

Maratua Shama (*Kittacincla (m.) barbouri*)



PRIGEN CONSERVATION BREEDING ARK

Autumn Update
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KASI
Konservasi Alam Satwa Indonesia



Preface

Once again, Indonesia has been hit hard by the ongoing pandemic, in fact the past three months have been the most challenging phase so far since the beginning of the Covid outbreak.

Due to extremely high infection rates, the islands of Java and Bali have been under lockdown for the better part of the past quartal putting immense strains on the local economy and the livelihood of millions of Indonesians.

Taman Safari was required to close all public operations for another two months, hitting the company even harder after more than a year of very challenging economic situations. Nevertheless, TSI was able to pull through and is now open to the public again.

PCBA itself has, again, been far less impacted by the pandemic and its challenges than most other enterprises in Indonesia and maybe even globally. This was possibly thanks to the amazing support of our donors and supporters, first and foremost Taman Safari, ZGAP and Vogelpark Marlow.



Male Javan Warty Pig (*Sus verrucosus*)

Third quartal 2021

This past quartal saw some very substantial changes in PCBA's staff.

Marc Wolf who had been recruited in May left PCBA for personal reasons, leaving the head keeper / assistant curator position unoccupied once again.

Luckily we are in dialoge with a highly motivated zoo keeper, willing to commit to a longterm engagement with PCBA. The plan is to have him here early next quartal.

To be able to engage more in in-situ conservation, PCBA has created a new position for a scientific assistant, taking over management tasks at PCBA but more importantly conducting field work for PCBAs focal species.

For this new position we have been able to hire Febry Riyad Hendiyanto, joining us from Taman Safari Bogor. His position is funded largely by Vogelpark Marlow.

To keep pace with the growth of PCBA, we have hired another animal keeper. Muhammad Zakaria has joined PCBA at the end of September.



Febry



Zakaria

Galliformes breeding complex

By mid-September the construction of the Galliformes breeding complex has been completed. Up to 16 aviaries are now ready to function as a base for ex-situ conservation efforts for threatened Indonesian Galliformes.

Among the first inhabitants are the Grey-breasted Partridge (*Arborophila orientalis*) and Javan Green Peafowl (*Pavo muticus muticus*), with the peafowl only temporarily being housed in the aviaries and to be released again on the grounds of PCBA once other construction works are completed.

PCBA was enabled to realize this project thanks to the support from:

WPA,

WPA Germany,

WPA Austria,

WPA Benelux,

WPA Poland and

Franz Prisching.

Without such outstanding support, projects like this would be impossible!



Parts of the Galliformes aviaries

Augsburg complex

Over the past few months good progress has been made on the aviary complex funded by Zoo Augsburg and ZGAP.

Consisting of nine aviaries with the dimensions of 5x2x3.5m and three aviaries measuring 3.5x6x3.5m, this complex offers ample space for more sensitive species that need to be housed further away from potential rival pairs. At the same time, the larger aviaries offer enough space to successfully house breeding colonies of Javan Pied Starling (*Gracupica jalla*).



This additional aviary complex will not only provide us with extra capacity to accommodate threatened species but, equally important, will allow for the trial of new husbandry methods, specifically targeting some of the more delicate species in our care.

Blackwater fish facility



Early construction works on the fish facility

The past few months have proven that PCBA is very much able to contribute to ex-situ conservation of threatened Indonesian Blackwater Fish species. In order to help more species and, more importantly, to establish long-term viable populations of the most threatened species, it became obvious that more capacity is needed.

In order to be able to achieve the overall goal of creating safety net populations for as many species as possible, PCBA is currently constructing a new blackwater facility, consisting of 160 tanks.

The existing fish room will, with minimal modifications, be used for selected endemic endangered fish species from the ancient Sulawesi lakes.

Feeder insect breeding

Thanks to the generous donation by Zoo Dresden, we have been able to create capacities, dedicated to the cultivation of feeder insects.

