* species from the Asian mainland. We also demonstrate important and significant biometric differences between *jefferyi* and *thalassina* that may reflect divergent adaptations to the environment, as well as plumage differences that may serve signalling functions. Finally, the application of a novel species delimitation test to our data suggests that *jefferyi* and *thalassina* deserve to be classified as biological species because their

TASA/associates 2012–2017

FORKTAIL 29 (2013): 15–18

Notes for the conservation of the Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush *Garrulax rufifrons*

N. J. COLLAR & S. VAN BALEN

The Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush *Garrulax rufifrons*, endemic to Java, has been recorded from a total of 15 montane sites, 14 in West Java (nominotypical *rufifrons*) and one in Central Java (subspecies *slamatensis*). It occupies montane forest generally in the range 1,000–2,000 m, although this may vary with site, and occurs in monospecific parties of birds but also in bird waves, and has or had an association with Javan Green Magpie *Cissa thalassina*. Breeding appears to be extended through the year, but lack of records in January–February and July–August may reflect real breaks in the cycle. A lack of recent records from bird markets and a recent hike in prices of captive birds supports other concerns that the Javan bird trade may have affected the species, which in the past 20 years appears only to have been observed at Gunung Gede-Pangrango. Surveys of known sites and of several montane forest reserves are needed before a heavy investment in captive breeding is made.

INTRODUCTION

Of all the species bearing the English name 'laughingthrush', now proposed as components of a large subfamily of babblers named Leothrichinae (Moyle *et al.* 2012), Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush *Garrulax rufifrons*—called Red-fronted in Andrew (1985) and

at Warungloa, heard once, 15 July 1981 (SvB), on the south-west slope at Awibengkok, 10 records of 1–3 birds, 3–9 September 1988 (SvB);

- **Gn Gede–Pangrango**, May 1889 (1 specimen in Naturalis; Vorderman 1892), 1900–1926 (34 specimens and 3 clutches in Naturalis, 4 specimens in MZB), 1943–1947 (8 clutches in

TASA/associates 2012–2017

International Zoo Yearbook

ZSL LIVING CONSERVATION

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In situ conservation breeding and the role of zoological institutions and private breeders in the recovery of highly endangered Indonesian passerine birds

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Indonesian birds are especially threatened both by habitat loss and trapping for the cage-bird trade. This paper describes recent zoo-supported work at Cikananga Wildlife Center, Java, for the conservation breeding of a

in this paper is rather more multifaceted and combines all of the above elements.

Indonesia has the third highest number of

TASA/associates 2012–2017

FORKTAIL 31 (2015): 1–12

Trade-driven extinctions and near-extinctions of avian taxa in Sundaic Indonesia

J. A. EATON, C. R. SHEPHERD, F. E. RHEINDT, J. B. C. HARRIS, S. (B.) van BALEN, D. S. WILCOVE & N. J. COLLAR

Commercial trade, almost always for pets, represents a major threat to bird species and subspecies in Sumatra, Kalimantan, Java and Bali, Indonesia. Thirteen species—Silvery Woodpigeon *Columba argentina*, Javan Hawk-eagle *Nisaetus bartelsi*, Helmeted Hornbill *Rhinoplax vigil*, Yellow-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea*, Scarlet-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus forsteni*, Javan Green Magpie *Cissa thalassina*, Black-winged Myna *Acridotheres melanopterus*, Bali Myna *Leucopsar rothschildi*, Straw-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*, Javan White-eye *Zosterops flavus*, Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush *Garrulax rufifrons*, Sumatran Laughingthrush *Garrulax bicolor* and Java Sparrow *Lonchura oryzivora*—are identified as at greatly elevated risk of global extinction from trade pressures, plus the nominate Javan race of Crested Jay *Platylophus galericulatus*, the races *tricolor*, *hypolizus*, *opisthochrus*, *melanurus*, *omissus* and *barbouri* of White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*, race *jalla* of Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra*, races *miotera*, *robusta* and (extralimital) *venerata* of Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*, and races *rookmakeri* and *laurinae* of Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argentauris*. Scarlet-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus forsteni* race *djampeanus*, White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus* races *opisthochrus*, *omissus* and *nigricauda* and Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa* race *miotera* may already be extinct. However, this is a conservative list because (a) some candidates simply lack information to indicate trade as a threat, (b) taxonomic revision will probably increase the number of full species at risk from trade, and (c) taxonomically undifferentiated populations were not included in this review. As certain favoured species disappear, others are targeted as next-best substitutes (e.g. Grey-cheeked Bulbul *Alophoixus bres* for Straw-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*), and commercial breeders may hybridise taxa for better effects (e.g. non-Indonesian subspecies of Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra* with Indonesian race *jalla*). Law enforcement, public awareness campaigns, *in situ* management, conservation breeding, conversion of trappers to wardens and field, market and genetic surveys are all needed, but commercial breeding, while attractive in theory, presents difficulties that are probably insurmountable in practice.

