



CCBC Newsletter



January – April 2022

#23

Conservation Breeding

Birds

It unfortunately continued to be a disappointing breeding season for the Javan Green Magpie at CCBC with failed clutches and disinterest from pairs the theme of the season. The Critically Endangered Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush programme however did not disappoint and gave the CCBC team plenty to smile about with a record year of breeding results.

Highest on this list was a world first in the breeding of the Mount Slamet sub-species *Garrulax rufifrons slamatensis*. This sub-species has only ever been recorded to exist on one mountain in Central Java and, to the best of our knowledge, in the ex-situ environment there has never been a successful breeding attempt of this very shy and sensitive bird. At the beginning of March, the CCBC team was extremely pleased to see a fledgling leave the nest and quickly look comfortable perching up high. Since fledging, this bird has gone from strength to strength and is now very active around the aviary with its parents. It is likely both parent birds are first-time parents and they have done a great job in rearing!

From the nominate species of the Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush we had eight birds hatch from two different pairs. Three of the chicks unfortunately died before reaching a stage of independence, it is likely that these chicks had nutritional deficiencies. Alongside successful hatches, multiple pairs built nests and incubated, the first time this has been observed for many of the birds. Despite losses, this was a hugely successful year for the conservation of this species and for the CCBC team. With the breeding season drawing to a close we look ahead to future breeding seasons aiming to build upon this success having learnt a lot about this species.



G.r.slamatensis post-fledge. B.Ferns - YCKT



G.r.slamatensis settling in. B.Ferns - YCKT



G.r.slamatensis two weeks post-fledge. B.Ferns - YCKT



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G.rufifrons fledgling exploring with parents. B.Ferns - YCKT

Pigs

The year began with the Javan Warty Pig conservation breeding programme providing challenges with two first time mothers having birthing complications that resulted in litters being lost. Birthing stress can be too much for some first time mothers if the surrounding environment is not suitable, this is likely what caused these complications. One mother, who having had her first litter in 2019, in February had her third litter, giving birth to three healthy piglets. This mother is very secretive in nature and wary of humans, this means for the first two months we got fleeting glimpses of piglets before mum warned them and they dove back into the nest! In the past week or so we are getting a better look at the three strong piglets as they become braver and explore more.



Javan Warty Piglets and Mum venturing out. B.Ferns - YCKT

Insect Breeding Facility

In February, after some delay due to weather conditions and difficulties in finding a trusted building team, we finally got underway with building our insect breeding facility. This building has been designed so as to avoid large temperature fluctuations, hopefully creating ideal conditions for the breeding of a variety of insect species. Currently the live feed CCBC offers our birds is very limited in variety and depends entirely upon local markets. With this new building we can increase the diversity of insects we offer, be certain of their quality and take a step to being more self-sustainable. By offering a wider variety of insects we aim to provide a diet that is more similar to that of a wild diet, we hope that we will then see health benefits for our local populations and a positive impact upon our breeding efforts.



Insect building. B.Ferns - YCKT



Composting unit. B.Ferns - YCKT

We will initially breed species of crickets, mealworms and cockroaches before branching out to other species such as grasshoppers or other locally sourced insects. This facility also has an additional composting unit which will be used for the food and garden waste of CCBC, this unit will be used to attract the naturally occurring Black Soldier Fly which have highly nutritious larvae which can then be harvested. This project is still not quite finished but we expect to have it set up and ready to go before the end of April. We are very grateful to Prague Zoo in association with the City of Prague for funding this project.

Baluran Translocation

At the end of February CCBC transferred nine Javan Warty Pigs to Baluran National Park, East Java. This is the second time we have collaborated with Baluran National Park and Copenhagen Zoo by contributing Javan Warty Pigs to this project which aims to restore natural ecological condition to the park through the reintroduction of endangered species which promote ecosystem health. On this occasion the pigs from CCBC are not joining the breed and release program but instead are being released in to the National Park where they will be monitored, the information then gathered from this introduction will be very valuable for future releases. The nine pigs first of all however are spending some time in a large habituation enclosure where they are being acclimatized to the environment and their behavior monitored. The group is of mixed sexes and ages and the time in the habituation enclosure has seen them form a large group which spends most its time together, a few older pigs will sometimes also forage alone.



Pigs packed and ready to go! B.Ferns - YCKT



Arrival at Baluran National Park. R.Anisa – BNP/CZ

All these pigs were born and raised at CCBC as part of our very successful conservation breeding programme which has the world's largest population of this amazing species! We will look to continue our collaborations with Baluran National Park in the future and further contribute to *in situ* conservation efforts. Thanks also go to BBKSDA West Java and BBKSDA East Java for facilitating this translocation.

Javan Green Magpie Project

Having done an extensive survey of West Java in 2021 which involved community engagement, forest surveys and trade monitoring, the first few months of 2022 were spent planning and beginning socio-economic studies of potential future project sites. With two sites identified of potential interest for future programmes due to factors such as occurrence of Javan Green Magpie, good quality habitat or low/manageable threats, Programme Officer Meidiyanto is now undertaking surveys with a team to gain information on a wide range of topics, for example demographic, perceptions of forest and forest use. This is a key step in the project to ensure we have a good understanding of field locations before we undertake programmes in the future that will involve communities from the surrounding area of the forest.



Conducting questionnaire. Meidiyanto - YCKT



Debriefing with survey team. Meidiyanto - YCKT

JaSpeR Programme Team

In January our friends from Javan Species Recovery (JaSpeR) programme joined CCBC for a few days so as to better understand husbandry of the Javan Warty Pig. The JaSpeR team, who are also based in West Java around 10 hours away from CCBC, are in the process of creating a rescue and rehabilitation center for Javan Warty Pigs. Situated in an area which potentially still has a healthy population of Javan Warty Pigs, the JaSpeR team work with hunters and the local community to try and conserve this species by mitigating conflict, educating and researching into wild populations.



JaSpeR Team and Pak Aos. Y.Irawan - JaSpeR

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

