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WPA News 54 (1997)

World Pheasant Association

WPA NEWS

No. 54 *August 1997*

The International Newsletter of the World Pheasant Association

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Affiliated Organisations
Taiwan Pheasant Association
Northern Ireland Ornamental Pheasant Society
Bird Conservation Nepal

Administrator: Nicola Chalmers-Watson
P O Box 5, Lower Basildon, Reading RG8 9PF, England.
Telephone: 0118 984 5140 Fax: 0118 984 3369
Registered Charity No 271203

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Editor: Derek Bingham

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Forthcoming Events

1997

8-14 Sept	Pheasant and PQF Symposium, Melaka, Malaysia
4 October	WPA Annual General Meeting
6-9 Dec	Third International Megapode Symposium, Victoria, Australia

Front cover: *A group of blood pheasants relaxed and preening in Lianhuashan, China*
Back cover: *(top) Cock blood pheasant guarding the nest (bottom) hen blood pheasant with newly hatched chicks.* *All photos: Jia Chenxi*

The **World Pheasant Association** gratefully acknowledges the support of

BRITISH AIRWAYS ASSISTING CONSERVATION

Newsletter jottings

Keith Howman

This newsletter is the last before two major international galliforme symposia are held. By the time most members receive it, the first combined Pheasant and Partridge, Quail and Francolin Symposium will be under way in Melacca. Those like myself who have attended the previous five pheasant symposia cannot help but be struck by how much progress has been made and how much research work has been inspired by your Association - particularly work carried out in Asia by Asians. For the first international pheasant symposium held in Kathmandu in 1979 there were no papers offered by an Asian field scientist. For the Melacca symposium, over 50 abstracts have been offered.

The rising tide of our progress is to be seen too in this newsletter. Despite a remit from the start to look after the conservation of the world galliformes it was natural that we should start where our roots and name began, with the pheasants. Few if any of the founder members had even heard of a Sichuan hill-partridge or a Daurian partridge but in this issue we have articles on both - indeed this issue is dominated by PQF species which is very much to the credit of our PQF Specialist Group.

The second symposium coming up this year and beginning in fact on 6th December at Nhill in the State of Victoria, Australia is the third international megapode symposium. The previous two megapode symposia have been small affairs held alongside the World Ornithological Congress. This year's event will be a fully fledged event with almost all the major workers on the megapodes in recent times being present. I must personally confess that I cannot wait to get to see Malleefowl on their nest site and listen to a commentary on them by the remarkable Whimpey Reichelt who has fought so long and so hard for the conservation of this declining and fascinating species.

When WPA began, none of us really knew what a megapode was let alone that we would be involved with a major international symposium on them. Dr Rene Dekker and Dr Darryl Jones, who have organised the symposium and who run the Megapode Specialist Group, have done a remarkable job in building up the interest in this fascinating group of galliformes.

For the second successive newsletter, we have superb photographs taken in the wild by colleagues in China on our front (and back) cover. On this occasion the blood pheasant is featured and Jia Chenxi is to be congratulated on his patience in obtaining such superb photographs.

Finally, a reminder that the Annual Review will be published in November with the next newsletter due in mid-February.

Fundraising Events

As our accounts each year clearly show, membership income needs major augmenting each year to cover the very modest costs of running the Association, let alone funding the projects that we wish to support. The success of our fundraising events is therefore vital to the success of the Association's work.

1997 is going well and began with a repeat of last years enjoyable and successful charity clay pigeon shoot on Wednesday, 21 May at Holland and Holland's shooting grounds in Northwood, Middlesex sponsored by The Famous Grouse. Ten teams of four participated in a well-organised competition followed by a BBQ supper. The successful teams were rewarded by bottles of The Famous Grouse whisky and Gloag's London Gin.

Above: The winning team from Smiths Gore Chartered Surveyors.
Below: Flush winners the Galliforme Gourmets (l to r: Robert Smallman, Simon Gudgeon, Mike Streather, Ian Stoddart) with Matthew Gloag of The Famous Grouse.

Photos: Diana Lovel

A totally new event was generously organised by Susan Hewetson-Brown and her husband David at their farm in Hampshire, where some 40 invited guests enjoyed a fabulous lunch cooked by Susan which was followed by an auction of donated items conducted with great good humour by Charles Lucas of auctioneers Dreweatt-Neate. The event raised a wonderful £4500 for the Association and hopefully other members may feel encouraged to run a similar event in other parts of the country.

Helen May admires Gilbert, the symbol of The Famous Grouse.

Keith Howman holds up a limited edition copy of Pheasants of the World: their breeding and management.

Susan Hewetson-Brown (left) and David Hewetson-Brown (right) who organised the event with their son James.

In Berkshire, our chairman Richard Howard, with Nicola Chalmers-Watson in support, organised a joint charities clay pigeon shoot in conjunction with the International Trust for Nature Conservation and the Child Beale Trust. This was held at the lovely Royal Berkshire Shooting Grounds close to Child Beale and was followed by a BBQ and auction in the Beale Centre beside our offices.

The show season is underway as I write. Our first event was The Game Conservancy Scottish Fair organised by The Game Conservancy Trust and held each year at Scone near Perth in Scotland. It has become an increasingly popular event and this year attracted record attendance.

Photo: Jean Howman

Simon Gudgeon (left), the artist who has painted three magnificent murals for our Game Fair and The Game Conservancy Scottish Fair exhibits, with Fang Yung and Nicola Chalmers-Watson (right), the new administrator for WPA.

Our stand, thanks to sponsorship from The Famous Grouse and the skills of Charlie Greenwood and Paul Higginbottom, was once again a very popular attraction and many thousands of visitors were able to see in close up grouse, capercaillie, ptarmigan and black grouse provided once again from Keith Chalmers-Watson's collection of grouse and pheasants.

The indefatigable Jimmie Reekie sold another 1750 raffle tickets for a gallon of Famous Grouse Whisky, a new record for this Fair.

All in all some £10,000 has been raised at these events, thanks to the efforts of our many friends and helpers, and has helped us make many new friends as well. Our thanks to all who helped and gave of their time (and money) so generously.

Photo: Jean Howman

The draw for the raffle prize of a gallon of The Famous Grouse Whisky conducted by (l to r) Susan Walker-Munro, Ivan Scott and Nicola Chalmers-Watson.

Ashley Reid, of the Northern Ireland Ornamental Pheasant Society, presents Michael Cook, vice-chairman of the Conservation Breeding Advisory Committee, with £100 towards the Indochina Programme at the Scottish Game Fair.

Small boy exploring 'The Himalayas' (left) Jimmie Reekie and Nicola Chalmers-Watson drawing the winning raffle ticket for the Gallon of Famous Grouse Whisky (right). The main entrance to the stand (below). *All photos: Jean Howman*

Quail and partridges in captivity at present

G E S Robbins

Reproduced with kind permission from the Avicultural Magazine *Centenary Celebration Issue Volume 101, No 4 1995, with some updating.*

As some of you may know my particular love initially when I entered aviculture was in fact quail. I am now going to describe the quail and partridges available in aviculture today, not all of which are however available in this country. I am fortunate to be able to travel around the world and see these birds in their native environments as well as in captivity. I would agree with Roger Wilkinson's comments that if we are to see these birds in captivity in the future, steps will have to be taken to ensure adequate breeding programmes are undertaken. In the case of quail in quite recent times you could buy them in pet shops. This no longer applies. A very good example of this is the rain quail which comes from India. During the 1950s/60s large numbers were imported and aviculturists would have them in their aviaries. Little interest was taken in breeding this bird.

In 1980 the Quail Group of the World Pheasant Association was formed, with a view to bringing together some of these species, which had all but died out. The reason for this was that the birds had at one time been very cheap, not that easy to breed, easily replaceable, and the incentive had not been there. Regrettably this incentive is usually financial.

Regarding the rain quail in 1980, we were able to trace a single male in Shoeburyness, Essex, and this bird was at least 15 years old. It wasn't until last year that an aviculturist was able to bring in some rain quail from the continent, where a small number had been located. One of the problems today is still that quail are relatively inexpensive, but the cost of transporting the birds from their country of origin to this country far exceeds the value of the birds. Another factor is that in their native countries there is often legislation which prohibits the trapping and capture of quail. The trappers are encouraged to trap higher-value birds. So we have a situation where these highly desirable birds which live on our aviary floors are literally dying out in aviculture. Unless we have specific breeding schemes, these birds will go out of aviculture.

The harlequin quail comes from Africa. One of the contributions I believe that aviculture can offer to ornithology is the observations made in our aviaries. It has been suggested by Professor Tim Crowe in South Africa that the Asian rain quail and harlequin quail are taxonomically related. Certainly if this is proved to be correct, there will be a few eminent people who have written extensively on the subject and they will be most put out. The similarities are size, coloration, display,

Photo: Gary Robbins

Mountain quail from western and northern United States and British Colombia.

size of egg, colour of egg, type of nesting terrain *etc*. The scientists will take note and in fact do DNA comparisons. At present Professor Tim Crowe is undertaking this research.

The stubble quail is very similar to the Japanese quail from Asia. It is possible that there could be similarities between these two quails. It is possible that this came about when the continents broke up so perhaps the stubble quail is a sub-species of the Japanese quail that you see in a lot of aviaries today.

Regarding the North American quail, these are bred in large quantities in the Unites States and have been for a number of years. Again we have to import these into this country and this costs a lot of money. We have been keeping these going now for several years, but even these are now beginning to decline in numbers, therefore we have to import to maintain numbers.

