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WPA News 6 (1984)

World Pheasant Association

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WPA



NEWS

No. 6

September 1984



The International News of the World Pheasant Association

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 1984

September 1984

24-27th

4th World Conference on Breeding Endangered Species in Captivity, Rotterdam, Holland.

29-30th

WPA International Convention, Antwerp Zoo, Belgium. Organised by WPA Benelux.

October 1984

1-3rd

Post Convention Tour.

12th

Premier Filmshow - "The Bird of Nine Colours" Anglia Survival Film at the Cricklade Theatre, Andover, Hants

November 1984

30th-2nd. Dec.

National Cage and Aviary Bird Exhibition at N.E.C. Birmingham. WPA Exhibit.

May 1985

WPA/Mountain Travel Trek to Pipar Reserve, Nepal. Avicultural Training Day (Venue to be announced).

July 1985

26-28th

Australia Pheasant & Waterfowl Society, Convention on the Capricorn Coast in Queensland.

NOTE OUR ADDRESS

The World Pheasant Association,

PO Box 5,

Church Farm, Lower Basildon,

Reading RG8 9PF, England.

Telephone: Upper Basildon (049162) 271 (24 hour answering service)

Executive Secretary - Elaine Ballinger.

THE CHILD BEALE WILDLIFE TRUST

Lower Basildon, Reading, Berks.

Telephone: Upper Basildon 325 (Mr. Tom Gardner) or Upper Basildon 219

WPA Members - 2 Free visits per Season to the Trust

OPEN: Mar 31 to Sept 30 inclusive. 10a.m. - 6p.m. Closed Friday.

AVICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICE

To assist members with their avicultural problems, we have set up a network of experienced breeders who are willing to give advice as required.

Mr. M. Williams, Devon Game Farm, Galampton, Brixham, Devon. Tel: (0803) 843850

Mrs. J. Surcouf, 13 Satanita Road, Westcliff, Southend on Sea, Essex Tel: (0702) 351795

Mr. C. Vaughan, Bockingfold, Ladhams Road, Goudhurst, Cranbrook, Kent Tel: (05803) 211647

Mr. J. Barron, 211 Chapel Lane, New Longton, Preston, Lancs. (No telephone)

Mr. J.S. Cox, Tanglewood, Newstead Abbey Park, Linby, Notts. Tel: (0623) 792552

Mr. K. Chalmers Watson, Fenton Barns, North Berwick, East Lothian, Scotland. Tel: (062085) 225

Mr. J.W. Thornhill, 31 Willington Road, Etwell, Derby. Tel: (028373) 3349 (*For Quail & Partridge*).

Cover photograph: Chinese Monal — Male.

Back Cover: Koklass Pheasant — Male. *Photo:* John Baylis.

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

In accordance with the Rules of the Association, we request nominations of candidates to serve on Council. Each candidate must have two nominations to be eligible to stand for election, these are required in writing to the Secretary by 20th October, 1984, together with the nominee's written acceptance of such nomination.

HELP REQUIRED

Any Member interested in helping the Chairman with Avicultural matters? If so, would they please let him know as soon as possible. Any help would be much appreciated.

G.E.S.R. (04494) 471

THE 1984 CLA GAME FAIR

Each year when WPA stages an exhibit at a Game Fair, it always is better than the year before. This year's was no exception, in fact without doubt it was the most successful ever staged.

The whole stand was designed and

constructed under the leadership of Keith and Jean Howman, and its theme portrayed the various aspects of WPA. We are most grateful to Messrs. Buckmaster & Moore, the London Stockbrokers, who sponsored our exhibit, and Stowells of Chelsea, who gave a bottle of wine to each new member recruited, which totalled 50 at the end of the three days.

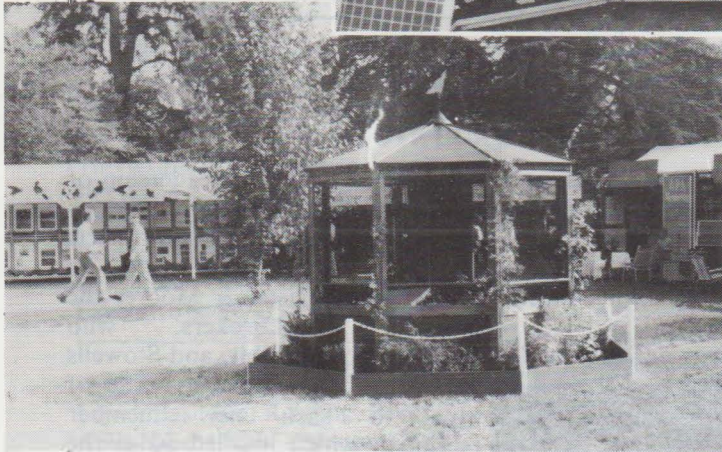
As ever, the Quail/Partridge Group created much interest with their centre exhibit, the fly tying demonstrations and antiquarian bookstall drew their normal crowds of interested people, and with excellent weather for the whole of the Fair, our sales of tee shirts rocketed. In all a very well organised and enjoyable time, many thanks to all who helped to make it such a success.



Main entrance to the WPA Stand.

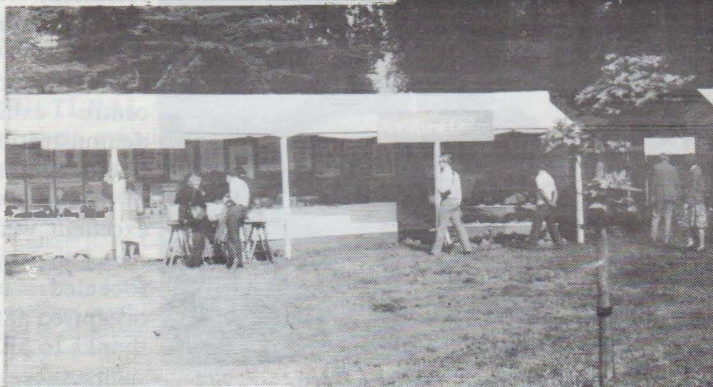
**THE 1984 GAME FAIR HELD AT BROADLANDS, ROMSEY,
the home of Lord Romsey, the grandson of Lord Mountbatten**

A display of major WPA
Projects.



A display of Quail and
Partridge.

The demonstration and
Avicultural Area.





Iain Graham's Antiquarian Books.



T-Shirt Bar.



GEOFF JACOBS

It is not our policy to single out individuals who help us at our Annual Game Fair, as all our volunteers are very much appreciated, and there would certainly be no WPA exhibit if it were not for their efforts. But this year it was unanimously agreed that Geoff Jacobs should be officially thanked for the excellent work put in to construct what proved to be a very successful stand. A Master Carpenter by profession, Geoff

has been helping WPA to construct its stand each year since the first Game Fair at Glanusk Park, Wales in 1976, and except for a period of 10 months off work in 1980, Geoff has consistently helped with the design and construction of our exhibit. A very modest person by

nature, Geoff will tell you that it was the fellowship of WPA which kept him going during his hardest times. WPA would like to say thank you to Geoff Jacobs and look forward to seeing you at many more Game Fairs in the future.