TASA/associates 2012–2017

CONSERVATION ALERT

The elephant in the room: addressing the Asian songbird crisis

BRIAN R. SYKES

Introduction

Many of the tumultuous events in South, South-East and East Asia during the period from the 1930s until the 1980s are almost forgotten. Nonetheless almost every part of the region covered by the OBC today was involved to a greater or lesser extent; the various human conflicts inflicted genocide and persecution, long term suffering and depredation and the destruction of traditional ways of life on many Asian peoples. It was followed by false hopes, better times, the creation of new states, new ways of life and new aspirations. During this turmoil, many areas of conservation interest and concern were closed to international scientists

Asian avian species that are being dragged towards extinction through being a human food source are few, and the same can be said about species used for religious ceremonies (e.g. merit releases).

In the twenty-first century, the major overwhelming force that threatens to drive an increasing number of avian species to extinction, is the trade in birds for human entertainment, be it a bird's ability to sing or simply that it has attractive attributes or beautiful plumage. Furthermore, to the innocent, a bird may appear to be happy and at home in a cage.

In the last two decades the realisation that there is 'an elephant in the room' has grown

Harris 2015–2017

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journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/biocon

Using market data and expert opinion to identify overexploited species in the wild bird trade

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ABSTRACT

The wildlife trade involves thousands of vertebrate species and now rivals habitat loss as an extinction driver in some regions. However, its impacts are poorly known because field monitoring of wild populations is expensive, localized, and requires specialized expertise. We examined whether market data and expert opinion could be used to identify bird species that may be at risk from the trade in Indonesia. We asked expert ornithologists to characterize population trends of 38 species of Indonesian birds, including many heavily traded species. They identified 14 species as having undergone population declines, all of which are regularly traded, and only two of which are restricted to old-growth forests. Conversely, none of the untraded species was classified as declining. We combined the expert-derived population trends with data on changes in price and trade volume from Indonesian wildlife markets to see if market data could identify

