



## CAPTIVE BREEDING

Here we go! After one year of planning and discussion on the best design, the new Block B started! At the beginning of May, the 46 birds in Block B moved to the three other buildings and a screen was made to create a visual barrier between the birds and the workers. The workers started on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2016 with the destruction of the old building. The wood planks and mesh that are in good condition will be used for the maintenance of the other buildings. The destruction will take about 1 week and the building construction about 3 months. The project includes a brand-new Block B, 3 pre-release cages and a central building for the keepers with an animal kitchen, clinic, material room, office and shelter for the security dogs. Because the previous dog shelter had to be destroyed, a temporary one was made by the workers so the two dogs can stay in CCBC area and guard it during the night. The work advancement will be detailed in the following newsletter so stay tune!



Picture 1. Old Block B before the destruction (left) and parant set up to protect the birds in the building facing the construction site (right)



Picture 2. Destruction of the Block B and the pre-release cage



**Picture 3.** Temporary shelter for our security dogs and temporary shelter to protect materials for future use

You all know that CCBC monitors the breeding of our Javan Green Magpies and Laughingthrushes only with CCTV to prevent disturbance at the nest. In April, we decided to change the CCTV system of one of our buildings. Indeed, it did not work anymore because of the lightening that stroke the cameras and the rats that chewed the cables. The quality of the cameras wasn't good enough to allow good behaviour observation. To replace the CCTV system and make it as professional as possible, we asked to a CCTV shop in Sukabumi to come to CCBC to install it. The main changes were cameras with higher resolution, cables protected into PVC pipes to prevent rats to chew them and a lightening-protected electronic box. We are now proud to have a high-quality CCTV system to record the breeding of our birds.



**Picture 4.** CCTV system installed in one of our buildings: High-resolution camera with cables protected into safe box and PVC pipes (left). Screen and electrical installation protected against lightning (right)

Because of the need to re-arrange the housing of the birds for the new building, the breeding slightly decreased. Most of the pairs are housed close to each other (because of a lack of space now CCBC has one building less) and, consequently, disturb each other; but also the activity and noise around the building increased recently which impair the breeding season. We still hope breeding soon from the Black-winged Starling. In the meantime, we hope that the disturbance created by the building construction will be as short as possible to maximize our chance of breeding.

Nevertheless, some nest building activities were observed for one pair of Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush and Javan Green Magpie. The pair of Javan Green Magpie is new and very important for the Studbook so we hope that the birds will continue to make their nest and breed. We offered them the best chance to breed by housing them far away from the construction and in one of our best breeding aviaries.



**Picture 5.** Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush and Javan Green Magpie in the nest building process

After Hannah and Sophie (interns from Chester Zoo) came to CCBC and started over the cricket breeding with a new system, the breeding was taken over by the CCBC keeper. We are proud to say that the new protocol (based on other institutions' protocol) is running very well with a lot of young crickets bred in CCBC. Maintenance was also done in the cricket room to improve the isolation and increase the temperature. We hope that the cricket breeding will be soon enough to feed all our birds in CCBC and, consequently, having a self-sufficient cricket breeding. Until now, the crickets are bought in a market in Sukabumi and the team cannot ensure the quality of these crickets. By having "home-raised" crickets, the diet of our birds could be more controlled and refined depending on their needs.



**Picture 6.** New cricket breeding system and hatchling box

With the help of ZSL, the pellets given to the birds were analyzed to know more about the mineral and vitamin content (unfortunately not described on the package). ZSL sent the pellets to a lab in UK and came back with a detailed description of the content. Now that the team has better knowledge on this food item, we could refine the diet of all our birds with the help of ZSL and Chester Zoo.

## **REINTRODUCTION PROGRAMME**

It is with a deep sadness that we have to inform you that the Reintroduction Programme in PT. AntamPongkor Gold Mine will stop. Unfortunately, the condition on the release site deteriorated over the last 6 months. It is because the gold mine (where the release site is situated) will close soon and the security is becoming less and less. The reclamation of the area from the National Park led to a destruction of the villages around, including the trees used by the birds for roosting and foraging. In December 2015, 14 birds were observed in the area and the breeding was still running. Since then, the number of birds dropped significantly. Even if 8 birds were still observed in the release area in May 2016, the team is more and more facing the presence of bird catchers who are setting up mistnets and breaking our nest boxes. Despite the numerous meetings and request of security to the mining company and National Park around the released population, it has not been implemented due to a fear of fights between the guards and the illegal miners, coming more and more since the area is left without security.



**Picture 7.** Destruction of the villages around the release site as land reclamation from National Park



**Picture 8.** One of our most productive boxes, found open with the lock broken 1 month after it was changed

The team is now analyzing the different options for the birds such as leaving them with the hope that the local people will protect them from outsiders (since they had intensive Education and Awareness programmes, they are proud of their birds) or catching the remaining birds and bringing them back to CCBC. Both options are however difficult to implement and still under-discussion within the team, our partner Chester Zoo and the Forestry Department since a permit will be needed to catch the birds. We will keep you inform as soon as we have more information.

On a more positive note, CCBC is happy to have a new Interim Field Biologist that will cover the monitoring session and Habitat Assessment until the end of August.

## VISIT OF BALI

At the beginning of May, Anais Tritto (Curator) and RenaldiEdninVernia (Reintroduction Coordinator) came to Bali to visit the Begawan Foundation and share experiences about Reintroduction of the Black-winged Starling and Bali Starling.

The meetings were very productive and new ideas to strengthen both Education Programmes raised. Anais and Renaldi are very thankful to the Begawan Team for their welcome in Bali and hope that more experience sharing will happen in the future for the success of our both Reintroduction Programmes.



**Picture 9.** Meeting of the Begawan Team at the breeding centre. ©Begawan Foundation

The trip to Bali was also used to visit one private breeder in Tabanan that is breeding the Black-winged Starling (including the Bali subspecies though the purity is not confirmed), some bird markets and the Bali Bird Park for future collaboration for the International Studbook. From these visit, it has been found that few specimen of *Sturnus melanopterus tertius* could be found in captive institutions though there is an obvious hybridization going on between this rare subspecies and the two other ones. It is then important that organizations start to focus on getting pure *S. m. tertius* and start a breeding programme to ensure that this subspecies won't be lost.



**Picture 10.** Visit of the breeding facilities of the private breeder in Tabanan

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Thank you from all Cikananga Conservation Breeding Center Team!



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