

Blue-crowned Laughingthrush Global Species Management Plan



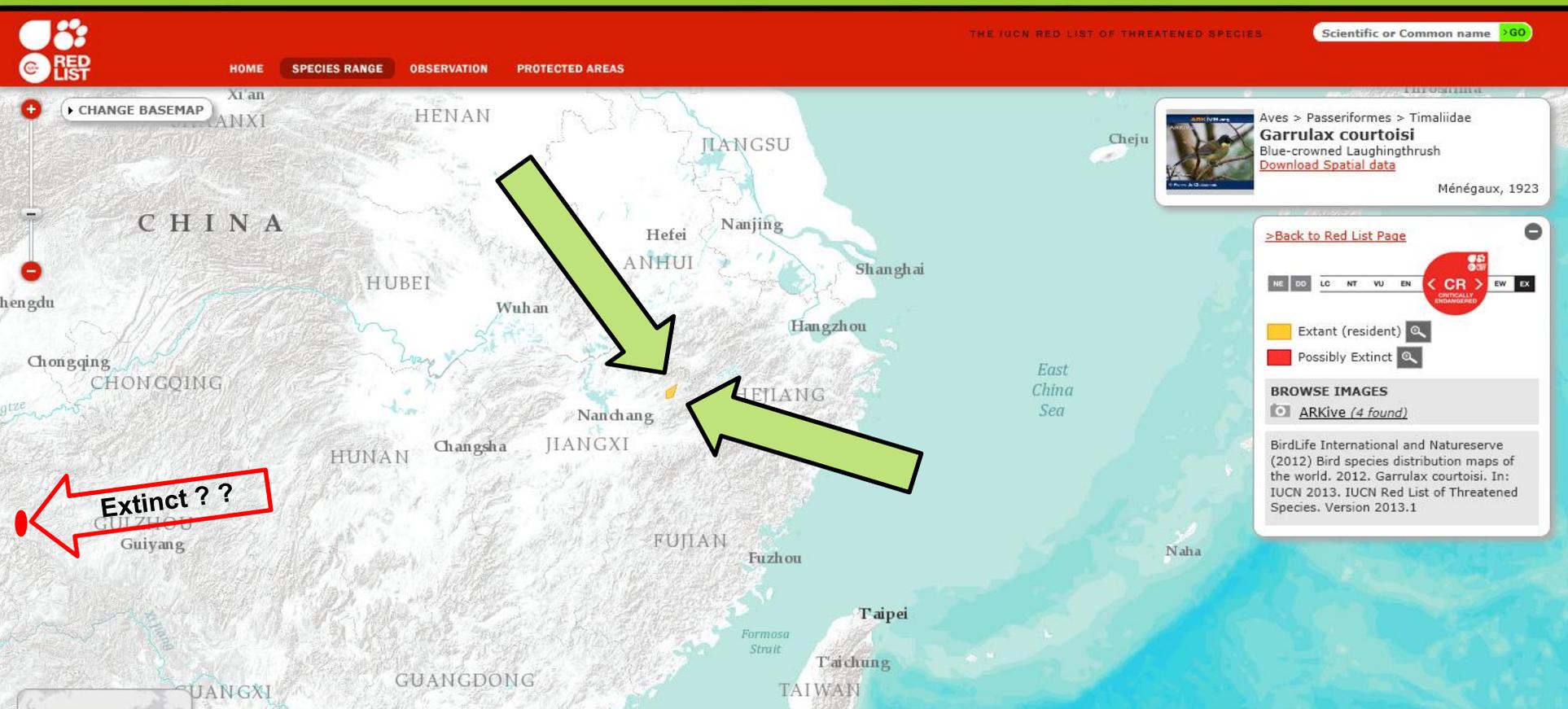
**Mark Myers, Curator
Woodland Park Zoo
Seattle, Washington, USA
mark.myers@zoo.org**



Corners Limited
is the proud sponsor of the
2015 ASAG Workshops



Blue-crowned Laughingthrush *in-situ* Population Status



- The Blue-crowned Laughingthrush, *Dryonastes courtoisi*, endemic to China, was known only from five museum skins, until dramatically appearing in the international bird trade in 1988.
- IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered (2012)
- Birds observed at 9 sites within the range; 2012 estimated population ~250
- Threats – habitat change; anthropogenic factors; risk of capture for bird trade

Blue-crowned Laughingthrush *ex-situ* Global Population Status



	EAZA	AZA	CAZG	GSMP	WILD
Current Population Size (as of Nov 2014)	159	38	21	~218	~250

Program Evolution



- **2003:** First approved as EAZA managed species (ESB).
- **2005:** First approved as an AZA managed species (PMP).
- **2008:** Collaboration between regional programs began.
- **2010:** Importation of 3.3 birds from EAZA to the San Diego Zoo to bolster AZA's declining population.
- **2012:** WAZA and EAZA/AZA propose BCLT as first avian GSMP.
- **2012:** International Studbook (ISB) approved (Laura Gardner, ZSL).
- **2013:** GSMP approved.

