

Javan Green Magpie (*Cissa thalassina*)



## PRIGEN CONSERVATION BREEDING ARK

Autumn Update  
September 2020

By Jochen Menner



**KASI**

Konservasi Alam Satwa Indonesia



### 3. Quartal 2020

During the last three months, Taman Safari was able to partially reopen its Parks and recommence at least parts of usual business. Nevertheless the economic and social situation in Indonesia and for Taman Safari in particular remained tense.

Starting from 24.09. TSI Prigen had to close again, according to regional regulations. Putting Taman Safari under even higher economical pressure.



Nevertheless, thanks to the unshaken commitment of Taman Safari, ZGAP and Vogelpark Marlow, PCBA has been able to keep working as usual, without any serious restrictions.

Rather to the contrary, we have been able to employ yet another keeper, Arif started his job on 01.09. With seven local keepers we are now well prepared for future tasks.

## Wildlife trade monitoring

The epicenter of Indonesia's wildlife trade is more and more moving from the traditional market to various online platforms. Especially social media platforms are nowadays playing a major role in the legal and illegal trade in wild animals.

This kind of trade is often hard to monitor, since animals are not offered in designated locations but all over certain media, making data gathering very difficult.

After months of rather “low key” trade monitoring, we decided that more attention needed to be paid and, most importantly, more comparable data need to be gathered.

Therefore, by mid August, our animal keeper Ade Bagus took over the task of surveying the trade in threatened wildlife, specifically on Facebook, in a more structured manner. We produced a list of 16 priority species, namely Passerines and Parrots and we are going to gather data about their occurrence in the trade on a daily basis.

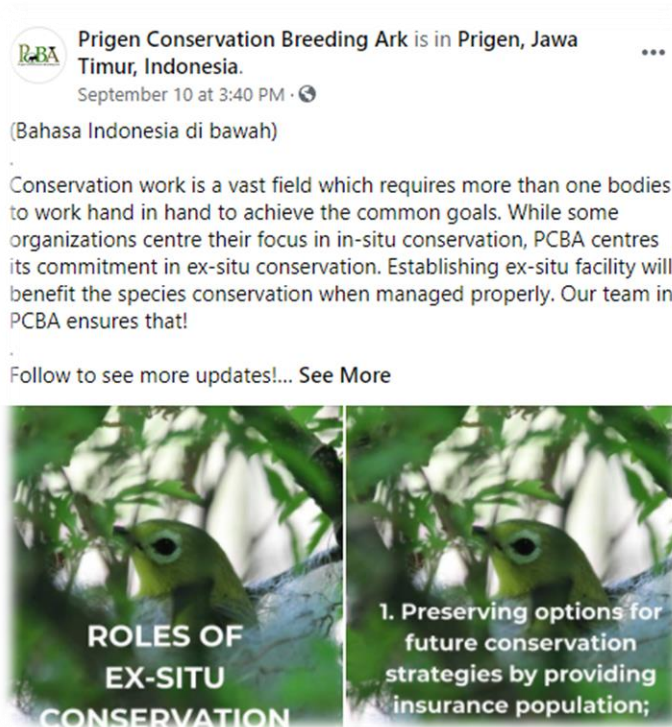
By doing so, we are hoping to contribute to the general understanding of trade mechanisms and trends, which is key to combat the illegal trade of threatened Indonesian wildlife.



Bagus, gathering data about the wildlife trade



## Social media presence



Example of a PCBA Facebook post

Thanks to Adyah Ningtyas, who is doing an internship with KASI foundation, we have been able to improve and professionalize our presence on Facebook and Instagram. On both platforms, regular updates and introductions to our species and staff are being posted.

Our hope is that by being more active on social media, we are going to expand our reach to more people and hence raise more awareness of our mission and the plight of many of our focal species.

## Website

In addition to our social media presence, we also set up a new website, sponsored and crafted by TSI. Content was contributed by Adyah.

