



Bali Daily



Edition: Saturday, July 20 2013

Making a haven for Bali Starlings in Nusa Penida

BY LUH DE SURIYANI ON 2013-07-20

////////////////// IN BRIEF //////////////////

- ✓ Happy dance contest
- ✓ Auction raises \$18,000 for Uluwatu surf spot



In the wild: A Bali Starling enjoys an undisturbed time in the wild.

In the mornings, young I Nengah Sudipa delivers freshly cut papaya for two pairs of Bali Starlings at the Friends of National Parks Foundation (FNPF) in Nusa Penida, Klungkung regency.

Bali starlings (*Leucopsar rothschildi*) are also known as the Rothschild's Mynah, Bali Mynah or Jalak Bali, or in the local language curik. These endangered birds are the symbol of the province of Bali.

The two pairs of starlings are part of the FNPF Bali Starling breeding program and thus are in cages covered with black cloth. The cloth is designed to minimize human activities that could distract the two mating pairs.

The FNPF has been running its conservation and community development projects on Nusa Penida since 2004, with a focus on wildlife. It aims to rebuild populations of endangered Indonesian birds, including Bali's emblem bird, the Bali Starling.

//// //// DAILY HOT SPOTS //// ////

- ✓ GOLGLINK RESORT PACATU – NEW KUTA GOLF Merdeka Challenge Member & Guest Tournament
- ✓ WOOBAR Saturday, July 20 W RETREAT & SPA BALI SEMINYAK Presents Haus feat Marques Wyatt (Deep/LA) and Marasco (Surface/ HI)
- ✓ RIP CURL CUP
- ✓ Rare performance in Sanur!
- ✓ PRE EVENT Ubud Village Jazz Festival 2013

//// //// SIGHTSEEING //// ////

Making a haven for Bali Starlings in Nusa Penida

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Kadek Sumerta, who works with FNPF, said that the conservation area welcomed public visitors, with no entrance fee charged.



Information: An information board details the FNPF's breeding and conservation program, and a lot of pictures.

"There are many foreign volunteers staying here. They donate some money," he said. The area offers some rented rooms for visitors to stay in the conservation area.

Currently, only two pairs of Bali Starling are kept in the site. Recently, six have been freed on the neighboring island of Nusa Lembongan.

Nusa Penida is hoping to become known as a haven for the Bali Starlings, which are also the island's mascot.

The FNPF encouraged villagers to take part in creating this haven for Bali Starlings by distributing tree seeds for free. These seeds then grow into the large trees that serve as a favored place for Bali Starlings to nest in the wild.

“There are about 15 curik living in the trees near this place,” said Sumerta, adding that the best time to watch the birds was in the afternoon.

In addition to the breeding site, there are 14 other spots in Nusa Penida frequently visited by the curik. These include Sental hamlet, Seibun lbuh and Tying.



Guesthouse: Visitors could stay in this lodging facility during their visit to the FNPF site.



Feeding time: A member of FNPF staff feeds a flock of Bali Starlings temporarily kept inside an enclosure.



Bird of prey: The FNPF facility also breeds the changeable hawk-eagle.



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