



CAPTIVE BREEDING

Breeding in CCBC continues slowly but surely! One pair of Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush had 2 chicks on the beginning of December 2015 that were successfully weaned. They will soon form a social group with the juvenile that hatched in October and the female *G. rufifrons slamatensis*. The team decided to stop the breeding of this breeding pair because of its sur-representation in CCBC. New pairing will occur in April before the beginning of the next breeding season. Indeed, based on the data for this species, the Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush is mainly breeding from July to February in CCBC so April seems to be a good month to make pairing.



Picture 1. The two Rufous-fronted Laughingthrushes, one day after fledging

One of the pair Javan Green Magpie is sitting on eggs since the end of January. It is very good news for the team since this pair never bred before. All the incubation and rearing process will be recorded by CCTV to follow the development of the potential chicks and make appropriate decision.



Picture 2. The female Javan Green Magpie incubating eggs for the first time!



Picture 3. The pair Javan Green Magpie checking on the two eggs

Finally, 6 Black-winged Starling chicks hatched in December from 3 different pairs. One chick did not survive and two of them showed bended legs. The problem was assessed by the new vet and it seems that it is due to nutritional disorders. Consequently, the diet for chicks and adults was reviewed. With the help of ZSL, the pellets will be analyzed to know the nutrient contents. In the meantime, diet supplement was offered to all the birds in Cikananga to counteract the nutrient deficiency from the pellets or fruits.

The adult birds now receive Omni-Vit once a week and Opti-Breed (for all species except magpies) twice a week. To help the development of Black-winged Starling chicks, calcium (through cuttlefish bone powder or Calci-Lux) is added to the ant eggs or crickets. After this supplementation started, one pair Black-winged Starling produced two healthy chicks that are showing strong and straight legs; meaning that the problem is likely due to previous nutritional disorder. The next clutches will tell us more about it! In the meantime and to prevent an issue such as Metabolic Bone Disease, the juveniles that prematurely died will be sent for X-ray. This will be done with the kind help of International Animal Rescue (IAR) which allows us to use their equipment. Results in the next newsletter!

The last deworming treatment allowed also the team to check the weight and condition of all the birds. The team was very happy to see the weight of the Sumatran Laughingthrushes improving. Four thin birds gained between 1 and 8 grams between the two weight checks (the last one being in October 2015) and are showing now a good weight and subcutaneous fat score. The other birds were showing overweight and lost between 1 and 17 grams (for obese birds). This loss is mainly due to a decrease of pellets and a stop in providing banana (quite high in fructose). The enrichment device provided also helped the Sumatran Laughingthrushes to exercise more to get their food.

The collaboration between all the institutions housing the Sumatran Laughingthrush and the help of the Studbook keeper, Andrew Owen, will help to define the adequate diet for this species.



Picture 4. Enrichment device for the Sumatran Laughingthrushes

Finally, 5 Black-winged Starlings were donated to Taman Safari Indonesia in exchange of one male Javan Green Magpie (needed for the extra females in CCBC) and 4 Black-winged Starlings from a private breeder in Klaten with new bloodlines. These new Black-winged starlings will be paired after their quarantine period and will contribute to the increase of the genetic diversity in CCBC, impaired after the theft in June 2014.



Picture 5. The new CCBC birds: one of the young Black-winged starlings during health check (left) and the Javan Green Magpie in the quarantine cage (right)

TEAM

CCBC is proud to welcome a new staff in the team! drh. Yumni Ghassani started in mid-December as part-time vet for CCBC. She is currently under probation time but already showed her seriousness in work and will to learn more about the birds. Her enthusiasm and ability to work hard are promising and the captive breeding team is happy to have a dedicated vet to rely on and help them with the different challenges. The first work of Yumni was to assess the condition of the birds and review the medical files to better understand the health status of the animals in CCBC (birds and pigs). She was a very good help in providing advice to improve the chick condition in Black-winged starling and she will continue to assess and research to refine the diet. Many good things will happen from this new position in CCBC and we look forward to presenting new improvement from the medical part!



