

Jambi Licorice Gourami (*Parosphromenus sp. Jambi*)



PRIGEN CONSERVATION BREEDING ARK

Summer Update

June 2021

By Jochen Menner



KASI

Konservasi Alam Satwa Indonesia



Preface

The second quartal of 2021 was characterized by an overall improvement of the pandemic situation. Especially in the beginning of the quartal, Indonesia saw quite low numbers of new infections with the Corona virus, most restrictions were lifted and life slowly found its way back to normal.

Unfortunately, among others, triggered by domestic travels around Ramadan and the Eid festival, by the end of this quartal the infection rate has risen again. East-Java is not as devastatingly affected as other regions. However, uncertainty is on the rise again.

Despite the continuous global challenges, PCBA is yet again looking back at a very exciting and equally successful quartal.

We have not only been able to breed some of Indonesia's most threatened species but we have successfully started new projects, focusing on even more endangered species.



Songbird breeding complexes at PCBA

Second quartal 2021

After Stephan Bulks departure at the end of last year, his position remained vacant until early May. Only by then, due to the travel restriction, was it possible for Marc Wolf to relocate from Leipzig to Prigen. Trained in Leipzig Zoo, Marc is an excellent addition to the team and will contribute a great deal by undertaking the head keeper tasks.

Once again this recruitment was made possible by the unparalleled fruitful partnership of Taman Safari, KASI Foundation, ZGAP and Vogelpark Marlow.



Newly employed Marc Wolf

Galliformes breeding complex

Thanks to a new collaboration with WPA (World Pheasant Association), we have been able to commence construction of an aviary complex specifically designated for Galliformes.

The design of our 16 new aviaries has been developed in coordination with leading experts of WPA and will enable us to contribute to the ex-situ conservation of some of Indonesia's most threatened wild Galliformes.

Many Indonesian Galliform species are under growing pressure by habitat destruction and poaching. Recently, even formerly common species like the Crested Fireback species (*Lophura rufa* and *L. ignita*) have been uplisted to vulnerable (VU) in the IUCN Redlist. This clearly indicates the growing threat for Pheasant species inhabiting lowland rainforest habitats.



The aviary complex for Galliformes

Augsburg complex

A generous donation by Augsburg Zoo and ZGAP enables us to build yet another breeding complex for threatened Indonesian songbirds.

Consisting of 12 spacious aviaries, this new complex will not only allow us to keep highly territorial and sensitive species further away from the main songbird complexes but will also provide ample space for breeding colonies of Javan Pied Starling (*Gracupica jalla*), a species that is feared to be extinct in the wild and for which PCBA will play a leading role in an coordinated conservation effort.



Foundation of the "Augsburg complex"

This additional aviary complex will bring the number of aviaries dedicated to the conservation breeding of songbirds at PCBA to 216. This gives us the opportunity to function as a spearhead in songbird conservation in Indonesia by setting up first breeding groups of various threatened species. These groups can hopefully function as bases for more comprehensive conservation efforts and as a role model for the management of related species.

Fence extension

Thanks to Taman Safari, we have been able to nearly double our fenced area.

The new fenceline does not only mean that all our existing complexes are within the security of a proper fence, but also leaves us sufficient room for future expansions.

With only one gate, located right above our security post, site management for us and the security personnel has become even easier.



Remarkable changes in our populations

Mammals:

A third Javan small-toothed Palm-Civet (*Arctogalidia trivirgata trilineata*) has been born at PCBA and is growing up under the care of its mother.

All three offspring so far born at PCBA are male, leaving us with a challenge for future pairings.

Recent pairing trials are raising hope for more young civets in the not too distant future.



Young Javan small-toothed Palm-Civet

Unfortunately, we lost the only Javan Warty Pig (*Sus verrucosus*) that is completely unrelated to the rest of our group.

The young female was killed by the male. This came as a surprise for all of us since the pair had been established for a while. They seemed harmonious and even produced a first yet unsuccessful litter.

In the near future we will need to look into the options to acquire unrelated pigs for our breeding group.

Songbirds

For many of our focal species, the dry season is the prime breeding season. This year we are facing a few difficulties due to continuous rain falls nearly every day. This seems to hamper breeding activities especially in species like the Javan White-eye (*Zosterops flavus*), which usually only breed in the peak of dry season.

Successfully raised:

- Two Tenggara Hill Mynas (*Gracula venerata*) were raised by two different pairs and have since joined our group of eleven young Hill Mynas, all hatched at PCBA.
- Two Javan Pied Starlings (*Gracupica jalla*) have successfully been raised and a few more chicks are raised in the nest as of now.
- Two Javan White-eyes have been raised by two different pairs with one of them currently raising another chick.
- One Wangi-Wangi White-eye (*Zosterops sp. nov.*) was raised successfully. Another pair is currently raising at least one nestling.
- Another Orange-spotted Bulbul was raised by our successful breeding pair.
- Three Ruby-throated Bulbuls (*Pycnonotus dispar*) have been raised by two pairs. Currently two pairs are caring for nestlings.
- One Sunda Laughingthrush was successfully raised.
- The first two Maratua Shamas of the season fledged by end of June.



Javan White-eye just after fledging

Acquisitions:

- Thanks to an extensive networking, we have been able to convince a local keeper to hand over five Enggano Hill-Myna to PCBA. These birds will play a vital role in our ex-situ conservation effort for this very distinct taxon.

Losses:

- The Sunda Laughingthrush, hatched earlier this year died a few days after being moved from the parents' aviary.
- One Pied Starling died.
- A male Sumatran Mesia died of a tumorous growth on the aorta, which is tragic since this male and his female produced a clutch of two chicks which died only two days before the male.
- Equally tragic is the loss of a pair of Mount Slamet Laughingthrushes, both birds died within three weeks. They did not show any symptoms and the post mortem examinations did not reveal any clear cause of death.

Parrots

- Two Red-and-blue Lories (*Eos histrio talautensis*) have been loaned to us by Batu Secret Zoo
- One Scarlet-breasted Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus forsteni*) was donated to us by a teenager from Malang who was unaware of the rarity of this species.

Blackwater fish

After the start of our Blackwater Fish breeding project in February, we were more than pleased with the initial breeding success of a couple of species. Encouraged by this quick success and the very few difficulties, we soon started to expand the number of species in our care.

Over the course of the last three months we have added the following species:

Betta cf. uberis Belitung (VU as *B.uberis*),
Betta hendra (CR),
Betta dimidiata (VU),
Parosphromenus deissneri (EN)
Parosphromenus pahuensis (EN) and
Parosphromenus anjunganensis (EN).

Not only have all the fish settled in very well, many have even started to reproduce.

Over the past weeks and months we have been having surviving fry of:

Betta miniopinna,
B.burdigala,
B.cf.uberis,
B.rutilans,
B.hendra,
Parosphromenus bintan and
P.ornaticauda

The most successful species to breed so far has been *B.miniopinna* with well over 130 half grown fry from four pairs.

The first two spawns of *B.dimidiata* got eaten by the female after being released by the male.



Male *Betta hendra*