

# What's Up

A quarterly newsletter

**WAR**  
WILDLIFE AT RISK

## Welcome !



The highlight in this quarter was a breeding program for conservation purposes that achieved promising results. Two cute little Asian Box Turtles are a testament to this. After meeting all the necessary conditions, these F1 individuals will be a complementary source to halt the current species decline. For the first time, WAR in cooperation with Binh Duong Province Forest Protection Department and Environmental Police rescued and successfully released 10 individual animals to Lo Go Xa Mat National Park - Tay Ninh Province. WAR assisted the Rescue Centre of U Minh Thuong National Park and provided a veterinarian as well as experienced specialists to provide technical supports to the center. Rescuing and successfully releasing 30 water-birds into wetland areas in Mekong delta region from a dedicated temple. Also in this quarter WAR and the Institute for Ecological and Biological Resources (IEBR) organized a survey field trip to Ta Dung Nature Reserve – Dak Nong Province. This activity was part of a long-standing collaboration on biodiversity preservation between WAR and IEBR. WAR wishes to express its gratitude to everyone and every organization that supported and cooperated with us in our actions on wildlife preservation in the past !

Sincere thanks !

**Nguyen Vu Khoi**  
Director

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## Surveying biodiversity at

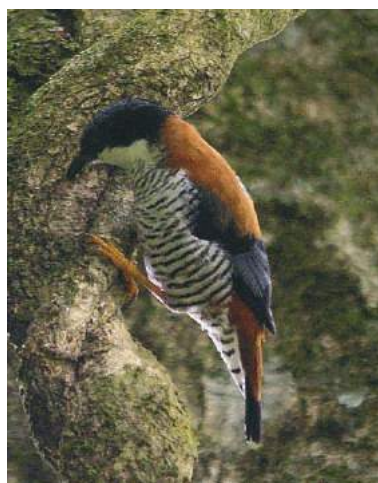
## Ta Dung Nature Reserve – Dak Nong Province

In late May and early June 2017, WAR and the Institute for Ecological and Biological Resources (IEBR) organized a survey of the Ta Dung Nature Reserve – Dak Nong Province. This activity was part of a long-standing collaboration on biodiversity preservation between WAR and IEBR. The survey team recorded 87 bird species, 138 butterfly species, 20 fish species, 52 reptile amphibian species and 18 bat species. Three of area's endemic birds are Grey-crowned Crocias (*Crocias langbianus*), Vietnamese Cutia (*Cutia legalleni*) and Annam Barbet (*Megalaima annamensis*). Especially Grey-crowned Crocias, this is the fourth that this species has been found after Don Duong - Lam Dong province in 2009 and Mang Den – Kon Tum province in 2012. More importantly, this species was very populous in Ta Dung in the survey area whilst in other locations they have rarely found after initial discovery.

▼ Grey - crowned Crocias  
*Crocias langbianus* Gyldenstolpe, 1939



Photo: WAR / B.H.Manh



▲ Vietnamese Cutia  
*Cutia legalleni* Robinson & Kloss, 1919



▲ Mr. Randan Dean Babb

◀ Annam Barbet  
*Megalaima annamensis*  
(Collar & Feinstein, 2008)



## Several Butterfly Species of Ta Dung Nature Reserve – Dak Nong Province



Lance Sergeant  
*Athyma pravya*



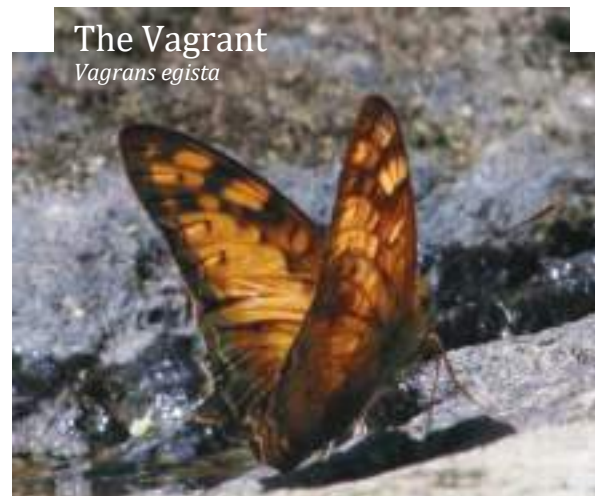
Rounded Sixline Blue  
*Nacaduba berenice*