Picture 6. Yumni tagging and deworming the juvenile pig born in 2015

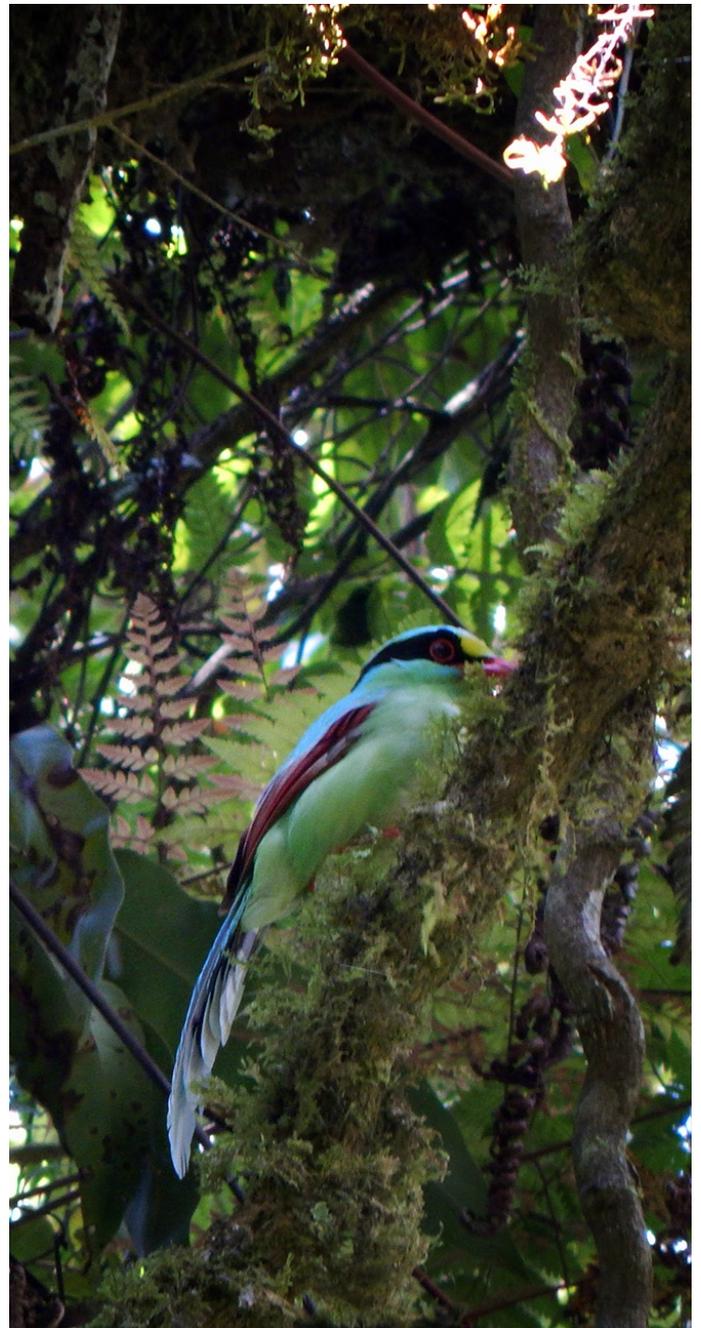
Javan Green Magpie survey

The intensive search of wild Javan Green Magpie finally started with the help of Pupung Nurwatha and Ader Rahmat from YPAL. Collaboration was made between CCBC and these two great ornithologists to make intensive survey for the Javan Green Magpie.

This species is very difficult to find in the wild because of its rarity and shyness but Pupung and Ader managed to hear some in two locations: Gunung Simpang Nature Reserve and Gunung Ciremai National Park. Unfortunately, no direct observation was done because of the difficult habitat but the team will continue to survey the areas until the proof of Javan Green Magpie is revealed!

Nevertheless, two Common Green Magpies (*Cissa chinensis*) were observed in Gunung Ciremai National Park in a mix flock with the Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush. It is still unknown why this species occurs in this part of Javan but the first assumptions are either escaped birds from poachers that are using them as decoy birds or a wild release from unknown people. Pupung and Ader will follow up on this finding to better understand the reason of this Sumatran species in Java.

The survey of other sites will continue in the following after 6 priority locations were highlighted during a meeting in December with Pupung, Ader, Bas van Balen and Anaïs. Stay tuned!



Picture 7. Common Green Magpie found in Ciremai National Park
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Film Crew

At the beginning of January 2016, a film crew from Singapore spent few days in Cikananga and the Black-winged Starling release site in PT. Antam Pongkor Gold Mine to make a documentary for a Singaporean TV channel! CCBC was proud to show them the effort in conserving the Black-winged Starling and the Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush (the targeted species for the documentary) and spreading the CCBC work through TV! The diffusion date was not confirmed yet but we will keep you inform since the documentary will also be accessible on internet.



Picture 8. Filming in the Black-winged Starling release site and in CCBC

Sponsorship

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Thank you from all Cikananga Conservation Breeding Center Team!



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