The Scaled quail was brought from the United States in 1983 where it is endemic in the southern States and Mexico. The birds brought into this country were in fact the Chestnut-bellied sub-species, and very few of the blue-scaled quails actually came into this country. Regrettably the birds have become mixed-up, as it is very difficult to distinguish between the females of the two sub-species.

In recent years the mountain quail has been imported, and I am delighted to report that we are having success, although they are difficult birds to keep. They are

very susceptible to worms. Therefore most of the stock falls foul of that contamination. They are best kept off the ground, in small aviaries with sandy floors. It is best to describe their accommodation as chicken hutches. They will reproduce, but with many of these birds they only breed for up to three years, after which their chances of reproduction are greatly reduced, which greatly adds to the problem of reproduction. Whereas a parrot may live 50 years and reproduce for 30 years, with the quail three to four years is good. You are faced with a completely different approach to reproduction.

The Mearns quail is regarded by myself as being one of the most difficult small quail that is available to aviculture. We had them in this country, but we had a situation where they were reproducing only males. In the United States they were fetching high prices, approximately $400 per bird, and this for a bird no bigger than a song thrush. We have bred them in this country but it was only males. Most of the breeding is now done on the continent. I am confident that there are only a few males left in this country.

The brown quail comes from the Far East. I am confident that it has never been seen in this country. In size it is very close to the king quail, better known in this country as the Chinese painted quail. There might be some relationship there, but we are not certain.

We are sometimes asked what is the difference between partridge, quail and francolin, and I cannot say. It seems to be a matter of terminology, and even scientists cannot help us. The term small game bird is probably a good description.

The common grey partridge is found in this country. The Russians are now starting to take bearded partridge from the wild and to breed them as we breed our grey partridge. We have already seen some of these come into Europe and have bred.

The snow partridge is one of the rarest, coming from China. The Chinese have just started to breed a few of these in captivity, but as far as we know none have come out of China. They are a part of a captive breeding programme that the Wildlife Department are undertaking. As with so many species, the Wildlife Departments in all countries are begging people and governments to realise that they have got to do something about captive breeding. You can't just let all the terrain be lost to various destructions. They have got to really start thinking about a breeding programme albeit on a very limited scale.

The chukar partridge used to be released into this country for shooting but now it is restricted. They are beginning to die out as far as aviculture is concerned. The standard red-legged partridge, which we have, is quite common in the wild, and are being bred in large numbers as far as game birds are concerned.

We now come to something which is a bit different. This is the Arabian chukar partridge. I imported two pairs of these for San Diego Zoo, which has started a programme with the Breeding National Centre for captive breeding in Tief, Saudi Arabia, where they are trying to propagate these species as an endemic game bird.

It is going to be very interesting to see the sort of things we have to do with this one to get it going. It certainly is a lot more difficult to breed than the standard red-legged partridge. This is quite an interesting bird in the aviary. It will run around and can become quite aggressive. It is very large and stands about 38cm high. It is not like the normal red-legged partridge, but quite a character. The red bill stands out and he has got big face tucks. When they become very excited their brownish black crown comes up and they become quite aggressive. It is a bit like a palm cockatoo.

The Philby's rock partridge has an overlapping range with the Arabian chukar. This is an Arabian species which has a similar coloration. Most of these I am told are most difficult, as they require quite a dry environment when their eggs are being incubated.

Photo: Keith Howman

Philby's rock partridge.

Photo: Jean Howman

Common hill partridge.

The barbary partridge, which is also related and found in Morocco, is again a difficult species in this country although they breed. There are only a few left and they are very susceptible to worms. Most people regrettably have to keep them on wire.

The sand partridge is not much bigger than a thrush in size. Little work has been done, but San Diego Zoo have been doing a lot with them. However, at present they have not had too much success. They then put them out to a private breeder, who has made quite an impression on the stock. Hopefully we might see these in this country in larger numbers in the future.

What is the difference between francolin and partridge? Being a complete novice, I would say not a lot, because even the professionals can't agree what one is to the other. The crested francolin has interesting features. We had them in this country up and to about two or three years ago. Ivor Burgess bred them for the first time and he found they had very interesting characteristics. Being a South African bird, the chicks did not pip the egg, but they burst the egg open, a bit like an ostrich. Another question that they pose is, "What are the relationships between terrain and climate?" They certainly need quite low humidity for incubation.

The swamp partridge, sometimes called the swamp francolin, has recently become an endangered species as with so many tropical species. Really we do not know a lot about them. We certainly have not studied them in the wild, so there is a tremendous opportunity for individuals who have these birds to study them in captivity. You will learn a lot from them. They are great characters. There is a group of these being put together in India at present. They are found in elephant grass type terrain, so are not easy to see, but you can hear them pretty well. They have got a good call voice. The locals will not go into the elephant grass because they fear tigers and other predatory animals. There is therefore a certain amount of protection in their habitat from humans.

The common hill-partridge is another one we brought in from Nepal. We have been quite successful in establishing them in this country, and in fact, Dave Coles has been breeding them on a regular basis. They are parent reared in his thrush aviaries at Child Beale.

The Javanese hill partridge is a difficult species, I have found. I have only ever bred them once, although Cliff Foley seems to breed them like chickens. They are a very colourful species, but a tropical partridge in that sense. We have found that they will only really breed if they are in a fairly warm high, humid atmosphere.

The Hainan hill partridge is one of a group of something like 12 hill partridges of which quite a few are represented in captivity, but not to any great extent. You have individual collections and zoos concentrating on them, but not really expanding the whole population.

The Sumatran hill partridge has an interesting story. We brought these from Europe as Sumatran hill partridge and looked through the various books and we didn't find a lot of information until somebody came up with a theory that perhaps these Sumatran hill partridges were hybrids. As it happens I was able to talk to René Dekker in Holland who has a good collections of skins, and he said to go and look at the Raffles collection in Singapore. We went to Singapore on holiday and sure enough this in fact is the Sumatran hill partridge. It is pure and not a hybrid. They have drawer after drawer of this particular species in their collection. There is a sub-species which is found on the mainland of Malaysia and in certain parts or Borneo. It is interesting how these birds have evolved. I bred them first in 1990.

The brown-breasted hill partridge really gets us wound up over tropical partridges. It is found in various parts of South East Asia. We could not hatch the eggs when they were laid in this country. Work was done at Birdworld where we found that these eggs from this particular species need a much higher humidity in incubation than the Sumatran and the Javanese. In fact the Sumatran need 55%RH the Javanese 50%RH, and the brown-breasted hill partridge something like nearly 60%RH. When you look at the distribution of this particular species, they are all intertwined. The question is why, in captivity, do these birds need different humidity for their incubation?

The red-billed hill partridge comes from Sabah, and these is a breeding station in Sabah, Malaysia. They hope to start a breeding programme as quite a lot of the wildlife people are beginning to realise what is expected of them. I find it a most colourful bird. As far as I know it has never been photographed in the wild. The few that have were all in captivity. My interest in the roulroul has extended over many years. It was probably in the mid-1980s that I had my first pair, but couldn't get them to breed. So I sought some advice from John Mallett at Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust who seemed to be breeding them quite well. He said to increase the temperature to 70°F and see that they are sprayed regularly. I put a mist spray over the top of them, and increased the humidity in a special aviary enclosed in order to keep the temperature up. In two weeks I had a nest. The female goes into her nest and literally pulls all the debris around her and whilst she is in there sitting you cannot actually see her. Contrary to all this I have seen hens in an open nest. Any theory about building dome nests doesn't appear to be correct. For those who want to breed Roulroul I would certainly say you must increase the temperature and humidity and they will go down to nest very quickly.

The black wood partridge is in captivity in a number of collections in South-East Asia although I don't think they have actually been bred in this country. I had them for about five years, they laid eggs and that is as far as it ever went. They are very hard to keep from the point of view of settling down, being very flighty.

The Ferruginous partridge is probably one of the brightest birds which I was able to film in Jurong Bird Park. Suddenly this bird appeared from the undergrowth and I filmed it! Ferruginous wood partridge, which we have had in this country at Winged World at Heysham, nested but were not successful in raising young.

The crimson-headed partridge is a quite spectacular bird. It is bigger than a roulroul, and they overlap in South-East Asia. They are in fact breeding it in some of the Wildlife Parks. A number have been shipped to the United States, over the years. It is an interesting bird, very colourful when the light catches that iridescent head.

The spot-winged wood quail come from South America. We don't know a lot about these South American quail. Various skins have been brought into collections and illustrations produced, but in reality we don't know much about them at all. Again is it a quail or a partridge? It is a quail I believe and it is quite a large bird.

The buffy-crowned tree partridge is now being bred successfully in Costa Rica. We are very hopeful that they are coming over here to us as a reserve gene pool.

The black francolin is another bird in our aviaries as is the Madagascar partridge. Work has been done by Prof Tim Crowe. We have samples of tissue, and there is a direct link between the Madagascar and the black francolin as a related species. So that is some success. Up to that time science had not indicated they were connected.

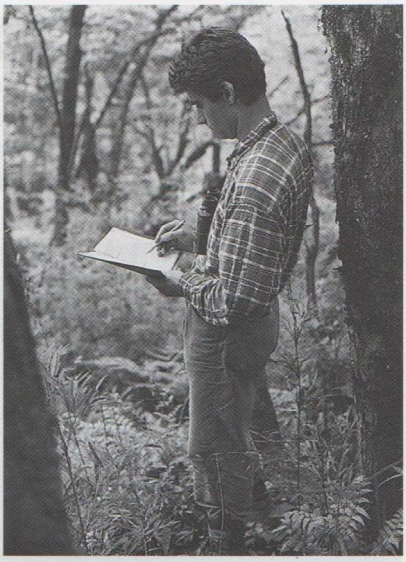
40 Old Market Street, Mendlesham, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 5SA, UK.

