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The International News of the World Pheasant Association

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WPA NEWS NO 44

Editor: Derek Bingham

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1994	
29-31 July	CLA Game Fair, Cornbury Park, Charlbury, Oxfordshire
Sept	Third International Cracid Symposium, Houston, USA
1 Oct	WPA International AGM
1996	
Jan	Pheasant and PQF Symposium, Malaysia
Sept	Grouse Symposium, North America

Front cover:	*Malay Peacock Pheasant*	*Photo: John Corder*
Back cover:	*Temminck's Tragopan*	*Photo: David Tipling*

(see page 38)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Council has yet again worked very hard over the last quarter and I greatly appreciate their help and support.

Thank you for the favourable comments about the presentation of the Draft Rules. The only negative comments we have had relate to the 'legalese' - all inherited from the original rules and in most cases not able to be changed. We have also heard from the Charity Commission; they are satisfied that the changes reflect our discussion with them.

The Consultation Draft will therefore be the basis for the Proposed New Rules to be set before the AGM on 1 October. Please keep the Draft we sent you with the last **WPA News** as in the circumstances we would be wasting your money to reprint this. The August **WPA News**, which will contain the Agenda for the AGM, will remind you to look out this document and bring it with you.

Now some news about the **Journal**. We have accepted the advice of our own Scientific Advisory Committee and intend to convert this to an **Annual Review**. The first should appear in spring 1995 and will deal with the 1993/94 year; the spring issue of the **WPA News** will be reduced to finance sending the **Annual Review**, as we believe we must, to all members. Fellows and members who covenant their subscriptions have received the **Journal** free. We sincerely hope that all members will recognize that it is only fair that they should all receive this; we hope more members will covenant their subscriptions. No increase in subscription will be proposed at the upcoming AGM. Council will study whether Fellows could be invited annually to nominate the WPA Project to which they would like to see the difference that they pay go, or whether the difference should be applied to increase the Delacour Fund.

Edward Dickinson (right) being greeted at Karachi airport by WPA Pakistan Administrator, Al Lee.

NEOTROPICAL QUAIL CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH PROGRAMME

John P Carroll

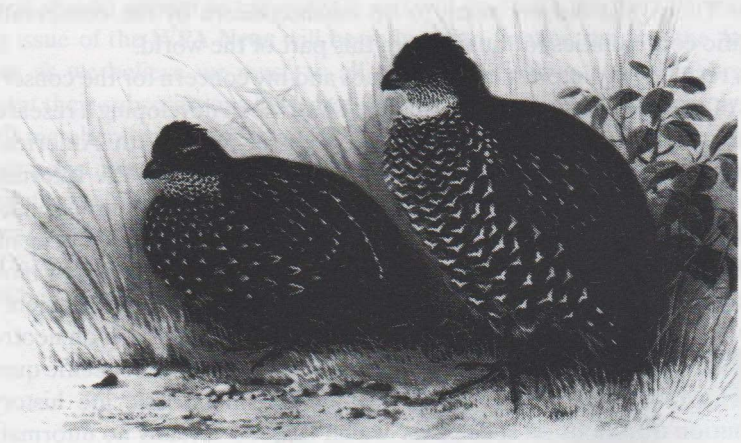
As a trained wildlife biologist in the United States, I have conducted research into a number of different species of galliforms. Over the years, I developed an interest in the New World or Odontophoridae quails which are found in both North and South America. The North American species are generally well studied and for most species populations are very large and widespread. During the late 1980s, I became interested in some of the species found in the neotropics and found a very large disparity in our information base between those species and the ones found in the United States. This has occurred despite the fact that most of the quails are found in Central and South America. I also became concerned because it was obvious that many of the problems facing other species in Latin America, such as deforestation and hunting, could also be affecting the quails. There just did not seem to be much concern by the conservation or scientific communities for quails from this part of the world.

As a result of my interest in Galliformes and my concern for the conservation status of many of the neotropical species, I have been developing a research and conservation programme for quails in Central and South America. This programme has been launched through the support of WPA International, WPA UK and WPA USA, and the IUCN SSC/BirdLife International/WPA Specialist Group on Partridge, Quail and Francolin. In early 1993, again with the help of WPA, I was able to travel to Belgium where a group of biologists developed a Galliformes Conservation Assessment and Management Plan. There we mapped out a strategy for conservation and research on neotropical quails. I found this an interesting change, from asking rather specific questions concerning well studied species to asking the most basic life history and distribution questions on species for which there is virtually no information, it became even more clear to me that there are a number of neotropical quails which we should be concerned about from a conservation perspective and most species deserve more investigation.

In January of 1994 I made the first trip to South and Central America to assess the potential for conducting research and conservation programmes. After being delayed for several days when we received our greatest snowfall in the history of southwestern Pennsylvania, I managed to make my way to a very hot and sunny Caracas, Venezuela. My first stop in the field was the Rancho Grande Biological Station situated in the cloud forests of Henri Pittier National Park. This park is located in the coastal range of mountains stretching west from

Caracas. It is interesting and rather disappointing to note that virtually all of the forests on this mountain range are now gone, converted to grasslands and pasture for livestock. Fortunately some land has been set aside. Henri Pittier National Park was established in 1937 and now encompasses 100,000 ha (247,100 acres) of very dense topography ranging from arid coastal ecosystems to cloud forests at 2700m (8,861ft) elevation. Through the cooperation of Sociedad Conservacionista Audubon de Venezuela, INPARQUES, I was given permission to initiate my studies on quails in the park. The Universidad Central de Venezuela graciously allowed me to stay in the cloud forest at the Rancho Grande Biological Station.

I was concerned with locating and documenting populations of the Venezuelan Wood-quail *Odontophorus columbianus* in the vicinity of Rancho Grande. This is an endemic species found only in this coastal mountain range and in the very eastern edge of the Eastern Andes in north-west Venezuela. We are concerned about this species because of its rather small distribution and



Venezuelan Wood-quail, adult and immature. *Painting by H. Jones*

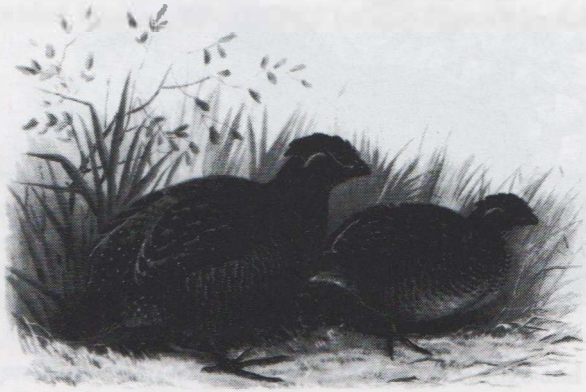
proximity to the most heavily populated region of Venezuela. As the name implies the wood-quails are found in the forest and this particular species is found in montane cloud forests. My literature search, including the Venezuelan literature, revealed an utter lack of information on this species. The only published information on life history was a small study done by Paul Schwartz and Minguel Lentino in the 1970s. Fortunately, with the assistance of a number of biologists, including Miguel Lentino, I was able to learn that where the forest

is intact, this species can be found. In fact, they considered the Venezuelan Wood-quail to be rather common around the biological station.

I developed a survey programme at Rancho Grande using play-back techniques. This technique has been used successfully on a number of galliforms and I believe it might be our best opportunity for developing low-cost and effective survey techniques. I established a series of 39 calling stations along four trails radiating from the biological station. This area is comprised of very rugged terrain and dense jungle, and I found it almost impossible to venture very far from the trails. I surveyed these trails for five mornings. I was able to locate between 15 and 20 different groups of quails, ranging in size from singles and pairs to coveys of nine. I was fortunate to be able to observe two groups for extended periods of time, one for over three hours as they foraged and roosted. My theory that the wood-quails would respond to vocalizations was borne out, although I still need to develop the technique further to make it more useful for quantitative surveys.

The results of this work are very promising for future research projects. Based on my short stay and conversations with a number of biologists, I believe that this species will be an ideal model for the development of research and survey techniques on the wood-quails. I plan to develop a research project encompassing work on various aspects of its life history. I am also more confident about the security of the Venezuelan wood-quail in the park. However, the situation outside of the park looks pretty dismal as virtually all of the forest is gone.

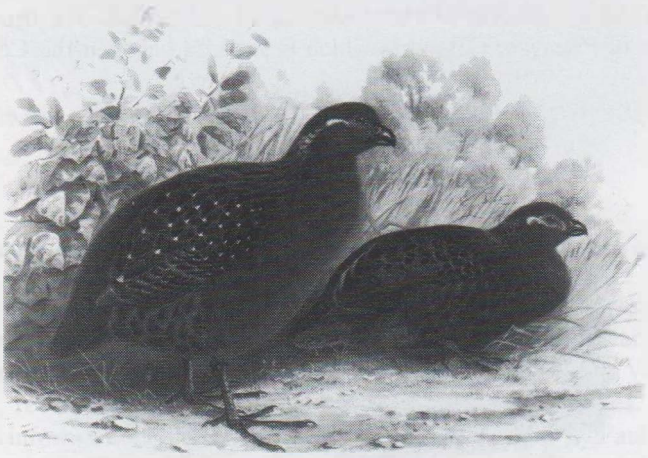
After returning to Caracas, I then flew to Cali, Colombia where I spent five days with Alvaro Negret of the Universidad del Cauca. We drove to his hometown of Popayan, Colombia which is situated between the Central and



Marbled Wood-quail, pair. *Painting by H. Jones*

Western Andes in south-west Colombia. This is an absolutely beautiful town with a great wealth of traditional Spanish architecture. We spent one day in the vicinity of Popayan searching for Crested Bobwhites *Colinus cristatus* on several ranches. We located and photographed several birds, and he showed me typical habitat in a number of areas. This species is very common in the agricultural river valleys in Colombia. Although generally not considered to be important from a conservation perspective, the Crested Bobwhite is not well studied and deserves more indepth investigation.

