



CCBC Newsletter



September – December 2022

#25

Conservation Breeding

Javan Green Magpie

After a disappointing 2021/2022 breeding season for our Javan Green Magpie population we are pleased to see that the 2022/2023 breeding season has begun very differently.

The breeding season, which we typically find spans the wetter months (September – April), has already seen three breeding pairs at CCBC hatch chicks and many more showing positive breeding behaviour. With a current total of 15 breeding pairs at CCBC we hope to see and share more successes in the coming months.

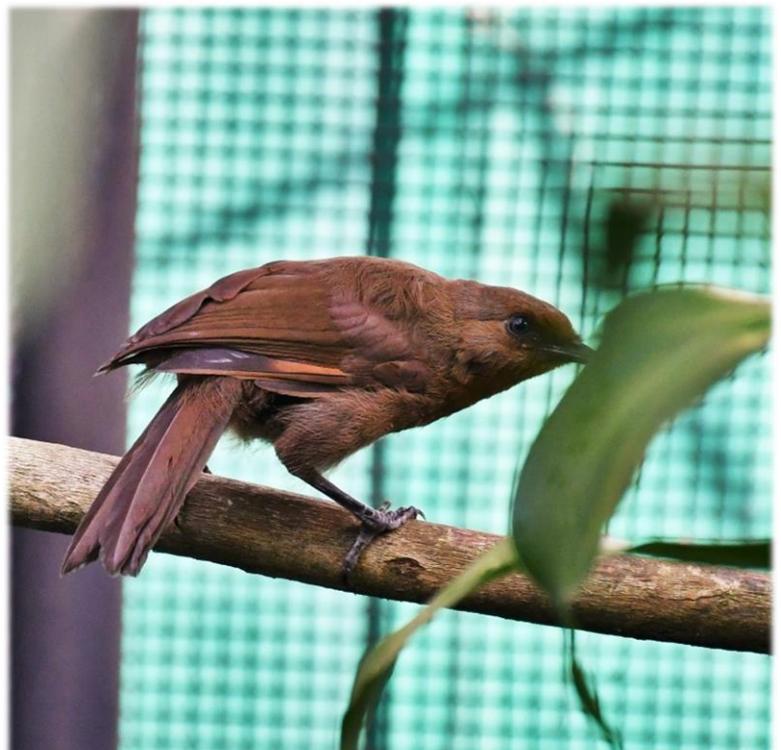


Javan Green Magpie post-fledge stretch! A.R.Widyantoro - YCKT

Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush

As reported in the previous issue, 2022 was a breakthrough year for CCBC and the conservation breeding of the Mount Slamet subspecies of the Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush. This pair are currently having a breeding rest after having had three successful breeding attempts in 2022, rearing a total of six offspring to independence.

In November, we were pleased to see another breeding pair, who have already had a number of frustrating breeding seasons, begin incubating for the first time. This pair incubated, hatched and successfully reared one chick which fledged in December. Having had two different pairs successfully breed in 2022 is a huge step forward for the conservation breeding programme of this sub species.



Mount Slamet Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush one week after fledging. B.Ferns - YCKT



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Black-winged Myna

In the months since our last newsletter, we have recommenced conservation breeding with our Black-winged Myna population after a break of over a year. Our population numbers over 60 individuals and we currently breed from international studbook recommendations.

So far over this period, two pairs have successfully incubated, hatched and reared a couple of clutches each and we are pleased to be able to build and progress this conservation breeding programme again. The goal of this breeding is so that our local population is in a position whereby it is able to contribute to conservation efforts in the coming years, such as translocations to other conservation facilities or reintroductions.



*Closed ringing Black-winged Myna chicks at 9-days old.
A.R.Widyantoro - YCKT*

Javan Warty Pig

Over this period, two females from the same newly made breeding group successfully gave birth and reared offspring. One of the females has previously had a breeding attempt which was not a success due to, what we believe to be, the stress of delivering the piglets. This time around however, we were careful to ensure the sow was isolated in a large quiet rearing enclosure long before the due date, thankfully the breeding attempt was successful with the sow rearing four healthy piglets which now live independently. The other sow is much older and has previously had successful breeding efforts and is considered a very stable and steady mum, this breeding attempt only produced one small piglet, something we suspect is linked to the age of the sow. The male of this group has never fathered offspring before and we are pleased to welcome these 5 piglets to our local population.