WPA Council.

THE BROADLANDS SET OF FOUR GUNS

by

HOLLAND & HOLLAND 1984

A set of four guns were started more than four years ago for completion in 1984. They were to be a follow up to two previous sets of guns which included the Queen's Silver Jubilee guns in 1977 and the Wildfowl and Wader guns of 1983.

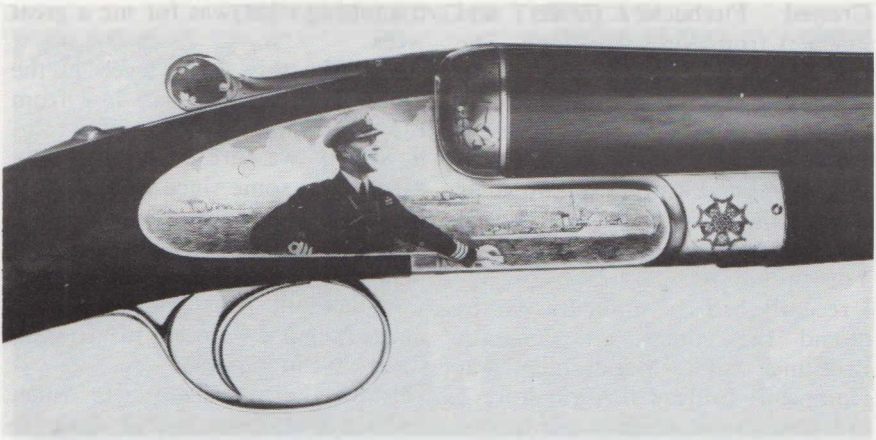
A year ago it was thought it would be appropriate for this set to commemorate the 1984 Game Fair at Broadlands, the home of Lord Mountbatten. His grandson, Lord Romsey, to whom the house and property were left on Lord Mountbatten's death, agreed to the proposal, but felt that as far as it was possible the theme should illustrate the history of Broadlands, with special emphasis on his grandmother, Lady Mountbatten who inherited the property through her father.

As much as possible of the history of the house and its distinguished owners has been portrayed in the engraving of the eight lock plates and four actions. It was decided to engrave the first gun with three scenes of episodes in Lord Mountbatten's life up to the end of the Second World War, the second gun with scenes showing Lord and

Lady Mountbatten during the period when they were Viceroy and Vicereine of India in 1947. The number three and four guns portray scenes of the family and the house up to Christmas 1983 with an engraving of Lord and Lady Romsey and their two children.

The engravings on other parts of each gun have been linked to the period of the principal gun engraving scenes so far as is possible - for example, the knuckles of the number one gun are engraved with two wartime decorations of Lord Mountbatten, one British and the other American, whilst the number two gun has two orders connected with India. In the same way the floral engravings are all taken from photographs of shrubs and plants named after members of the family and on the gun on which they are most depicted.

The very high standard of engraving - particularly the portraiture, has been achieved by what is now referred to as "dot" engraving - a painstaking process requiring great concentration on the part of the engraver. It is believed to be the first time that this technique



has been used in Britain on the steel-work of guns. It should also be mentioned that engraving from photographs presents considerable difficulties and some scenes have to be adapted to fit the shapes of the actions and locks.

Whilst the specifications of the gun cabinet are given elsewhere, it is important to note that the cabinet has been designed in the style of the Victorian mahogany book case in the Palmerston room at Broadlands.

A donation is to be made by Holland & Holland at the time of the Game Fair in July, to charitable projects in which Lord Romsey and the Holland & Holland Company

are interested - particularly in relation to wildlife conservation. One of these will be the World Pheasant Association, whose exhibition stand at the last five Game Fairs has become one of the most prominent, and this particular donation will serve to show the important relationship between the interests of shooting and conservation.

In conclusion Holland & Holland are proud to mention that the craftsmen who have built and engraved these guns, made the cabinet, the special fittings and book bindings, are approximately thirty years of age.

NEWS FROM THE CHILD BEALE WILDLIFE TRUST

Breeding results at the Trust have been mixed this season. The collection has amongst its birds a number which, although very good from an exhibition point of view, are not so good for breeding, being either infertile or incapable! However, the Trust had some

successes, including Satyr Tragopan, Edwards', Silver, Reeves, Nepal Kalij, Green peafowl and others. None of these birds were bred in large quantities and *unrelated* pairs of birds will not be available.

In June we received two Bornean

Crested Firebacks (Male and Female) from Keith Howman. The male is a particularly fine specimen and displays quite frequently to the female. Arrangements are at present being made to receive a pair of Black Breasted Kalij (also known as Horsfields Kalij) which have been donated by Mr. Ray Houlston of Yorkshire.

I recently had the good fortune to attend the course on Pheasant Breeding and Management at Hampshire College of Agriculture. I can heartily recommend the course to anyone interested in pheasants (ornamental or game). I would like to thank Keith and Jean Howman for their hospitality at Ashmere, likewise to Peter Mayse at Holsley Waterfowl. Thanks are also due to Dr. Tim Lovel for an entertaining lecture on nutrition and genetics, to Dr. J.V. Beer for guiding us so well through the bodies of pheasant and partridge!, and not least to Mike Gill of the Game Conservancy for

organising what was for me a great week.

As I write this, Lake levels at the Trust have become very low from the continuing lack of rain, however, we are not as badly affected as some since we have our own water supply from a bore-hole. This is just as well, as we recently planted over 100 Rhododendrons in the pheasant pens and they have needed regular watering just to keep them alive in the heat.

Due to the many enquiries which the Trust has been getting recently, we have decided to introduce an adoption scheme. This will mean that schools, families and individuals can adopt any of the animals at the Trust - from a Highland bull to a Japanese Quail. Adoption rates will vary according to the species concerned but the pheasants should work out at about £7-£10.00 per year. Full details are available from the Trust on request.

Tom Gardiner, July '84.

**THE COUNCIL OF THE WORLD PHEASANT ASSOCIATION
AND THE DIRECTORS OF BERRY BROS. & RUDD**

Invite you to an evening of wine, supper and a special première showing of the new Anglia Survival film 'The Bird of Nine Colours', which was filmed principally in the Everest National Park, Nepal,

at the Cricklade Theatre, near Andover,

on

Friday 12th October, 1984

at 6.45 p.m.

R.S.V.P. Elaine Ballinger,
World Pheasant Association,
P.O. Box 5,
Church House Farm,
Lower Basildon, RG8 9PF.

