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Galliformes Specialist Group

2020

Galliformes Specialist Group Annual Report 2020

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IUCN SSC Galliformes Specialist Group



2020 Report



John Carroll



Rahul Kaul

Co-Chairs

John Carroll ⁽¹⁾
Rahul Kaul ⁽²⁾

Red List Authority Coordinator

BirdLife International

Location/Affiliation

⁽¹⁾ School of Natural Resources, University of Lincoln, Nebraska, US
⁽²⁾ Wildlife Trust of India, Uttar Pradesh, India

Number of members

163

Social networks

Facebook: Galliformes Specialist Group
Twitter: @galliformes_SG
Website: <https://galliformes.org>



Galliformes Specialist Group

Mission statement

The Galliformes Specialist Group (GSG) is committed to the worldwide conservation and sustainable management of all native populations of Galliformes species and their habitats.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

We expect to improve the protection of a suite of Galliformes species in Southeast Asia through a regionally focused action planning approach. This will be designed to influence conservation policy in one of the countries of this region containing important Galliformes species, most probably Myanmar, securing better protection for species and their habitats and leading to population recovery. In addition, we aim to use the expertise of the conservation breeding community together with field conservationists and partners to develop a 'one plan' approach that will enhance the population of the Critically Endangered Edwards's Pheasant (*Lophura edwardsi*, also known as Viet Nam Pheasant, probably our most threatened extant species). Enhanced communications and support provided by the GSG will stimulate new conservation project work on the ground for threatened Galliformes in other regions of the world, designed to raise awareness and improve protection that will ultimately lead to population recovery. We aim to use the Green Listing process to predict and evaluate success.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Green List: actively participate in the development of the Green List by offering Galliformes species for piloting and being at the forefront of the introduction of the Green Listing process.

Plan

Planning: produce one regional action plan covering Galliformes species.

Act

Conservation actions: bring together the captive (conservation) breeding community and field conservationists by encouraging the development of more 'one plan' thinking towards the conservation of Galliformes.

Network

Proposal development and funding: develop and implement a proactive scheme for encouraging the Galliformes community to secure funding for the conservation of our species, including provision of a service to review, improve and endorse funding proposals.

Synergy: develop a more formalised relationship between GSG and related groups, especially the Grouse Group.

Communicate

Communication: improve communications via online and virtual methods.

Activities and results 2020

Assess

Green List

i. We were part of the pilot Green List assessments and a PhD student at Newcastle University, Garima Gupta, included Green List assessment as part of her thesis. Green List assessments have been completed for 12 Himalayan Galliformes species and a number of other species from North America. Several members of GSG are co-authors on the upcoming *Conservation Biology* publication on Green Listing. (KSR #11, 27)



Alagoas Curassow, *Mitu mitu*, Extinct in the Wild
Photo Luis Fabio Silveira.jpg

Plan

Planning

i. A Long-Term Management Plan (LTMP) for the Viet Nam Pheasant has been drafted (final published version released in 2020). Progress was made on developing a Species Recovery Plan for the Viet Nam Pheasant, involving both the in situ and ex situ community, including meetings held in September as part of a Galliformes conference held in Viet Nam. (KSR #15, 31)

Network

Proposal development and funding

i. Further funding reviews were received and processed via the Co-Chairs. The service to review, improve and endorse proposals has not yet been achieved. (KSR #30)

Synergy

i. Informal linkages and communications have been developed between GSG and related groups, but no agreements have yet been formed. (KSR #29)

Communicate

Communication

i. Due to lack of funding to update, we decided to pull back the GSG website. We are presently working on it offline to update software and security of the system. We continue to host a social media presence on Facebook and Twitter. (KSR #28)

ii. We maintain a Facebook page under 'Galliformes Specialist Group', managed by Co-Chair John Carroll. We believe this helps GSG reach more advocates for Galliformes who are not professional biologists. We typically post 1–10 items per week and usually try to focus on some combination of species news, interesting photos or videos, and communication of science and conservation for the public. We have a fairly stable group of followers representing 45+ countries and 600–800 individuals. Cumulatively during 2020, we reached almost 1,500 followers. Our typical post reach is usually about 150–250 reads with several up to 1,000. During 2020, we reached more than 1,400 likes our page. We have exclusively depended on organic engagement of our Facebook page. (KSR #28)

iii. Our Twitter account under '@galliformes_SG' is also managed by Co-Chair John Carroll. We typically post much less there and most of our followers are biologists. Again, the main focus is providing information. We are very selective in who we follow, and only follow six Twitter accounts to date. We are followed by 117 accounts. Our goal in 2021 is to significantly increase our followers and slowly increase the number of accounts we follow. (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the World Pheasant Association for organisation of a successful Galliformes conference in Viet Nam in September 2020. Thanks to Viet Nature for their work on species recovery for the Viet Nam Pheasant and to other partners in this endeavour, including BirdLife, Berlin Zoo, Antwerp Zoo, Wild Planet Trust (Paignton Zoo) and North of England Zoological Society (Chester Zoo). Thanks to colleagues at Newcastle University, UK, for helping to test the Green List with Galliformes.

Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 4/5

Assess	1	
Plan	1	
Network	2	
Communicate	3	

Main KSRs addressed: 11, 15, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31

KSR: Key Species Result