



# CCBC Newsletter



October – December 2021

#22

## Conservation Breeding

The two Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush chicks we shared in the last issue are now living independently together away from their parents. After a difficult start for one of them, due to an injury we suspect was sustained in the nest or at the time of fledging, both have gone from strength to strength. Getting the chicks to this stage is a big achievement as every hatching is an important step in the progression of this conservation breeding programme. In further good news it seems the parents have wasted little time in rebuilding a nest and we hope they have another breeding attempt this season.

Unfortunately, after a great start to the 2021/2022 breeding season with the Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush chicks, the past couple of months have been disappointing. A number of Javan Green Magpie pairs have had breeding attempts but these have failed either due to infertile eggs or issues with newly hatched chicks. Further to this many breeding pairs of Javan Green Magpie and Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush are yet to make a breeding attempt.

We are unsure on the reason for this but it is possible the unusually persistent extreme weather conditions we experienced in November have delayed breeding. Currently we have pairs of Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush and Javan Green Magpie busily building nests and others newly beginning incubation so, with still a few months left of the breeding season, we hope to bring you good news in the New Year!



*Juvenile Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush*  
Photo: H.H.Ferns - YCKT



*Nest duties!*  
Photo: H.H.Ferns - YCKT



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## Block C Completion

At the end of October, CCBC was very pleased to have the building project, Block C, completed. With a delayed completion date it has been a busy time since then preparing aviaries and moving birds in. Preparation means ensuring our aviaries are planted in a way that provides birds with enough cover and generally trying to create an environment that encourages breeding.

The immediate benefit felt by the completion of this aviary block however is the extra capacity it affords CCBC. With extra aviaries we are able to move birds from old aviaries and improve our welfare standards. Alongside this, we have also began the introduction process of a number of new breeding pairs which involves socialising birds in adjacent aviaries whilst we monitor behaviour over the course of a few weeks. Many thanks go to Chester Zoo, EAZA Silent Forest Campaign, Waddesdon Manor Aviary, The Rothschild Foundation and Montpellier Zoo whose funding enabled the building of this aviary block.



*Recently planted aviary*  
Photo: H.H.Ferns - YCKT

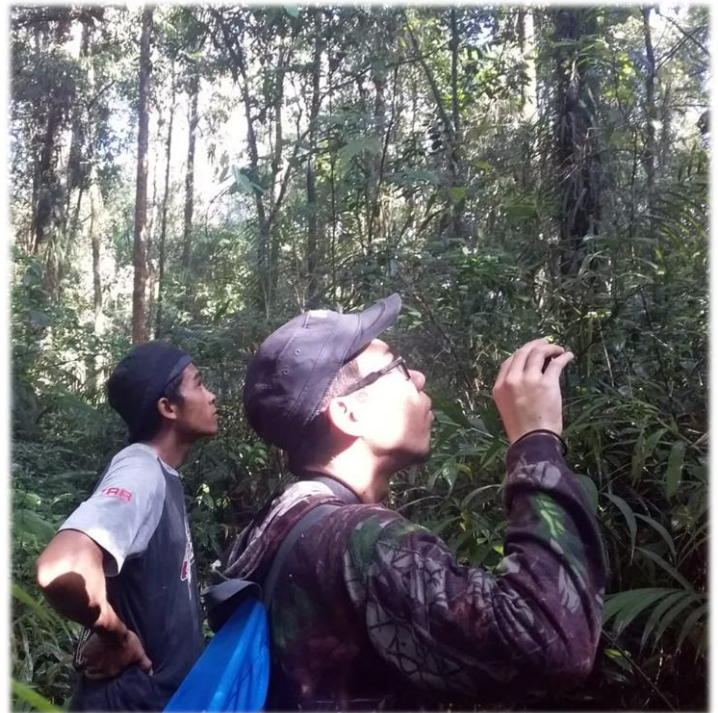


*Newly introduced pair of Javan Green Magpie*  
Photo: H.H.Ferns - YCKT



## Javan Green Magpie Project

Since the last issue, Javan Green Magpie Program Officer Meidiyanto has continued his hard work in progressing the programme. The last few months of the programme have been spent visiting multiple locations in West Java where there have been historical sightings or from recommendations from within our network. At each location, Meidiyanto has spent time discussing with key stakeholders multiple topics including occurrences of poaching, previous sightings and threats in the surrounding environment.



*Meidiyanto surveying with a local community member*  
Photo: Meidiyanto - YCKT



*Javan Green Magpie Habitat*  
Photo: Meidiyanto - YCKT



*Bird trapper's forest camp*  
Photo: Meidiyanto - YCKT

To complement this social aspect, Meidiyanto has also joined with knowledgeable community members surveying habitat of the Javan Green Magpie. Findings from these initial locations are worryingly consistent and suggest that the Javan Green Magpie is becoming ever increasingly rare and has already disappeared from a number of areas where it was once previously encountered due to multiple threats e.g. poaching, land conversion and encroachment of human recreational activity.



## Outlook for 2022

### Ex-situ

#### New Conservation Breeding Programme

In 2022 we will aim to expand the number of conservation breeding programmes within CCBC. With our current facility capacity this is unlikely to be increased by more than one as we do not want to compromise already existing programmes. With reference to current research and recommendations from the Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group we have a number of species under consideration and we see our greatest conservation impact focusing on a Javan/West Javan species or sub-species.



*Black-winged Myna*

*Photo: S.G. James – DWCT Jersey*

#### Improve Javan Warty Pig Facilities

The renovation of the facilities of the Javan Warty Pig at CCBC remains an ongoing project that we achieve a little more each year. In the coming year we aim to be able to build facilities that will enable the separation of males from breeding groups and allow for easier movement of pigs.

### Bird Facilities

With no large aviary block projects planned for 2022 as we continue to source funding, we will instead focus on the maintenance of current aviary facilities. One project we are particularly excited for in 2022 however is the building of a bespoke insect building which will significantly improve the variety of diet we supply our birds.



*Javan Green Magpie*

*Photo: H.H.Ferns - YCKT*

## *In-situ*

### **Ciletuh-Pelabuhan Ratu UNESCO Global Geopark (CPUGGp)**

Somewhat scuppered by CoVID, we did not have as much involvement within CPUGGp as we had hoped in 2021. Moving into 2022 it is our aim to continue engagement with local communities on conservation issues, conduct surveys and further develop ideas such as community based conservation breeding programmes and ecotourism opportunities.

### **Javan Green Magpie Programme**

As our programme progresses, the conservation status of the Javan Green Magpie is becoming clearer. We will continue this important program into 2022 as we aim to gain a greater understanding of the trade network surrounding this species, conduct focused *in situ* surveys and aim to identify suitable locations for future conservation efforts with this species.

### **Javan Warty Pig Translocation**

To ensure we can continue to increase the genetic diversity of our Javan Warty Pig population we must first translocate pigs to other facilities. This can take two forms, either finding other *ex-situ* facilities who want to form a satellite population or by translocating individuals, as we have done before, to Baluran National Park to join the breed and release program.



*Juvenile Javan Warty Pig*  
Photo: H.H.Ferns - YCKT

**As we come to the end of another year that has affected all of us, and challenged in numerous ways, the CCBC team would like to thank all of our sponsors for your commitment and support. Your support has been invaluable and has enabled us to continue and progress in our conservation efforts, we look forward to working together in 2022 and sharing our news with you.**

**We wish you and all your teams Happy Holidays and best wishes for the New Year**



## SPONSORSHIP

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

