



Picture 1. The black-winged starling family

REINTRODUCTION PROGRAMME

During monitoring period in February and March 2015, the Black-winged Starling family can still be observed in the release site in PT. Antam Pongkor Gold Mine. The female with her four juveniles are using the release site as their foraging and roosting sites and their dispersion does not exceed a radius of 300m around the initial release area. The juveniles more and more lose their grey feathers and, for the individuals that hatched in April 2014, they cannot be differentiated from adults anymore. These new “sub-adults” are now learning specific breeding behaviour such as displaying when they observe adults and it can be described as an “incomplete displaying song, lower in intensity and pitch”.

A new release is surely needed in the coming month to prevent these sub-adults to breed with their relatives.

Release planning is under progress and the habituation cage should arrive on the release site in April 2015.

In February, all the 22 boxes provided for the birds on the release site were checked, cleaned and changed when needed. In total, 14 boxes were changed because the previous ones were infected by ants, wasps, mammal nests or too deteriorated. For two of them, the location was changed and for the other ones, they were installed higher in the trees to make a compromise between seclusion for the birds and dry position to prevent ant nesting. Three were only cleaned and left in their original place. Five are infected by bees and were left in place until a suitable and safe action is made to remove them without compromising the safety of the climber.

Finally, on the 20th of February, a small ceremony was made in the village “Kopo” to thank local people for accepting and protecting the birds for the last two years. This ceremony was held in one of the villagers' house and all the villagers, representatives from the neighbouring villages and all the Environmental Department Team from Antam were invited. Several presentations were made by Renaldi Vernia, CCBC Education Officer, the Head of the village Kopo, the Head of Antam Environmental Department and Anaïs Tritto, programme manager. Great applause rose when Anaïs explained them that this village is now known by many countries for their involvement in the protection of this species and that they should be proud. Certificates were given to the Head of village for the involvement of Kopo village in the preservation of this rare bird. Following a small snack and lunch, the villagers came home happy and thankful for this effort made by CCBC.



Picture 2. Anaïs giving the certificate to the head of village to thank him to protect the birds



Picture 3. CCBC Team performing presentation about Black-winged starling conservation (Right) Local society from around Release Site following the ceremony enthusiastically (Left)

FOCUS

After our last focus on the CCBC Education Officer, we are delighted to introduce you Fitryana Rahayu, our new CCBC field biologist. Fitryana is a young conservationist that graduated from one of the best Biology universities in Indonesia. Her positive energy, motivation to raise this programme and skills from previous reintroduction programmes were immediately obvious and it is naturally that the hand-over of the monitoring programme for the Black-winged Starling between Fitryana and Anaïs (on the way to be promoted curator of the breeding centre) happened. Her devotion led to an intensive monitoring, especially in PT. Antam Pongkor Gold

Mine, where valuable and rigorous data are gathered every month.

She is really dedicated to this bird and she is able to explain in details what type of trees they are using, what type of food they are eating and what are their daily movement. We hope that an excellent publication will rise from these data and will promote even more the Reintroduction Programme.

During an interview made by Chester Zoo, it is very touching to hear that she is feeling more affect about bird protection by being Indonesian herself and concern about the future of her own country.