The Sichuan Hill-partridge Forest Conservation Project

Simon Dowell

Field Season 1997 - Summary of Progress

A survey team of four ornithologists, Mr Dai Bo of the Sichuan Forestry Department and Dr Robert Williams, Dr Simon Dowell and Mr Rod Martins of the World Pheasant Association, carried out bird surveys in the range of the Sichuan hill-partridge *Arborophila rufipectus* in Southern Sichuan and Northern Yunnan between 11 April and 29 May 1997. They visited a total of nine sites in Mabian, Leibo and E'bian counties of Sichuan Province and three sites in Yongshan and Suijiang counties of Yunnan Province. They carried out over 200 point counts for all bird species and over 30 transects for the Sichuan hill-partridge. A detailed examination was made of the habitat quality, extent of logging and forestry management at each site.



All photos: Simon Dowell

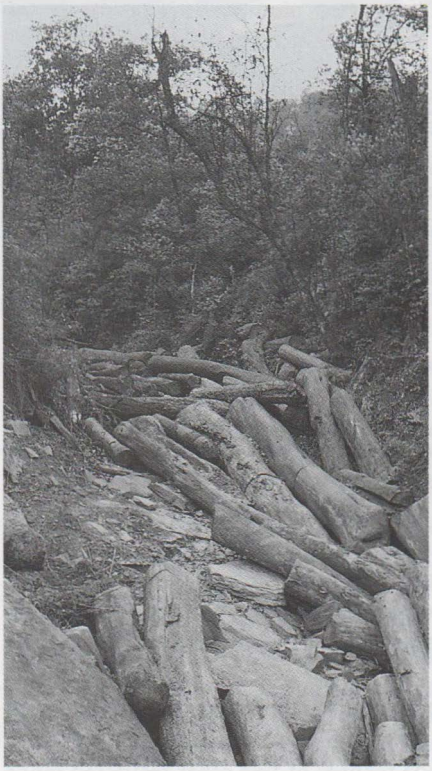
Dr Simon Dowell carrying out bird surveys in subtropical forest, Sichuan.

The main findings were as follows:

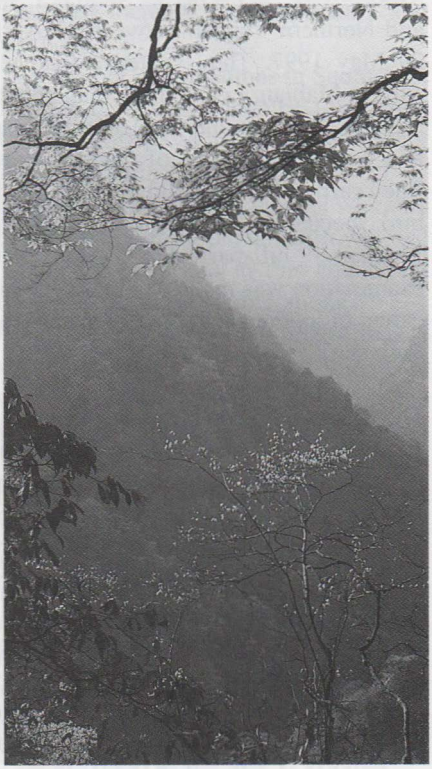
1. A total of 35 male and one female Sichuan hill-partridges were recorded (mostly detected by call, hence the bias in males) in the study area. This total includes four calling males, considered to have been Sichuan hill-partridges, heard at Ershuisi Forest in northern Yunnan province. If confirmed by sightings, this will be the first time that the Sichuan hill-partridge has been recorded in Yunnan Province and an important eastward extension of the known range. Two calling males were also heard in the Ledugou valley area of Leibo county. These are the first records for Forestry Farm 212.
2. More than 200 species of birds were recorded during the survey period (the exact total remains subject to confirmation following further literature searches for a number of difficult species). These include records of five other restricted range species as identified by BirdLife International.

3. A major understanding was gained of the conservation pressures facing the Sichuan hill-partridge and other species associated with its habitat. Sichuan hill-partridge and the other five Restricted Range species were all found living in replanted broadleaf forests although the habitat quality of these forests is not as good as primary forest. Deforestation of primary forest remains a threat, especially where it interrupts habitat corridors between sites and involves large areas of clear-fell. On current forestry plans, more than 80% of the remaining primary broadleaf forest in the area will be felled in the next 20-25 years. Other threats include disturbance from bamboo shoot collectors, illegal poaching and damage to the habitat by grazing animals.

4. Publicity for the project was achieved including an appearance on local television in E'bian province and a proposed article for the English language newspaper, *China Daily.*



Selectively logged primary forest showing use of stream beds for transporting logs down the slope.



Subtropical broadleaf forest in the range of the Sichuan hill-partridge in China.

As a result of these findings, the survey team intend to propose the following actions:

1. Continuation of the broadleaf re-afforestation policy using seedlings of native trees and a recognition of the wildlife value of this policy in local forestry plans.
2. An extension to the Dafending Nature Reserve in Mabian county to include subtropical broadleaf forest following a detailed survey there in 1998 to determine the new boundaries. All logging activities in broadleaf forest to the south of the current reserve should be stopped until the new reserve boundaries are clarified.
3. A new nature reserve should be established in the Erping/Banlixi area on the border between Mabian and Leibo counties to protect this large tract of relatively undisturbed primary forest with a high Sichuan hill-partridge density.
4. Support for Forest Park establishment at Ershuisi in Suijiang county, Yunnan Province and in the Laoyingzui area of E'bian county, Sichuan Province, currently being proposed by the local Forestry Bureaus and the establishment of nature reserves within these once they have been designated.
5. A corridor of primary forest 50-100 m wide should be left along ridges to link major replanted forest areas, especially in the Xining area of Leibo county and in Mabian county. This is already forestry policy, but it is not always adhered to in practice.
6. Stream beds on forested slopes are essential for the survival of the Golden-fronted Fulvetta, one of the other Restricted Range bird species in the region. Where deforestation is taking place, these areas are often further damaged by logs being concentrated in the stream bed as an easy route down the slope. Some of these stream beds should be left intact (one in every three or four).
7. Further surveys need to be carried out to establish the boundary of the Sichuan hill-partridge range both to the west in Meigu, Ganluo, Yuexi and Jinkouhe counties of Sichuan Province and further east in Yongshan and Shuifu counties of Yunnan Province.
8. A radio telemetry project should be started to investigate the biology of the Sichuan hill-partridge.

Acknowledgements

This project was generously supported by the British Ecological Society, the Zoological Society for the Protection of Species and Populations, Stiftung Avifauna Protecta, British Airways Assisting Conservation and Mr Abdul Jalil. Technical and logistic support was provided by Mr He Fen-qi of The Academia Sinica in Beijing.

Liverpool John Moores University, Byrom Street, Liverpool L3 3AF, UK.

MINUTES OF THE 21ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at Beale Bird Park on 28 September 1996

Present: A total of 52 members were present.

1. Report to Council

See **WPA Annual Review** 1995/96.

2. The accounts

A summary of the Accounts and the Treasurer's Annual Report had been printed in **WPA News** 51.

These were approved.

Proposer: Richard Howard;
Seconder: John Corder.

3. Confirmation of election of members to serve on Council

The following persons had agreed to re-election, and were re-elected unanimously:

Edward Dickinson
David Kinsman

The following persons had agreed to election to serve on Council, and were duly elected:

Paul North (proposed by Eddie Powell, seconded by Steve Bishop and endorsed by Council)
John Corder (proposed by Richard Howard, seconded by Edward Dickinson)

4. Election of Chairman

Edward Dickinson had expressed the wish not to serve a second term. He was warmly thanked for his hard work and enthusiasm, and his enormous contribution to WPA.

Richard Howard (proposed by Mike Rowland, seconded by Ian Hoggarth) was unanimously elected.

Keith Howman (proposed by Richard Howard, seconded by Gary Robbins) was unanimously elected as 'President-Elect', with effect from 1 May 1997.

5. Election of Vice Chairman

Mike Rowland
(proposed by Richard Howard, seconded by Keith Howman) had agreed to stand for election, and was duly elected.

6. Re-election of Vice Presidents

The following Vice Presidents had agreed to re-election, and were re-elected unanimously:

Dr Don Brunning
Mohammed Khan bin Momin Khan
Dr Dick Potts

7. Election of new Vice Presidents

The following persons had agreed to election as Vice-Presidents, and were elected unanimously:

Dr Karna Sakya (of Nepal)
Bob Bradey (of Australia)
Dr Peter Erichsen (of Germany)

8. Reappointment of Auditor for 1996/97:

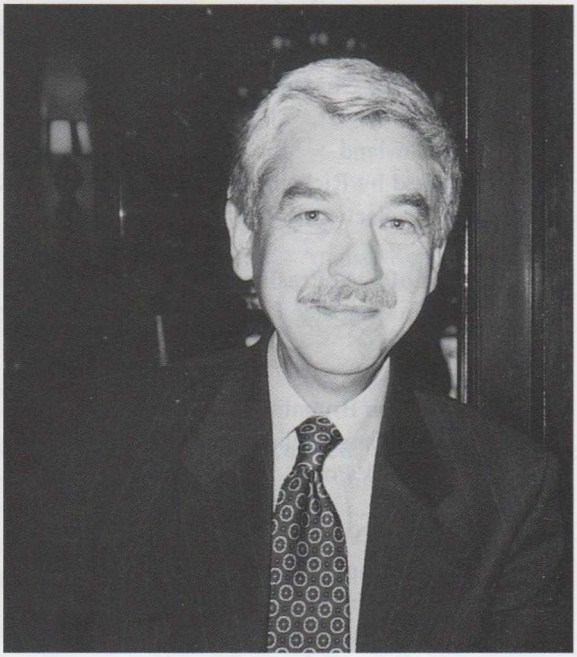
It was agreed unanimously that Robert Culver FCA be reappointed for 1996/97.