Harris 2015–2017

Conservation Biology

Contributed Paper

Measuring the impact of the pet trade on Indonesian birds

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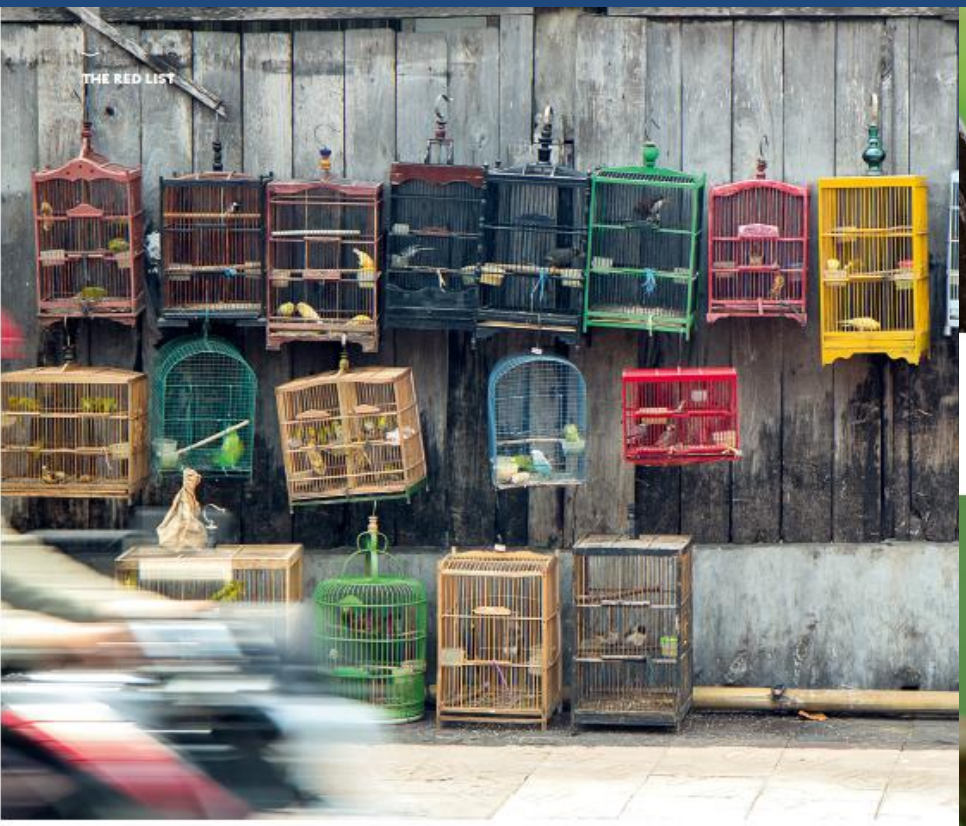
Abstract: *The trade in wild animals involves one-third of the world's bird species and thousands of other vertebrate species. Although a few species are imperiled as a result of the wildlife trade, the lack of field studies makes it difficult to gauge how serious a threat it is to biodiversity. We used data on changes in bird abundances across space and time and information from trapper interviews to evaluate the effects of trapping wild birds for the pet trade in Sumatra, Indonesia. To analyze changes in bird abundance over time, we used data gathered over 14 years of repeated bird surveys in a 900-ha forest in southern Sumatra. In northern Sumatra, we surveyed birds along a gradient of trapping accessibility, from the edge of roads to 5 km into the forest interior. We interviewed 49 bird trappers in northern Sumatra to learn which species they targeted and how far they went into the forest to trap. We used prices from Sumatran bird markets as a proxy for demand and, therefore, trapping pressure. Market price was a significant predictor of species declines over time in*

BirdLife Magazine



THE SILENCING OF THE SONGBIRDS

The 2016 Red List reveals that Indonesia's love of songbirds is a tainted love; unsustainable trapping is driving many endemic species towards extinction

James Lowen

Asian Geographic


Five species when TASA formed in 2011

IUCN Red List for Indonesian songbirds 2017

Javan Green Magpie	*Cissa thalassina*	CR
Straw-headed Bulbul	*Pycnonotus zeylanicus*	EN
Ruby-throated Bulbul	*Pycnonotus dispar*	VU
Aceh Bulbul	*Pycnonotus snouckaerti*	VU
Javan White-eye	*Zosterops flavus*	VU
Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush	*Garrulax rufifrons*	CR
Sumatran Laughingthrush	*Garrulax bicolor*	EN
Sumatran Mesia	*Leiothrix laurinae*	EN
Bali Myna	*Leucopsar rothschildi*	CR
Black-winged Myna	*Acridotheres melanopterus*	CR
Grey-backed Myna	*Acridotheres tricolor*	CR
Grey-rumped Myna	*Acridotheres tertius*	CR
Javan Myna	*Acridotheres javanicus*	VU
Asian Pied Starling	*Gracupica jalla*	CR
Tenggara Hill Myna	*Gracula venerata*	EN
Nias Hill Myna	*Gracula robusta*	CR
Sumatran Leafbird	*Chloropsis media*	VU
Greater Green Leafbird	*Chloropsis sonnerati*	VU
Java Sparrow	*Lonchura oryzivora*	VU

White-rumped Shama LC, but with CR island subspecies

tricolor

hypolizus

opisthochrus

melanurus

omissus

barbouri

The Asian songbird crisis: just how bad is it?

Very bad—and it's happening NOW


Trapping bird White-rumped shama wild - Sounds birdsong great (12/12/2016)
0:46 / 14:29


bird caught - Traping bird White-rumped shama wild 2016
ubscribe Channel
4:52 / 13:17

White-rumped Shama best

https://www.google.co.uk/search?client=firefox-b&biw=1280&bih=612&tbm=vid&q=White-rumped

Search

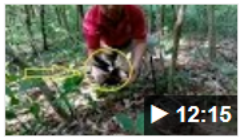
"Best Bird Trap" Trapping bird White-rumped shama(Copsychus ...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqCPIcX8duE

22 May 2017 - Uploaded by World birdsong

"**Best Bird Trap**" Trapping bird **White-rumped shama**(Copsychus malabaricus) wild (05/21/2017). - The ...