Javan Warty Piglet experiencing life out of the nest for the first time. B.Ferns - YCKT

In-situ

Javan Green Magpie Programme

In the final few months of 2022, we continued to focus our field surveying at one mountain range of interest. Splitting the range up into manageable sections based on topography, habitat type and ease of access the team has been using a combination of survey techniques to determine absence or presence of the Javan Green Magpie. Surveying includes traditional techniques such as point counts as well as implementing passive acoustic monitoring devices which are left unattended for a number of days in an attempt to record the distinctive call of the Javan Green Magpie. Alongside focusing upon the Javan Green Magpie, this programme is also assisting the local forestry department in gathering data on other highly threatened bird species in this habitat and the severity of the trapping pressures. We enter the New Year analysing collected data and planning our approach for the area in 2023 as we look to grow our presence in the surrounding communities.



Follow the leader. Meidiyanto - YCKT



CCBC keeper Wawan recording bird calls.
B.Ferns - YCKT

Chester Zoo Site Visit

In August CCBC was very pleased to welcome Chester Zoo staff again to the site after a long break of three years due to the CoVID pandemic. As well as providing financial support, Chester Zoo, as a core partner, also assist by providing technical and strategic support. On this visit, Andrew Owen, Head of Birds, and Javier Lopez, Head of Veterinary Services, spent a few weeks in Java providing support on multiple aspects of the CCBC *ex-situ* environment as well as joining on visits to field sites. With CCBC being an isolated site, the time spent in each other's company on this visit seeing and discussing progress, issues and future plans is an aspect that has been sorely missed over the past few years and was very valuable.



Andrew Owen (far right) joining the Javan Green Magpie survey team. Meidiyanto - YCKT



In partnership with



Pig Facility Improvements

With thanks to generous support from Los Angeles Zoo, CCBC was able to conduct some very important Javan Warty Pig facility improvements before the heavy rains began. This year we focused on two key aspects; large-scale roof renovations and refurbishment of enclosures that are intended for pigs outside of breeding groups.



New mum and piglets. B.Ferns – YCKT

In September, after some large storms, it became obvious that the roof structure that covers all the inside areas of our Javan Warty Pig enclosures had deteriorated to a point where it posed a risk of collapsing. We therefore replaced wooden structural supports and took this opportunity to modernise the roofing by replacing heavy old tiles with lightweight durable metal sheeting.



Roof before. B.Ferns – YCKT



Roof after. A.R.Widyantoro – YCKT

With successful conservation breeding programme that have run for over 10 years, our facilities must be flexible and able to serve many purposes. This is no truer than with our Javan Warty Pig population as this is a long-lived species that has medium sized litters, we find typically 3-5 piglets. With this in mind, the final few months of 2022 were spent ensuring we had suitable space for 1) rearing mothers 2) pigs that no longer are able to be in large enclosures due to health issues e.g., poor eyesight and 3) large males that are being housed singularly.



Two examples of renovated enclosures. B.Ferns – YCKT

New Staff Member – Panji Gusti Akbar

As of January 1st, we welcome Panji Gusti Akbar in to the Cikananga team as our Field Biologist. Panji is a young enthusiastic birder with an already impressive CV which includes co-authoring an Indonesian bird's identification book, assisting on Phd projects across Indonesia and being a researcher on an expedition that found a babbler species that there had not been a record of since the 19th century!

Panji has been working closely with CCBC for the latter stages of 2022 while contracted as a biologist on the Javan Green Magpie programme. Having impressed in this role, Cikananga was keen to involve Panji with other conservation efforts of the center alongside the Javan Green Magpie programme.



Panji. P.G.Akbar – YCKT

International Veterinary Placement

At the end of October, after a delay of a few years due to difficulties in international travel, Wahyu Hananto, Head Veterinarian at Cikananga, finally made his way across the world to Chester Zoo! Wahyu is based at Chester Zoo as we move in to the New Year and during his time there Wahyu is undertaking a training residency which, as well as shadowing the vet team, covers a range of topics and diagnostic techniques, such as: radiography, haematology and pathology. Wahyu is also making the most of his first time in Europe experiencing things such as snow for the first time!



*Wahyu extracting blood from an Anoa.
I.Ashpole – Chester Zoo*



Wahyu in the snow! W.Hananto – YCKT

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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!