9. Any other business

Edward Dickinson was warmly thanked by Keith Howman and Richard Howard for his tremendous hard work and tireless contribution to WPA as Chairman, and presentations were made.

Treasurer's annual report and accounts

Ian Hoggarth, Honorary Treasurer



Ian Hoggarth

During the year to 30 April 1997 the Association continued to consolidate its financial position. Income rose in total by some £29,000 compared with the previous year, and with expenditure remaining unaltered, we have been able to restore our financial resources and reserves for the future.

This year the Association has drawn up its accounts in accordance with the 'Statement of Recommended Practice' for charities. This statement has recently come into effect, and apart from making the full accounts even longer than last year, has resulted in a number of changes to the format and content of both the Statement of Financial Affairs (previously known as the Income and Expenditure Account) and the Balance Sheet. Possibly the most notable is the requirement to separate clearly in the accounts the movements on 'Restricted Funds' where the donor has specified a particular use for the donation, and General Funds ('Unrestricted') where the Trustees are required to use the resources to meet the objectives of the Association in the way they believe best.

During the year we received donations and gifts totalling £93,816, of which £68,450 was for specified, or restricted, purposes. Some of the specified projects will only require their funds in the future, so we are holding £16,747 in the bank for when it is needed. Donations continue to be the largest element of our income, and we are very grateful for all the generous gifts we have received during the year. Our support for galliformes could not go forward without you.

The level of income from subscriptions and affiliation fees at £20,580 was similar to the previous year. It remains a concern that this is a relatively small part of our total income, and we would welcome an increase in membership numbers.

'Trading activities' are firstly sales of merchandise (£4,371) and secondly sales of WPA publications (£25,827). Unlike previous years these figures are sales not profits, with the corresponding costs (£2,352 and £21,798) being included as 'Direct charitable expenditure' under Resources Expended.

'Fundraising and sponsorship' relates to income raised at events, exhibitions and conventions. The income of £25,205 is the money raised, with the costs (£19,303) again shown under Resources Expended. This undervalues the net benefits we receive from these events, as a number of donations were also received either directly for or related to these events, and these have been included with 'donations and gifts'.

Also included in 'Direct charitable expenditure' was £29,864 spent on the various projects we have supported during the year, including monies channelled through the South Asia Regional Office and the Conservation Breeding Advisory Committee. These projects, mainly overseas, are reported on regularly in **WPA News** and remain an important part of our activities.

'Management and administration' costs have increased compared with last year as we have incurred more costs on salaries and consultancy fees. The untimely death of Tom Gardiner and the retirement of Jan Readman, who both gave many years of invaluable support to the Association, means that our administrative team has had to change. In addition, Keith Howman has retired as Director General. Fortunately, he will not be severing his connections completely, and has agreed to become President-Elect as well as continuing to run the Association's publication activities. We have been fortunate to be able to appoint Nicola Chalmers-Watson as Administrator. She is supported by Jane Clacey, who continues to look after the accounting as well as carrying out innumerable other support functions.

Including the gain from revaluing the Delacour Fund investments to market value (another effect of the new accounting standards), the Association had a total increase in Funds of £43,248 in the year, split more or less equally between Restricted and Unrestricted Funds. As a result, we have been able to restore the Delacour investments to the level they were a few years ago. We have also been able to increase our cash position, although the entire balance is 'restricted', in that it can only be used for Publication Fund activities or the completion of projects already specified by the original donors.

As last year we are only publishing summarised accounts in this **WPA News.** Copies of the full accounts will be available at the Annual General Meeting. Alternatively please contact our Administrator, Nicola Chalmers-Watson, who will be happy to send you one.

WORLD PHEASANT ASSOCIATION
Statement of Financial Affairs
for year ended 30 April 1997

Total Funds 1996 £		Unrestricted Funds 1997 £	Restricted Funds 1997 £	Total Funds 1997 £
	INCOME AND EXPENDITURE			
	INCOMING RESOURCES			
61,003	Donations and gifts	25,366	68,450	93,816
20,818	Membership subscriptions	20,580	-	20,580
1,592	Investment income	2,084	-	2,084
	Income from trading activities:			
27,483	Related to the objects of the Association	4,371	25,827	30,198
31,869	Fundraising and sponsorship	19,205	6,000	25,205
142,765	TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	71,606	100,277	171,883
	RESOURCES EXPENDED			
68,034	Direct charitable expenditure	25,405	42,034	67,439
24,324	Fundraising and publicity	9,840	9,463	19,303
43,537	Management and administration	39,217	10,278	49,495
135,895	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	74,4622	61,775	136,237
6,870	NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS	(2,856)	38,502	35,646
(1,875)	Transfers between Funds	18,181	(18,181)	-
4,995	NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	15,325	20,321	35,646
	Other recognised gains and losses			
1,590	Gains on disposal of assets for use	-	-	-
627	Gains on disposal of investment assets	-	-	-
	Unrealised gains on revaluation of investment assets	7,602	-	7,602
7,212	NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	22,927	20,321	43,248
62,195	Balances from the beginning of year as previously reported	19,455	49,952	69,407
£69,407	Balances at end of year	£42,382	£70,273	£112,655

WORLD PHEASANT ASSOCIATION
Balance Sheet
as at 30 April 1997

1996			1997
	FIXED ASSETS		
10,620	Tangible Assets		9,368
21,820	Jean Delacour Fund Investment		37,665
32,440			47,033
	CURRENT ASSETS		
35,158	Stock	33,628	
11,282	Debtors and Prepayments	9,085	
6,146	Cash at bank and in hand	36,916	
52,586		79,629	
(15,619)	**CREDITORS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**	(14,007)	
36,967	**NET CURRENT ASSETS**		65,622
£69,407	**TOTAL NET ASSETS**		£112,655
	FUNDS		
19,455	Unrestricted		42,382
49,952	Restricted		70,273
£69,407			£112,655

Approved by and signed on behalf of the Trustees

R P Howard, Chairman — I F Hoggarth, Hon Treasurer — 31 July 1997

For auditors statement see over.

Auditor's statement to the Trustees of the World Pheasant Association
I have examined the summarised financial statements set out above and on the previous page.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors
You are responsible as trustees for the preparation of the summary financial statements. I have agreed to report to you my opinion on the summarised statements' consistency with the full financial statements, on which I reported to you on 4 August 1997.

Basis of opinion
I have carried out the procedures I consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements from which they have been prepared.

Opinion
In my opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements of the year ended 30 April 1997.

Robert Culber FCA
Registered Auditor
4 August 1997

Field House, Brackley Avenue
Hartley Wintney, Hook
Hampshire RG27 8QU

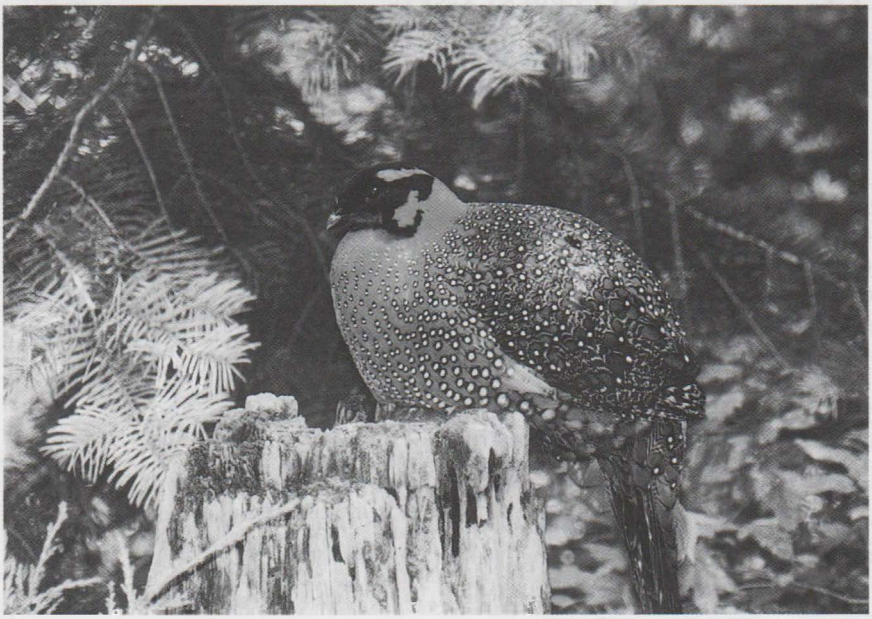


Photo: Dan Bruce

Male satyr tragopan at Speedwell Bird Sanctuary, Kelowna, British Colombia, Canada.