Best Bird trap, Trapping Bird White-rumped shama Wild, Sounds ...



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QzxM9T3on68

5 Apr 2017 - Uploaded by World birdsong

Best Bird trap, Trapping Bird **White-rumped shama** Wild, Sounds Birdsong Great. 04/04/2017. - A free day ...

Best Bird trap, Trapping Bird White-rumped shama Wild, Sounds ...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bptIZqnzKJQ

24 Apr 2017 - Uploaded by World birdsong

Best Bird trap, Trapping Bird **White-rumped shama** Wild, Sounds Birdsong Great. 04/23/2017. - A free day ...

"Best Bird Trap" Trapping Bird Wild White-rumped shama(Copsychus ...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qg1kfd-dZfM

19 Aug 2017 - Uploaded by World birdsong

"**Best Bird Trap**" Trapping bird **White-rumped shama**(Copsychus malabaricus) wild (08/18/2017). - The ...

NEW - Best Bird trap, Trapping Bird White-rumped shama Wild ...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IKGtvdPRcs

28 Aug 2017 - Uploaded by World birdsong

NEW - **Best Bird trap**, Trapping Bird **White-rumped shama** Wild, Sounds Birdsong Great| 08/27/2017. - A ...

White-rum... Inbox - Nig... File Explorer leaflet_what... Collar EAZ... 2016 Eaton...


What is happening here?


Why is this bird the “odd one out”?


What are these?


2013, Zoo Köln


2015, Zoo Praha
HARDTMUTH

There are more people working to save the Sumatran Rhino
than there are individual Sumatran Rhinos…

but TASA has fewer people than there are threatened *species* of songbird!

THIS IS A REAL EMERGENCY

EAZA projects will play a decisive role!