Tickets: £10.00 each

THE GATHERING OF THE CLAN



Gene Knoder

Gary Robbins

Keith Howman

Photograph taken by John Buckland at the highly successful UK Members Day held at Ashmere in May 1984.

TO ALL JUNIOR MEMBERS

Future issues of WPA News will carry a special 'JUNIOR MEMBERS' section. In addition to regular articles on a wide range of pheasant-related subjects we also hope to publish some of your letters, and answer your avicultural queries. There will also be competitions, quizzes, and other items of interest to 'JUNIOR MEMBERS'.

Why not take this opportunity to write to us with your ideas, queries and views? Let us know *you* would like to see on *your* page.

Now for our very first competition:-

We would like you to design a 'JUNIOR MEMBERS' logo. The design should be suitable for use as a sticker, button badge, letterhead, etc.; the artwork need not be brilliant as the winning entry will be re-drawn by a professional artist, what we really want are lots of ideas!

The finished design should contain the letters WPA and the words 'JUNIOR MEMBER'. It should also be suitable for reproduction in black and white and should be "all your own work".

The competition is open to all WPA Junior Members under age 16 on 1st September 1984. The winner will receive the framed re-drawn original design plus Keith Howman's book on pheasants.

Closing date for the competition is 12th October 1984.

Send your competition entries and letters to:—

WPA junior members, Church Farm, Lower Basildon, Reading RG8 9NH.

Conservation Projects



WILDLIFE PRESERVATION TRUST



INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE FOR THE CONSERVATION AND THE CAPTIVE BREEDING OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

Founded by Gerald Durrell, Wildlife Preservation Trust is a non-profit-making organisation dedicated to conservation, and in particular the safeguard of endangered species through captive breeding. As part of this conservation effort, the Trust has created an International Training Centre at its zoo in Jersey, British Channel Islands. The aim of the training programme is to provide instruction in all aspects of conservation, and to give basic training to individuals in the techniques of captive breeding of endangered species so that they can advance the cause of endangered species work and conservation in their own countries.

There are three types of courses: the longer 16-week and 10-week courses give practical work experience, whilst the short 6-week course is theory plus a detailed research project. Applicants may be government-sponsored personnel, zoo staff, and university graduates or undergraduates (or equivalent)

with good practical experience. Government-sponsored applicants from developing countries may be awarded scholarships to cover training costs.

Since 1978, the Trust has trained people from Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Brazil, Colombia, Denmark, France, West Germany, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Nigeria, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America, St. Vincent and Zambia.

The language of instruction is English but further information about the programme is available in English, French and Spanish. For a copy of the latest International Training Programme brochure and application forms, please provide your details below and send to **Dr. D.R. Waugh, Training Officer, Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, Les Augrès Manor, Trinity, Jersey, Channel Islands, British Isles.**

THE RARE TADJOURA FRANCOLIN FOUND IN EAST AFRICA:

An expedition sponsored by ICBP, WPA and others was undertaken in March 84 by Geoffrey and Hilary Welch to see if the rare Tadjoura Francolin still survives in its native country Djibouti, East Africa. This is an extract from their preliminary report.—Editor.

Djibouti, an unprepossessing corner of Africa about the size of Wales, lies on the southern edge of the Danakil Depression, at the mouth of the Rift Valley. Economically and historically Djibouti's importance is as a port, lying at the confluence of the Red Sea and



Tadjoura Francolin

Photo: H.J. Welch

Indian Ocean, and on the cross roads between Africa and the Middle East.

In today's world, where Man's impact on the environment is all too often marked by a reduction in wildlife through pollution (oil is a great threat in this part of the world, see recent events in the Persian Gulf), habitat loss, persecution, and so on, it is vital that as much of this baseline data as possible be collected now, before changes occur which we detect too late.

To add to Djibouti's wildlife interest, a small Juniper forest in the Goda mountains holds the only known population of a gamebird first discovered in 1952, the Tadjoura Francolin (*Francolinus ochropectus*). The population then was thought to stand at around 200 individuals, but other than collecting/specimens (the last in 1970) for taxonomic purposes, and declaring the area a National Park, there is no indication of any active

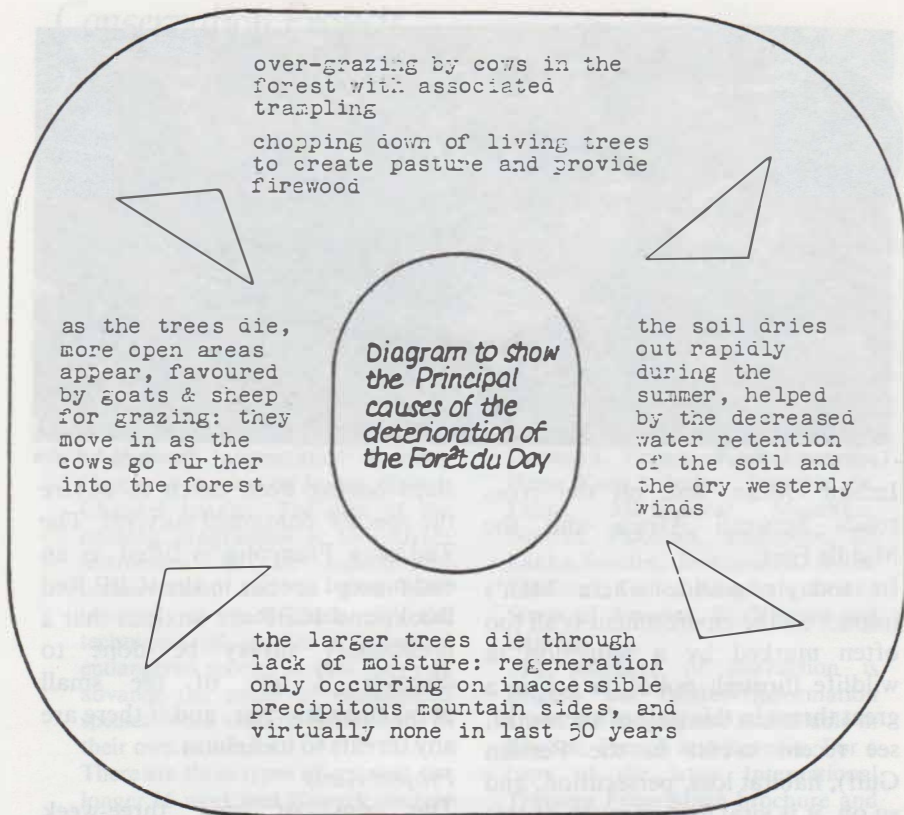
steps having been taken to ensure the species' continued survival. The Tadjoura Francolin is listed as an endangered species in the ICBP Red Book, and ICBP are anxious that a preliminary survey be done to discover if any of the small population survives, and if there are any threats to its habitat.