Palin Cupid  
*Chilades pandava*



Orange oakleaf  
*Kalima inachus*



The Vagrant  
*Vagrans egista*



Pale Fourline Blue  
*Nacaduba hermus*

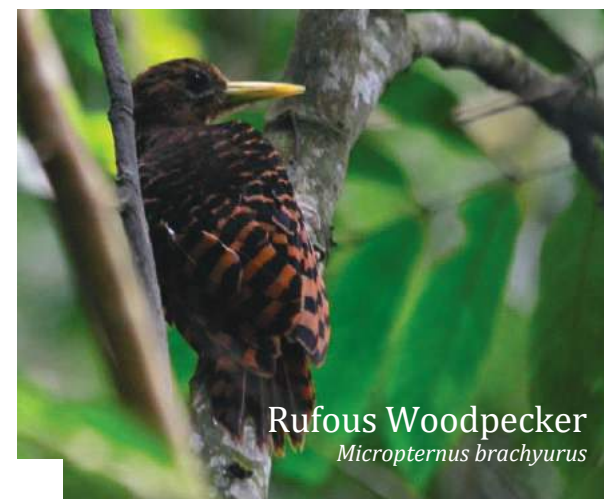
## Several Bird Species of Ta Dung Nature Reserve – Dak Nong Province



