



CCBC Newsletter



May – August 2022

#24

Conservation Breeding

Birds

In the previous edition we brought you the news of our success in breeding the Mount Slamet subspecies of the Critically Endangered Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush. This was the first ever *ex-situ* breeding record for the sub-species and we are pleased to share that our success did not stop there! After the chick from the first clutch was independent, the parents then wasted little time in constructing a new nest, the fledgling was removed from the aviary so as not to disrupt breeding efforts and, sure enough, incubation followed shortly after. Incubation and rearing in the nest continued smoothly and, judging by the amount of feed being taken to the nest, we suspected the parents were busy! Our suspicions were confirmed and we were pleased to see three healthy fledglings leave the nest at the start of May. Whilst we still have a long way to go with this breeding programme and the conservation of this species, we are very proud of this year's breeding success.



Three Little Birds! *G.r.slamatensis* fledglings. B.Ferns – YCKT



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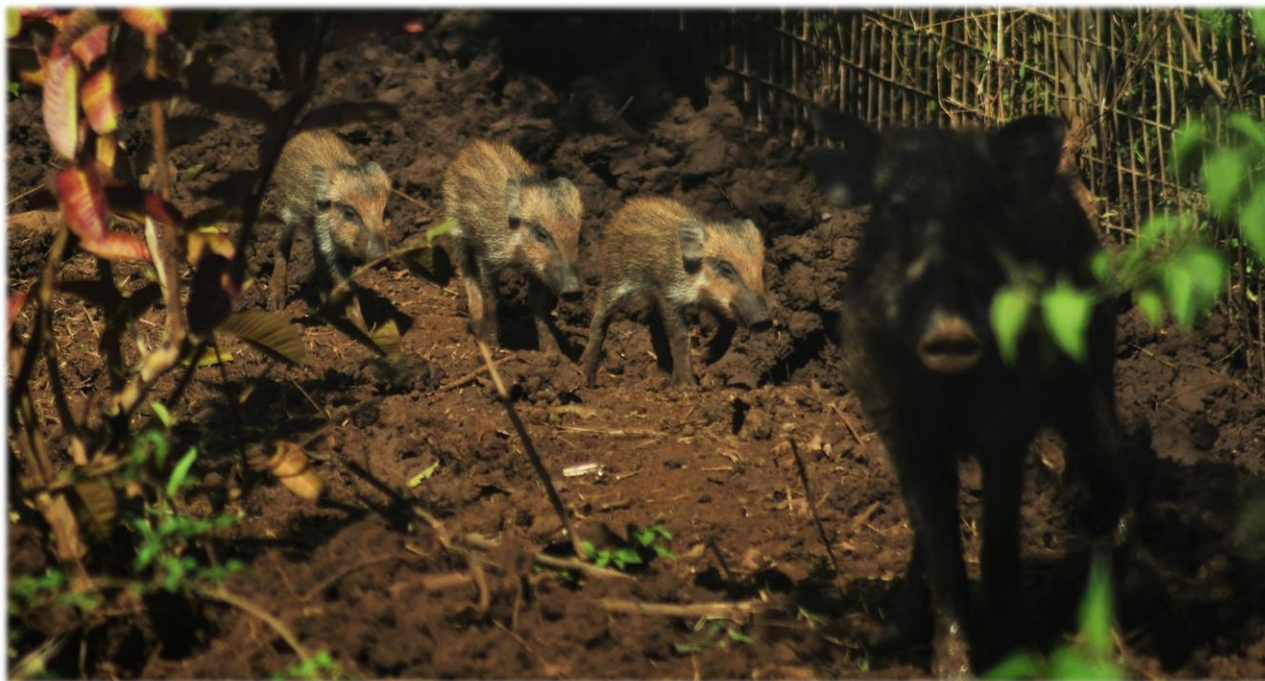
Despite strange weather patterns in West Java in 2022, causing us to experience a more prolonged period of heavy rainfall than is typical, the Javan Green Magpies stuck to their schedule and did not breed through these months which are normally dry. Instead, the Javan Green Magpies moult through this period and take a rest from breeding attempts, behaviour that highly likely is consistent with this species in the wild. Over these months we take the opportunity, once the moulting process has finished, to introduce new birds to one another, aiming to make new breeding pairs. We currently undergo this process for multiple birds and expect to start seeing behaviour change of pairs in the next month or so as we enter the 2022/2023 breeding season.



Javan Green Magpie Pair. B.Ferns – YCKT

Javan Warty Pig

The three piglets we brought you in the previous issue have gone from strength to strength and now live independently from Mum. They have become a lot braver although, as is typical with this species, are still very wary of the CCBC team and will zoom away when they know we are close! The drier months are typically not the time of the year the pigs like to breed but we have one young female currently spending a lot of time inside a large nest and we suspect she has given birth. This is a young mother who has had one previous failed attempt at rearing piglets so we hope this time she is less daunted by the prospect and we can bring you good news in the next issue!