We then travelled to the Tambito Research Station of the Universidad del Cauca in the Western Andes. This is a 1,000 ha reserve adjacent to Munchique National Park. We spent two days at the station after a very rough 90 km drive and 7 km hike from the road. It was well worth the trip. Alvaro has documented 450 species of birds in this area. We were able to locate the Chestnut Wood-quail *O. hyperythrus,* although we found out how difficult it is to conduct calling surveys during the rainy season. Based on habitat availability and conversations with a number of Colombian biologists, I feel more confident about the security of the Chestnut Wood-quail in Colombia. Most Colombian national parks are concentrated at the higher elevation where this species is found. I was also pleased to see how much of the forest was intact outside of parks in this region compared to other parts of the Andes. The bad news is the recent increase in pine *Pinus* spp. plantations which are replacing the cloud forests. I did become much more aware of the possible conservation problems facing another species found here, the Rufous-fronted Wood-quail *O. erythrops.* Although this species



Chestnut Wood-quail, pair. *Painting by H. Jones*

Although this species is rather widespread in Colombia, it occurs at lower elevation where the forests have been impacted to a much greater extent. There are few reserves in Colombia which protect lower elevation forests. My short stay in Colombia helped to verify the play-back technique on two different species of wood-quails. I still have a great deal of work to do in even developing this technique and verifying the kinds of information we can collect. For example problems beyond the simple "Are they present or absent?" need to be addressed.

After leaving Colombia, I completed my trip by travelling to the Universidad Nacional of Costa Rica. There I met with several faculty associated with the wildlife management programme. Although I was not in Costa Rica long enough to conduct any field work, I found a great willingness to cooperate on future research projects. Costa Rica has a number of quails and an extensive national park system. This spring, I will be putting together a proposal with biologists from the Universidad Nacional to develop and apply the play-back survey techniques on the Black-breasted Wood-quail *O. leucolaemus* in southcentral Costa Rica. They believe that this is another species which could serve as a model for research on the wood-quails.

The second part of my project is to be completed later this year when I travel to Brazil. Hopefully, I can complete fund raising for that portion of the project this spring. Based on the progress made in such a short time, I am confident that we will be able to move forward with conservation and research efforts outlined in the Galliformes Conservation Action and Management Plan. I hope to begin more extensive and intensive research projects in Venezuela, Colombia and Costa Rica as a result of this preliminary field work.

I would like to thank Keith Howman and Simon Dowell for helping to get the work off the ground. The financial support of WPA International, WPA UK and WPA USA has been critical to this programme. The cooperation and expertise provided by a large number of Latin American biologists is much appreciated.

Dr John Carroll, California University of Pennsylvania, Dept of Biology, California, Pennsylvania 15419, USA.

All artwork reproduced from Johnsgard's The Quail, Partridge and Francolin of the World *available from WPA HQ.*

THE MALAU ON FONUALEI IN NORTHERN TONGA

Dieter Rinke

An expedition with biologist Wolfgang DreBen from Krefeld Zoo to Niuafo'ou and Fonualei in northern Tonga was highlighted by one of the greatest moments of my five-year conservation work on rare birds in the Kingdom of Tonga.

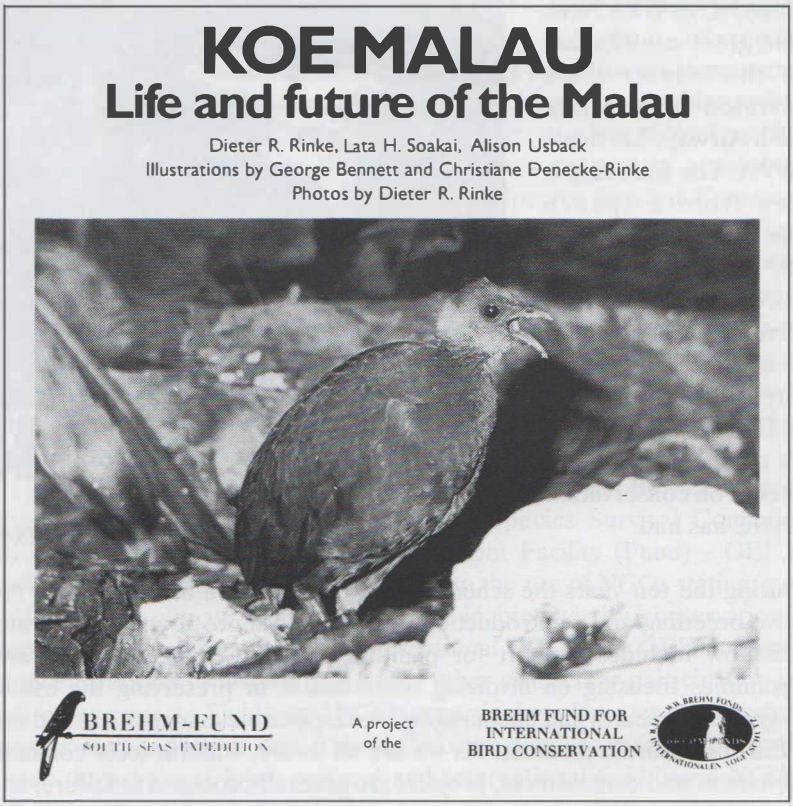
We first collected more eggs and chicks of the Malau *Megapodius pritchardii* on Niuafo'ou. These were to be transferred to two remote and uninhabited islands which had earlier been identified as suitable for the Malau, especially with regards to nesting grounds, *eg* volcanically warmed places. Due to rough weather conditions we only made it to Fonualei - Tonga's outstanding bird island. There is no other island in Tonga which has no introduced mammals - a heaven for birds. On the first day, we dug 31 eggs into warm soil near the landing site, and released three chicks. This was near the area where I had released seven chicks and 37 eggs in June 1993.

The next day we walked up to the summit of the island, being permanently surrounded by flocks of sooty terns, frigate birds and boobies, ground-doves and Polynesian starlings, petrels and tropic-birds, noddies and fairy-terns. The terrain is very difficult, being ashes on steep slopes and loose volcanic blocks, making progress slow. We had almost reached the landing place on our descent, when we suddenly froze: Wolfgang whispered "Malau". And there he was, a fully grown Malau, curiously watching us while we remained motionless. The moment lasted for 15 minutes. The bird was surprisingly tame, very much unlike the megapodes on Niuafo'ou. It approached us several times as close as five metres.

I did not expect to see any Malau. The chance of seeing one out of a maximum of 44 birds, which optimally could have survived, is close to zero on such a rugged island. The chance of hearing one would have been larger, but the birds certainly are too young to form pairs, and to sing their characteristic duet songs. Our sighting, however, raises my optimism. Most likely more megapodes grew up from the eggs and chicks I transferred to the island earlier. The island has proved to be a suitable refuge for the Malau. This is, of course, only the first step to a successful establishment of the Malau on Fonualei. The next visits to the island, and to Late, to where chicks and eggs have also been transferred will show whether our efforts will bear fruit.

During our stay on Niuafo'ou, we distributed an educational booklet about the Malau to every family on the island. Niuafo'ou is a very remote place, out of the control of the Tongan government. The only chance for the survival of the

Malau would be as a result of self-imposed restrictions of the collecting of eggs by the local population. The booklet not only describes the unsustainable exploitation of eggs of the megapodes, but also gives ideas as to what the Niuafo'ouans could do to preserve this last Polynesian megapode on their island.



This excellent full colour booklet has been written by Dr Dieter R Rinke, Lata H Soakai and Alison Usback and published by Brehm Fund for International Bird Conservation. Although produced mainly as an educational booklet in both the local language and English for the people of Niuafo'ou, it provides a detailed account of this fascinating and rare bird. Copies are available from WPA HQ, price £5 including p&p.

Dieter Rinke, Brehm Fund South Seas Expedition, Private Bag 52, Nuku-Alofa, Kingdom of Tonga.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF BRITISH AIRWAYS ASSISTING NATURE CONSERVATION

Members will be aware from repeated mentions of BAANC in **WPA News** of the great contribution that this conservation orientated body within British Airways has made to WPA. The following is taken from a speech made by its founder Rod Hall, pictured right, on the occasion of their tenth anniversary. We would like to take this opportunity of congratulating Rod Hall and British Airways on the success and influence on conservation BAANC has had.

Photo: Jean Howman

"During the ten years the scheme has evolved from a base of purely fauna captive breeding and reintroduction projects to a more rounded programme which now includes support for plantlife projects, education and training programmes focusing on involving communities in preserving the essential variety of life on earth and encouraging the responsible management and use of the Earth's natural resources. As we are all aware, without local community involvement and commitment, projects are generally doomed to failure; as are projects where nationals who best understand their own natural and political environments find themselves restrained by some well meaning overseas aid agencies.

"BAANC does not of course initiate the projects the foundation organisations are pursuing. Rather, as has been said many times, it makes things possible, albeit often simply by selective support to a degree which favourably tips the scales.

"Within the education and training role, to date BAANC has flight-sponsored some 70 trainees and educators from 35 countries to attend training courses in the UK. I am delighted that four of them who hold positions of increasing

importance in their own countries are here with us today and to them I extend a special welcome. During their stay in the UK they will be utilising the time to the maximum benefit of their home country projects. Since its conception BAANC has donated well in excess of a 747 capacity of passenger seats and considerably more in terms of cargo space which includes animals and plants in numbers which are greatly exceeded by the volume of essential material supplies and educational literature. Increasing support is given to international educators from UK-based organisations, enabling them to work in partnership with local organisations overseas, effectively reaching a much wider audience and importantly, themselves, gaining a better understanding of local problems.

"Within the last two years BAANC has given support to a number of IUCN-The World Conservation Union/SSC-Species Survival Commission Action Plan Workshops, in particular, substantially to that for the Galliformes group. What has become increasingly obvious to me is the tremendous importance of the non government organisations - NGOs. In fact, at a recent strategy meeting with members of the only government based organisation represented here today, it was recognised that the bulk of the information required for a proposed workshop leading to a Migratory Birds Species and Habitat Action Plan would come from NGOs and individual amateurs at home and overseas!

"It is interesting to note that Russell Mittermeier and Ian Bowles in a recent paper in Species Nr.20 Newsletter of the Species Survival Commission -SSC/IUCN entitled 'The Global Environment Facility (Fund) - GEF and Biodiversity Conservation' make reference to the use of NGOs stating, quote, 'Unlike global climate change, expertise in biodiversity conservation lies principally with local, national and international NGOs. The GEF must greatly enhance its efforts to involve NGOs and other civil sector participation in its biodiversity projects. Field based NGOs in particular, offer a wealth of technical expertise and local knowledge. It should become standard practice for the GEF to seek the advice of local, national and international field-based NGOs in project design and implementation'.

"I believe most of you are aware that the idea for the creation of the British Airways Assisting Nature Conservation scheme came to me during the time I was fortunate to spend in the mountains of New Zealand during 1983 studying the Blue Duck, as part of a Churchill Travelling Fellowship in the category of 'Conservation of the Environment and Education'.

"From that a 'web' of worldwide conservation has been built. Indeed, when Gerald Durrell spoke of the BAANC 'spiders web' of interlinking organisations, he was no doubt reflecting on the manner in which they work together pooling experience and resources, the only way forward."