Green Bee-eater  
*Merops orientalis*



Rufous-backed Sibia  
*Leioptila annectens*



Rufous Woodpecker  
*Micropternus brachyurus*



Black-throated Sunbird  
*Aethopiga saturata*



Yellow-billed Nuthatch  
*Sitta solangiae*



White-bellied Eponis  
*Erpornis zantholeuca*



## Several Amphibians Species of Ta Dung Nature Reserve – Dak Nong Province ▼ Photo: WAR / Robert Wayne Van Devender





## Several Bat Species of Ta Dung Nature Reserve – Dak Nong Province ▼ Photo : WAR/ Randan Dean Babb

Short-nosed Indian fruit bat  
*Cynopterus cf. sphinx*



Lesser bamboo bat  
*Tylonycteris fulvida*



Harrison's tube-nosed bat  
*Murina cf. harrisoni*



Leaf-nosed bat  
*Hipposideros cf. armiger*





## Recovering Wilderness during a field trip at Ta Dung Nature Reserve





# Recovering Wilderness during a field trip at Ta Dung Nature Reserve



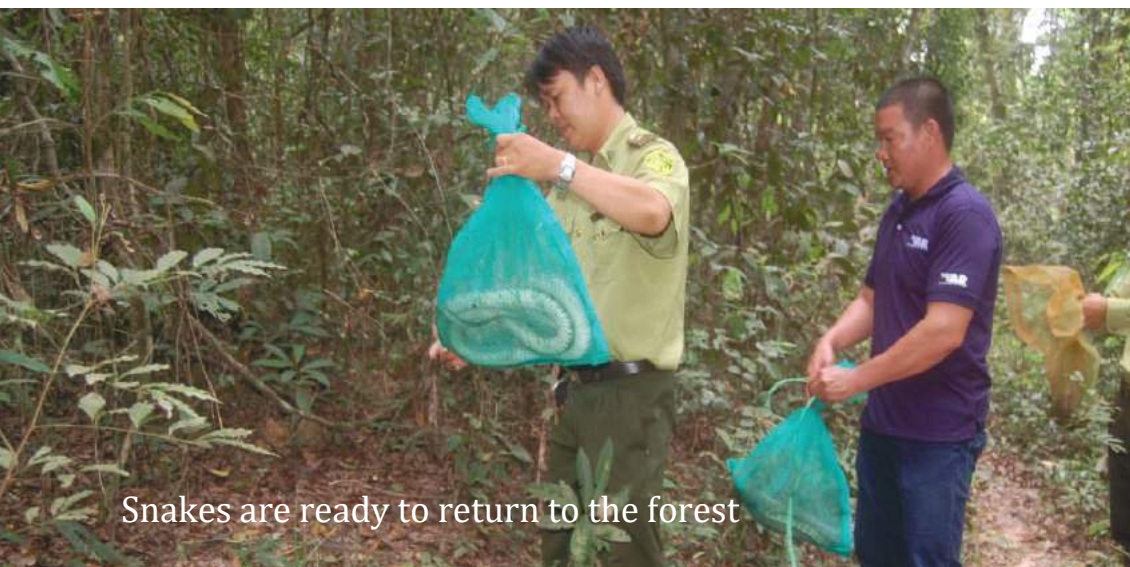


## Wildlife return “Home”

▼ Photo: WAR/ L.X.Lam

On 13th April 2017 – Four ferret-badger (*Melogale personata*), four Indo-Chinese Rat snake (*Ptyas mucosus*), two Asian sunbeam snake (*Xenopeltis unicolor*) were successfully released in Lo Go Xa Mat National Park, Tay Ninh Province by Wildlife At Risk (WAR) in cooperation with Binh Duong Province Forest Protection Department. All of the wildlife released was cared for by WAR's experienced staff before release.

Most of the wildlife released was confiscated from illegal trade by the Forest Protection Department and the Binh Duong Environmental Police. This cooperation between WAR and the Binh Duong Forest Protection Department has received great support from a program of conservation biodiversity run by WAR and the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR) within this province.



Snakes are ready to return to the forest



Burmese ferret-badger  
has returned to the nature





The birds just return to the ideal living environment ▲



One of the 13 Asian openbill released at U Minh Thuong National Park ▲



An Indian spotted-bill will have chances to forage freely in the wild ▲

Photo: WAR / L.X.Lam

## Release 30 birds to nature

On the 7th June 2017, there was a request for Wildlife At Risk (WAR) from a dedicated temple to help release donated birds. WAR proceeded to contact the Rescue Centre of U Minh Thuong National Park and provided a veterinarian as well as experienced rescue specialists to provide technical support for the Center. WAR's experts provided technical support by, caring for the birds, carrying out health checks, species identification and ensuring appropriate release methods of the birds. The 30 donated birds were endemic species of the wetland areas typical Mekong delta region.

The total numbers of wildlife released included 13 rare Asian Openbill (*Anastomus oscitans*), which is listed as "R level" in the Vietnam Red

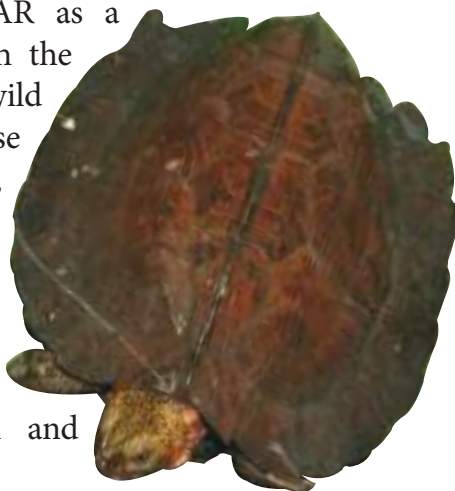
data Book; 3 Indian Spotted-bill (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) and 14 Greater coucals (*Centropus sinensis*). The veterinarian as well as experts from WAR and the park had examined these birds. The experienced specialists also advised on the suitable habitat for release. The peat wetland within the Mekong Delta is an ideal habitat for waders to flourish, especially the Ciconiidae family. Furthermore additional genes added to the local pool will contribute positively to the genetic diversity of local populations.



