



CCBC Newsletter



May – October 2021

#21

Preface

Over this period, Indonesia, and in particular West Java, was significantly affected by the corona virus which saw Indonesia gain the unenviable title of the country with the highest rates in Southeast Asia. This caused this period to be the most challenging for Indonesia since the pandemic began due to the enforcement of strict lockdown measures which left many of the population without a means of earning a living and the economy consequently strained.

CCBC is situated in West Java and therefore during this period was required to focus primarily on the *ex situ* environment due to restrictions of movement in and between regions. CCBC has thankfully been able to keep a full complement of staff during this period and staff health was not directly impacted by the corona virus. Indirectly, however, CCBC is unfortunately in a position where, despite core support and funding, we remain with funding gaps as some funders have been unable to continue supporting due to the pressures of the pandemic. We are currently in the process of trying to secure alternative funding.

Conservation Breeding

Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush

The Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush is one of the more challenging species that CCBC holds a conservation breeding programme for. So, when in the early parts of September, one of our breeding pairs started to show signs of nest building we were pleasantly surprised. The pair were supplied with nesting material and shortly after were incubating. After an incubation period that felt like an eternity for the CCBC team, two chicks successfully fledged over the course of a few days in mid-October and were quickly active around the aviary. We are really pleased to begin the 2021/2022 breeding season by producing offspring from this critically endangered species and hope that this is a sign of things to come!



Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush a few days post fledge
Photo: H.H.Ferns - YCKT



In partnership with



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Javan Warty Pig

The summer months brought us further breeding success with the Javan Warty Pig conservation breeding programme when a first time mother gave birth to a litter of five. A series of unfortunate, and somewhat unavoidable, events however caused the mother a lot of stress in the first week of rearing and only one piglet survived. The remaining piglet is a healthy female who now lives with 9 other pigs of a similar age.

New Faces

Dodi

In July, Dodi Shaleh joined the CCBC team to assist Pak Aos with the daily husbandry of our local population of Javan Warty Pigs. Dodi is from one of the local villages and has already proven to be a fast learner, enthusiastic and calm around the pigs. The addition of Dodi to the team has brought new energy as the growing workload can be shared and, importantly, Pak Aos can commit time to passing on his knowledge of over 20 years to the next generation!



Piglet investigating...
Photo: H.H.Ferns - YCKT

Meidiyanto

With the initiation of our Javan Green Magpie project, in August we hired a full time program officer to coordinate and implement the project. Meidiyanto joins CCBC having gained experience working on projects in Indonesia concerning illegal wildlife trade and enabling positive change within communities with a focus on the environment. Meidiyanto has been busy since his arrival and has already shown a thorough approach to research techniques and strong work mentality.



Dodi (right) with Pak Aos (left)
Photo: H.H.Ferns - YCKT



Meidi (far right) with West Javan community members
Photo: Meidiyanto - YCKT

Block C

In the last edition we shared plans for the expansion of CCBC with the building of our largest block to date, this build has been undertaken in the subsequent months and currently nears completion. This build has been a huge undertaking, which involved expanding the centres footprint, but one that represents a significant progressive step for CCBC. At its maximum capacity, this block gives CCBC over 50 additional aviaries and also a building with a bespoke recovery room for sick or injured birds.



Long tall aviaries for more sensitive species
Photo: H.H.Ferns - YCKT



Overview of block
Photo: H.H.Ferns - YCKT



Finishing touches
Photo: H.H.Ferns - YCKT

Initially, and most importantly, this aviary block will afford CCBC the flexibility to move birds out of other aviaries that are no longer fit for purpose, we will then progress with sourcing funding to renovate these aging facilities. Block C has been built with multiple species requirements in mind, meeting the current needs of CCBC breeding programmes, and also future expansions of our conservation breeding programmes. Unfortunately, due to completion date being later than predicted, it is unlikely these aviaries will be ready for breeding purposes this coming breeding season. We are very grateful to the following sponsors for making this progressive development of CCBC possible; Chester Zoo, EAZA Silent Forest Campaign, Waddesdon Manor and Montpellier Zoo.

Javan Green Magpie Project

This year, in collaboration with Chester Zoo and Manchester Metropolitan University and with funding from the EAZA Silent Forest Campaign, CCBC has embarked upon multi-disciplinary conservation efforts for the Javan Green Magpie. Over the next few years we plan to conduct in-depth research into the trade of the Javan Green Magpie, engage with communities near potential remaining populations and survey habitat. Through a holistic approach that makes use of social as well as biological science techniques we will aim to understand a lot more about this secretive species and the trade that threatens it.

It is our eventual vision to be able to establish magpie friendly areas that are supported and protected by communities either for current populations or for reintroduced birds. This project began in August and has already conducted surveys of current trade and engaged with communities that are situated near potential Javan Green Magpie habitat. We look forward to bringing you updates on this project as it progresses.



Rural West Javan village neighbouring potential Magpie habitat...
Photo: Meidiyanto - YCKT



Typical West Javan bird store
Photo: Meidiyanto - YCKT

Planet Indonesia Collaboration

In August and September, CCBC was pleased to welcome Dr. Happy Ferdiansyah from Planet Indonesia. Happy is the veterinarian for the newly established Wak Gatak Conservation Center of Planet Indonesia; facilities dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of birds confiscated from the wildlife trade in West Kalimantan. During his time at CCBC Happy became part of the team assisting the veterinary team with their day to day responsibilities and discussing with the staff at CCBC topics that will assist in the management of Wak Gatak. We wish our friends at Planet Indonesia the best of luck as they embark on this project and continue their important work for songbird conservation in Indonesia.



Dr. Happy health checking a Black-winged Myna with Head Keeper Ajle
Photo: H.H.Ferns - YCKT

SPONSORSHIP

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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