



CCBC Newsletter



August – December 2019

#16

Captive Breeding

Black-winged Myna

Since the previous newsletter, CCBC has recommenced breeding efforts of the black-winged myna, this species has not been bred for the past two years due to breeding license issues and the population has aged and suffered losses in this time. Having been put in a mixed sex flock and then separated when pair behavior was observed, we currently have four pairs together in breeding aviaries. As it stands, since recommencement of breeding, we have had one chick successfully reared to sub-adult age from these pairs and currently have pairs incubating. We hope to bring you further good news on this species in the coming year!



Chick receiving anti-parasite medication from our head Veterinarian Wahyu with Head Keeper Ajle



Chick living independently at around 6 weeks old

Javan Green Magpie

After a very prolonged dry spell in Java this year, the breeding season of the Javan green magpie has been slightly delayed. But as soon as the rain started it seems the birds were keen to make up for lost time! We currently have pairs with chicks in the nest, others incubating, and others we can see through cameras with nests being very close to completion. With pairs having been established since at least last breeding season we expect a productive breeding season and look forward to seeing what the next few months bring...



Spot the magpie!



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Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush

In early September we were pleasantly surprised by a newly made pair of rufous-fronted laughingthrush successfully rearing three chicks. Unfortunately when the chicks had already fledged and were close to independent living, the mother was taken over night by a rat attack, we were quick to move the chicks and remaining parent to a more secure aviary. Further bad luck meant we lost two of these chicks in quick succession to disease; one chick still survives and is doing well. We still have much to learn about the breeding requirements, breeding biology and husbandry of this sensitive species which is in great need of conservation efforts. We currently have a few pairs with almost complete nests but who seemingly are not quite comfortable to attempt breeding. We continue our efforts with this species monitoring pair behavior and nests and looking forward to a breeding season with potential.



Chick having recently fledged



Chick living independently at around three months old

Javan Warty Pig

Piglet Update

In the previous issue we brought news to you of eight piglets born at CCBC to two mothers. Unfortunately one of these piglets died but the seven remaining piglets are healthy and now housed together in an enclosure close to the kitchen of pig keeper Pak Aos, where they can become comfortable to the sounds and environment of CCBC. Despite one litter being much smaller in size at birth these piglets have developed really well and the piglets have formed a group with good dynamics, from these two litters we have four males and three females.



Group foraging



Group nap time!

Animals In and Out...

Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush

In September, CCBC received two rufous-fronted laughingthrush, subspecies *G. r. slamatensis*, through a donation. These birds were visibly young but healthy apart from signs of having spent much of their life in a small cage. We are very grateful to add individuals to our breeding programme for this subspecies that is still in its infancy.

Black-winged Myna

In November, CCBC received two black-winged myna that had been received by Cikananga Rescue Center in a government confiscation. These birds came in a large confiscation of birds from an illegal zoo but are in good health and are a welcome addition to our local population. This highlights the importance of Cikananga Foundation nurturing and maintaining a good relationship with the forestry department which could prove beneficial for conservation efforts of the species in CCBC.

Javan Warty Pig

In 2020 we aim to export Javan warty pig out of CCBC for two different objectives. Firstly, we are at the point where paper work has progressed for us to translocate a small breeding group to Batu Secret Zoo, East Java. This group are currently housed together and our interns are working hard at habituating them to human presence and also their transport boxes. Secondly, we continue talks with Baluran National Park, East Java, who have a reintroduction project with the Javan Warty Pig, talks have recommenced and we are at a point where individuals are being chosen for this project. The main challenges we face with both of these translocations is the journey time which will likely be by land and take over a day.

Building Work

PKB UP

Another edition and the building of PKB UP is frustratingly still going on! We are very close to completion but production issues with the mesh mean progress has stalled. One load of mesh arrived in September and has been fitted to the cages but we now wait for the second delivery. This unfortunately has had a negative impact upon breeding as cage space is at a premium in CCBC and we had hoped to have this build finished before the rainy season began. This build has been a test of our patience and we hope for some good news soon.



Overview



Area next to PKB UP we will revegetate for cover



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Block A Emergency Repairs

We are currently in the process of moving birds around to perform temporary fixes on the roof of Block A, one of our biggest blocks, as it no longer performs the function of keeping out the heavy rain! This Block is over 10 years and showing its age, with much of the corrugated plastic on the roof brittle and unable to allow light through. We would like to replace Block A entirely next year if we can find the funding and these current measures are just seen as a necessary step to maintain the health of the birds through the rainy season.



Block A showing its age



One section of roof replaced

Pig Walls

One advantage of a very prolonged dry season meant more time for building, we made use of this time with renovations to the pig enclosures where we continued the objective of fixing and replacing walls that could be a cause for concern once the rain started. Alongside this, due to our growing population, we split one of our larger enclosures in two, this allows us more flexibility whilst we work on plans to translocate pigs.



Work in progress



Pig keeper, Pak Aos, overseeing proceedings!



New pig house

Staff News

Head Veterinarian Wahyu

In 2018, our head veterinarian, Wahyu Hananto, received funding from Indianapolis Zoo through the Orangutan Veterinary Advisory Group conservation initiative. After what was a very busy year for Wahyu in 2019, for much of it he was the only vet on site, in October he was able to travel to America, all expenses paid and receive one month of training at Indianapolis Zoo. This experience was extremely valuable for Wahyu and he comes back with a lot of new knowledge that will benefit the center greatly as well as personally having been able to experience western civilization for the first time!



Wahyu (far right) receiving certificate and donated equipment



Arfah receiving her prize for best poster

Field Biologist Arfah

At the start of December, having won funding to attend, our field biologist Arfah Nasution presented at the first International Symposium on Indonesian Fauna (ISIF) organised by Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia (Indonesian Institution of Life Sciences) through the research Center for Biology-Zoology. The theme of the symposium was "Unearthing, Highlighting and Empowering Research on Indonesian Fauna: Future Challenges and Perspectives" and had attendees from all over the world. Arfah presented a poster titled "Bringing Back the Black-winged Myna: Lessons Learned" about the conservation efforts of CCBC for the black-winged myna, particularly *in situ*. Arfah did a great job and won the prize for best poster!

Interns Sam and Chloe

In October Sam Brocklehurst and Chloe Poulter joined the CCBC team as interns for a six month period. Sam and Chloe are keen bird keepers who have worked at Chester Zoo for over a year and have further experience in other bird keeping roles. During their time at Cikananga Sam and Chloe will assist with the everyday husbandry of the animals at CCBC and also work on a number of projects to assist with the progress of CCBC, including, but not limited to, nutrition, behavioral studies and parasite screening. We also take the opportunity to use their experience in the center as a whole where they have the chance to work with a wide range of species. They have quickly become a valuable part of the team and adapted to life well!



Sam and Chloe

**Our work is made possible by your support and material donation.
Thank you from all the Cikananga Conservation Breeding Center Team!**



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