Project Aims

The aim of this three-week expedition is threefold and of a fact finding nature:

1. To discover by survey techniques, if the Tadjoura Francolin still survives, its likely population size, and whether there are any threats to its habitat.
2. To discover the extent of migration of raptors and seabirds over and through the Bab-el-Mandeb straits, and to make a start on gathering data on the number of birds involved.
3. To open up a line of communication between Djibouti authorities and ICBP.

Further, more detailed research on



both the francolin and migration are planned once this ground-work has been done.

This summary is based largely on a report by Jaques Blot 'Etude et Restauration de le Forêt du Day' November 1983.

Hilary and Geoff Welch-April 1984

Contrary to the current entry in the Red Data Book the francolin is *not* solely restricted to the areas of the Forêt du Day where *Juniperus* is dominant (the Primary Forest): it also occurs in the Secondary Forest where *Buxus* and *Acacia* are the principal trees and *Juniperus* is

absent. The population is a lot higher than previously estimated at c.5000, but may face an imminent decline through loss of habitat.

The francolin's main requirements are —

1 Areas of dense cover for roosting and breeding (though no nests have yet been found): this cover is generally found in the wadis - plant growth and francolin numbers being greatest in the most inaccessible areas (to people and stock).

2 Areas of graminaceous plants for food, these growing on the plateaux.

During our visit, following a winter of poor/no rains, there were no grasses on the plateaux so the majority of birds were concentrated around the wadis where plant growth was greatest and there was sometimes surface water. Under more normal conditions, we were told, the birds have a wider distribution, only using the wadis for roosting and nesting, preferring the grasses on the plateaux for feeding.

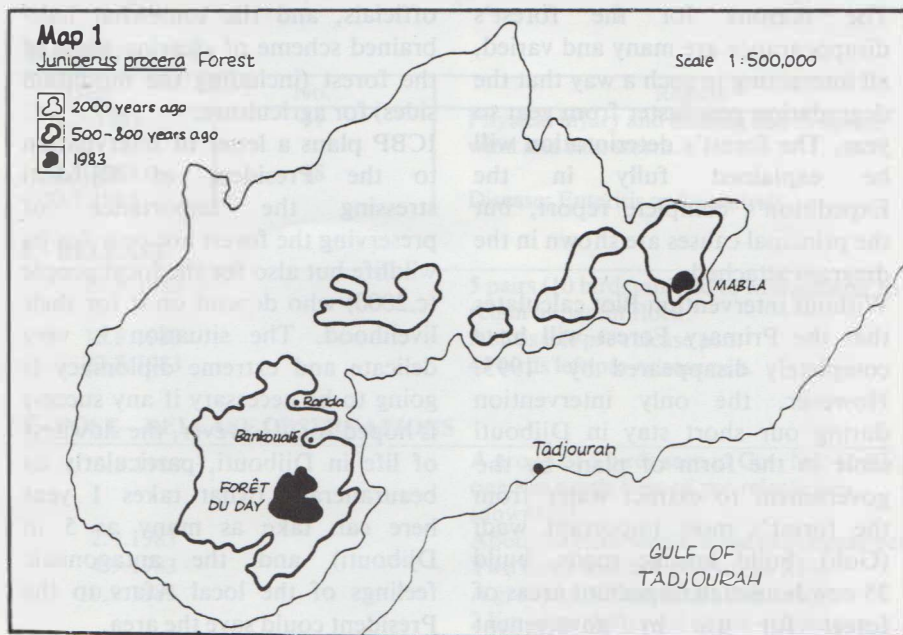
It seems likely that *Francolinus ochropectus* occurs in the Secondary Forest at Mabla (once part of the huge Goda mountain forest of which the Forêt du Day is the remaining relict, see map 1) - Blot has seen francolins here but not specifically identified them, and other species of francolin are known

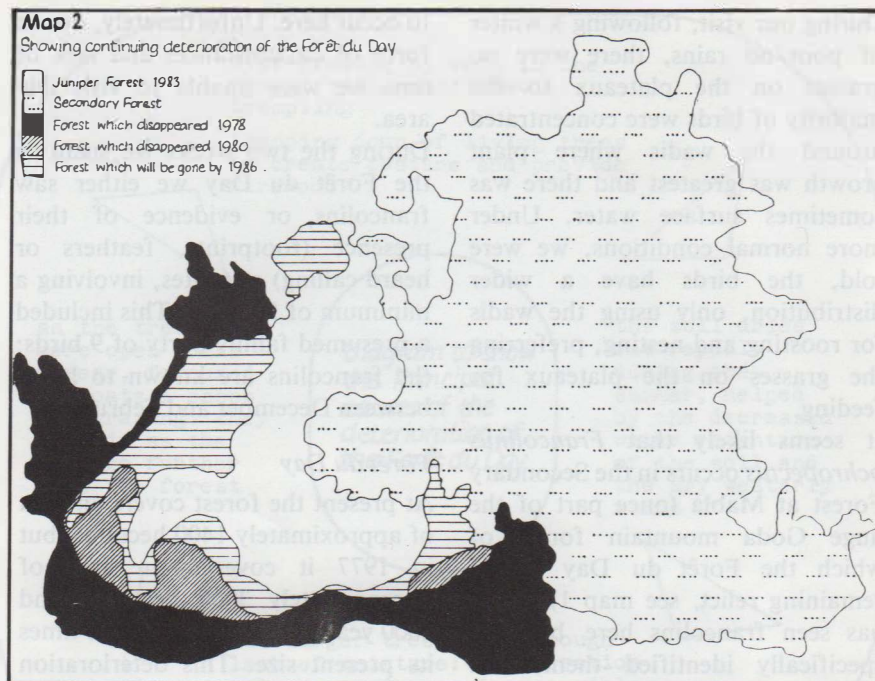
to occur here. Unfortunately, due to force of circumstances and lack of time we were unable to visit this area.

During the two weeks we spent in the Forêt du Day we either saw francolins, or evidence of their presence (footprints, feathers or heard calling) at 6 sites, involving a minimum of 50 birds. This included a presumed family party of 9 birds; the francolins are known to breed between December and February.

Forêt du Day

At present the forest covers an area of approximately 1400 hectares, but in 1977 it covered an area of approximately 3000 hectares, and 2000 years ago it was about 30 times its present size. This deterioration continues, see map 2.





The reasons for the forest's disappearance are many and varied, all interacting in such a way that the degradation gets faster from year to year. The forest's deterioration will be explained fully in the Expedition's complete report, but the principal causes are shown in the diagram attached.