PRESENT STATUS OF CAPTIVE BREEDING IN INDIA AND ITS ROLE IN CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION

Dr Virinder Sharma

Captive breeding of wild galliformes is a vital tool in the ex-situ conservation of biological diversity. Pheasant aviculture is mainly restricted to Indian zoos and very few private collections. The zoological parks are managed by the Forest Department or the local bodies which lack the professional expertise of aviculture. This paper deals with captive breeding of galliformes in the state of Himachal Pradesh, north-west India.

Out of the 17 pheasant species known to be present in the wild in India, Himachal alone represents seven species occuring in the diverse ecological zones of the Western Himalayan ecosystem.

Cheer cock with chicks. *Photo: Keith Howman*

Historical review of aviculture

The earliest record of aviculture dates back to the Vedic period and the Indus valley civilization when peafowl were regarded as sacred and cock, quail and chukor partridge were bred for street fighting. The vernacular names of the pheasants indicate that people were well aware of the habits and habitats of these birds.

The Moghuls established royal zoos, where unique specimens were collected from the Himalayas for captive breeding *eg* Monal, Cheer and Western Tragopan in Jehangir's Royal Zoo in 1700.

Early naturalists and sportsmen in the British period established captive bred populations of galliformes in India for exhibition and sport. Cheer, Tragopan, Monal, Koklass and Kalij were collected from the wild in the Himalayas and transported to Calcutta for export to the aviaries in England and Europe. Wilson (1840) pioneered pheasant aviculture in the Garhwal Himalayas and established a flourishing trade of museum specimens and live pheasants. His detailed observations on the behaviour and ecology of pheasants were later quoted by most ornithologists.Hume (1879) established the largest collections of birds in Shimla, which was later shifted to the London Zoological Society. William Hay and Jamrach (1915) exported large numbers of pheasants including Western Tragopan from Himachal to Europe between 1880 and 1893 and were awarded the Zoological Society medal. Donald (1937) set up the first aviary in Dharamsala for breeding native pheasants.

Post independence, some private collections were maintained by the Indian princes. The Raja of Patiala had a successful captive breeding programme for Cheer and Kalij in Himachal and introduced Ringneck Pheasants in Chail. The Himachal Forest Department was later entrusted with the captive breeding of galliformes and took control of the aviaries at Raj Bhawan in Shimla.

The emphasis was on breeding any species and initially ringneck were bred for introduction in Ghanahatti and water catchment reserve. Breeding centres were set up at Dharamsala, Manali and Shimla for Cheer, Monal and Red Junglefowl.

The first attempt at reintroduction of Cheer was initiated in 1971 with the Pheasant Trust. 48 pairs of Cheer were exported from England for release in dense deodar forest of Shimla water catchment reserve, with the assistance of the Forest Department. None of the birds survived in the wrong habitat, despite claims to the contrary. The captive breeding facilities were later expanded to Renuka, Rewalsar, Chail, Sarahan and Gopalpur for Cheer, Monal, Junglefowl and Peafowl.

Outside Himachal, Suresh Singh did pioneering work on pheasant aviculture and established good collections at Lucknow and Mukhteswar. The Government of India has recently set up the Central Zoo Authority, which will coordinate captive breeding and update records for management of zoos.

Present status of pheasant aviculture

Presently, Himachal has a network of aviaries spread across the diverse altitudinal zones which represent various eco-climatic regions and hold distinct pheasant species.

1. Renuka Zoo: This park is spread along the northern margin of the Renuka lake at 500m and supports lush vegetation of sal and mixed broadleaf forest. The aviaries hold small populations of junglefowl and peafowl, which also occur naturally in this region.

2. Gopalpur National Park: This park was set up in 1992 at the base of the majestic Dholadhar ranges for breeding Kalij and Junglefowl. At 600m, it comprises of mixed deciduous and chir pine forest.

3. Rewalsar Zoo: This is a major centre for pilgrims of Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist religions, around lake Rewalsar at 700m. There are six pens holding Junglefowl and Ringneck Pheasants.

Hen Monal. *Photo: Jean Howman*

4. Tutikandi Himalayan Zoological Park: At 1700m, this is one of the earliest breeding centres in Himachal, holding Kalij, Monal, Cheer, Junglefowl, Peafowl, Satyr Tragopan, Chukor and Black Partridge in about 25 rectangular pens. The Raj Bhawan aviaries were dismantled and the birds transferred here in 1986. Successful breeding of Monal, Cheer and Ringneck was reported here and now most of the collection is being transferred to Chail and Kufri.

5. Cheer Pheasant rehabilitation project, Chail: This project was initiated in 1987 and six enclosures were set up for captive breeding and subsequent introduction of Cheer Pheasants in Blossom, Chail which is still reckoned as the largest single population of wild Cheer in the world. Later, another ten enclosures have been added at Kharion, around 1800m. It is quite possible that some inter-mixing of the wild and captive bred birds may already have taken place at this site.

6. Manali Reserve Forest: Five aviaries are located in dense deodar forest in this famous tourist town, at 2200m. Monal have been captive bred here. A Nature Interpretation Centre is also being built at this site.

7. Himalayan Nature Park, Kufri: Originally a musk deer breeding centre, this nature park has now been extended. It has eight pens for Cheer and Monal at 2200m.

8. Sarahan Pheasantry: This pheasantry was set up in 1989, primarily for the high altitude galliformes. It has 15 enclosures, incorporating the rectangular as well as polygonal design of the pens based on Howman (1979). Sarahan at an altitude of 2200m is within the distribution limits of all high altitude pheasant species, and favourable to pheasants in the winters, unlike Kufri and Manali. This pheasantry has the distinction of breeding the only Western Tragopan pair in the world. It has a collection of Koklass, Monal, Kalij, Junglefowl, Cheer, Chukor and Snowcock in well planted pens. Further details are available on the construction and design of pens, feeding and breeding of pheasants (Pandey, 1992).

Discussion

Historical review of captive breeding is vital in locating the ancestry of present day avicultural collections, which usually have been collected from the wild and exported between 1890 and 1940. This could provide an answer to the problem of inbreeding and loss of genetic diversity in most captive pheasant species, unreplenished from the wild for generations *eg* the present Cheer stock in England and Europe has descended from the wild birds exported pre-1920s from the Himalayan region. The historical review for captive Western Tragopan is described in **WPA News** 40 (Sharma 1993).

The network of present captive breeding centres in Himachal does offer suitable climate and habitat for all the seven pheasant species which are altitudinally stratified in their natural ranges. Thus Renuka, Gopalpur and Rewalsar are best suited to the low altitude species like Junglefowl, Kalij and Peafowl while Tutikandi and Chail for the mid altitude Cheer and Kalij and Kufri, Manali and Sarahan for the high altitude species like Monal, Tragopan, Koklass and Snowcock.

The role of captive breeding has to be assessed in terms of the long term conservation strategies for these galliformes and has to be seen in an entirely different perspective in relation to the countries in the east.

The author wishes to thank the WPA International, Keith Howman and the organisers of the symposium for the opportunity of presenting this paper (reproduced only in part).

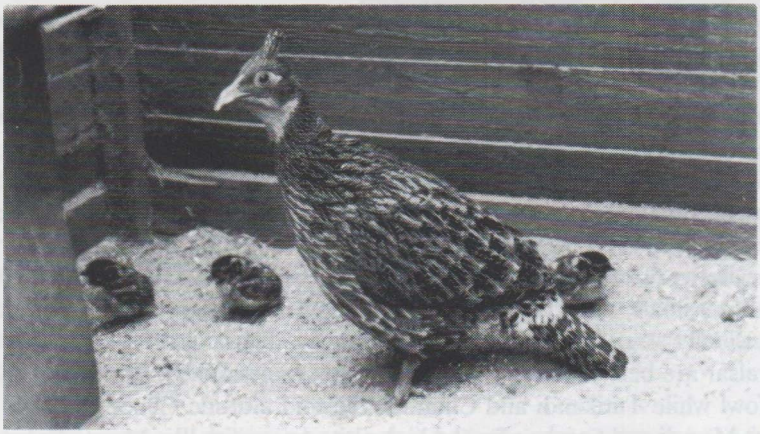
Dr Virinder Sharma, Om Bhawan, Chaura Maidan, Shimla-171004, H.P. India.

SOME EXPERIENCES WITH PARENT REARING

John Corder

Keith Howman's article on Parent Rearing in the August 1993 edition of **WPA News** persuaded me to put down a few thoughts about some of our findings over recent years.

Initially, I ought to say that we are firmly committed to parent rearing with our few pheasants for three reasons. First, and most important, we find that the behaviour of parents and poults is quite different when compared with birds where some other form of incubation is used. Second, we have never had a deformed parent-raised chick, whereas with artificial incubation we have experienced a number of twisted toes and feet. Third, with parents to look after them, we have to spend far less time caring for chicks than might otherwise be the case.



Hen Monal with three chicks. *Photo: John Corder*

At the outset, I think it important to say that all birds of the same species do not always act in the same way. Keith mentioned Cheer males brooding chicks. We have only occasionally experienced this, although there is very full male involvment in feeding and other care. We once had a young Golden cock who sat in the nest box after the chicks were hatched and tried to brood them, but the hen wouldn't allow it. I suspect that pheasants are no different to humans, or other species, with a somewhat varied approach to parenthood even within the same species. We have noticed that our birds seem to get better at parenthood as they become more experienced, and that females often do not

become fully broody in their first breeding season. However, we have found that almost all our birds will parent-rear if given the opportunity. Even hens that have been hatched in incubators themselves seem to have the innate ability to brood their own eggs, although our experience has been that they often take several seasons to acquire the art.

What works for us may very well not work for others; however, Keith asked for readers' experiences so here are a few of ours.

First, we do not separate cocks from hens at all, even when the hens are incubating or have young chicks. We have fairly large aviaries which are quite heavily planted, with areas where the hen and chicks can get out of the cock's way, but this does not seem to be necessary with the species we keep. We provide a covered wooden nest box in a dry area of the aviary, and raise it just off the ground on bricks. Hens soon learn to use this, particularly if it has a couple of inches of sharp sand in the bottom. Some birds also like hay, but others, such as Monal, seem to prefer just a scrape in the sand. If young hens lay elsewhere, we place the nestbox where they have begun to lay and make an artificial scrape in it for them. Once they have learned to use the box, they seem happy to use it wherever we place it. Certainly once they have sat and reared for the first time, they seem to realise the sense of laying in a box which is under cover.

Some cocks have little to do with the hens once they begin to sit. We do not take the first clutch away for incubation, so our birds are not used to their eggs disappearing. It is tempting providence to say it, but to date we have never experienced egg eating among our adult birds.

