



Picture 1. A wild-hatched bird now adult

## REINTRODUCTION PROGRAMME

The rainy season started in Pongkor with an increase of fruits, flowers and insects that our released Black-winged starlings and their descendants forage on. The population is stable with 12 individuals observed on the release site. The last fledglings are now 1 month old and are completely independent from the parents.

However, recent disturbances occurred within the release site when the National Park decided to implement actions against illegal villages and miners. The consequences were the burning of houses and illegal shops around the release site, including the tree where the birds were sleeping

every night. The team is now present to assess the impact on the released Black-winged starling population that seems to be minor. Indeed, the birds found another tree to sleep and their daily foraging pattern was not impaired. PT. Antam Pongkor Gold Mine and CCBC met recently to find a solution to this issue, including a request from CCBC for immediate information to the monitoring team when disturbances are happening on the release site. Both CCBC and PT. Antam Pongkor Gold Mine agreed on a better communication and the National Park will be approached to inform them on the consequences of their actions on the programme and how to work together to limit the impact.

Consequently, it was decided to delay the next release planned in December 2015 until the situation is fixed and until CCBC is sure that no other disturbance will occur on the release site. CCBC and PT. Antam Pongkor Gold Mine will meet again in January 2016 to review the last months and assess the future of the programme.

## CAPTIVE BREEDING

On the 1st of October, 2 interns from Chester Zoo arrived in CCBC to help the team for 6 months. Hannah and Sophie integrated well to the team and, in addition to take care of the birds, they are working on projects such as nutrition review for the birds, husbandry parameters that could increase the development of scaly legs in Black-winged Starlings and setting up a new system for the cricket breeding.



Picture 2. Our two new interns, Hannah and Sophie, from Chester Zoo



Picture 3. The new Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush in the quarantine cage

On the 28th of October, a new Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush arrived in CCBC. The bird was found in a bird shop in Bandung by Renaldi (CCBC Education Officer) and was immediately brought to CCBC. The bird was in good condition except a small wound on the top of the head and its feathers on both wings were cut so the bird cannot fly. The bird is currently in the new quarantine area and will be transferred in CCBC buildings once the quarantine period will be finished and the lab results will arrive.

The breeding season started for most of the birds with the beginning of the rainy season. The team is now surrounded by pairs laying eggs or having chicks! One Javan Green Magpie chick fledged out of its nest on the 13th of October and is now removed from the parents, showing a very good body condition!



Picture 4. The new juvenile Javan Green Magpie in CCBC!



**Picture 5.** Improvement of the mask coloration of the Black-winged starling after 3-month rest. On the left, a female before entering the resting aviary in July. On the right, the same female when leaving the resting aviary in October.



**Picture 6.** Fledgling Black-winged Starling

In October, new Black-winged Starling pairs were made after the birds got 3-month rest. The females were housed in a large aviary with access to outside and the team was happy to see that the condition of the birds significantly improved: bigger pectoral muscles, bright yellow mask and good feather condition. 11 pairs were formed depending on the recommendation from the studbook and behaviour compatibility. To date, 5 chicks hatched from 3 pairs (with two that fledged recently) and 5 pairs have eggs, the others being still in the nest building process. CCBC Team is happy to see the Black-winged Starling population building up again, nevertheless, more birds should be acquired soon to increase the genetic diversity and allow more breeding.

The Rufous-fronted Laughingthrushes also continue their breeding season with one juvenile that fledged on the 2nd of November and one pair with a newly hatched chick. The fledgling is still with its parents and will be removed in mid-December. Moreover, 2 other pairs are now incubating eggs so the team is looking forward these new chicks that will be recorded through CCTV to allow a prompt reaction in case of emergency.

The Sumatran Laughingthrushes are not inactive with one pair incubating eggs and one pair rearing chicks. Unfortunately, the Sumatran Laughingthrushes faced a big challenge with numerous eggs being unfertile. The CCBC team found out it is likely due to overweight males (case unfortunately common in Sumatran

Laughingthrush). The fat males got consequently a new diet with less pellets and enrichment in the cages to encourage them to move more to get their food. Once the male will have a lower weight, they will be introduced again to the female to assess on the breeding success.



**Picture 7.** The female Sumatran Laughingthrush sitting in the nest

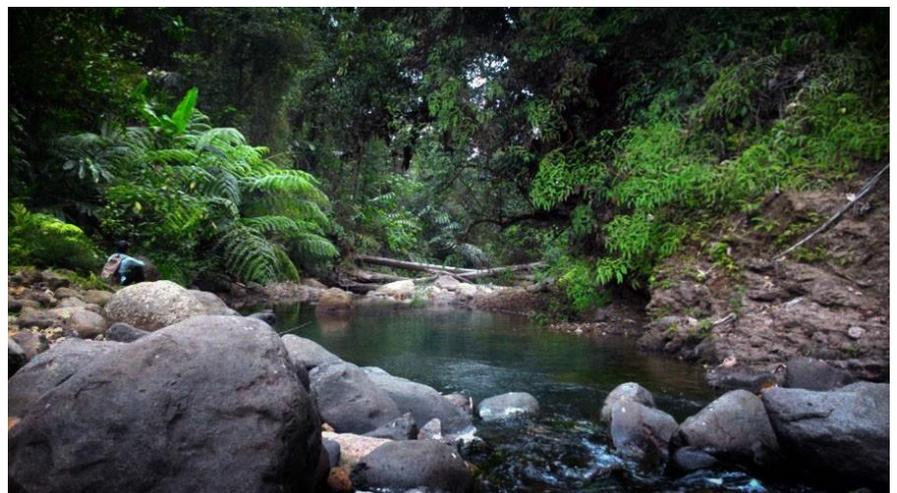
Finally, on the 23rd of October, the exported birds arrived safely in Chester Zoo after their transit by Taman Safari. 12 Javan Green Magpies and 8 Sumatran Laughingthrushes were sent to Taman Safari on the 28th of June 2015 to spend the quarantine period at the zoo and be exported to Europe to boost the European population for the Sumatran Laughingthrush and create a new back-up population for the Javan Green Magpie. CCBC would like to thank everybody who were involved in this export and ensure that the birds travelled safely from CCBC to Chester Zoo.



Picture 8. This female Javan Green Magpie is now settled in Europe as part of the EEP

## Javan Green Magpie survey

From the 10th to the 14th of October, Pupung Nurwatha and Ade Rahmat (from YPAL) went to Gunung Simpang Nature Reserve to look for Javan Green Magpies after getting information that individuals could remain in some areas. Interviews to local people revealed that 2 Javan Green Magpies were observed in May/June 2015 in a very remote location along a river. This location couldn't be surveyed due to a lack of time, the remoteness and the absence of guide to go there.



Picture 9. Location where the Javan Green Magpies were heard © Pupung Nurwatha

Nevertheless, two Javan Green Magpies were heard around an undisturbed river surrounded by forests, at around 1000 meters above sea level. No sign of bird catching was observed in this area meaning that this site could be a good sanctuary for the Javan Green Magpie. More visits will be planned as long as communication with the local people and local government to protect this area.

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