Campaign species

Bali Myna

new recovery plan for *ex situ* management

in situ management and anti-poaching work

Nias Hill Myna

Javan Green Magpie

Sumatran Laughingthrush

Straw-headed Bulbul

White-rumped Shama

surveys, searches and captive breeding

=

birds from Sundaland, Sumatra, Sumatra's islands, Java and Bali

Campaign projects

Bali Myna

Evaluating methods, sites and needs for reintroduction

Nias Hill Myna

Save Magiao: Nias Hill Myna conservation breeding centre

Javan Green Magpie

Hunting out the birds—surveys for West Java's rarest songsters

Sumatran Laughingthrush

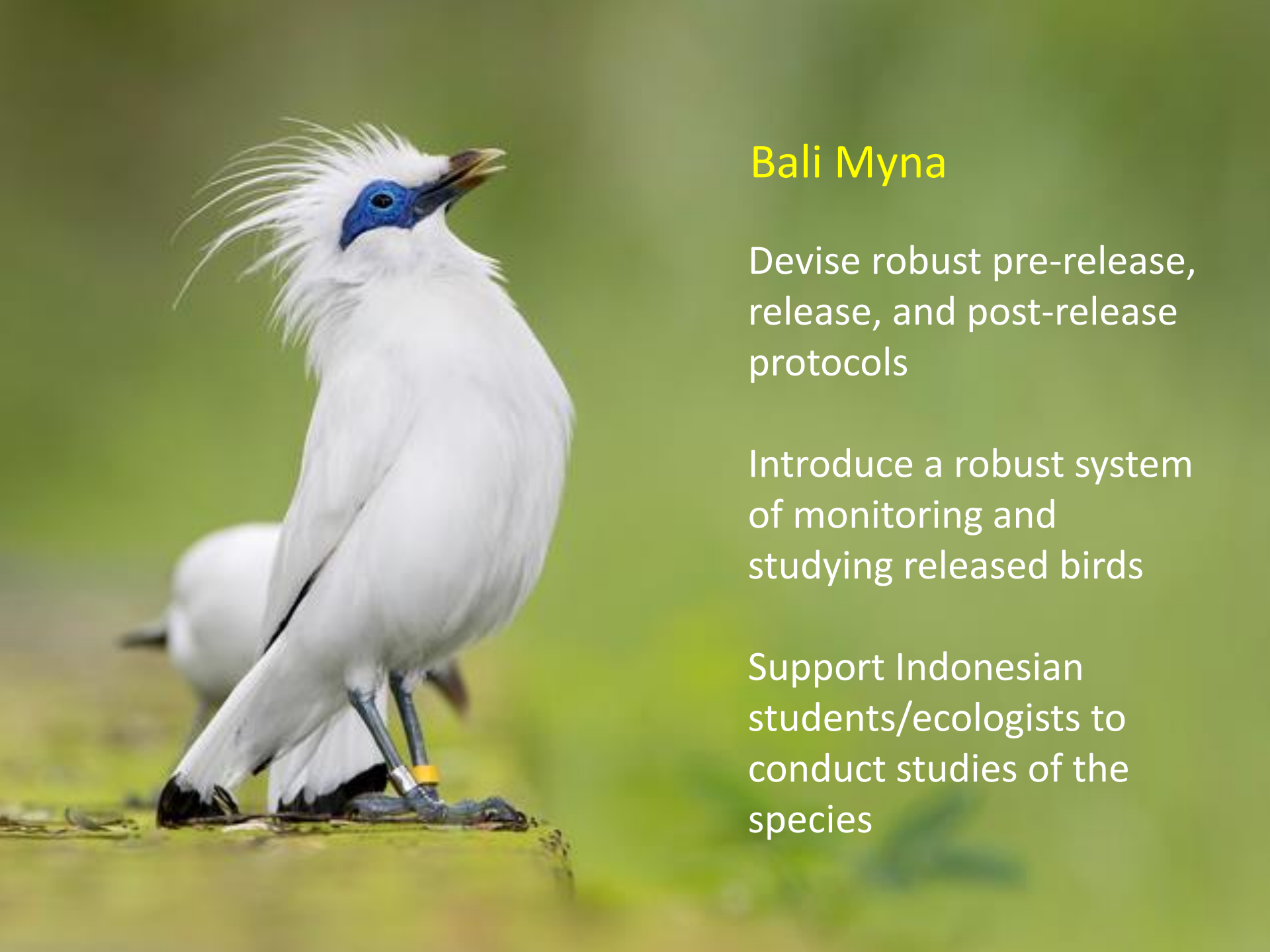
Sumatran songbird sanctuary

Straw-headed Bulbul

Prigen Conservation Ark: songbird breeding facilities

White-rumped Shama

Treasure Island: saving hidden avian treasures



Bali Myna

Devise robust pre-release, release, and post-release protocols

Introduce a robust system of monitoring and studying released birds

Support Indonesian students/ecologists to conduct studies of the species

Nias Hill Myna

Assemble all available captive individuals in secure modern facility for captive breeding on the island