Cheer with young poults. *Photo: John*

Once the hen has sat, most of the cocks go into moult. This is especially the case with the Goldens, who seem to be totally into the moult by the time the chicks are seen. Perhaps this is nature's way of lowering the male libido, as they are unable to pester the hens at this time. Monals seem to moult much more slowly, but the cock appears to want nothing to do with chicks when they first hatch. As long as they don't come too near him, and the hen usually sees to that, then the birds seem happy to co-exist together.

Monal pair roosting with chick. *Photo: John Corder*

Some hens seem to be able to get off the eggs for several hours at a time. Certainly our Cheer and Monal fall into this category. One Cheer hen let her eggs get quite cold about every third day, and always spent about an hour off the nest in the morning when feeding. Others, like Golden, Amherst and Edwards's, seem to sit tight for the whole incubation period, never leaving the nest either to eat or drink. You can always tell when they are going to hatch their eggs; on the morning before, they leave the nest for the only time and the very large dropping found on the aviary floor is a pretty sure indication that the eggs will hatch the next day, and that the chicks will probably be seen the day after that.

Of the birds we have kept, Cheer certainly seem to be the best parents. Both male and female feed the chicks equally, indeed the cock seems to stick at it longer as the chicks become more tiresome during the poult stage. When ten Cheer poults in one family learn to play King of the Castle, they can become

quite argumentative, and skirmishes often break out. Usually the nearest parent just steps between the troublesome poults and they often use diversion tactics, such as titbit calling, to distract. However, should the argument continue or become more serious, then both parents steam in, sorting out a poult a piece with fairly vigourous pecks to the back.

When the Cheer chicks are very small, the male will usually sit in a brooding position beside the hen, even though chicks do not normally go under him. Both parents develop a much greater range of calls than is usually heard. Two of these are particularly distinctive: first, there is a low sharp call which the chicks always obey by freezing exactly where they are. Second there is a short, loud whistle, at which the chicks disperse to all points of the compass, hiding in every corner. The first call is used when kestrels, crows or magpies are seen overhead, but some distance away. The second is given if a large bird appears suddenly overhead or something quite unexpected happens. When the birds freeze, their natural camouflage might well protect them from a predator that is some distance away, but one can also see the logic of dispersing in every direction so that a predator cannot catch more than one or two chicks.

A nice brood of parent reared Cheer. Photo: John Corder

Most other calls usually have something to do with food. Cheer pairs usually communicate regularly to each other but when they have chicks the range of calls is much greater. When food is found, there also appears to be much greater urgency in the call. However, one type of calling always surprises us and we cannot fathom why it should happen. Once the Cheer chicks have learned to roost, they begin to make soft continuous calls to each other on the perch as darkness falls. As the chicks get older, the noise seems to increase proportionately until, by the time they are fully grown, you can hear them 20 or 30 yards away. One can understand the sense in the birds calling softly to keep together as they roost, but this continuous calling would seem to announce their presence to every predator within hearing distance.

The Monal hen increases the variety of her calls tremendously when she first hatches chicks; even hens that have not been parent reared themselves seem to develop naturally this increased range of calls and commands to the chicks. It is also interesting to see the reactions of hens in adjoining aviaries when a chick gives a distress call. Edwards's, Malay and Grey Peacock hens seem to want to help any species of chick, whereas Cheer react agressively to all other species. Golden seem quite upset by other family groups of their own species, but take little notice of other breeds.

We have occasionally incubated eggs when hens have not sat, or have abandoned a clutch, and we usually put these chicks out on the lawn in a covered run within two or three days. A heated brooder box goes into the run with them, and they soon learn to go in and out at will, although they are always shut in at

Cheer chicks feeding with both parents. *Photo: John*

night. However, when weighed and measured, we always find that parent reared chicks seem to grow much more slowly, and certainly weigh less than those chicks that have been incubated. Often we have to ring the parent reared chicks as much as a week later than those from the incubator. The parent reared chicks are much more active and spend far less time being brooded under the hen than the chicks that have access to the brooder box. The parent reared chicks also eat far less chick crumbs than their incubated counterparts, even allowing for what is eaten by the parents.

All of our birds get a daily bowl of diced fruit and vegetable in the morning, as well as always having pellets available in hoppers. If a cock Edwards's or Golden finds food in a bowl when the hen or chicks are around, it will adopt a threatening posture or drive the other birds off until it has eaten its fill. However, if we tip the same food on the floor, the males will immediately titbit the chicks, and they will also perform this same behaviour to the hens in the breeding season. A couple of years ago we kept a family group of Monals together until the end of January. The three poults were fully grown and two of them were obviously males. However, the adult male totally ignored the young birds unless they got between him and his intended food, and the poults always took care to keep a reasonable distance from the cock. At night, all five would usually roost together, with the poults between the two adults.

I am sure many of us can give examples of birds which become more aggressive in the breeding season. The cocks of some species are renowned for their ability to spur through wellington boots in an effect to see an intruder (us) off their patch. We once had a Grey Peacock male who chased me right out of the aviary and followed me out of the door. He was so mad at me that, when I stepped back into the aviary again, he didn't accept his new-found freedom but charged straight back in to get at me. Parents with chicks can adopt exactly the same strategy. However, instead of having just one irate male to deal with, you now have both adults, and females seem to outdo the males in this situation. What is more, they usually seem to go for the head. Ringing parent rearing birds is not always the easiest time of the year! We usually try to separate the parents off first in an adjoining aviary before embarking on the task. Only the Monals do not seem to try to defend their young in this way. The strange thing is that, outside the breeding season, all the birds are very tame and are happy to hand-feed for titbits.

Finally, if you think that hatching times in incubators can sometimes be less than consistent, hatching hens can also sometimes surprise us. First, chicks are always seen at least a day later than the incubator books tell us, because the hen sits tight on them for at least a day until they are all hatched and dry. However, this year, many of our birds were very late in hatching, the most extreme being Monal at 37 days, Golden at 28 days and Edwards's at 26 days. There seemed to be no particular factor in the weather which might have contributed to this. Indeed, in previous years, the birds have produced on time no matter what the weather. The only factor which comes to mind is that the hens concerned are all quite old - between seven and 11 years. Well, as breeders throughout the world say, lets see what happens next season.

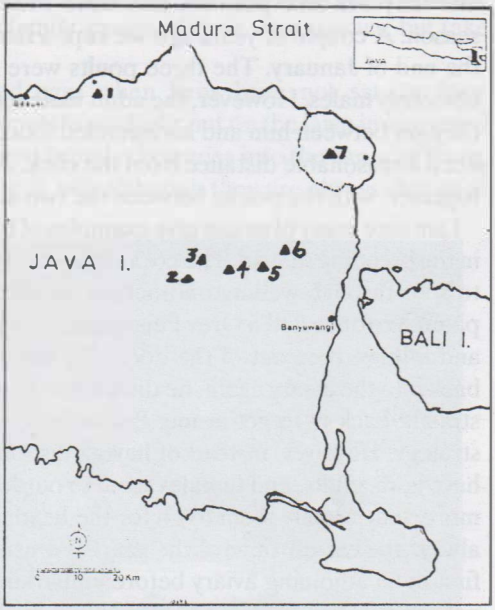
9 Woodmere Avenue, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey.

JAVAN GREEN PEAFOWL STUDY 1992-1993
FIRST PROGRESS REPORT

M Indrawan

A study on the behaviour and ecology of the Javan Green Peafowl, a WPA International and Puslitbang Biologi LIPI (Indonesian Institute of Science) sponsored training and research initiative, began in May 1992 at Baluran National Park, East Java, Indonesia.

This preliminary study took place just before the breeding season of the peafowl, which coincides with the beginning of the dry season. I looked at calling and roosting behaviour of the peafowl. During the course of the two and a half month study, one month field assistance was ably extended by Suer Suryadi, a student from Universitas Indonesia. Bas van Balen made a visit to the park and discussed the natural history of the peafowl. In addition, I managed to pay a five day visit to Iwan Setiawan and Andi Sediadi's one year study site at Mount Ringgit - Pasir Putih, approximately 100km north of Baluran. The two compactly collaborating students from Universitas Padjadjaran educated me to peafowls' natural history and local movements.



Map showing locations of study sites on Java.

1. Mt Ringgit
2. Mt Raung
3. Mt Suket
4. Mt Pendil
5. Mt Rante
6. Mt Merapi
7. Mt Baluran

At the end of the preliminary study, however, Suryadi and myself were impressed that the adult males seem to call regularly from roosts at dusk. Apparently, the adult males roost in consistent places and do not share the roost tree with other adult males, whilst female and juveniles may move more freely among the roost trees. A manuscript report of this survey, proposing that call

counts may provide a reliable index for estimating peafowl abundance, is ready by now and will be submitted to either the **WPA Journal** or an Indonesian based publication, whichever is more suitable.

By early October 1992, with the help of WPA and British Airways Assisting Nature Conservation (BAANC, represented by Rod Hall), I went to stay at Aberdeen for two months to prepare a detailed (longer term) study proposal under supervision of Dr Ian Patterson (University of Aberdeen) with whom I managed to get in contact sometime before, with the help of Prof David Jenkins. David also made himself available for any other parts of discussion for the project and I was pleased to have been invited to his house, along with Iqmail Shah (Pakistan's NWFP Wildlife Dept). My new study, however, would have covered a hypothesis that calling relates to territoriality of the bird.

Later on in late December, I met Keith Howman in Reading and learned more about WPA ideals and scope of activities from him. Along with Susan Howman, Keith took me to a WPA meeting at the Game Conservancy (Fordingbridge), where quite a few WPA scientists showed up, including Drs Peter Robertson and Philip McGowan, who has just completed a study on Malaysian Peacock-pheasants. I was later introduced to Keith's family. I also took up an old, kind invitation by Richard Grimmett to visit BirdLife International (then ICBP) headquarters at Cambridge and was shown around by Jonathan Eames. Later on Jonathan took me to meet Carol and Tim Inskipp of the Oriental Bird Club and I was encouraged that the OBC showed interest in this project. Weeks later they agreed to help fund the project.

Habitat of Green Peafowl at Baluran National Park. *Photo: David Jenkins*

Back in Indonesia and Baluran, it was the rainy season and tall vegetation from February to July 1993. There was not much I could do beside studying the daily and seasonal variation in the peafowl's calling behaviour, as well as roosting behaviour, when the birds went up to the tall trees. For several days in March and April 1993, Prof David Jenkins, Bas van Balen, Iwan Setiawan and Andi Setiadi visited my study site (and called ourselves 'Javan Peafowl Team'). David suggested that call counts could be established as a reliable index for estimating peafowl abundance if I could demonstrate that distance between birds which call at the roost was equal to the site of the ranging area for the calling birds. Meanwhile, by mid 1993 the project gained further support from Worldwide Fund for Nature Indonesian Programme, intended to cover field expenses to December 1993-January 1994.

