



Picture 1. The two new fledglings at the release site

REINTRODUCTION PROGRAMME

Since the last release in June 2015, the 5 new birds are observed in the release site of Antam Pongkor Gold Mine, forming a flock with 4 wild-hatched sub-adults and learning how to forage for wild food such as insects and fruits. Even if they are well adapted to the wild environment, they still rely on food supply since the dry season is lasting longer than expected. The birds are eating mostly papaya, which can be considered as an additional water income. The food supply will consequently continue until the rainy season is established.

On the 15th of September, 2 juveniles fledged out of the nest box situated in the release area, from the same pair than the previous juveniles. Unfortunately, one other chick (of about 15-20 days old from the picture) was found dead on the ground

close to the box, which let us think that the clutch size was of three chicks but only two could be raised until fledging. These two new juveniles increase the population to 12 individuals in Antam Pongkor Gold Mine at the end of September 2015 and future breeding for the new-released birds is expected since one new-released female is regularly visiting boxes with a wild-hatched adult.

CAPTIVE BREEDING

In our last newsletter, we explained the changes that we did in the Husbandry of the Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush to encourage the breeding. One month after these changes, 3 chicks hatched from two different pairs. One of the nests was recorded on CCTV and we were happy to follow the development of the two chicks and their fledging time.

Now the two chicks are weaned and separated from the parents, waiting to be sexed to form new pairs in the future! The third chick died unfortunately after fledging after it was removed from the parents due to a broken wing. We are anyway proud of this breeding season for the Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush and hope that many chicks will hatch again in the future to increase the population size in CCBC (13 individuals at the end of September 2015).



Picture 2. Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush soon after fledging



Picture 3. Our two juvenile Rufous-fronted Laughingthrushes (2 month old)

We are also proud to have the hatching of a Javan Green Magpie on the 21st of September. To date, the chick is still in the nest, fed regularly by the parents and this breeding is strictly controlled by CCTV to ensure the good development of the chick.

Meanwhile, most of our Black-winged starlings are still in their resting period and the team started to prepare the cage for the next breeding season: disinfection of the cages and nest boxes, repair of the rood and mesh... The pairs will be formed in mid-October and we hope that this 3-month resting will improve the breeding success. Fingers crossed!



Picture 4. the female Black-winged Starlings in their resting aviaries

The Javan Warty Pigs in CCBC also offered us good surprises with the birth of 14 piglets from 3 sows!!! While this species was thought to give birth mainly from March to May, the 14 piglets were born in August and September! The pig population in CCBC is now of 39 individuals and contact was already done with other zoos in Java to translocate some individuals and create satellite populations.

Finally, the bird quarantine was finished at the end of September. Two cages and net on the ceiling to prevent escape were the last building steps. The quarantine procedures will be set up and new acquisition of Black-winged Starlings, Javan Green Magpies or Rufous-fronted Laughingthrushes could start soon!



Picture 5. A curious piglet born on the 1st of September 2015



Picture 6. The quarantine building waiting for new birds to arrive!

A new local keeper started in August 2015 to increase manpower in CCBC. Wawan showed his good interest in bird keeping and is willing to learn more and more everyday about Housing and Husbandry. By being a remarkable handyman and helping also with building maintenance or setting up the quarantine, Wawan is now a major element in CCBC Team!



Picture 7. Wawan, the new CCBC bird keeper



Picture 7. The participants of the Songbird Crisis Summit

From the 26th to 29th of September, the first Songbird Crisis Summit was held in Jurong bird Park. Organized by Wildlife Reserve Singapore, TRAFFIC and Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre, the aim of this summit was to set up priorities and actions for the Conservation of songbirds in the Greater Sunda. 12 species were highlighted with Conservation priorities, especially in terms of trade limitation. CCBC is already holding 4 of the 12 species of concern, showing the importance of CCBC work in the Conservation of these species.

Several actions were set up and CCBC will be involved in new projects in cooperation with other organizations or Universities: solving taxonomy uncertainties for the Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush or Black-winged starling, increasing the population size in captivity for the 4 species present in CCBC and participating in some field projects. With the gathering of many bird experts from all around the world, this summit showed that there was a general lack of actions for these species for the last decades, though their trade is extremely massive and considered as the biggest one in Indonesia.

All these experts hope that this summit will raise the attention of the general public and government to act for the preservation of the last individuals for the 12 species.

Sponsorship

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



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