Factors Facilitating Establishment of the GSMP



Association partnerships, structure and oversight (CPM, WCMC)



GLOBAL SPECIES
MANAGEMENT PLAN



World Association of Zoos
and Aquariums | **WAZA**
United for Conservation

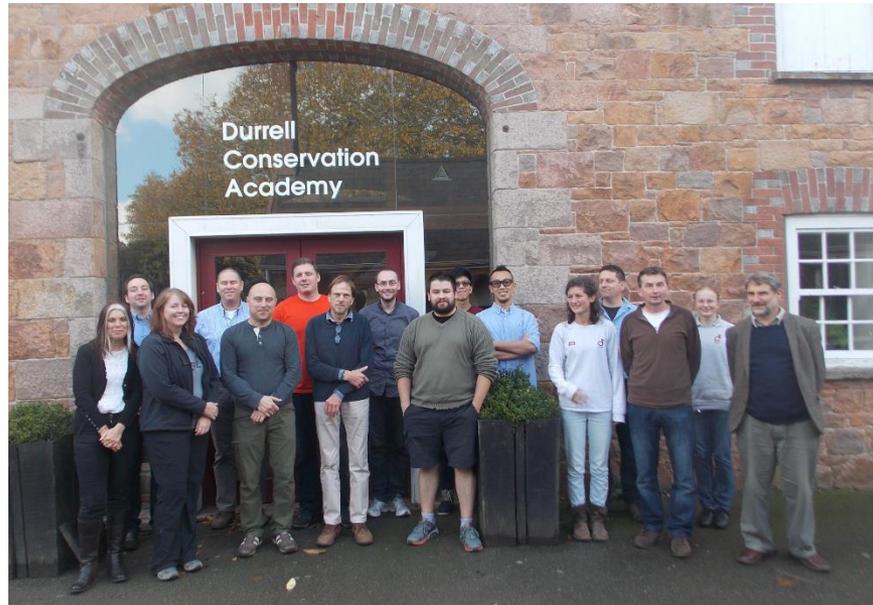
- Experienced ESB Manager with existing relationships with EAZA participants
- Up-to-date regional studbook
- A large and relatively stable BCLT population with many zoos successfully breeding
- Benefits of “next level” population management to produce long-term impacts on the EAZA population

- Experienced SSP Manager with existing relationships with AZA participants
- Up-to-date regional studbook analyzed by Population Management Center (PMC)
- A small, geriatric, declining BCLT population
- PMC Analyst expertise and willingness to serve on global level

- ✓ **Effective communications between program managers (no language barriers)**
- ✓ **Relative ease of shipping BCLT between EAZA and AZA. No CITES permits.**
 - ✓ **Flexibility in tailoring GSMP to serve taxon-specific needs.**
- ✓ **Existing AZA SSP template for breeding/transfer plans that was incorporated into the GSMP.**

GSMP Management Plan Meetings

- 1st hosted by the Chester Zoo 28-29 August, 2013.
- 2nd hosted by the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, 8-9 November, 2014
- 3rd to be hosted by the Lyon Zoo, 7-9 October, 2015
- Create analytical dataset for analyses.
- Draft regional and inter-regional breeding and transfer recommendations.
- Discuss medical issues and develop action items for the coming year



Progress Made Since...



- **10/2013:** Recruitment of Veterinary Advisors: Dr. Joe Smith (Fort Wayne Children's Zoo), Dr. Javier Lopez (Chester Zoo), Dr. Alberto Barbon (Jersey Wildlife Trust).
- **3/2014:** Publication and distribution of first global management plan including breeding/transfer recommendations for each specimen.
- **4/2014:** Recruitment of Pathology Advisor, Dr. Bruce Rideout, DVM, PhD, DACVP (Director, Wildlife Disease Laboratories, Institute for Conservation Research, San Diego Zoo Global).
- **5/2014:** Importation of 9 birds from EAZA to AZA (DAK and SDZ)
- **1/2015:** Publication of second master plan

Next Steps...

- Increase efforts to equalize founder representation across the global population.
- Study causes of high first year mortality.
- Use molecular genetics to complete pedigrees for birds of unknown ancestry.



Next Steps...



- Create a method for sharing best husbandry practices and husbandry protocols. **(Wikispace created)**
- Create global management plans on an annual basis. **Next meeting: hosted by Lyon Zoo, France, 7-9 October, 2015.** Goal is to alternate meetings between regions.
- Foster relationships with Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens (CAZG) range country zoos to facilitate their contribution in the GSMP.

Areas for Continuous Improvement ...

- Streamline review/approval process for draft master plans to allow finalization/distribution within 3 months of planning (while stakeholders are engaged in the process).
- Better identify institutions with financial and logistical resources to support inter-regional transfers.
- Involvement of Institutional Representatives in the entire GSMP process, with emphasis on review/feedback of draft management plans.
- Meeting institutional wants/needs and balancing with the programme's genetic and demographic goals.



...and Potential Challenges



- Carrying capacity vs breeding strategy: managing within limits of available space in Association zoos. Recruiting new spaces at experienced zoos.
- Inclusion of private participants in the GSMP (EAZA population)
- Potential biosecurity and/or future regulatory restrictions limiting movement of birds between regions.

Acknowledgments



GLOBAL SPECIES
MANAGEMENT PLAN



World Association of Zoos
and Aquariums | **WAZA**
United for Conservation