From July to December I have been trying to collect data on ranging behaviour of the bird, but the peafowl is mostly too wary for systematic approaches, at least my experience. Tropical pheasants, especially the hunted ones, are well known for a high-degree of wariness, and this seems to apply to those living in the open woodland, such as the Red Junglefowl (reported by Nicholas and Elsie Collias in 1967 and by the former alone in 1987), and the Green peafowl in Thailand as reported by Belinda Stewart Cox in 1989 ("a peafowl slinking off undetected"). Unfortunately still, dry season (and hence visibility) for this year last too short a time and in addition the vantage points (where I am hoping to make hiding observations) has increasingly been attacked by the exotic thornbush *Acacia milotica,* the spread of which is considered to be a major problem by the authorities now.

Green Peafowl. Photo: Jean Howman

During the course of this study, advice was given kindly by Dr Peter Garson (WPA and University of Newcastle) that collected voice prints of the peafowl may provide an adequate basis for determing identities of calling birds, and the loyalty of individual callers to any specific species. However, if I were to demonstrate that the peafowl is a territorial bird, I need an extra field year (including dry season), to apply improved techniques at new localities. To this effect I have made an application to the British Council (Indonesia), with support from the organisation I am presently based at, Indonesian Foundation for the Advancement of Biological Sciences (Chairman, Dr Jatina Supriatna). I was shortlisted for the MSc 'Award 1994' and am waiting for the final outcome. Despite the present setbacks in the field, I consider myself lucky to have received continuous support from various keen individuals and organisations. In the field, I have been appreciating ongoing peer-assistance from two contemporaries from the University of Southampton, Simon Hedges and Martin Tyson, who had been living in the park for 20 months now, studying the park's ungulates.

While I was in the park, the Baluran National Park authorities, decided to hold a survey of the park's peafowl, which would be the first for BNP. I worked closely with Bapak Kuswaya (BNP office of the Directorate General for Forest Protection and Nature Conservation/PHPA) in designing and implementing the survey technique. Call-count was used to get cause (but reasonably accurate) information on population distribution, and hopefully, trend. For each of the three days of counts, workers are distributed regularly over 30 stations within the park, as well as the teak forest. Apparently, the peafowl (*ie* calling males) are widely distributed and may attain numbers better than the 200 total of local population suggested by Paul Johnsgard in 1986. The results are being analysed and interpreted carefully, for an official report to the Directorate General (PHPA main office in Jakarta).

I am looking forward to a full year in the field, now that I have familiarisation with Baluran, and recently added with Alas Purwa National Park as main study sites. Baluran is an interesting place to live, with all characteristic wild animals including Banteng, Javan deer, barking deer, grazing in the vast expanse of the woodland savannah, of which few trees only stand as dominant features, such as the spruce and beautiful *Acacia leucophlea*. Some people believe that Baluran is the best site in the world to view Javan Green Peafowl and I can only agree. Nowhere else in the world, perhaps, can people see easily 14 wild peafowl coming down to the park's main road (which resembles natural enclaves) and display regularly throughout the mating season.

Mochammad Indrawan, Kantor Taman Nasional Baluran, Pos Wongsorejo, Banyowangi 68453, Indonesia

PHEASANT SHOOTING IN THE WESTERN HIMALAYAS

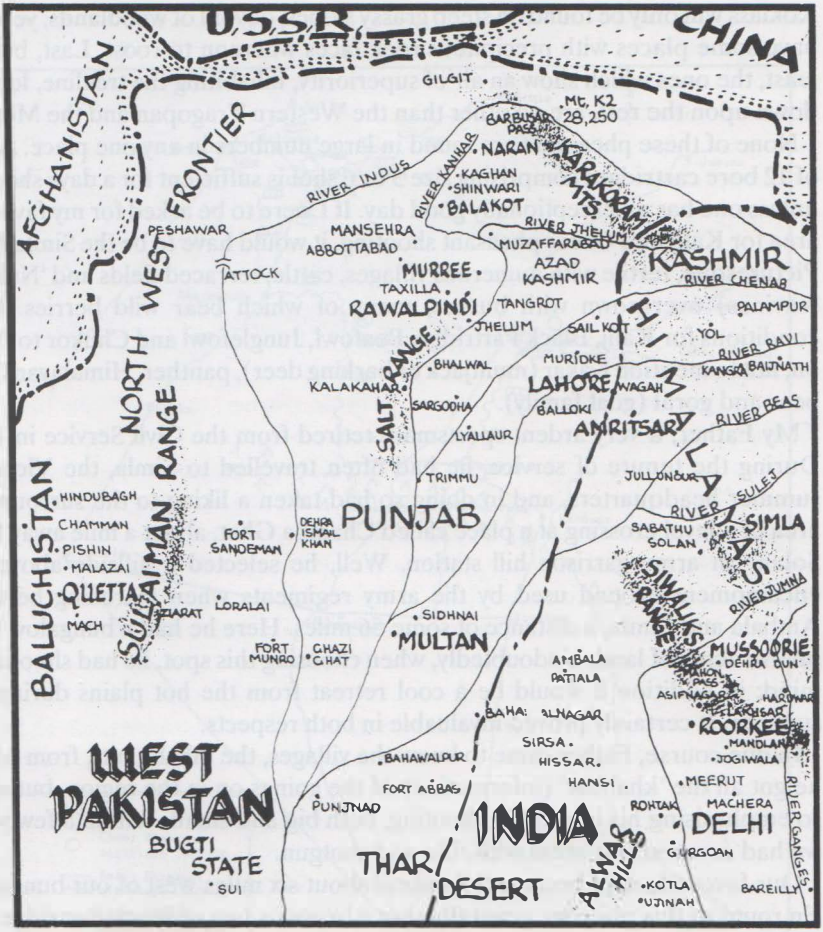
Mike Harrison

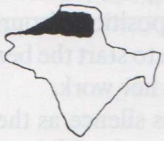
Anyone who has read Hume and Marshall's Gamebirds of India, Burma and Ceylon *Volume I, published in 1879 will realise the wonderful contribution to our knowledge of the gamebirds that was made by the hunters/naturalists of the mid and late 19th Century. Mike Harrison's recollections of shooting in India and Pakistan around 1939 and today's field workers in the same areas will, I think, find his records of great interest. A further article by Mike Harrison will appear in* **WPA News** *45.*

I must emphasise the fact that pheasant shooting in the foothills or the higher altitude of the Himalayas must not be compared with our pheasant shoots in the UK. There is a world of difference, especially in the terrain, not to mention the comfort of being driven to allocated stands by Land or Range Rover. Then the hand reared birds are put to flight, coming over the shooters who stand well back with unimpeded vision to carry out the slaughter.

In contrast, to go after, let alone shoot Kalij, Koklass, Cheer, Monal or Western Tragopan, the hunter must be a very fit person to be able to climb steep hills or mountains. In fact, only the real enthusiast or 'Pakka Shikari' (true hunter) would undertake a trip into the higher regions after the more elusive pheasants.

I have encountered the Kalij as low down as the Siwalik Range between the Mahon Pass and Karwa Pani (meaning bitter water). However, they are most plentiful along the foothills in valleys densely clad with bushes and trees, then





The above is a sketch of the shaded portion shown on the miniature map of the sub-continent, the sole purpose of which is to provide an aid to the reader of places referred to.

at altitudes of up to 9000ft. The Cheer Pheasant, in contrast to the Kalij and Koklass will only be found on steep grassy slopes, devoid of woodlands, yet must have some places with precipitous rock faces whereon to roost. Last, but not least, the ones which show an air of superiority, inhabiting the treeline, looking down upon the rest, are no other than the Western Tragopan and the Monal.

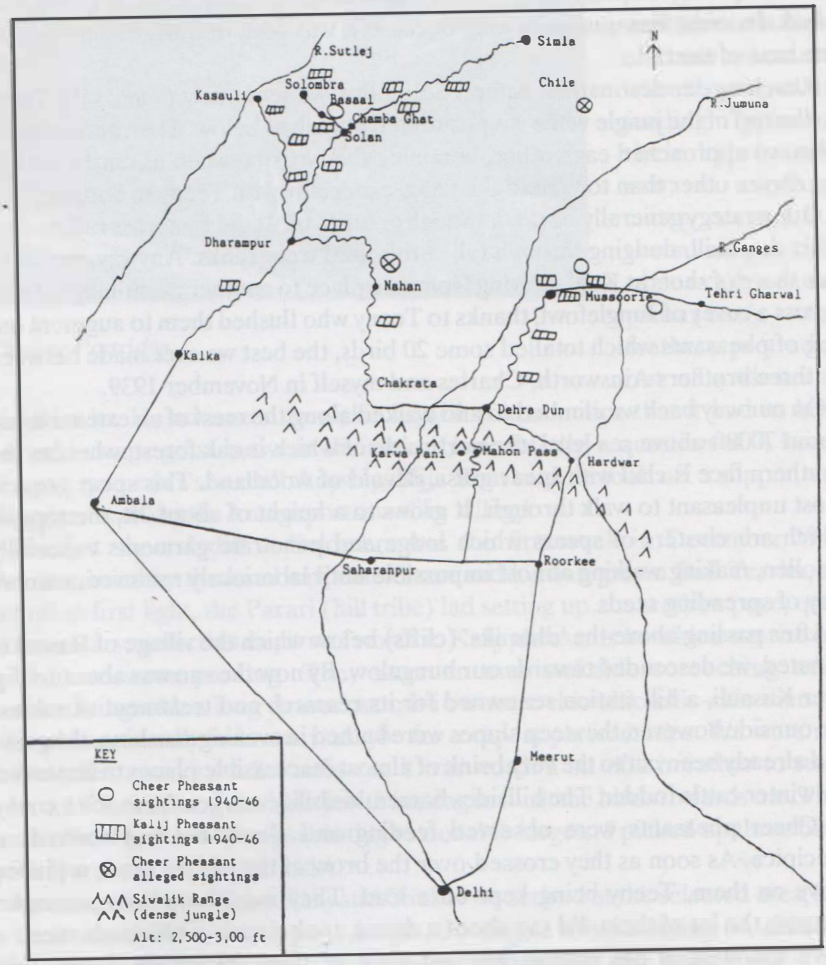
None of these pheasants are found in large numbers in any one place. A belt of 12 bore cartridges comprising size 5 or 6 shot is sufficient for a days shooting unless one has an exceptionally good day. If I were to be asked for my favourite area for Kalij and Cheer pheasant shooting, it would have to be the Simla Hills. Picturesque, fertile with numerous villages, cattle, terraced fields and 'Nullahs' (ravines) overgrown with bushes, many of which bear wild berries. Ideal conditions for Kalij, Black Partridge, Peafowl, Junglefowl and Chukor to thrive on, not to mention Kakar (muntjack or barking deer), panther, Himalayan black bear and goral (goat family).