So far we have only been breeding a small number of species and have not been able to produce sufficient amounts to decrease the dependence on local suppliers. With the newly built facility we will be able to breed more species in bigger quantities, making us more independent of external sources.

For this purpose we built an extension of Songbird-Unit 3, comprised of three rooms, each of 14 square meters in size. Every room is equipped with sufficient ventilation and heating, allowing for constant and controllable environmental conditions.



Insect breeding rooms during construction

Remarkable changes in our animal populations within the past three months

Mammals:

For the first time we had a litter of two young Javan small-toothed Palm-Civets (*Arctogalidia trivirgata trilineata*). Both juveniles are developing well under the care of their mother.

The same is true for the previous offspring born at PCBA.



One of the young Civets with its mother

Parrots

For the first time two Sula hanging Parrots (*Loriculus sclateri*) fledged. This might represent the first reproduction of this species in human care. One previous clutch of two chicks died in the nest, presumably due to aggression within the group of adults. That the chicks survived now is mainly due to the excellent care provided by our keepers.

Songbirds

Successfully raised:

- One Tenggara Hill Myna (*Gracula venerata*) was raised by one of our breeding pairs.
- Three Javan Pied Starlings were raised by three different pairs.
- One Larwo Shama (*Kittacincla (m.) omissa*) was successfully raised, representing the first breeding of this species at PCBA. Due to heavy trapping this very distinctive taxon from East Java is now extinct over perhaps 98 % of its range and under heavy pressure in its last remaining stronghold
- One Orange-headed Thrush (*Geokichla citrina rubecula*) was raised by our breeding pair.
- One Orange-spotted Bulbul (*Pycnonotus bimaculatus*) was raised by its parents.
- Four Wangi-Wangi White-eyes (*Zosterops sp. nov*) have been raised by two pairs.
- Four Javan White-eyes (*Zosterops flavus*) have been raised by two pair in three broods.
- Two Sumatran Laughingthrushes (*Garrulax bicolor*) were raised by their parents.
- Three Javan Green Magpies (*Cissa thalassina*) have been successfully raised by three different pairs.



Sumatran Laughingthrush fledgeling

Acquisitions:

- Five Kangean Shamas (*Kittacincla (m.) nigricauda*) have been acquired, partially on a breeding loan agreement with a close associate of PCBA. The discovery of this five birds on social media represents the rediscovery of this very distinct taxon after decades of assumed extinction and underlines the importance of constant market surveillance.
- One male Maratua Shama (*Kittacincla (m.) barbouri*) has been obtained on a breeding loan agreement. This bird might play a vital role in the conservation of this taxon since so far only one male founder has contributed to the last known population.



Kangean Shama

Losses:

- One Nias Hill Myna died of a fungal infection
- One Javan Pied Starling died of an unknown cause, possibly old age
- One male Sumatran Mesia was killed by a rat, for this to happen a series of unfortunate events had to occur since our aviaries are generally ratproof
- Two Wangi-Wangi White-eyes died, one was killed by its partner, the other one succumbed to unknown cause.
- One female Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush died of a lymphatic tumor.
- Both Maratua Shama hatched last quartal died of pneumonia after a heavy overnight rain. All other Shamas are kept exclusively under roof, unfortunately this particular breeding pair can only be kept together in more spacious aviaries, making the chicks more vulnerable to such weather events.

Galliformes

With the new aviary complex about to be completed we have started working with one of our future focal species, the Grey-breasted Partridge.

Four chicks originating from a pair at Taman Safari have been moved to PCBA, two have grown up by now, the other two are still being raised.

Subsequently the breeding pair was also moved to PCBA.



Partridges raised at PCBA

Blackwater fish

Over the past weeks we have slowed down breeding efforts in the existing fish room, due to the prospect of soon being able to move to a bigger and more efficient facility.

Nevertheless we have successfully raised numerous fry of different species, among others:

Parosphromenus bintan,

Betta miniopinna and for the first time

Betta dimidiata



Betta cf. uberis Belitung