Survey and protect any wild populations surviving on various islands

Conduct major public pride and awareness campaign on Nias

Javan Green Magpie

Systematic survey of Gunungs Gede & Patuha

Record key environmental parameters, as baseline

Work with Indonesian partners and scientists

Provide strong evidence-based recommendations for long-term management

Sumatran Laughingthrush

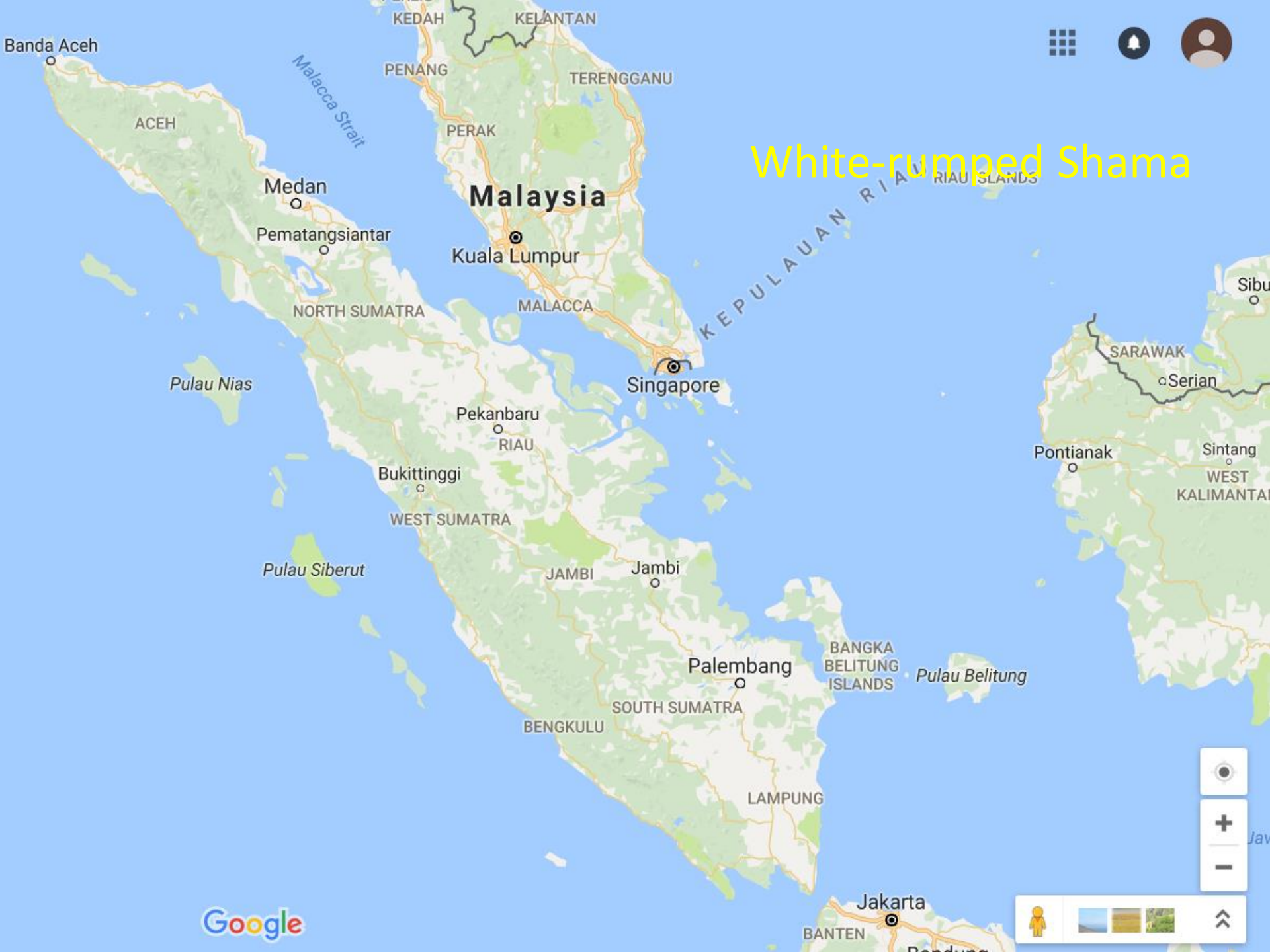
Construct *ex situ* facilities for Sumatran species at ‘Orang-utan Haven’, Medan