My Father, a very ardent sportsman, retired from the Civil Service in 1930. During the tenure of service, he had often travelled to Simla, the Viceroy's summer headquarters, and in doing so had taken a liking to the surrounding area of a level crossing at a place called Chamba Ghat, about a mile away from Solan, an army garrison hill station. Well, he selected a hillside above the encampment ground used by the army regiments when marching between Ambala and Simla, a distance of some 56 miles. Here he had a bungalow built on five acres of land. Undoubtedly, when choosing this spot, he had shooting in mind; in addition it would be a cool retreat from the hot plains during the summer. It certainly proved invaluable in both respects.

In due course, Father came to know the villages, the inhabitants, from whom he got all the 'khabbar' (information) of the goings on in the region, but more so emphasising his interest in shooting, both big and small. Within a few years we had covered vast areas with rifle and shotgun.

Our favourite spot became Solombra, about six miles west of our bungalow. En route to this place we generally shot a brace or two of Black Partridge and Chukkor, then invariably fired at, rarely hitting the Kalij which dived down a nullah commencing at the base of cattle sheds. Sending up the two servants used as beaters with our Cairn terrier named Teeny, we positioned ourselves at suitable distances along the nullah. The signal was given to start the beat, stones were thrown into the bushes, Teeny was released to do her work.

A few hens flushed noisily at first, but then there was silence as they folded their wings and came down like rockets, followed by others in quick succession. The majority, as usual whizzed through the valley of death without shedding a feather. Of course, if a bird was killed, one wasn't to know until it was seen crashing into bushes hundreds of yards below. A much coveted cock pheasant



Distances between towns:
Delhi-Mussoorie 140 miles
Mohan Pass-Dehra Dun 7 miles
Chamba Ghat-Basaal 3 miles
Mahon Pass-Karwa Pani 3 miles

Ambala-Simla 56 miles
Dehra Dun-Solan via Nahan 120 miles
Solan-Chamba Ghat 1 mile
Chamba Ghat - Solombra 6 miles
Mussoorie-Tehri 12 miles

always got away in spite of our concerted efforts to bag him. His dive down the nullah is best described as a multi coloured arrow in flight. Red, silver and black, The head being red, the crest, back and chest silver, and the curved tail a metallic black. Its crest was unusually long because it was seen to quiver from head to the base of the tail.

Reaching our destination, namely Solombra, we sent our servants with Teeny to the top of the jungle while we positioned ourselves below. Then according to plan we approached each other, hemming the birds between us until they had no choice other than to take to the wing, especially with Teeny in hot pursuit.

Our strategy generally worked, though at times birds did fly across rather than whiz downhill, dodging through tall shrubs and tree trunks. Anyway, we had a fair share of shots at Kalij, moving from one place to another eventually coming across a covey of Junglefowl, thanks to Teeny who flushed them to augment our bag of pheasants which totalled some 20 birds, the best we ever made between us three brothers Ainsworth, Charles and myself in November 1939.

On our way back we climbed to and walked along the crest of an extensive hill about 7000ft above sea level, the north side of which is oak forest, whereas the southern face is clad with spear grass, devoid of woodland. This spear grass is most unpleasant to walk through. It grows to a height of about 2ft, the tops of which are clusters of spears which lodge and penetrate garments especially woollen, making walking almost impossible until laboriously removed, natures way of spreading seeds.

After passing above the 'dharnks' (cliffs) below which the village of Basaal is situated, we descended towards our bungalow. By now the sun was about to dip over Kasauli, a hill station renowned for its research and treatment of rabies. On our side however, the steep slopes were bathed in evening sunshine, the grass had already been cut to the very brink of almost inaccessible places to be stored for winter cattle fodder. The hillsides barren, visibility was good, as such a covey of Cheer pheasants were observed feeding and slowly heading towards a precipice. As soon as they crossed over the brow of the hill we made a pincer move on them, Teeny being kept on a lead. They must have seen someone because the lot of them, I'd say about a dozen, took part in a 440 yards race!

We followed in hot pursuit but lost sight of them. However, Teeny was released, she soon picked up a scent and climbed away rapidly from us to start flushing them out. Despite our best efforts to intercept them, they were out of range, flying extremely fast downhill, then soaring upwards to curtail the momentum for a safe landing. Had it not been for Teeny, in all probabilities these pheasants would have sat tight until we had left the scene. They are great walkers and runners, safer on their feet than on the wing. One of our servants namely, Beijj Ram, in fact from the village of Basaal situated just below us, told

Chukor Partridge.

us an incident about a Cheer pheasant. He unexpectedly walked into a covey of these pheasants when they were busy feeding. Typical of their habit, some ran, others concealed themselves. He observed one pheasant's tail feathers protruding out of a cluster of small rocks. He advanced to within a yard of it to notice that it had its head buried in some grass between the rocks. Undoubtedly, a question of 'if I can't see you, you can't see me!' Anyway, Bijja Ram said he took off a slipper, and slippered it to death. An unsportsmanlike killing!

The last shoot I did at Solombra was the first week in December 1943. Accompanied by the local carpenter's son and his half grown Bull Terrier, we set off at first light, the Parari (hill tribe) lad setting up a marathon pace, quite unnecessary, nevertheless, it was worth it. Kalij pheasants heralded sunrise in a nullah we were passing. They utter an unmistakable screeching noise commencing with a long drawn out c-h-i-r-r-rrrrr chic-chic-chic-chic then the chic-chic gradually fade away, maybe for a repeat performance. We were still some miles away from Solombra so it was worth a bit of a breather to stand where I was and send the lad up with his dog to flush the birds towards me. They took off not far above me presenting reasonable targets, I picked up three birds with four shots. Not a bad start.

Ignoring further calls by Kalij and Chukor we arrived at the selected area, had a short rest before entering the jungle, the dog as usual running on ahead, a disturbing factor which could not be remedied for want of a lead.

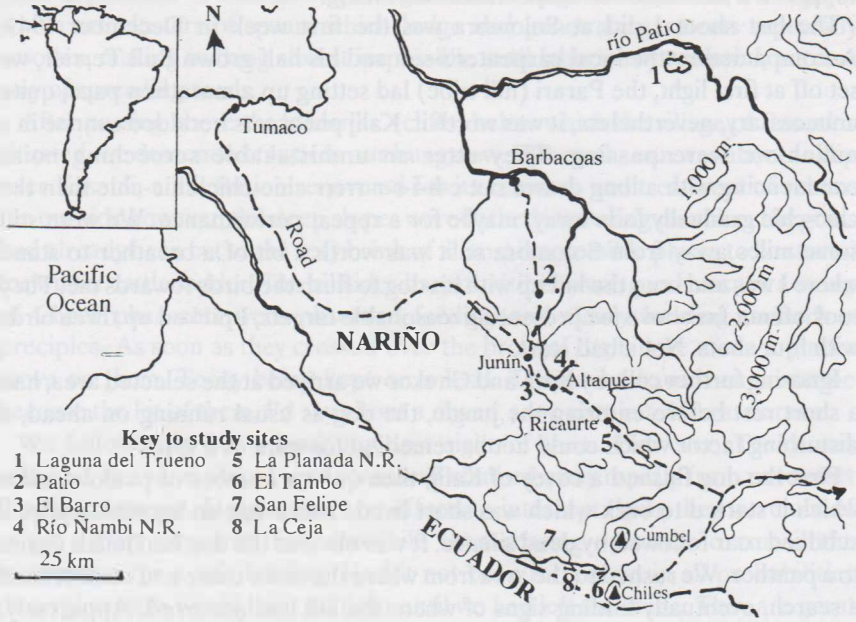
First the dog flushed a covey of Kalij, then quite a number of peafowl, after which it started to bark which was short lived. There was an agonising yelp, a subdued roar followed by dead silence. It was obvious the dog had fallen victim to a panther. We rushed to the area from where the noise came and commenced a search, eventually finding signs of where the kill had occurred. Apparently, the dog was at the wrong place at the wrong time. So, this was my last recollection of my shooting days in the Simla Hills. I wonder what it's like today?

NOTES ON THE GUANS OF SOUTH-WEST COLOMBIA

David Gandy and Paul Salaman for Colombia '92: Cambridge Rainforest Project

Abstract

Between July and September 1991-1993, ornithological fieldwork was undertaken in Narino, south-west Colombia, with the aim of compiling species, inventories at various altitudes on the Pacific slope of the Western Andes. Additional information was collected on the abundance and ecological requirements of threatened and endemic species. Of the 750 bird species recorded, three species of guan were of interest. The great biodiversity of the study sites, in conjunction with real threats to the region from road development programmes, highlight the need for a conservation strategy, with effort focusing on the submontane and montane regions.



Map of study sites in western Narino, south-west Colombia.

Introduction

Until now biological studies have largely concentrated on the rich biota of lowlands, such as Amazonia. However, recently the biological importance and uniqueness of submontane and montane regions of the Andes has been recognized. The Choco biogeographical region has one of the world's highest degrees of endemism for birds, plants, reptiles, amphibians, and butterflies. The Choco is still considered one of the last biologically known regions in the Neotropics. Yet its forests are becoming increasingly fragmented and contracted by deforestation, estimated at 100,000 ha per annum for south-west Colombia alone, which accompanies Colombia's rapid demographic and economic growth.

Each expedition involved nine stressful months of planning, which entailed raising our estimated project budget (including a generous donation from WPA in 1992) and organising field logistics. In 1992 the team of five British and two Colombian students, assisted by a number of local people, completed 11 weeks fieldwork at six sites, varying in altitude from 500-3350 metres.

Surveys were carried out using mist-netting and field observation. Some of our most exciting finds included the discovery of at least one, possibly two new bird species to science. The first, a Vireo, is being described at present. As well as these, three species of Guan were recorded by the expedition:

Andean Guan *Penelope montagnii atrogularis*

Andean Guan (reproduced from Curassows and Related Birds *by Jean Delacour and Dean Amadon).*

This species is found from NW Venezuela to NW Argentina, it is locally common in montane forested regions between 2200-3400 metres. Interestingly the subspecies *atrogularis* we found in the forest west of Volcan Chiles, had previously only been known from the west slope of Ecuador.