The Daurian partridge - a visit to China, September 1996

G R Potts

Dr Potts is Director of The Game Conservancy and a Vice President of the World Pheasant Association. Ed.

The following observations are confined to the days 25-27 September 1996 in the Tian Chi Reserve near the village of Dongzhuang, Ningwu County, Shanxi Province, North Central China.

The Tian Chi Reserve is in the northern Luliang Mountains, south of the Luya Shan, which rise to 2850m (9350 ft). The Reserve is about 150km north of the much better known Reserve of Pangquangou.

All the partridges seen were of the Daurian partridge subspecies *Perdix dauricae suschkini* in the Tian Chi Reserve which covers an area of 86km^2 (21,000 acres), mostly at a height of around 2,000m (6,500 ft). The area is predominantly open steppe grassland with scattered, shallow lakes fringed by reeds. Grazing, mostly by sheep, was not heavy, especially in the remote areas, because the animals were kept at night in the valley bottom villages, off the Reserve. Sea Buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides* was the most frequent shrub, and practically the only trees were a few

Partridge habitat in the Heavenly Lake Reserve is open steppe grassland, scattered with shallow reed-fringed lakes.

aspen along the infrequent streams. The orange buckthorn berries are eaten by partridges and are the main ingredient in a delicious Chinese drink. This species of shrub might be a key to the high partridge nesting success (later), the nests are often in dead grass amongst it, and the extremely sharp thorns would keep out many predators. There were, however, no sign of foxes.

Arable farming mostly involves strips of spring-sown oats or fodder-legumes. The strips are separated by steppe grassland and, on the steeper slopes, terraced. In places the steppe is relatively uninterrupted.

No pesticides were used or artificial fertilisers. Cereals were sown, weeded, cut (by sickle, not scythe) and threshed by hand. Almost all the partridges were on or near the oat stubbles. Flowers abounded on the steppe, including yellow poppies, columbines, pinks, blue gentians, vetches and many other species. Insects were also numerous including ants and many grasshoppers. Although not cold when we were there, the annual days of frost number 255, with an annual average temperature of only 6-7°C. (For further details see Zheng-Wang Zhang and Yie-Ching Wu (1992; Perdix VI.)

Judging from the literature I had expected the Daurian partridge to be extremely similar to the grey partridge, excepting only the ochre/cinnamon breast and the markedly darker or even black 'horseshoe'.

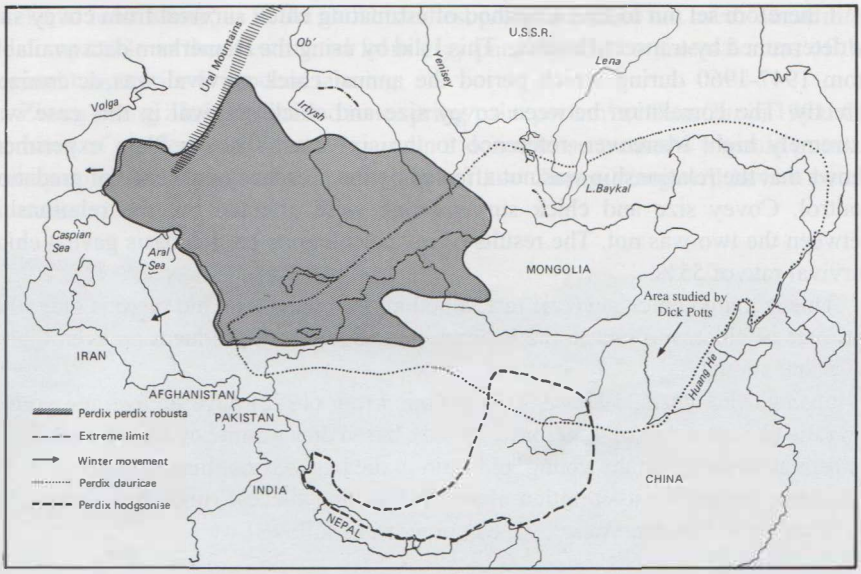
The breast colour was in fact very distinctive in the field, especially as the birds flew overhead. Also distinctive were the broader, longer but fewer, white stripes on the upper wing coverts. What is more, the birds appeared distinctly longer winged. In fact, the wing length is 6% less than the grey partridge *Perdix perdix* and it turns out that the impression was due to the considerably smaller body; the bird weighs 21% less than the grey. The flank stripes were also very distinctly broader and fewer and - a point not noted in any text or illustration that I can find - the bill, especially the upper mandible, is distinctly reddish or orange-red.

The sub-species concerned here is *Perdix dauricae suschkini* Polyakov, which is slightly more rufous above and on sides of the head and neck, and with the belly and lower tail coverts tinged with grey-yellow. These colour features are not found in *P.d. dauricae* Pallas, the sub-species studied by Vladimir Litun, south of Lake Baykal.

More important for what follows is the clutch size of 16, higher than in the grey partridge in the UK (from the data of Zhang & Wu (1992) and Zhao, Zhang & Feng (1992) both in Perdix VI Proceedings, combining data for the Tian Chi and Jilin (NE China)), but similar to that of the grey partridge in southern Finland.

In the Tian Chi I was present when 143 partridges were counted. Zhang Long Sheng saw another 24 on our second day, and Zheng-Wang Zhang had found a further 127 a couple of weeks earlier in different parts of the Tian Chi. The data were arranged separately and then combined; there were no significant differences.

Figure: The distribution of partridge, bearded partridge and Tibetan partridge to show the overlap of ranges



Dick Potts enjoying a meal with WPA President Prof Cheng Tso-hsin and his wife Lydia.

It was not possible to distinguish young from old except in one case where there was a pair with nine late July hatched young.

I therefore set out to find a method of estimating chick survival from covey size as determined by transect-flushing. This I did by using the Damerham data available from 1947-1960 during which period the annual chick survival was determined directly. The correlation between covey size and chick survival in this case was extremely high. Moreover, reference to the six-year Salisbury Plain experiment shows that the relationship was not affected by the presence or absence of predation control. Covey size and chick survival rate were affected but the relationship between the two was not. The results of my calculations on this basis gave a chick survival rate of 55%.

This is a high chick survival rate, albeit an estimated one, but there is one other estimate of chick survival in the Daurian partridge which produces an even higher estimate.

Over the 13 years, 1978-1990, Vladimir Litun (1992) gave an average young: old ratio in September of 4.59 (unweighted), based on a sample of 14,250 shot. Litun made a good case that the young: old ratio in the bag was not biased in his case. On this basis, and on the assumption of an 80% nesting success (high, but observed in the Tian Chi by Zheng-Wang), we can proceed as follows:

Pairs in August = 1.9 adults (some females disappearing or dying disproportionately to males).

1.9 adults gives 8.72 young (young to old of 4.59).
Pairs would produce: the clutch size x the nesting success x hatching success
or 16 x .80 x 0.92 = 11.78,
Chick survival therefore = $\frac{8.72}{11.78}$ = 74%
Any lower nesting success would give an even higher result.

The highest well authenticated young: old ratio, where the chick survival was known, was 4.31 with an independently calculated chick survival rate of 73%. This was based on the count of 643 partridges at Damerham in 1949.

The only higher estimates for chick survival in the grey partridge which involved more than one or two years are :

Russia	Gatchina	1886-1909	59%	Dits (1917)
SW Finland	Jokionen	1913-1922	66%	Fazer (1925)
Hungary	Esterhazy Estate	1922-1933	83%	Karkovany (1935)

Whether 1996 was an above or below average season at Tian Chi is of course not known, but the impression one gains is of a high survival rate of Daurian partridge chicks, at least where, as in the above studies, pesticides were not used. These rates are comparable to those estimated from grey partridges in continental areas of the original range prior to modern farming.

Zheng-Wang Zhang estimated nine spring pairs per km^2 at Tian Chi in 1991. On the basis of our seeing at least 17 pairs in a dozen or so transects I would guess a density roughly similar, namely ten pairs per km^2 Zheng-Wang will have a better estimate.

Pheasant habitat: no pesticides or artificial fertilisers are used in this area of China and farming is all done by hand.

Pheasants

The pheasants were quite different to anything I had seen before. In addition, they were very wild, flew very fast and were of overall dark appearance. These pheasants were originally thought by my hosts to be the Shansi pheasant *Phasianus colchicus kiangsuensis*. Confusingly, the birds have never been found in Kiangsu which is in south-east China; this was a mistake in the original description. Nevertheless, the birds are not the typically marked Shansi pheasants. They certainly do not fall into the description of Shansi pheasants given by Delacour (1951). For example, the collar was not "thin, usually incomplete in front", instead it was usually complete and distinctly broad (like *P.c. karpowi* which occurs to the north of the Shansi). Likewise, the white eyebrow was usually absent (like *P.c. strauchi* which occurs to the south of the Shansi).

I would like to thank British Airways Assisting Conservation, in association with the World Pheasant Association, who donated my air fare and the Normal University of Beijing who provided the remaining funds in return for some lectures.