Without intervention Blot calculates that the Primary Forest will have completely disappeared by 1995. However, the only intervention during our short stay in Djibouti came in the form of plans by the government to extract water from the forest's most important wadi (Goh), build tarmac roads, build 35 new houses in important areas of forest for use by government

officials, and the somewhat hair-brained scheme of clearing parts of the forest (including the mountain sides) for agriculture.

ICBP plans a letter of intervention to the President of Djibouti stressing the importance of preserving the forest not only for its wildlife but also for the local people (c.2000) who depend on it for their livelihood. The situation is very delicate and extreme diplomacy is going to be necessary if any success is hoped for. However, the slowness of life in Djibouti, particularly its beauraucracy (what takes 1 year here can take as many as 5 in Djibouti) and the antagonistic feelings of the local Afars to the President could save the area.

THE CHEER PHEASANT PROJECT

A report on the progress to date from Muhammed Rashid Chaudhry Director Environments, Islamabad, Pakistan, of the reintroduction of the Cheer Pheasant into the Margallah Hills.

CHEER PHEASANT RE-INTRODUCTION PROGRAMME REPORT- 1983

A - RECEIPT OF EGGS FROM WPA ENGLAND

| Date | Total No. | Damaged | Healthy |
|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 11.5.1983 | 120 | 2 | 118 |
| 17.5.1983 | 80 | 2 | 78 |
| 25.5.1983 | 100 | 30 | 70 |
| | <u>300</u> | <u>34</u> | <u>266</u> |

B - HATCHING

| Date | No. Hatched | Handicapped/Last after Hatching | Survival on 27.6.83 |
|-----------|-------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 7.6.1983 | 13 | - | 13 |
| 15.6.1983 | 50 | 4 | 46 |
| 26.6.1983 | 31 | 1 | 30 |
| | <u>94</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>89</u> |

C - BROODING

| Total No. of Chicks placed with moodies | Mortality | Survival up to release |
|---|-----------|------------------------|
| <u>89</u> | <u>29</u> | <u>60</u> |

D-MORTALITY

| Date | No. | Reason |
|-----------------------|-----|---|
| 2.7.1983 | 11 | Physical injury and chilling due to severe wind and rain storm. |
| 3.7.1983 to 20.7.1983 | 18 | Disease; Enteritis and paralysis |

E - RELEASE

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 15.8.1983 | 5 pairs (10 birds) shifted to Muraghar to retain as parent flock. |
| 15.8.1983 | 5 birds left pre-release pen. |
| 27.8.1983 | 45 birds left pre-release pen. |

F - POST—RELEASE OBSERVATIONS

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 25.8.1983 | A group of 5 birds seen in Cpt. No. 16 RF, one Km north-west of pre-release pen (downhill). |
| 2.9.1983 | About 20 birds seen around pre-release pen |
| 4.9.1983 | Two birds seen in Cpt. No. 16 RF |
| 10.9.1983 | A group of 5 birds seen at Chowki, 2 Km (downhill) west of pre-release pen. |

17.10.1983

Group of 30-35 birds seen at spring Nara about 2 Km south (downhill) of pre-release pen.

23.10.1983

Two birds again visited pre-release pen and left on 24.10.1983.

25.10.1983

Group of 30-35 birds seen at spring Nara about 2 Km south (downhill).

29.3.1984

Group of 8-10 birds seen at spring Nara.

4.4.1984

Group of 5-6 birds seen in Cpt. No. 16 RF.

Note:

- i** All brooding was done with broody hens at pre-release pen, Jabri.
- ii** Broodies were withdrawn after six weeks.
- iii** The chicks were partially confined, in cages, for first 2 weeks only.
- iv** The Chicks were provided maximum liberty and least disturbance within the pre-release pen.
- v** All the birds are believed to have settled in upper reaches of scrub between 5,000ft - 4,000ft elevation.

Avicultural Activities

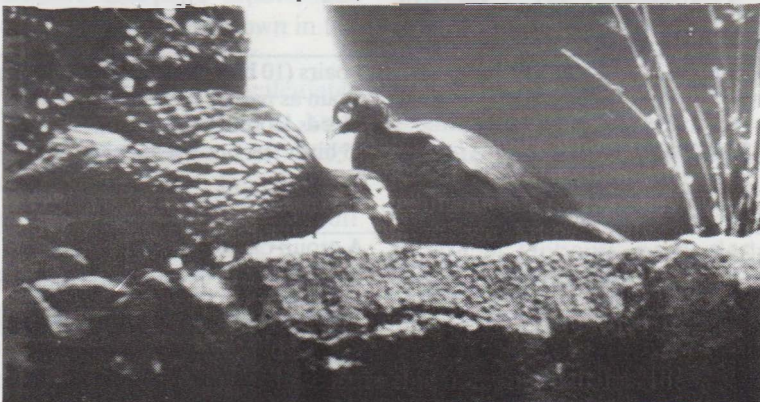
SUCCESSFUL BREEDING OF THE CHINESE MONAL

In early 1983, San Diego Zoo imported the first pair of Chinese Monal Pheasants from China, since a pair were supplied by mistake to a breeder in 1930. The San Diego Zoo has been building a close liason with a number of zoos in the Peoples Republic of China, and as a result a number of exchanges of both animals and birds have taken place,

one of which included a pair of Chinese Monal.

This large pheasant has a limited habitat and is native to Sichuan in S.W. China. Only a few birds were ever exported to the western world, and therefore the arrival of this pair is quite a unique event.

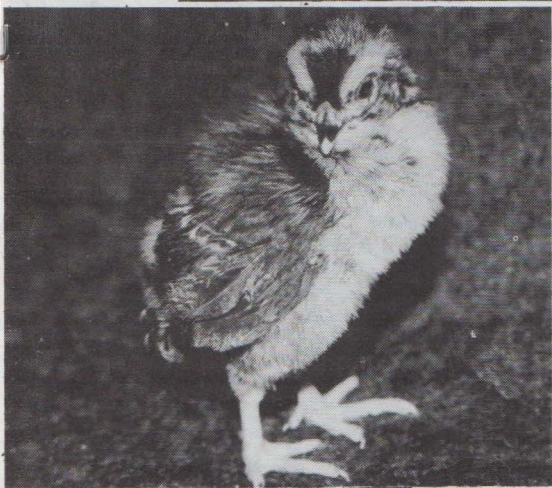
Basically a very colourful bird, which stands about one third larger



Chinese Monal - female and male.



Chinese Monal - male.



Chinese Monal Chick - 2 days.

Photo: Dave Rimlinger.



Chinese Monal chick - 30 days old.

Photo: Dave Rimlinger.

in size than its Himalayan cousin. Dr. Schaller has seen this species in the wild and has kindly provided some photographs showing the typical habitat. Having been quarantined in New York, the birds arrived at San Diego in June 1983, too late for the 1983 breeding season, but hopes were high this year as the female had laid a number of eggs in quarantine which were infertile, and finally one egg was laid whilst the birds were in transit which proved to be fertile, but failed to hatch.