On this new website you are going to find basics about PCBA, species profiles, construction updated and so on.

Please have a look via <https://prigenark.com>, the website is still under construction but nevertheless, it already provides an insight into PCBA.

## Sustainable food production

After we lost a significant number of birds, mostly White-Eyes, to a presumed pesticide intoxication in June this year, we increased our efforts to become more independent from external food sources.

We are still far from that goal but we are moving forward.

Over the last couple of months we established two colonies of Weaver Ants. These ants are relatively easy to breed and produce a good amount of eggs, which are a highly valuable food source for smaller, more sensitive softbills.

After less than two months of working with the ants, we have already been able to harvest our first ant brood. It is worth noting, that the entire organization and management of the acquisition and husbandry of the ants is done by our keepers

Apart from the ants, we are also breeding Mice (*Mus musculus*), Turkestan (*Shelfordella lateralis*) and Dubia Cockroaches (*Blaptica dubia*) and Black Soldier Flies (*Hermetia illucens*). In the long run we are planning to phase out the Crickets and Mealworms, which we are still buying externally.



Breeding rack for Weaver Ants



Turkestan Cockroaches

## Hill Myna Complex

Thanks to the constant support by Vogelpark Marlow and the German "Zootier des Jahres" campaign, we have been able to quickly progress with the construction of a breeding facility, specifically designed for Indonesia's threatened Hill Myna species.



Future breeding complex for Hill Myna

Located on a hill above the existing songbird facilities, our Hill Mynas will be given a wide view over PCBA and the adjacent forest. This seems important, since Hill Mynas in their natural habitat prefer to nest in solitary trees with good overview.

All 16 aviaries are 4.5m long, 2m wide and 4m high. Eight aviaries on each side of the complex can be connected via large slide doors allowing for uncomplicated grouping and separation of the birds.

Construction of this aviary complex is expected to be completed in October, allowing us to move the majority of our Hill Mynas into ideal new quarters.

While the Hill Myna project is making rapid progress, other projects will start soon:

The construction of the first 21 **Parrot aviaries**, mainly sponsored by Zoo Basel and Mr. Johannes Martin Wijaya, will start in early October, all contracts have been signed by end of September.

Due to Corona related obstructions, we have not yet been able to get the conservation project for threatened **blackwater fish** started. Nevertheless, thanks to Uwe Abraham, funds have been secured and the project will start as soon as possible.



# Remarkable changes in our populations

## Songbirds

Successfully raised:

- Tenggara Hill Myna,

Over the last three months we saw the hatching and fledging of six Tenggara Hill Mynas from three pairs. Five chicks were raised by their parents even though, in one case the pair had to be separated, due to aggression from the male towards the female. A sixth fledgling was lost due to an accident just after leaving the nestbox.

By now, all five chicks are independent and separated from their parents, forming a “kindergarten”.

On the 18th September and 21st September more chicks hatched from two of the previously successful pairs. Again the male of one pair had to be separated on the fourth day, due to partner's aggression. Unfortunately the two chicks, hatched first, were lost to unknown causes.



4 of 5 Tenggara Hill Myna fledglings

- Sumatran Laughingthrush (*Garrulax bicolor*),

Again, we were able to raise two chicks of Sumatran Laughingthrush. The parent pair had raised chicks last year already and now repeated that success.



- Javan Pied Starling (*Gracupica jalla*), Recently we had Starling fledglings from two pairs, which make up to the total of five chicks being raised over the last three months. While this is not a bad result, it is not satisfying either, as we are allocating six aviaries for the breeding of Pied Starlings and hence would like to see more pairs reproducing. Since a major issue seems to be a lack of natural social behavior in hand raised founder birds, we restructured our pairs over the last weeks and are now hoping to achieve better breeding results.

Noteworthy might be that we have, for the third time, raised chicks in our F2 generation, indicating that we are moving towards sustainable breeding.