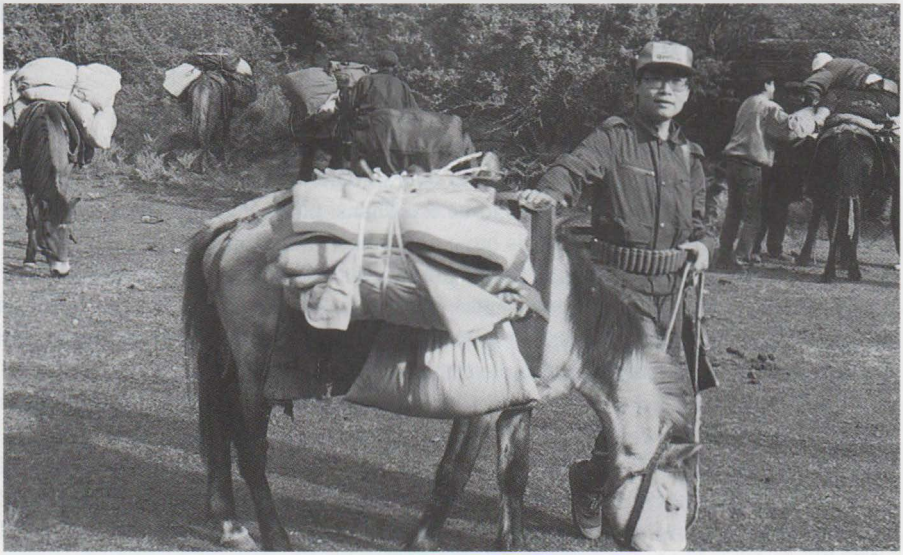
Harman's eared-pheasant in remote Eastern Tibet

Lu Xin

One day in December of 1994 my supervisor, Prof Zheng Guang-mei, said to me, "I have decided that you should study the Harman's eared-pheasant in Tibet for your PhD paper", because this unusual pheasant has been widely treated as a sub-species of the white eared-pheasant in the past, but recently as a separate species and so far knowledge about it is very limited.

On 11 April 1995 I reached Lhasa, the famous Holy City and the capital of Tibet. Setting foot on the Tibetan land, I was impressed by the magnificent natural scenery, special local customs and strong religious feelings that can only be found here on the roof of the world. Like most when they first enter the plateau, I also reacted to the high altitudes, for Lhasa is 3650 m above sea level.

A month after arriving in Tibet, and by arrangement with Prof Gu Billyuan of Tibet Pleateau Institute of Biology, I left Lhasa for my study area in eastern Tibet. Our team included Prof Gu, Suo-long-ci-ren, a Tibetan, as myinterpreter and helper, two drivers and two correspondents from Tibet Branch of Xinhua Dispatches who were interested in my work. During our first days journey we travelled through vast meadows in northern Tibet, surrounded by mountains with ice caps rising and



All photos: Lu Xin

On my way to the study area.

As a feature of the sea glacier, high ice flowed through lush green forest and rushed down to the river bank.

falling in the far distance. It took two days for us to arrive in Jia-li county. After a rest of two days at around 4300m in altitude we continued on our journey. Before long we entered primitive forest and the vehicles had a tough time on a rough road along the banks of the Yigongzangbu river. We needed frequently to clear roadblocks caused by land slides or repair simple wooden-bridges. We only managed 110km in eight hours! Finally before nightfall we reached Zhong-Yi township, a political, cultural and commercial center of several villages scattered in an area of around 4000km^2 of mountainous country. There was only 50m of street, three or four small shops and less than 200 people. My study area was still hidden in the distant mountains and there was no road that allowed even a bike to be used. The leader of the township brought five horses that were the only form of transport in this region. We left our two drivers and their vehicles and set off on the horses passing through dense forest along a path in a canyon that had been used by Tibetan horses for many years. In two days of travel there were few people and villages along the way. However various animals and birds, such as the eared-pheasants, blood pheasants, macaque and even black bear, were seen. Then unexpectedly we came on several adjoining Tibetan villages in an open valley and our destination was suddenly clear. On the map its geographical coordinates are 32°24' N, 93°39' E.

After my helper, Suo-long-ci-ren, and I were accommodated in the house of the village's leader the others in the party left us and went back. When their horses

entered the forest and then finally were out of sight, we were left with a feeling of loneliness and almost abandonment in this remote place. However not for long as we soon began our work. The area was typical high mountain and deep canyon habitat. The vegetation was clearly entirely natural and varied with altitude. The main plants were as follows: on the south-facing slope, <4300m, the forest was dominated by *Picea likiangensis* with from 4300-4800m, forest and scrub of *Rhododendron* spp.; on the northfacing slope, from 3700-4300m, the forest was dominated by *Quercus aquifoliodes*; and between 4200-4700m by *Savina tibetica*. >4700m was alpine scrub and meadow.

High mountain and deep canyon in Eastern Tibet.

I found that, in this area, the plumage colour of the eared-pheasants was a combination of blue which is typical of the Harman's pheasant and white which represents the main colour of the white pheasant. On 2 August 1995, with three horses and employing a guide, I made a long journey. We spent three days in climbing over the mountain ridge which was covered with snow and into another valley where I was surprised very much by the eared pheasants I saw. Their plumage colour was blue, like the standard Harman's pheasant's. Within one day I saw with my own eyes the effect of geographical segregation between high mountain and glacier. How had this situation formed? I suppositioned by analysing the distribution of *C. harmani* and *C. c. drouynii* in conjunction with topographical features of the area, that the blue and the white met up in the middle reaches of the Yigongzangbu river and as a result hybridisation between them happened naturally. Owing to the obstruction of high mountain and glacier, the hybrids were forced to move up along the channel of the river to the upper reaches of the river including our study area.

With help of Suo-long-ci-ren I could communicate with some difficulty with the Tibetan villagers but gestures were always essential. Two months later however, he returned to Lhasa and I was left on my own in the remote mountains cut off from the world. Nevertheless hard but interesting study work left me with little time to feel lonely.

I began to note the finding rates of feathers which moulted from the eared pheasants' bodies as I felt this could reflect their use of various habitats. I found, by this method, that the forest dominated by *Quercus aquifolioides* growing on north-facing slope was the most important habitat of the birds, and secondly the forest dominated by *Sabina tibetica*, but that the forest mainly formed by *Picea likiangensis* and the forest and scrub of *Rhododendron* spp. on southern side are not used by them. It is mentioned by others that alpine coniferous forest in south-facing slopes is the main habitat of the eared-pheasants in other areas, including the white-eared pheasant, the blue eared-pheasant and the brown eared-pheasant. By analysing the climate and topographical features in the range of the eared-pheasant, I came to the conclusion that moisture and temperature is a main factor that influences habitat selection of the eared-pheasants.

In mid-October of 1995, I was to leave the area where I had lived for five months. I was attached to every thing there and reluctant to leave it. I could not bear to leave those simple and honest villagers and especially my landlady and her two daughters who had looked after me so well. I could not bear to leave the beautiful and attractive sky, glacier, river and forest where I had left my footprints and my feelings. I could not bear to leave all the various birds and especially my bird, the eared-pheasant, because they had brought me great happiness and stimulation when I felt depressed and lonely and of course the two dogs who had given me so much help in my field work that I treated them as my good friends. Eventually, on 15 October, I had to say good-bye to all those with tears but at the same time I promised myself, one day, I shall surely come back here again.

Present address: College of Life Science, Wu-Han Univusity, Wu-Han 430072, China.

Postscript:

Since receiving this account of the tough conditions experienced by Lu Xin in carrying out his field work on Harman's eared-pheasant, we have received the following communication from *WPA China News No 10.*

On 2 June 1997, Lu Xin, who is supervised by Prof Zheng Guang-mei of Beijing Normal University, received his PhD by the thesis study on habitat selection and behaviour of the Harman's eared pheasant. The summary of his thesis is as follows:

A preliminary study on taxonomy, distribution and evolution relationship of the eared-pheasants.

It is likely that the short history of the rise of Qing-Zhang Plateau and correspondingly the changes of geological and ecological factors have been making the subspecies of *C. crossoptilon* vary greatly in morphology. We produce a hypothesis that the speciation of the eared-pheasants is a process in which their original species specialized and spread from Hengduan Mountains to the north and then to the east.

Habitat selection and behaviours of the Harman's eared-pheasant.

The field work was carried out in Sawang area (93°39'E, 32°24'N) in eastern Tibet, from 30 May to 15 October 1996. The vegetation in the area has remained original and shows vertical variation. Then the work was continued in two areas nearby Lhasa: Jia-ma 91°40'E, 29°40'N, from October 1995 to February 1996; Shen-se temple 91°40'E, 29°27', from February to July 1996. The vegetation in mountains is characterized by scrub and meadow, with a variation from 3700-5511m in altitude. Under the umbrella of Tibetan religion, the eared-pheasants in the study areas live completely undisturbed, which gave me an opportunity to study them in detail.

Moisture and heat condition was found to be a main factor that influences habitat selection of the eared-pheasants. The most important feeding habitat of the birds was stream belts in Lhasa area. The eared pheasants roosted in the dense scrub of *Salix selerophylla* growing in upper mountain with rocks or the willows' belts located in concavities formed with mountain bodies at extreme of stream. The home ranges, nuclear ranges and actual used ranges areas were 12.6-58.7, 1.2-8.0 and 0.2-4.5 ha respectively.

The main non-social behaviours and social behaviours of the eared-pheasants were described and analysed. Feeding and resting form the largest proportion of daytime activities. Individual distances when feeding, resting (including dusting) and roosting were compared. When feeding in the field, individual vigilance, which was expressed with the rate of raising head, increased with group size. The mating behaviours firstly appeared in late-March in the groups near the temple, and until mid-April the relationships of all breeding birds were formed and kept unchanged. The process was earlier than the population in natural habitats. Hierarchical behaviours among males include mainly avoiding, lateral displaying, and driving. A linear dominance hierarchy relationship existed among males in the group. During the period of pair-bond activity, females spent more time feeding and less time altering than males. There was no significant relation between female's maintenance and male's vigilance. The male did not occupy a certain area and engage in guarding it, but also had some territorial behaviours. After females started to incubate adult and sub-adult males lived in small groups. The mating system of the Harman's eared-pheasants is typical monogamy.