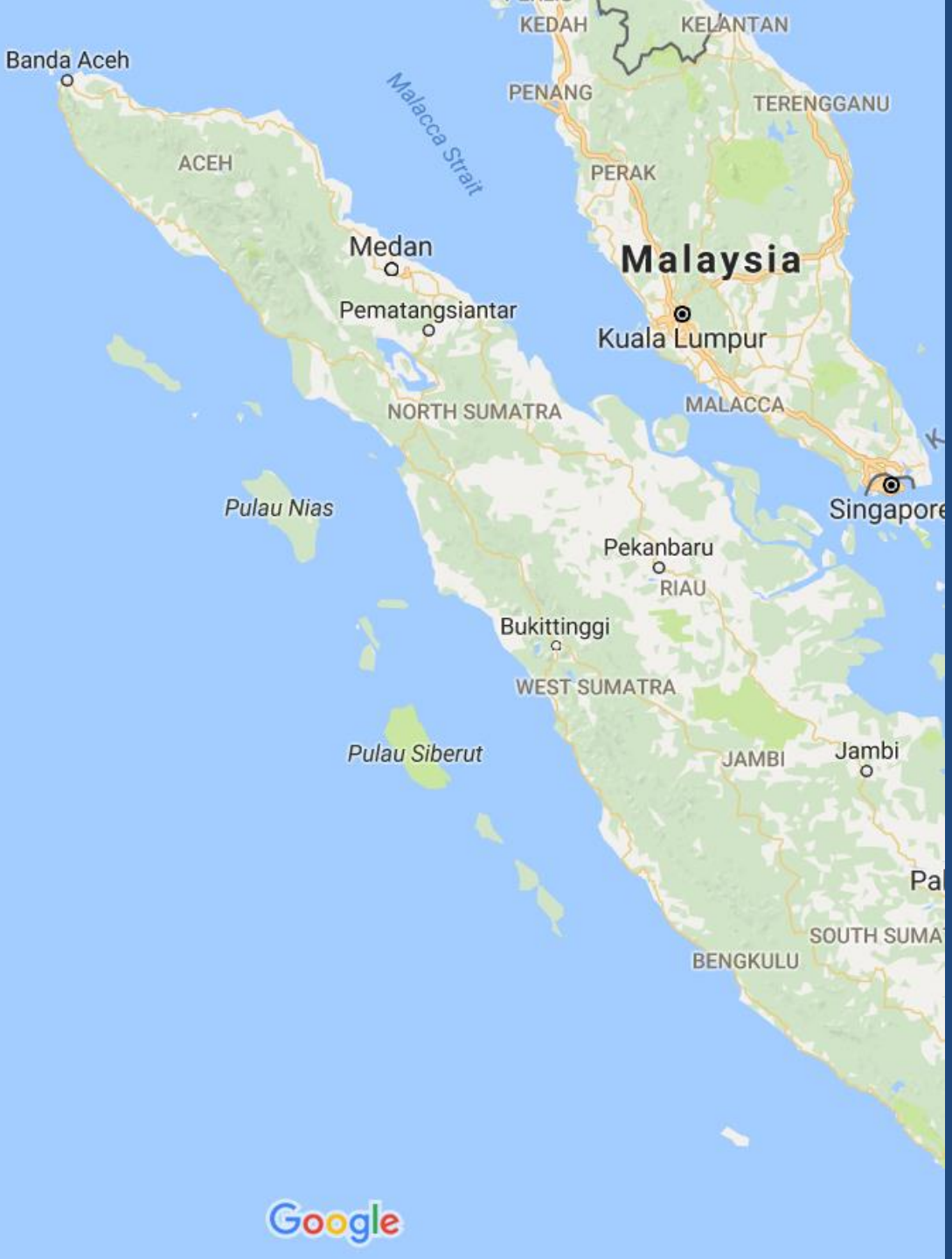
Provide specialist training in husbandry

Develop public awareness

Integrate programme with those on Nias, at Prigen and at Cikananga


Straw-headed Bulbul
Establish viable populations of several target species at the new Prigen Conservation Ark
Create optimal conditions for captive breeding with best-practice husbandry
Develop public awareness
Supply local demands


White-rumped Shama
Banda Aceh
ACEH
Malacca Strait
KEDAH
KELANTAN
PENANG
TERENGGANU
PERAK
Medan
Malaysia
Pematangsiantar
Kuala Lumpur
NORTH SUMATRA
MALACCA
KEPULAUAN RIAU
RIAU ISLANDS
Sibu
SARAWAK
Serian
Pulau Nias
Singapore
Pekanbaru
RIAU
Pontianak
Sintang
WEST KALIMANTAN
Bukittinggi
WEST SUMATRA
Pulau Siberut
JAMBI
Jambi
BANGKA BELITUNG ISLANDS
Palembang
Pulau Belitung
SOUTH SUMATRA
BENGKULU
LAMPUNG
Jakarta
BANTEN
Google



White-rumped Shama

Provide training and resources for patrols on an important island (identity secret) where populations persist

Monitor/study populations

Generate local support

Lobby for increased support from government

What you can do

- ✓ Raise money for the six projects
- ✓ Raise money for the general campaign pot
- ✓ Find space in your collection to breed the target species
- ✓ Collect binoculars to send to Indonesia
- ✓ Promote the Wildlife Witness smartphone app
- ✓ Educate!—display boards, tweets, blogs, leaflets

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIA

EAZA

SOS! Mayday!
Achtung! Alarm!
Emergency!
Au secours!
Pan Pan!

to the rescue!