We found that the population size of this species largely reflects the degree of disturbance from local people. For example, this species was present in good numbers in montane forest below El Tambo village (3000-3100m) near Volcan Chiles. At least five individuals were seen together in the canopy of a fruiting tree, but the forest in this area was difficult to access, with extremely steep and hazardous slopes, compared to the easily accessible plateau of La Ceja (only 3km away), where only two single birds were seen during ten days fieldwork. The local people commented that the species was once common there. At a heavily disturbed forest patch near the village of San Felipe no evidence of this or other guan species could be found. Again, the local people said that this species was formerly common in the forest just ten years ago.

Human impact studies found that this species is persecuted by local people for food. Whilst not immediately threatened, it will not be long before the last strongholds of this bird are fragmented and the species is put at risk.

Baudo Guan *Penelope ortoni*

This very poorly known Red Data Book endemic species is distributed locally along the Pacific slope of Colombia and Ecuador.

In the Andean foothills we went to great lengths to find and study primary forest. Despite finding a remote location, we found ourselves in guerilla territory and were robbed by bandits. The site we found was heavily hunted, with numerous small man-made trails covering the forest. During a two week survey in ideal lowland forest habitat for this species, and this was confirmed when a female was shot by local Awa Indians and shown to us. The bird was skinned and sexed before the body was returned to the Indians for food (a major source of protein in their diet). The skin was deposited with the Universidad del Valle bird collection in Cali, Colombia. Unfotunately, this bird was a female in breeding condition. A second bird that the Indians missed shooting, was probably its mate.

This record is the first confirmation of this species in the department of Narino, having previously been recorded north in Cauca department, and south in Ecuador. It seems that Baudo Guan is largely restricted to undisturbed primary forest, with very low population densities in some disturbed primary forest. Much of the habitat suitable in its range has been and continues to be heavily hunted, and unlike the difficult, often inaccessible terrain that Andean Guan inhabit, this species' habitat provides few places to hide. The rapid

fragmentation of the Choco lowland forest is pushing Baudo Guan and a unique assemblage of species to the brink of extinction.

Sickle-winged Guan *Champaepetes goudotii fagani*
This species is widely distributed on both slopes of the Andes from Colombia south to southern Peru and northern Bolivia, in premontane and lower montane levels.

The species was encountered at the Rio Nambi Community Nature Reserve during all expeditions. Mostly single birds were seen feeding in the canopy or sub-canopy of fruiting trees. A nest with an incubating female was located only four metres from a trail, and three metres above the ground. The nest was made of moss, dead vegetation and light branches built up on a bromeliad in amongst many mossy vines beside a tree trunk. The female was observed incubating two eggs, which hatched after several weeks. The newly-born young were caught and photographed before being returned to the female. Only one chick was observed near the nest a week later.

Discussion
Guan species were recorded in low densities at four of our six study sites, notably those with less disturbance. This suggests that guans are highly susceptible to habitat disturbance and so can be considered good as environmental indicator species. Human impact surveys concluded that the populations of all three species were abundant 20 years ago and that hunting for food with guns has resulted in a steep decline in numbers in even primary forests.

As a result of these three expeditions the Rio Nambi Conservation Programme has commenced with the creation of the Rio Nambi Community Nature Reserve, with the help of local and international conservationists. The reserve will be owned and managed by the community of Altaquer (a local village) as the first community nature reserve in South America, helping to protect the guans and other species which occur there. Further ornithological research is recommended, concentrating on the populations of galliforms in Western Colombia, particularly guans as they are becoming increasingly threatened and are good environmental indicators of forest condition.

The results of the expedition will be used to push for the creation of a Biosphere reserve, protecting over 1,000,000 ha of forest over the entire altitudinal gradient of the Western Andes and safeguarding a large area of this outstanding biological and cultural region.

David Gandy, Dept Applied Science, Anglia Polytechnic University, Cambridge CB1 1PT, UK.

NOTES AND NEWS

KING BIRD TOURS

BHUTAN EXPLORATORY TOUR

This January 1995 tour is our most exciting new tour. At last, they've lowered the price a bit and will allow small groups. Bhutan, in the eastern Himalayas, is quite close to the epicentre of montane bird distribution in Asia, and it has one of the highest percentages of forest cover of any country in the world, much of it primary. It is a naturalist's dream, with an exceedingly rich avifauna. Few ornithologists or birders have visited this spectacular country, so it will be a real journey of discovery.

TIBET/WEST CHINA PHEASANT TOUR

(6-31 May 1994): Sichuan is the ideal setting for a China tour with its 33 (of 45) of Mainland China's endemic species (a whopping 73%). Over 600 species of birds have been found in Sichuan, about half of China's total. With an area the size of France, Sichuan is one of China's richest and most heavily populated provinces. And yet, the mountains of the Tibetan Plateau are so rugged that there are still significant wild areas left. With our over one year of birding experience in Sichuan, operating three expeditions and seven tours, plus extensive scouting, we're in a position to offer you the best China birding tour possible. Your leader, Ben King, has seen all but six species that inhabit Sichuan.

There are eight species of pheasants and five species of partridges present in the areas we visit and we have a good chance to see all of them (mostly good views!) - Temminck's Tragopan, Chinese Monal, Golden Pheasant, Blood Pheasant, Koklass Pheasant, White Eared-pheasant, Blue Eared-pheasant, Common Pheasant, Tibetan Snowcock, Monal Partridge, Tibetan Partridge, Snow Partridge and Chinese Bamboo-partridge.

For further details of both these trips contact Ben King, King Bird Tours Inc, PO Box 196, Planetarium Station, New York, NY 10024, USA.

REQUIREMENTS FOR EC CITES CERTIFICATES FOR CERTAIN BIRD SPECIES

It was agreed at the recent meeting of the EC CITES Committee that EC CITES certificates would not be required for the bird species shown below provided that the

specimens were fitted with a close ring - *ie* a ring made of a continuous band of metal.

If the birds are not ringed or are fitted with a ring which is not a close ring, a certificate will be required.

The agreement only applies to the movement of specimens within the EC. Import/export permits are still required for the movement of the species to countries outside the EC.

Cheer Pheasant
White Eared-pheasant
Brown Eared-pheasant
Himalayan Impeyan Pheasant
Edwards's Pheasant
Swinhoe's Pheasant
Elliot's Pheasant
Bar-tailed Pheasant
Mikado Pheasant

EDWARDS'S PHEASANTS ARRIVE AT HANOI

Four pairs of Edwards's Pheasants arrived at Hanoi Zoological Gardens on 22 February 1994. An article on the zoo and Edwards's Pheasant Project by Han Assink and John Corder will appear in the next **WPA News.**

Left, the Director of Hanoi Zoo, Mr Li and right, the Curator of Birds, Mr Dang Gia Tung.

PERDIX VII SYMPOSIUM

PARTRIDGES, QUAILS AND PHEASANTS

9-13 October 1995
Dourdan (Essonne, France)

This meeting, organized and sponsored by the Office National de la Chasse (National Hunting Agency) and partners, aims at bringing together, for the first time in France, scientists and experts in ecology, conservation and management of partridges, quails and pheasants living in the western Palearctic (Europe up to the Ural Mountains and countries around the Mediterranean Sea) and Nearctic (North America).

Species will include those of the genera *Perdix, Alectoris, Coturnix* and *Phasianus*, and also introduced species of other genera. The scope of the subjects encompasses : biology, ecology, ethology, genetics and evolution, management, conservation, outcome of restocking and reintroduction attempts, *etc.* The symposium will focus on the impact of agriculture and forestry on the species in question, and especially, on the influence of agricultural and environmental policies.

The symposium will comprise four days of sessions including oral communications and posters, and one day of field trips to study areas near Dourdan, which is located near Paris. This excursion will include the Beauce, the paradisiac area for Grey Partridges, and the Faux-Perche, a famous spot for wild Ring-necked Pheasants.

A postmeeting small-game hunting day, and a separate sight-seeing tour for accompanying persons, will be arranged depending on how many people there will be.

The official languages will be French and English, with simultaneous translations.

If you are interested in attending this symposium, please write to the organisers Secretariat Perdix VII, Office National de la Chasse, B.P. 236, 75822 Paris Cedex, France.

POSTAL AUCTION

The first postal auction was a qualified success and two items were bid for and raised several hundred pounds.

Successful bidders were Gillian Stewart for Johnsgard's Pheasants of the World and Alan Drummond for the painting by Philip Rickman. We are most grateful to the donors.

We would welcome ideas for future postal auctions and offers of help.

SPECIAL PREPUBLICATION OFFER TO WPA MEMBERS ONLY OF

THE NEW INCUBATION BOOK

Dr Arthur Anderson Brown's well-known **Incubation Book** is being republished in fully updated form during July. All orders with payment for this received by the 1 July will qualify for a special £2 discount. Publication price is £14.95 less £2 special discount plus £1.50 p&p. Available from WPA HQ, PO Box 5, Lower Basildon, Reading, Berks RG8 9PF. Telephone: 0734 845140 Fax: 0734 843369.

PROCEEDINGS OF FIFTH INTERNATIONAL PHEASANT SYMPOSIUM

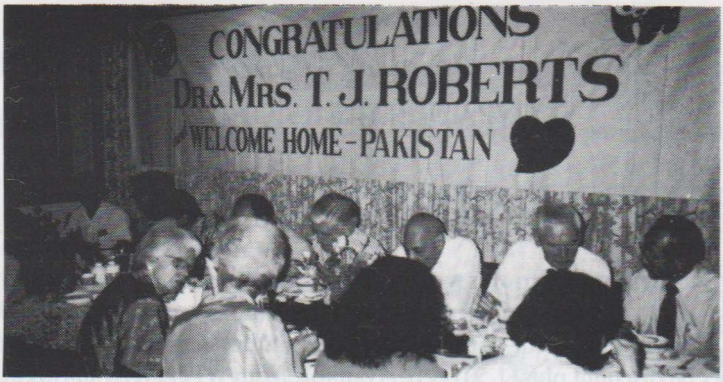
The Proceedings of the 5th International Pheasant Symposium held in Lahore in September 1992 have now been published and a limited number of copies are available to members. They contain 158 pages (A4) of papers on status and distribution, habitat use and diet, aviculture for conservation and avicultural techniques and surveying and monitoring pheasant populations. It is available from WPA HQ price £20.00 plus £2.50 p&p for UK only. Overseas price on application.

JOURNAL XVII & XVIII 1992-1993

This **Journal** is now available and has been posted to all members entitled to it. All other members can obtain it from WPA HQ at the special price of £6.00 plus £1.00 p&p.