In April this year, five brown speckled eggs were laid, with the first chick being hatched 18th May 1984, a second clutch of five eggs were laid resulting a total of five healthy chicks being raised from two clutches, an excellent achievement, especially when there is virtually no information on captive breeding of this rare species, and as far as we know, only a limited number of these birds are held in Chinese Zoos with no breeding results being published to date.

To ensure this breeding pair has the best possible chance of breeding in



Above & left:
Typical habitat
of the Chinese
Monal.

*Photo:
Dr. Schaller.*

Typical habitat
of the Chinese
Monal in Sich-
uan, China.

*Photo:
Dr. Schaller.*





Typical habitat
of the Chinese-
Monal in Sich-
uan, China.

Photo:
Dr. Schaller.

the future, a new enclosure is currently being built in a shaded part of the zoo, landscaped with a similar terrain to that of their native habitat. Also to keep the birds in the best possible condition during the hot summer period, a special air-conditioned room is being attached to the main flight cage. San Diego Zoo are hoping to obtain

at least a further pair of Chinese Monal in the near future, which will help the bloodline.

We wish Dr. Art Rissor and his staff all success for the future and thank them for providing the information to make this report possible.

G.E.S.R.

SUCCESS WITH BLYTH'S TRAGOPAN



Eight chicks are being reared by Keith Howman, an excellent start to the Blyth's Breeding Project.

News from the Chapters and Areas

Quail/Partridge Group

Many congratulations to John Gorham for his success in breeding a Madagascar Partridge chick. Of three eggs laid, one was cracked, one was dead in shell, and the third produced a chick, now a few weeks old and doing very well.

The request in the last Newsletter for our overseas members to write to us had a pleasing response. I was delighted to receive last year's completed census of the smaller Galliformes in captivity from the Netherlands. Their collection is much larger in different species than our own group's. It is a pity that they report a poor breeding season.

Similarly, reading the Newsletter from the Quail Breeders Society of America, they headline the worst extremes of weather, and their breeding results have suffered accordingly.

Getting back to base, one Masked Bobwhite chick emerged from Gary Robbins' incubator, with twenty more eggs under process. Four of the seven pairs are laying. Well done Gary.

Until we have our committee meeting, breeding results gleaned so far are that some species have bred very well, while others have not produced an egg.

Bill Thornhill (Chairman)

FIRST BREEDING SINCE 1932.



Madagascar Partridge (*Margaroperdix madagarensis*). Chicks were hatched by John Gorham, the first since 1932, when they were bred by Mr. Alfred Ezra at Foxwarren, Surrey.



Above & below: A practical way of starting Bamboo Partridge to eat, using hard boiled egg mashed with Turkey Starter crumbs.

Photo: Bill Thornhill.



A profile on the
BARBARY PARTRIDGE (*Alectoris barbara*)



Male Barbary Partridge.

Description: 32-34cm high. Wing span 46-49cm.

Crown, nape and collar on lower neck deep chestnut; last nearly black at sides with white spots. Rest of upper parts grey-brown with a vinaceous wash. Scapulars: slate blue with rufus margins, pink-chestnut eyestripe, overlaid with long orange-buff feathers behind the eye, extends to join collar.

Flanks: pale slate, overlaid with bars of black and sandy-buff and white, with buff underparts. Both sexes are similar, the male being a bolder bird, adult males having a nodule on the tarsus instead of a spur.

Range: North Africa from Morocco to Libya. A second species, reported in Vol II of the Handbook of Birds of Europe, Middle East and North Africa, found in North West

Egypt lack the dark chestnut which is replaced by buff. Attempts to introduce these birds in the USA, Australia, New Zealand, UK and the Hawaiian Islands failed. The Canary Islands and Gibraltar were successful.

Four pairs were released from quarantine on March 9th this year, and I became custodian of one pair. They quickly got their heads down in the food hopper which contained Pigeon Squeaker mix, layers pellets and white millet. By the end of the second day the pellets and white millet were left; visiting the hopper many times, they refused to eat it. The following day the pellets were crushed into a crumb and were taken as a last resort. Greenfood was eaten avidly, mainly chickweed, going on to spinach and dandelions. The pen was a totally covered 5ft x

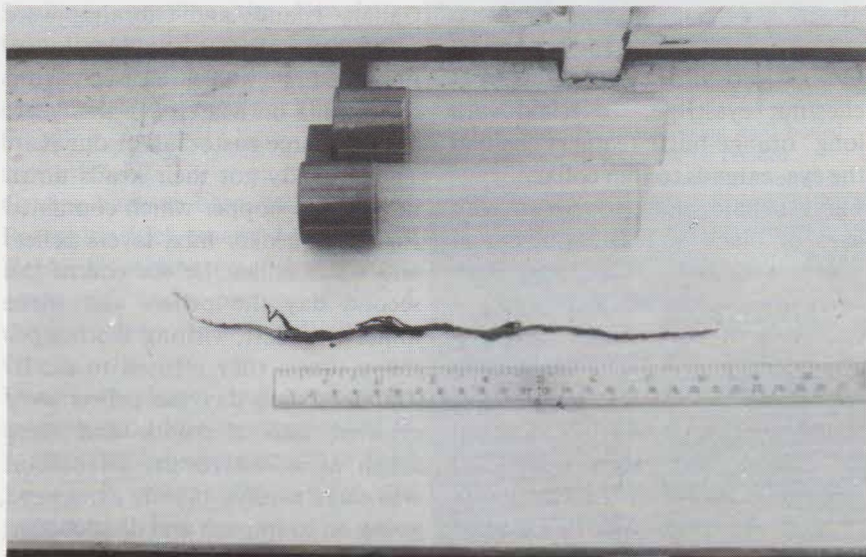
5ft cube, sand, gravel and granite chips covering the floor to a depth of 6in. A shelf 18in wide was fixed at one end 2ft from the ground. This was covered in sand and a rough ladder connected it to the ground for easy access. Most of the activity of eating and displaying was early morning and evening. On sunny days they spent most of the time lazing on the shelf, deep dust-bathing was a twice daily habit.

Within a few days the male was displaying, standing almost on tip toe, and with beak pointing upwards, puffing out his head feathers calling 'Chack-la-chack'. This would be followed by titbitting and mock feeding, taking short hops towards the female. If she did not respond to his advances he would make a lunging attack which she seemed prepared for, quickly running for cover, which was a

clump of fir branches that contained a nest box. Within seconds she would emerge, both birds again co-habiting peacefully. Apart from the occasional offering of titbits, no displays occurred on the shelf.

On the sixth I was alarmed to see the hen in a fluffed-up lethargic condition and by mid-afternoon she had passed a soft shelled egg. This was repeated a week later; although mineralised grit was fed ad-lib, a thin shelled egg was laid a week later followed by three sound ones on alternate days which were infertile.