Picture 4. Fitryana checking a starling nest after the box was removed

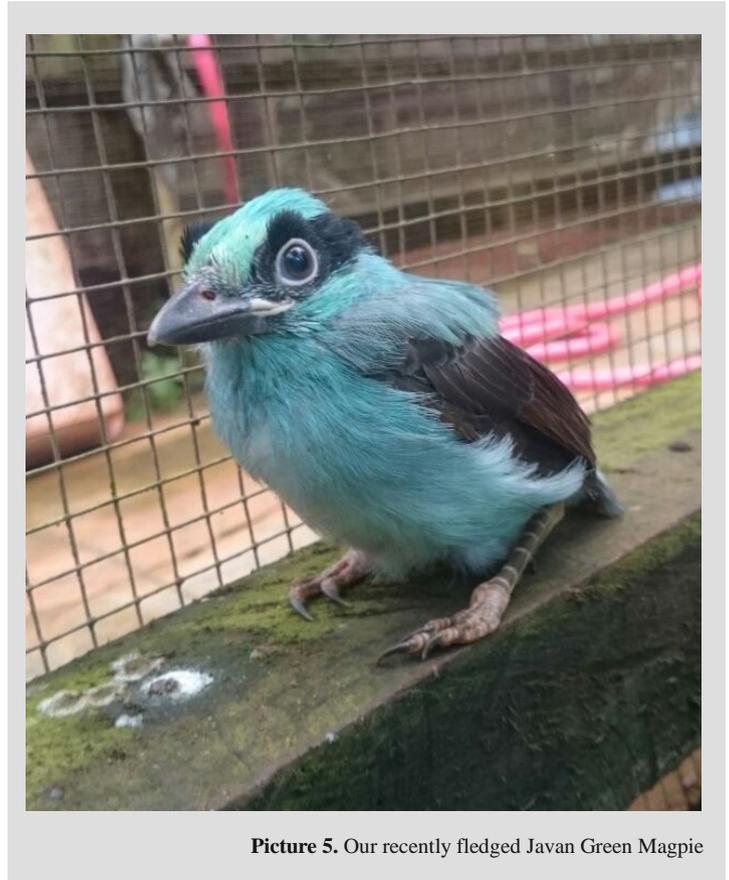
Her nickname “Pipit” predestines her to a great carrier in bird conservation and we all wish to keep her in CCBC as long as possible.

“Being a part of Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre is an honour for me. By being a field biologist, I can stand at the forefront of conservation to save endangered species in Indonesia. It's a pleasure for me to see animals living free in the wild, not in a cage as pets. This job makes me realize that Indonesian biodiversity must be saved, and it is my responsibility to do that as an Indonesian person. If not us (Indonesian people), who else?” Fitryana Rahayu

CAPTIVE BREEDING

This period was very successful for captive breeding. Indeed, 10 hatches were recorded for our captive birds. The most successful one is the hatching of 6 Javan Green Magpies from 3 different pairs. All pairs raised successfully 2 juveniles until fledging, a record for these individuals that were usually eating or throwing one of their chicks out of the nest. 3 Black-winged starlings also hatched from 2 different pairs but only one survived and is now including in our juvenile group. One of them died prematurely (few days old) while the other one died at 1^{1/2} month old from Atoxoplasmosis and Aspergillosis as secondary infection. One Sumatran Laughingthrush also hatched and is currently still alive and was removed recently from the parents.

Our Javan Warty pig population was also successful with the birth of 5 piglets, one of them unfortunately died prematurely. The piglets are still with the sow and are all doing great. A study performed by a Dutch student will start soon to analyse the behaviour of our captive population for future Reintroduction Programmes.



Picture 5. Our recently fledged Javan Green Magpie

In March 2015, we were delighted to receive the visit of Andrew Owen and Javier Lopez, respectively Curator of birds and Head of Veterinary Department in Chester Zoo. During their 10 day-visit, many advices were given for housing and breeding the birds. Beside this good guidance, they came with all the equipment necessary to microchip our 150 birds. During an intensive week, almost all birds were microchipped, blood samples were taken and necropsies were done to understand the reasons of the deaths of Black-winged Starlings in CCBC. It seems that Atoxoplasmosis is the most recurrent disease and advices were again given to implement a strong preventative Health regime and biosecurity. This visit ended with a signature of a MoU between CCBC and Chester zoo, a trip to our Black-winged starling release site and Taman Safari for further discussion about bird export. All CCBC Team really thanks Andrew and Javier for their presence, their advice and their positive energy.



Picture 5. Anais and Andrew microchipping a Javan Green Magpie (Left); Anais and Andrew microchipping a Rufous-fronted laughingthrush (Right)

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