WINDRUSH PHOTOS

The excellent photograph of a cock Temmincks Tragopan in display was taken by David Tipling of Windrush Photos. Windrush Photos was founded by long-term WPA supporter and past Council member, David Tomlinson in 1991; David now runs the library in partnership with David Tipling. Windrush specialises in bird photographs, but has a comprehensive library of wildlife photographs ranging from tigers to tragopans. However, Windrush would like to strengthen its coverage of the gallinaceous birds, and anyone with top-quality transparencies should contact David Tipling, Windrush Photos, Noah's Ark, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 6PD (Tel: 0732 763486).



Tom Roberts, the author of Birds of Pakistan, *talking to Al Lee (back right) at a dinner hosted byf WPA Pakistan.*

Tom Roberts whose splendid talk on the wildlife of Pakistan got the Lahore Pheasant Symposium held in September 1992 off to such a good start was honoured in the Pakistan Day Honours List. He was awarded the Sitara-e-Imtiaz for his authoritive book on the Birds of Pakistan by the President of Pakistan on 23 March.

OBITUARY

THE EARL OF INCHCAPE

Lord Inchcape, a WPA Patron, died on 17 March. He was Chairman of Inchcape and Co Ltd from 1958 until his retirement and was also Chairman from 1973 and Chief Executive from 1978 of P&O Steamship Navigation Co Ltd. He was a keen countryman and was never happier than when visiting his Scottish homes in Perthshire and Angus.

He was a generous supporter of WPA's work, particularly in Indonesia, and it was a matter of regret to him that ill health in recent years prevented him taking a more active role in our Association's affairs. Our sympathy goes to his widow, the Countess of Inchcape, and their family.

DON TUCKER

Members will be saddened to learn that Don Tucker, Chairman of WPA USA, died on 31 March. Don was a very respected aviculturist and was joint author of *Pheasant Standards.* Our sympathy goes to his wife and family.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the kind word about me concerning the Kalij project. Whether I'm sane or not I guess would depend on which day you asked my wife. And there are days when I think anybody who raises birds cannot be sane, but such are the trials of this endeavour.

The reason I'm writing is in reference to your mention of an Edwards's going broody for you this past breeding season. As I had mentioned before, I have had Edwards's hens go broody on me from time to time for several years. The breeding season of 1993, however, produced the largest number of broody Edwards's that I have ever had. During that season I had a total of four hens sit on their own eggs and the care of the young. I have never allowed the Edwards's eggs to collect in the pen. So when the hens go broody it's almost always on one egg. This was the case in 1993.

Of the four hens that went broody, three were sitting on fertile eggs, while the fourth was a hen that had not produced fertile eggs the entire season. Of the three with fertile eggs, two hatched and reared their chicks. Two of the hens which did sit were in a three unit pen complex which was arranged so that the chicks could move between the three pens. The two hens which sat on their eggs were in the outside pens and the middle hen never went broody. When the first chick hatched, it moved freely between the three pens and this caused the break up of the second broody hen. She would care for the chick when it came in her pen and in the process abandoned her own nest. The pair of Edwards's in the middle obviously allowed the chick to pass unhindered as the chick would be found under either one of the broody hens. In all cases the pairs were allowed to remain intact and the males were not removed once the female sat. I have found the male Edwards's to be good, protective parents and have never had a case where they have harmed the chicks. The female which was sitting on an infertile egg was given a clutch of Nepal Kalij eggs which had pipped on the day the hen who was incubating was killed by a fisher (another whole story). The eggs hatched and this hen, along with her mate, proved to be excellent foster parents and raised three of the five chicks that hatched. The two chicks which were lost were lost due to them escaping the pen and not through any fault of the parents.

Our species which sit on their own eggs on a regular basis in my aviaries include the Swinhoe - almost always, Nepal and White-crested Kalij, Golden pheasants, Reeves, Temminck and Satyr Tragopans, and the common Ringnecks. In all cases I have left the male with the chicks and have found, with only one or two

exceptions, the male to be an excellent parent and a diligent defender of his young. Ringnecks will always kill the chicks of another hen and I had a tragopan male who would kill the young when they were about a week old. The only way to determine the quality of the parents is to let them hatch their own eggs and then keep a close watch on what goes on for the first few days after the chicks have hatched especially if the eggs are extremely valuable and one does not want to risk the chance of losing the species' eggs. I for one, however, have decided that I am going to allow as many as possible of my birds to rear their own young.

This to me has many advantages over artificial rearing. This policy will also include the Edwards's pheasants. In the spring of 1994 I intend to allow the hens to build up their own clutch of eggs after I have taken probably the first clutch from them. The majority of the species with which I work, *ie* the Kalij, do not enjoy a high value or large market demand. Therefore, raising a few birds per hen is generally more than enough birds to satisfy my needs for any one season. This year, for instance, I had three White-crested Kalij hens which raised their own chicks and in so doing filled my pens to overflowing. Two of the hens raised six chicks apiece and another hen raised ten. To implement my plans of allowing the hens to raise their own young has necessitated a re-thinking and a re-design of my aviaries. I have always been concerned with security around the perimeter of the pens but have used generally larger mesh between the aviaries. I've now instituted a programme of complete rebuilding almost all of my pens. As part of this rebuild, the security between pens will be as tight as it is on the perimeter. Almost without exception the losses that I have sustained when the hens raise their own chicks is from the chicks escaping the pens.

One final thought concerning this. This year a Swinhoe raised a total of five young in a pen that did not have good security. This was one of the first pens built and I had used old cedar railroad ties as back walls. These ties had deteriorated to the point where the chicks could get through various holes into the adjoining pens. The chicks would move freely between the pens and generally ended up back with their mother. There were times, however, when I felt the chicks should be placed with their parents. When I went in to catch them I almost always was attacked by the defending birds whose pen they were in.

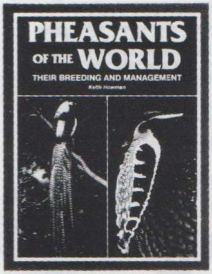
Based on my experience with pheasants hatching their own eggs, I've found it to be a very satisfactory way of raising young and I would encourage others to try this in their own aviaries.

Yours faithfully,

Keith Johnson
Kalij Conservatory, 350 Old Kiln Road, Marquette, Michigan 49855, USA.

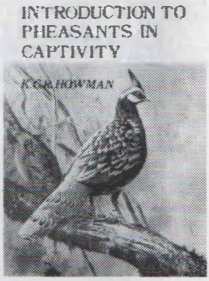
W.P.A. PUBLICATIONS

The Breeding and Management Series

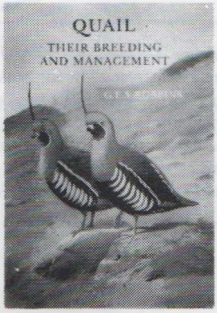


PHEASANTS OF THE WORLD — Their Breeding and Management
K.C.R. Howman
£35.00 + £3.50 p&p (UK only)

DOMESTIC QUAIL for HOBBY or PROFIT
G.E.S. Robbins
£2.00 + 40p p&p (UK only)

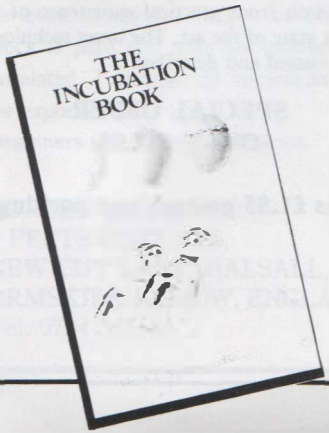


INTRODUCTION TO PHEASANTS IN CAPTIVITY
K.C.R. Howman
£2.00 + 40p p&p (UK only)



QUAIL: — Their Breeding and Management
G.E.S. Robbins
£14.95 + £1.40 p&p (UK only)

INTRODUCTION TO QUAIL IN CAPTIVITY
G.E.S. Robbins
£2.00 + 40p p&p (UK only)

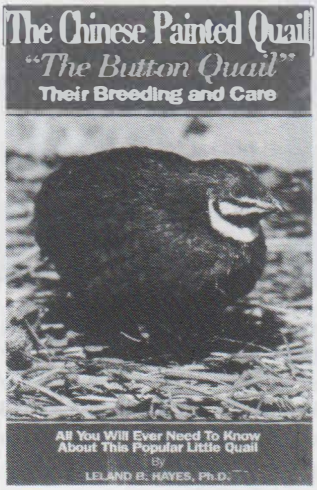


THE NEW INCUBATION BOOK
BY
DR. ARTHUR ANDERSON BROWN

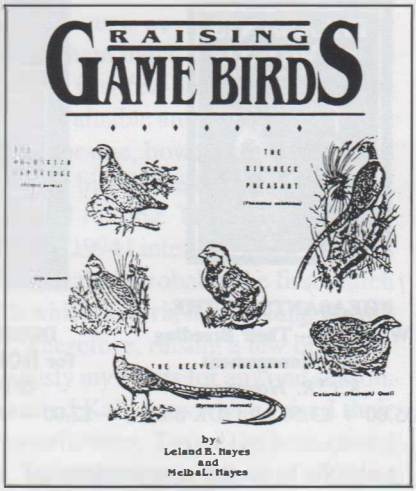
will be available in July
£14.95 + £1.50 p&p (UK only)

W.P.A. PUBLICATIONS

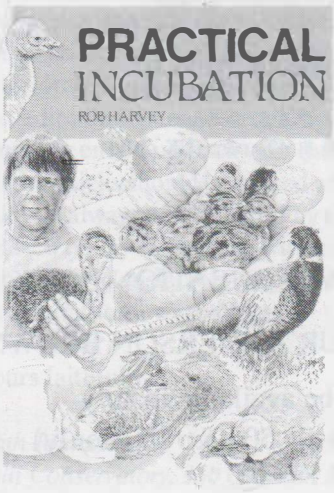
The Breeding and Management Series



At last the book bird lovers have been asking for. **'The Chinese Painted Quail'** is produced in good quality softback cover with four pages of colour plates, 161 pages and many photos, drawings and maps. The author is the current President of the American Gamebird Breeders Federation. Price £12.95 plus £1.05 postage and packing.



'Raising Gamebirds' is 300 pages packed with practical information for both the beginner and the experienced gamebird breeder on how to raise ornamental quail, partridges and pheasants. Chapters are included on commercial game pheasant farming and bird health and diseases. Price £13.95 plus £1.55 postage and packing.



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'Practical Incubation' is a bang up-to-date description from practical experience of the present state of the art. The latest techniques are discussed and described.

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