Five more days passed, then a clutch of six were laid over a period of twelve days. The male would add some dried vegetation to the nest box every day. These six eggs were incubated in a still-air incubator at 102F turned three times daily; giving them a light spray of tepid water morning and evening for the first



A spinach stalk eaten by a Barbary Partridge chick.

fourteen days. Four chicks broke shell on the 24th day. Twenty hours later they were in a brooder, the floor of which was covered with a half-inch layer of rolled oats and turkey starter crumbs. Although drinking frequently, they would wander aimlessly about looking for some food that was not there. This went on for two days when a few small mealworms were dropped in. These were taken readily, and the character of the chicks changed immediately, becoming very lively. Mealworms were fed daily, and after ten days, seeding heads of chickweed were eaten with the same enthusiasm. (In the aforementioned handbook it stated that livefood is found in the stomachs of chicks but not in adults). With the normal

routine of heat reductions, the chicks were put in an outside run, and fed on Growers chips and mixed millets.

When the chickweed season is over I grow a patch of perpetual spinach for greenfood, but a word of warning to other breeders: I did find a six week old chick in some distress with a spinach stalk protruding from its beak. This was gently eased out and was over 9in long. Needless to say, after that, all greenfood was chopped to 4in lengths.

This season a total of fourteen chicks are being raised from 26 eggs laid, and the adults started to moult in mid June. I believe the progeny will have to be about seven months old before they can be sexed.

Bill Thornhill



The Quail Breeders' Society

P.O. Box 389, REDMOND
ORE 97756.

Greetings to all. The breeding season for most of us here in the USA is coming to a close. This has been a very unusual year for us over here weatherwise. The cold and wet Spring has really come down on many of our quail species laying season. It seems that this is a common problem all over North America.

Everyone is talking about the weather these days. I cannot ever remember so much violent weather in one year before. Some of our members have faced floods, wind storms, and heat waves. All of this

adverse weather has affected the laying season.

Some of the quail have just not laid this year. It may be because of the weather or something else. Most breeders seem to think it is because of the weather.

Some of our members have called to say that this year their Mountains have not laid this year or have not been fertile. This seems to be true of most of the breeders in the west. I have not heard how the breeders in the East have done this year with their Mountain Quail. I have heard for many years that the Mountain Quail cycle is not reliable. Some years they will be up and some years they will be down. This happens in the wild also. The authorities say that in some Springs if the

conditions are not just right the quail have skipped their laying cycle for that year. This turns out to be good as the conditions were not conducive to the successful brooding of young and they would have died anyway. How do the quail know such things?

Even under captive conditions it is difficult to get the Mountain Quail to lay. Often this is due to the pen condition or even to the weather pattern. Some claim that a cold

weather cycle is needed to trigger the birds to lay. This may be so but what about the Mountain Quail that live down in Baja California in the desert? It certainly does not get all that cold down there yet they seem to be successful. Theories may come and go with us humans but the final authority rests with the birds. It would be fascinating if we could learn more about the process of reproduction in these birds.

Leland B. Hayes



NEWS FROM WPA USA inc.

The Board of Directors and friends at a meeting held on 26th February 1984 at Jim Gunderson's home in San Juan Capistrano, California, when the painting of the Chinese Monal was presented to the Board by Vivian Drewien.



Left to right: Jim Gunderson, Mickey Barrett, Eugene Knoder, Jean Delacour, Grace Knoder. Rear: Dave Rimlinger, Francis Billie, Mrs. Billie.

Photo: Liza Rimlinger.



NEWS FROM WPA NEPAL

This Notice Board has been erected outside the Primary School below the Pipar Reserve.

Jimmy Roberts, WPA Nepal



Translation: The Himalayan Monal Primary School or locally The Danfe Primary School, sponsored by WPA



Photo of the Annapurna Mountain Range with the school in the foreground.

Round the Branches

Notes from Fenton Barns

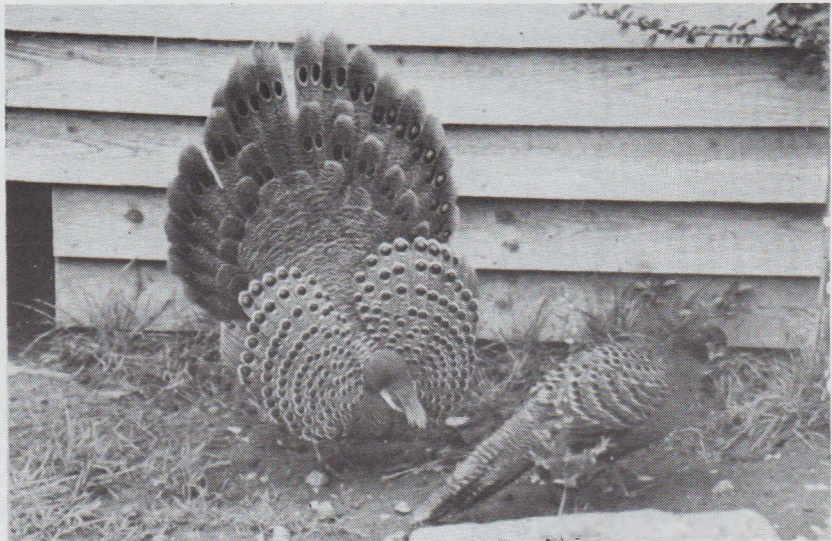
The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, who manage the affairs of Scotland's leading Zoo at Murrayfield in Edinburgh have not only constructed new pheasant aviaries but have recently erected fully illustrated nameplates and a central identification board at the pheasantry. This exhibit is worthy of a visit and their results this year include the hatching and rearing of five white-eared pheasants.

One word on insurance of pheasants. Again I seek advice concerning this aspect of aviary management which we must not overlook. I have now accepted a quotation based on £1.50 percent of value of birds kept. Risks include

fire, theft, malicious damage and forced entry. Any comparisons please?

Undoubtedly our breeding success this year involves our exceptional pair of grey peacock pheasants from whom after 3 periods of partial incubation by the female have reared 5 chicks. In her third clutch of eggs, we substituted 2 Lady Amherst eggs from which one chick has been reared. After four weeks the female attacked her long-standing mate, presumably as a result of his rejection of the Amherst chick. Removal of the chick and separation for a week has apparently warmed their hearts to each other and the pair are now safely housed for the winter.

Keith Chalmers-Watson.



Male and female Grey Peacock Pheasants (*polyplectron bicalcaratum*).

(Photo: *Pheasants: Their Breeding & Management* by K.C.R. Howman).