Stiftung Avifauna Protecta

Since 1990 'Stiftung Avifauna Protecta' (SAP) has been established in Germany for Nature Conservation as a non-governmental conservation organisation. It has been passionately engaged in the conservation of endangered bird species.

Presently the SAP are two organisations, the foundation Stiftung Avifauna Protecta (founded 1990) and the association Society Avifauna Protecta (founded in 1996). Both organisations are registered charities and are acting like one body. The voluntary work of each, however, is divided. Stiftung Avifauna Protecta is in charge of foreign affairs, mainly conservation programmes in foreign countries and contacts with IUCN and other organisations, whereas the Society is in charge of services given to Germany and German authorities. The combined budget of both in 1996 was about $35,000US.

Our aims are very easy, that is to take all actions and/or steps which might be helpful to stop any further deterioration of the situation for endangered birds all over the world. In the very first years (1990 to 1993) we endeavoured to create a network of useful contacts to authorities as well as to societies with similar aims. In SAP's early days the amounts of money available were rather small. So we lacked the resources to implement a progamme of direct involvement in worldwide conservation activities. Notwithstanding these limitations we were lobbying for conservation and giving lectures.

When starting our worldwide activities we soon become aware that it is fairly easy to fully fund a proposal for attractive birds such as certain parrots (amazons/macaws). But according to our point of view all birds should have the same chance. So we decided to concentrate on birds marked 'endangered' and/or 'critical' only and to prefer to support the 'underdogs'. At that time the Partridge, Quail, and Francolin Action Plan was published, and we offered some initial payments.

We are now keen to establish similar organisations in Austria and Switzerland and hope to be successful there very soon. Moreover we are trying to become a member of the IUCN. Our application is supported by German Authorities and by several specialist groups. Our application will be considered by the IUCN Council at its next meeting to be held from 26-30 April at IUCN's Headquarters in Gland.

Editors note: We have just received word from Mr. Scllraps that SAP was successful in its bid to become an IUCN affiliated organisation. Congratulations! WPA Council would like to thank Stiftung Avifauna Protecta for its support of a number of our Action Plan projects.

NOTES AND NEWS

Avicultural Day

The Aviornis UK Newsletter gave the following report in their March/April issue on a highly successful day organised by seven societies with a common interest in aviculture combining together in a manner which will hopefully be repeated.

"The avicultural event at Blackbrook World of Birds on 6 April was a great success. Those who were unable to attend missed a milestone in avicultural events. Visitors came from the USA, Canada, Belgium, Holland, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and the length and breadth of England. Hardly a 'named' breeder being absent.

"Long before the official opening time enthusiasts found their way surreptitiously behind the scenes to visit the Trade and Society stands. Many made a bee-line to reserve a place for the first talk in either the Upper or Lower Hall depending on their interest. Nick Worth was soon hard at it selling Frank Todd's latest book - *Natural History of the Waterfowl*. The legend availed himself to personalise his books, many bringing their copies from home to be autographed by Frank who is currently Senior Research Fellow Hubbs/Sea World Institution in San Diego.

"Some may have decided to attend primarily to hear him speak - they were not to be disappointed. His talk was most entertaining and some of his slides were breathtaking, transporting us all to many parts of the world he has visited to see and photograph birds. What a tremendous, friendly character he is.

"Another legend - Han Assink, one time Curator of Birds at Rotterdam Zoo, drew people from afar to hear him speak on his chosen topic - Touracos.

"Gary Robbins enlightened us with a wonderful display of slides on South East Asian Gamebirds, their breeding and conservation, including anecdotes on Vietnam.

"Debra Bourne once again demonstrated her unrivalled knowledge and her experience of breeding and husbandry of cranes in captivity.

"Paul North, apart from managing the WPA stand, somehow managed to pass on some of his knowledge of the management of quail in captivity."

Bird Conservation Nepal

Bird Conservation Nepal is officially affiliated to WPA and members may like to know more about the organisation and how contact can be made with it.

Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN), previously known as Nepal Bird Watching Club, is a government registered charity and is the biggest and oldest society dedicated to the interest of ornithologists and bird watching in

Nepal. BCN was established in 1982 with the idea of mobilising amateur and professional bird watchers in order to:

- promote an interest in birds among the general public
- encourage basic research on diverse aspects of bird biology and ecology
- identify the major threats to birds' continued survival
- help and suggest management measures to the related agencies to conserve birds and their habitats.

BCN aims to become an authoritative bird conservation body in Nepal. It provides the most up-to-date information on birds and their habitats all over Nepal and is committed to conservation education, educating the public on the value of birds, the relationship between birds and humans, and the importance of community involvement and stewardship.

BCN has developed three main programme areas: education and awareness, research and conservation projects. This latter includes on the ground restoration projects, development of bird conservation policies, publication of research results and participation in national and international organizations and forums.

- Lake Taudaha Restoration Project
- Publication of the Threatened Birds of Nepal
- Identification of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) for Nepal
- Development of Bird Conservation Policy for the Kingdom of Nepal
- Publication of Ibisbill, the first ornithological journal from Nepal
- National Coordinator for Asian Red Data Book on Birds

The President of BCN is Mr Hem Sagar Baral and the Vice President is Mr Suresh Shakya who will be attending the International Symposium on Galliformes in Malacca. They can be contacted through PO Box 12465, Kamaladi, Kathmandu, Nepal. Tel: +977 1 224487 and fax: +977 1 224237.

Price Waterhouse Support

The accounting firm of Price Waterhouse have been supporters of the World Pheasant Association at the CLA Game Fair for some years. They have now also become the sponsors of our Pheasant Specialist Group and we welcome and thank them for their support.

"Price Waterhouse, one of the world's leading firms of accountants and business advisers, has announced its sponsorship of the WPA Pheasant Specialist Group. The sponsorship represents the firm's ongoing involvement with the agricultural sector and reflects the worldwide scale of Price Waterhouse operations. Price Waterhouse represents household - name corporations in some of the most far-flung parts of the globe, serving such clients from regional practices on every continent and important strategic offices in Australia, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, Thailand and South America.

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King Bird Tours

If you want to see pheasants or partridges then Ben King's Tours are the ones to go on. Here are two excerpts from his most recent tours into Bhutan and Vietnam. On the Bhutan tour his newsletter records:

"We continue to break new ground in Bhutan, one of our most popular tours. This year we had superb views of the chestnut-breasted partridge, the first modern record. We have a good tape and should be able to find it again. We also saw all five of the small wren-babblers, Impeyan monal, satyr tragopan and many other superb birds."

The Vietnam tour records: "It was the pheasants that stole the show. A few minutes after the ibis sighting, we watched two female Siamese firebacks walking in the road for a minute or so. The next morning we watched a fine male fireback walking in the road for about three minutes. By the time we left Cat Bin, we had seen eight Siamese firebacks, as well. We also had two excellent sightings of Germain's peacock-pheasant and a fine pair of green peafowl, as well as numerous red junglefowl.

WPA China

The following are extracts taken from WPA China News No 10 July 1997.

Activity and habitat selection of golden pheasant

Field work was carried out in Sanguanmiao area of Foping Nature Reserve, Shanxi Province from January to August 1996 by Liang Wei who was working on his master's degree under the supervision of Professor's Zheng Guang-mei, Ding Chang-qing and Zhang Zheng-wang.

Deciduous forest, farmland and bush-grass were main feeding habitats in winter and deciduous forest in spring.

In summer both the deciduous and coniferous-broadleaves mixed forest, especially the ridge of hills and the areas with low coverage in forest were used. Mutivariate analysis results show that golden pheasant had a strong preference in habitat selection and it differed with seasons. The roosting sites of the male were the same as the female's in winter, but there were significant differences between the male and female in spring and summer. The female tended to nest at the edge of its home range. There were significant differences in the diet of golden pheasant among seasons and between the sexes.

Status and conservation of green peafowl in China

A census on the current status of green peafowl *Pavo muticus imperator* was conducted in Yunnan Province from 1991 to 1996. The total population in the Province was estimated at about 800-1000 individuals. The main threat to green peafowl was the destruction of their habitat and another was poaching. Others included habitat fragmentation and the use of poisonous baits on farmland. The reserves established in Yunnan could not play a very important role in the protection of green peafowl because only a small population existed in a few nature reserves and most of the peafowls occurred outside the reserve.

In the spring of 1995, we studied habitats and behaviours of the green peafowl in Jingdong county, Yunnan Province, China. They were found in coniferous, broad-leaved forest, shrubs with sparse trees, grassland and farmland. Most plots where we saw peafowls were near the water resources, with 1300-1400m in altitude. The territories of three males were determined by using territory mapping methods, being 0.380, 0.313 and 0.557 km^2 respectively.

