

# Preparing Passerine Chicks For *in-situ* Life

Jo Gregson Curator of Birds

Paignton Zoo UK

[Jo.Gregson@paigntonzoo.org.uk](mailto:Jo.Gregson@paigntonzoo.org.uk)



# Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*



# Devon to Cornwall



# GOALS

- To develop a release protocol
- To secure a second population
- To sustain and improve habitat
- To show no detriment to donor population
- To rear and release 60 birds a year
- To achieve a 30% survival rate come the following spring
- To build a self sustaining population of 30+ pairs



# Cirl Bunting

Six Days



Seven Days



# Brooders



# Fledging

**Nine Days**



**Ten Days**

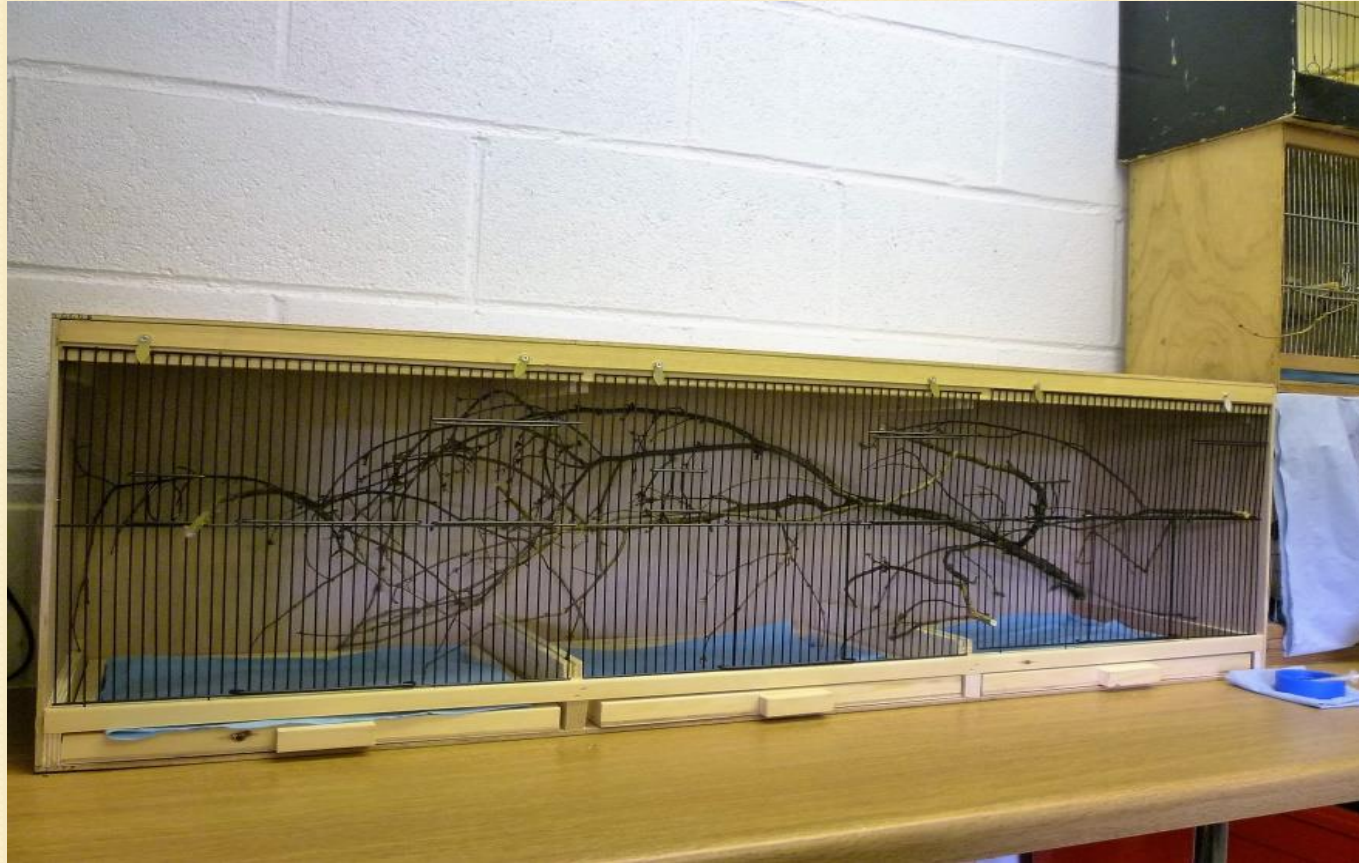


# Chestnut-backed Thrush





# Fledging Pen



# Time spent at each phase

- Ideal harvest age of 7 days
- Move out of brooder at 14 days
- Move out of weaning pen at 20-22 days
- Release Aviary opened around 27 days
- Total 20 days in captivity



# Weaning

**Thirteen Days**

**Sixteen Days**



# Cirl Buntings Weaning



# Open Gape Begging



# Learning The Food Items



# Twenty-two Days



# Release Aviary By Day 22





# Substrates





# Learning about sidewalks



# 16 Days Old



# Cabot's Tragopan in China



- Research reveals survival rate improves by 60% when given habitat training



# Pink Pigeon Mauritius



# Bustard in the UK



# Vultures in Israel







# Red-billed Cough Jersey



# Target Training



# Results

- 254 birds released over 4 years
- Resulting in 13 breeding pairs
- Project extended for 2 years -2010, 2011
- 122 more birds released
- Resulting in a total of 28 breeding pairs
- Numbers improved as wild bred birds started to breed
- 65 pairs recorded in 2016
- A total of 376 birds released



# THANK -YOU



Corners Limited  
is the proud sponsor of the  
2017 ASAG Workshops



Avian Scientific Advisory Group