**ITINERARY FOR WPA—MOUNTAIN TRAVEL NEPAL
PHEASANT & MACHEPUCHARE MOUNTAIN TREK**

- 5th May** Depart Europe-USA
- 6th May** Arrive Kathmandu via Delhi mid-morning and transfer to Malla Hotel. Rest of day at leisure.
- 7th May** Day at leisure in Kathmandu. Sightseeing tours can be arranged locally. Overnight Malla Hotel.
- 8th May** Drive to Pokhara in private bus (approx six hours). Time to visit Mountain Travel Pheasant Farm prior to walking to Mardi River Bridge for overnight camp.
- 9th May** **GROUPSSPLIT:**
Pipar Group Trek to Karuwa Village (4,500ft.) and visit WPA funded primary school.
Chyalung Group Trek to above Chyalung Village.
- 10th May** To Thulo Khobang (7,500ft.) or higher depending on water availability. Reach Base Camp. Rest of time for exploration and excursions from Base Camp with packed lunches.
- 11th May** Reach Pipar (10,900ft.) by lunch time. Set up Base Camp. Actual route will be finalised subject to reconnaissance to be carried out in November 1984.
- 12th - 14th May** Exploration and excursions from Base Camp with packed lunches (morning counts from about 0530 - 0900).
- 15th May** Descend to Siano Khobang (6,000ft.) Begin descent.
- 16th May** Cross to east bank of Seti River and meet up with Chyalung Group. All camp at Puranchaur (3,500ft.). Meet up with Pipar Group and camp Puranchaur.
- 17th May** Trek to Pokhara. Time to visit Pheasant Farm again if required prior to transfer to airport for return mid-day flight to Kathmandu. Transfer to Malla Hotel.
- 18th May.** Day at leisure prior to early evening transfer to airport for flight to Delhi.
- 19th May** Connect with onward international flight.

PRICE: £492.00 per person.

Air fare London -Kathmandu-London.— £586 per person

Price Includes All arrangements, transfers and transport as per itinerary; bed & breakfast in Kathmandu; full board on trek; services of professional Sherpa team and camping equipment on trek including sleeping bags and foam mattresses; trek permits.

Price Excludes: Lunch and dinner at Kathmandu; insurance; airport tax; items of a personal nature such as drinks and laundry.

LEADERSHIP

The expedition will be led by an ornithologist with past experience of trekking in the mountains of Nepal. However, it is once again emphasised that for the participants this need not necessarily be a specialised pheasant trip. For some, the rich bird life, orchids, rhododendrons and unspoilt forests, with mountain photography and walking, may be of greater interest. All arrangements in Nepal are in the hands of Mountain Travel, the first and foremost trekking agency in the Kingdom, and the trek preparations will be personally supervised by Lt. Col. J.O.M. Roberts, who is also Chairman of WPA Nepal.

Full details from:— ExplorAsia Ltd.

Blenheim House

Burnsall Street

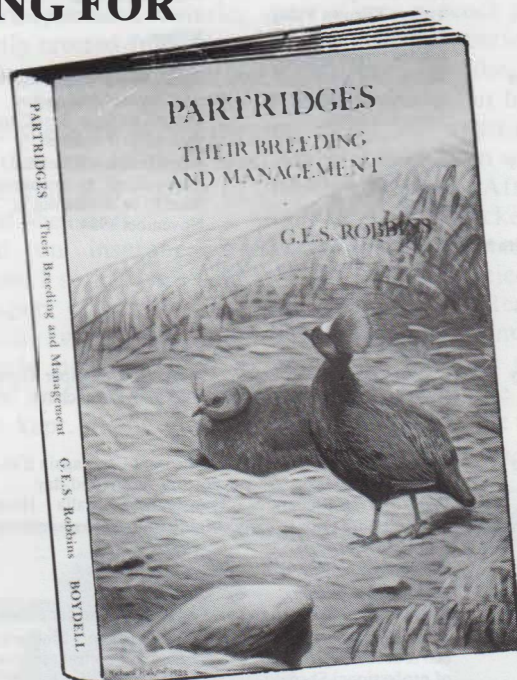
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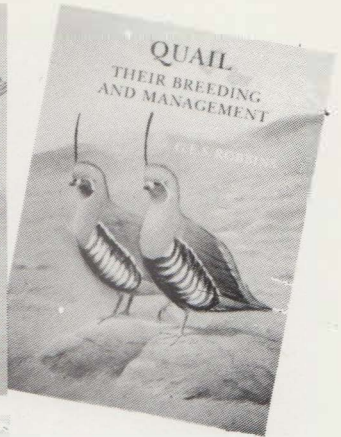
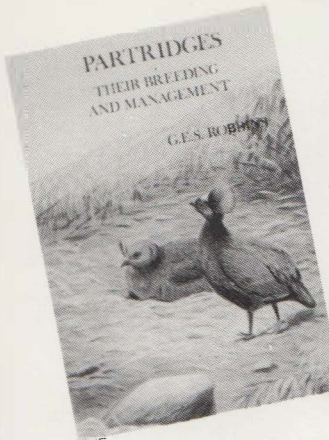
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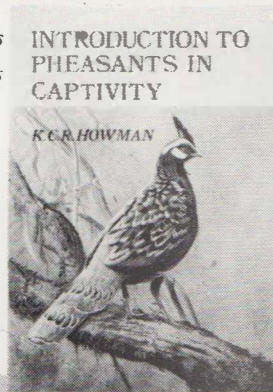
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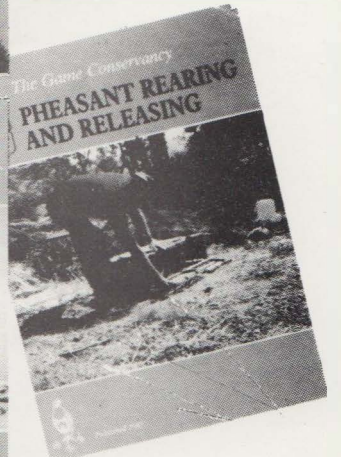
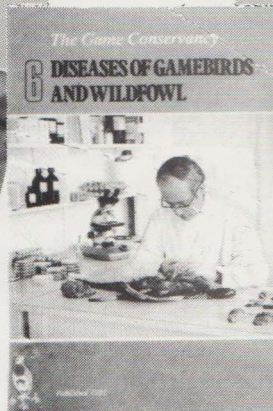
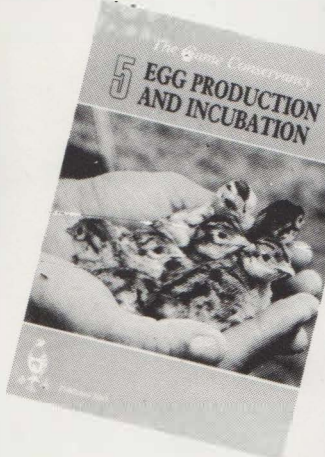


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