- Ruby throated Bulbul (*Pycnonotus dispar*), Over the past three months, two young Ruby throated Bulbuls were raised by two different pairs. Additional to the two pairs that successfully reproduced quite regularly the last months, we managed to establish two more pairs, all of which are showing nesting behavior. We are therefore hoping to see even more chicks in the near future.



- Javan White-Eye (*Zosterops flavus*),  
2 pairs of Javan White-Eye successfully raised five chicks this quartal, bringing our population to a total of 24 birds.



Maratua Shama upon fledging

- Maratua Shama (*Kittacincla (malabarica) barbouri*),  
After a break of about six months we are finally seeing reproductive behavior in our Maratua Shamas again.  
Currently we have five pairs in breeding condition, four of which consist of a male hatched at PCBA and a female from the wild each. The fifth pair consists of two founders.  
By end of September we had the first two chicks, sired by a male, hatched at PCBA, leaving the nest and another three pairs incubating eggs.  
This new progress gives a glimmer of hope for a taxon that is most likely extinct in the wild. The 16 individuals at PCBA are, to our knowledge, the only remaining Maratua Shamas in the world, making every breeding success vital for the survival of this very distinct Shama.

- Javan Green Magpie (*Cissa thalassina*),  
With our Magpies primarily nesting in peak dry season, we begin to see a lot of nesting activity. So far one chick fledged and is independent by now. Other pairs are currently raising chicks or incubating eggs therefore we are hoping to see a good number of offspring this year.

## Acquisitions:

- Six Wangi-Wangi White-Eyes have been acquired. These birds originate from the same shipment like our original stock and were previously kept by a private person in Surabaya, who thankfully donated them to us.
- Two Bare-throated Whistler (*Pachycephala nudigula*) have been obtained. This species is highly sought after in the trade and quite range restricted, hence it is becoming an increasing conservation priority. Since virtually nothing is known about the species husbandry, we are running husbandry trials now to be prepared, in case conservation breeding becomes necessary in the future.

## Losses:

Over the last three months we have lost only few birds, nevertheless every single loss is significant to our conservation breeding efforts.

- Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush (*Garrulax r. rufifrons*), within the last quartal, we lost two Rufous-fronted Laughingthrushes. The first chick hatched in PCBA in February 2020, succumbed to a liver disorder. Furthermore, one adult female also died.
- Javan Leafbird (*Chloropsis cochinchinensis*), In July we had our first Javan Leafbird fledgling, unfortunately this bird died out of unknown reasons at the age of about two months. Also the second fledgling, in September, died just after fledging. Nevertheless, this birds represents our first Leafbird fledglings and hence prove that we are moving into the right direction, regardless of the setback.
- Tenggara Hill Myna (*Gracula venerata*) As mentioned above, one Tenggara Hill Myna fledgling lost was to an accident, just after fledging.

In addition to the aforementioned birds, we also lost a number of nestlings, namely Wangi-Wangi White-Eye (*Zosterops sp. nov.*). This is, on one hand devastating, on the other hand it is also encouraging since it shows that our birds, after the losses of the last quartal, are recovering and started to nest again.

## Javan Warty Pig



Javan Warty Pig with 7 Piglets

After last quartal's restructuring of our Pig (*Sus verrucosus*) group, we are now seeing the first outcome.

Our female, Anna, gave birth to seven piglets in late August. All piglets are so far developing well, rather surprising for a litter of that size.

The total number of Javan warty Pigs kept at PCBA rose, including the piglets, to 16, which consist of five males, four females and seven of still unknown sex.

## Javan Small-toothed Palm Civet

The first Civet (*Arctogalidia trivirgata trilineata*) offspring, born in June, is developing well and by now is feeding independently. During nighttime observation we were able to determine, that the young one is a male. Over the last three months continuous attempts to pair more animals were carried out, so far to no observable success.



Javan Small-toothed Palmcivet with offspring