## Five Turtle species are included in the breeding program

Breeding for conservation purposes is defined by WAR as a long-term developmental orientation and consistent with the current species decline. Firstly, WAR is carrying out semi-wild reproduction of five Turtle species: Elongated Tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*), Asian Leaf Turtle (*Cyclemys dentata*), Yellow headed temple Turtle (*Hieremys annandalii*) and Asian Box Turtle (*Cuora amboinensis*).

Individuals born in the F1 generation will be released into the wilderness and this will provide effective aid to current species decline, after being tested by a veterinarian and determined to be fit and able to reintegrate into the wild.



▲ Asian leaf Turtle (*Cyclemys dentata*)

▼ Elongated Tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*)



▼ Yellow-headed temple Turtle (*Hieremys annandalii*)



## BREEDING PROGRAM FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES

Photo: WAR/ L.X.Lam - N.V.Khoi

▼ Asian Box Turtle (*Cuora amboinensis*)



Orange-headed Temple Turtle (*Heosemys grandis*)





## *Born in love*

## TAKE CARE THE TURTLES SEEING THE INITIAL RESULTS

The breeding program of rare species is one of the main conservation priorities for WAR. Promising Initial results have been achieved with the Asian Box Turtle. We are hoping in the near future that we will help produce the young of various turtle species. These F1 individuals will be fostered by WAR's staffs and veterinarians in the best possible conditions. They will be released into the wild after meeting the appropriate health conditions, so they can integrate easily and successfully. This will allow us to prioritize the promotion of breeding programs aimed at preserving and replenishing endangered wildlife species.

Photo: WAR/ L.X.Lam - N.V.Khoi



*If you look closely you can see a pair of Asian Box reproducing in order to maintain the local population. The female has to completely submersed to facilitate reproduction.*



*After the reproductive process, she produced oval eggs sized 30-34mm / 40-46mm which were buried under a thin layer of sand . With the suitable temperature and humidity after 100 days, ...*



*These two cute little Asian Box Turtles are a product of this process and they will grow up in the safe haven of WAR's facilities to help repopulate local habitats.*

What do we do in the face of the decline of many rare wildlife species in nature today?



## *Practical contributions*

Photo: WAR/ L.X.Lam



*Volunteers join cut and paste the plastic sheet of the aquarium*



*I drive a wheel also pats out !!!*



*An excited smile on the faces of the volunteers when seeing the result of their own labor*

In April, WAR was delighted to receive the help of five volunteers who from Osprey-packs - one of WAR's faithful sponsors. A 35-square-meter lake was completed within a two-hour period through jobs such as mixing cement, pushing concrete, cutting and gluing plastic sheets. This was constructed in preparation for the indigenous fish-breeding program. This program aims to preserve and restore wild populations. The smiles on the faces of the volunteers expressed the enthusiasm and satisfaction with which the project was completed. Their dedication and enthusiasm inspires us to keep on fighting for conservation issues!

## Join hands for the community



## *Colors in life*



These are the animals and plants distributed and living in Thanh Tuyen Commune, Dau Tieng District, Binh Duong Province.

Exploring the flora and fauna in our environment

Photo: WAR/ N.V.Khoi



# What's Up

## *Acknowledgements*

- ▶ WAR would sincerely like to thank the Dragon Capital Group who has accompanied WAR in all our wildlife protection activities for many years.
- ▶ We sincerely thank Osprey Pack for cooperating with WAR and supporting us in preserving wild animals for the past few years.
- ▶ We would also like to acknowledge and sincerely thank IPPL for supporting WAR during past years in rescuing Vietnam's endangered primate species.
- ▶ We would like to thank the Cologne Zoo – Germany for its support of WAR and contributions through technical advice on our practical work in Vietnam.
- ▶ WAR would like to acknowledge every individual or company who supports WAR in our efforts for wildlife protection.



**Thank You!**



[www.wildlifeatrisk.org](http://www.wildlifeatrisk.org)