Mum and piglets exploring. B.Ferns – YCKT



*Sponsorship Plaque.
B.Ferns – YCKT*

Insect Breeding Facility

Over this period the breeding facility of CCBC was completed and, after some delay, is now in the process of being set up. This facility is a standalone building that has been designed in a way that aims to maintain a consistent temperature throughout the year, passively avoiding major temperature fluctuations that can disrupt insect breeding.

Inside this building we have shelving which runs the perimeter of the room that, when at full capacity, can hold 30 large container boxes for insect populations with space for a further 15 large bins.



Main Insect building. B.Ferns – YCKT



Composting Unit. B.Ferns – YCKT

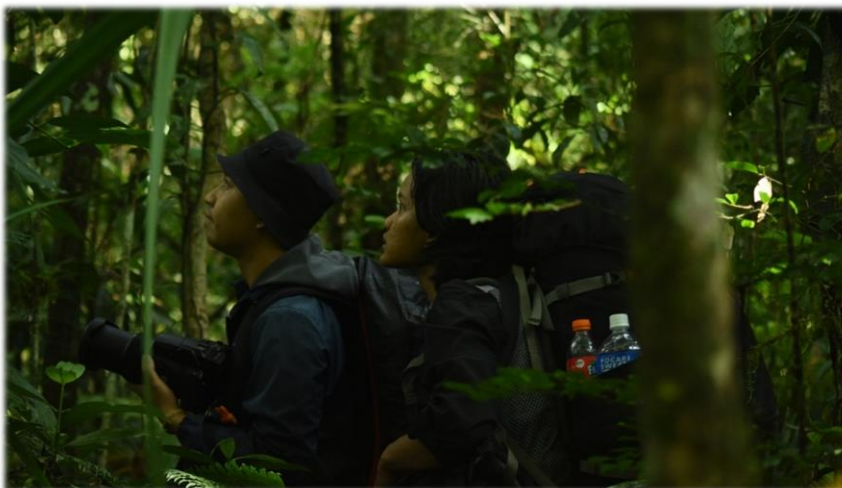
Standing next to the main insect building we have also constructed a composting unit for the waste of CCBC. This composting unit we have designed so that plenty of oxygen circulates, therefore requiring minimal human management. This unit will serve as a breeding site for the Black Solider Fly whose larvae are very nutritious, well known for their high calcium content. These facilities mark a very progressive step for CCBC, benefitting the health of our local populations whilst also reducing our reliance upon local markets.



Survey Landscape. Meidiyanto – YCKT

Javan Green Magpie Programme

It has been an exciting few months for the Javan Green Magpie programme as, following on from socio-economic surveys, we moved on to more focused forest surveys. We had received reports from community members at both of the sites, which we had identified as having potential for future conservation efforts, that the Javan Green Magpie had been seen, heard or unfortunately caught in 2022. Our team have quickly mobilised, prepared a survey team and currently focus at the first site with the key goal to confirming presence or absence of the Javan Green Magpie, a bird which there has only been a handful of official records of in the wild in the past 15 years. The presence absence surveys will thoroughly survey the whole area and if successful in gaining audio or visual proof we will then continue with the planning of more in-depth surveys.



On the lookout. G.A.Prasetya – Kuningan University



Survey Team.

G.A.Prasetya – Kuningan University

New Veterinarian - Anatasha "Reza" Widyantoro

During this period of review we unfortunately had the bad news from one of our veterinarians Bilan Viawan that she would be resigning and returning to Sumatra where she plans to start a family run veterinary clinic. Bilan has been at Cikananga for over three years now and we are immensely grateful for the hard work and dedication she has given to her role and the cheerful spirit she brought to the team.

Aiming to fill the big boots of Bilan is Anatasha "Reza" Widyantoro. Reza is a graduate from the University of Malang, East Java, where she completed both her Bachelors of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Profession qualification. Reza was an active member of multiple committees and joins the team with experience from several *in-situ* and *ex-situ* veterinary internships. Already Reza has shown her thoroughness when it comes to work and her positive character means she has quickly fitted in well within the team.



*Bilan (left) and Reza (right) in action!
B.Ferns - YCKT*



*Meeting with a Bali Starling breeder.
W.Johnson*

This is not a common conservation approach but one which has previously been attempted in Bali for the Bali Starling. The program in Bali is currently not running but over this period we met with some key stakeholders of this program so as to better understand the structure, pitfalls and areas for improvement of this program if a similar approach was to be undertaken.

Community Conservation Breeding

In the coming years, CCBC would like to embark on conservation breeding efforts that are more inclusive of communities, creating programs that are developed upon the tradition and natural interest of bird keeping in Java. Through this approach we hope to involve communities in responsible breeding and engage with bird keepers on conservation topics.



*Meeting with National Park Staff.
W.Johnson*

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