News

The ecology of Hainan hill-partridge *Arborophila ardens* and grey peacock pheasant *Polyplectron bicalcaratum* on Hainan Island: By the method of observing at fixed spots, we studied home range, activity behaviours, nest selection, chick growth of the grey peacock pheasant and the Hainan hill-partridge in Ba Wang Ling Reserve of Hainan Island in China during 1988-1994. The Hainan hill partridge was monogamous around the year, except the brooding period when they lived in family groups. The grey peacock pheasant was single during the non-breeding season. The moult time and moult peaks of the Hainan hill partridge were determined and two clutches were obtained successfully. (Gao Yu-ren)

The Beijing Breeding Centre for Endangered Animals recently introduced three pairs of Sclater's monal from Yunnan Province. (Wang Xue-jun)

In 1996, the Luyashan Nature Reserve in Shanxi Province, which is mainly for brown eared pheasant, was approved as a National Nature Reserve. (Zhang Zheng-wang)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir

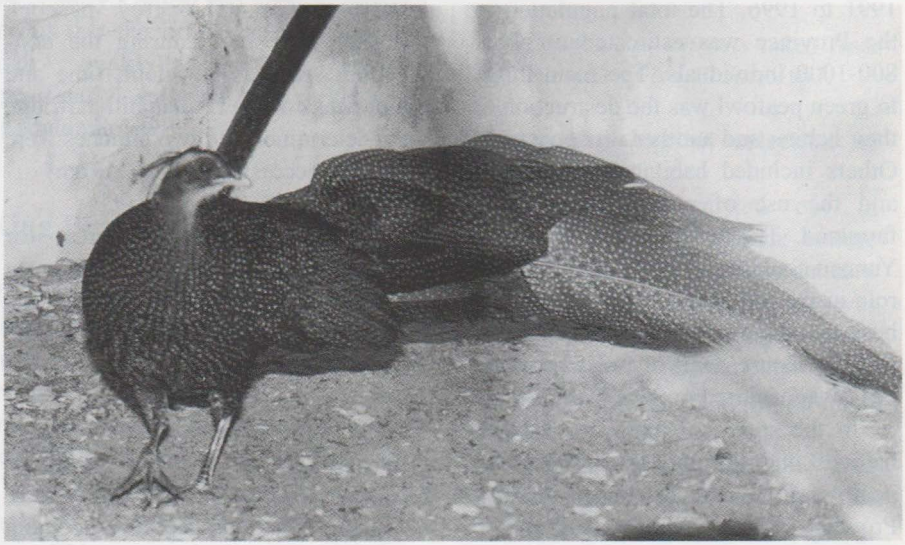
I refer to the Annual Report of the Captive Breeding Advisory Committee in the 1995/96 Annual Review of the World Pheasant Association. It refers to "... the breeding at Saigon Zoo of the first Crested argus pheasants ever bred in captivity." While this breeding success is a great achievement by the Saigon Zoo it is certainly not the first ever.

This species was bred in captivity 70 years ago in Hué in the aviaries of P Jabouille. One chick was hatched but died at the age of 40 days. The nominate race of *Rheinartia* was subsequently bred in captivity:

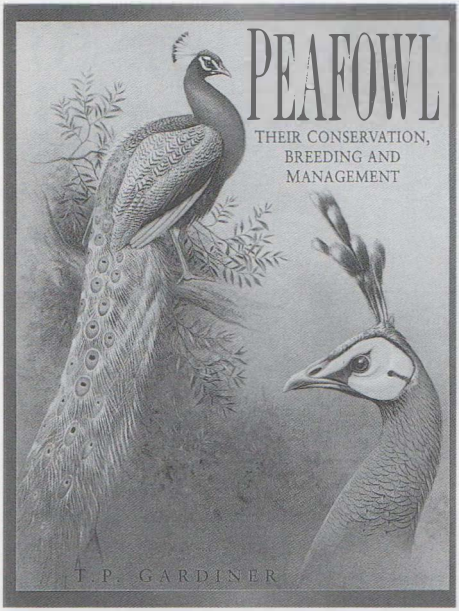
1 In 1929 in Japan Prince Taka-Tsukosa reared five young
2 1931 in Clères by Jean Delacour - and in subsequent years until the outbreak of the second world war
3 1936 (and following years) in California by Leland Smith.

Yours faithfully

Dr K C Searle
Apartado 303, 8800 Tavira, Algarve, Portugal.



Cock crested argus. *Photo: Gary Robbins*



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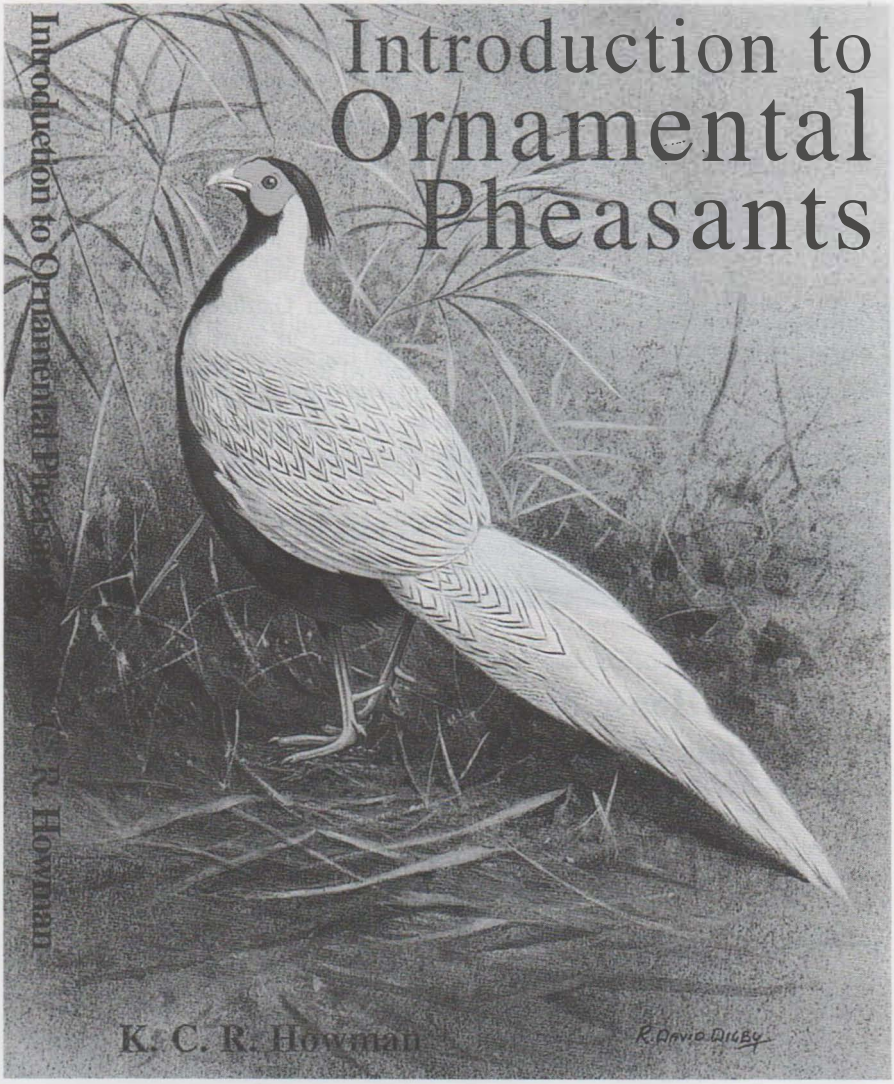

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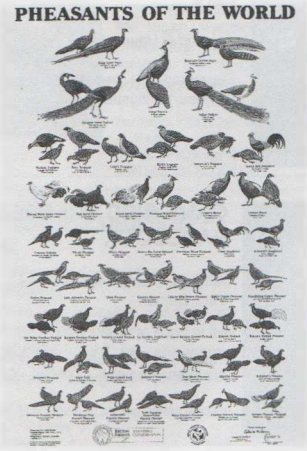

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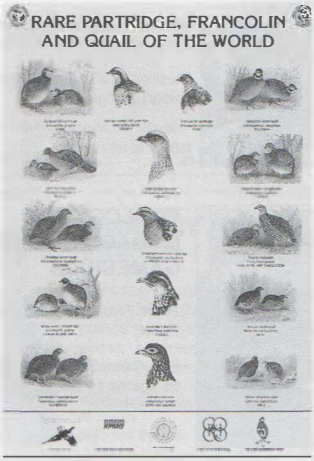

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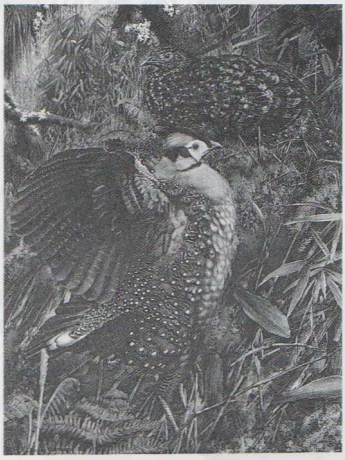

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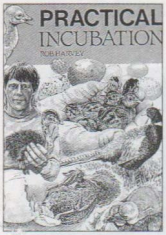

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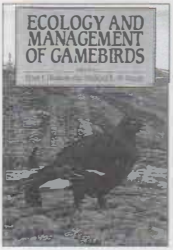

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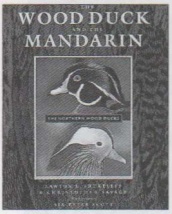

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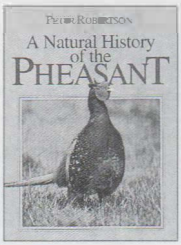

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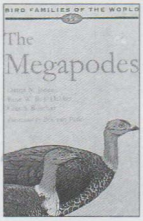

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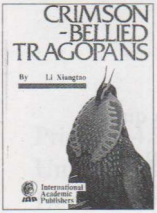

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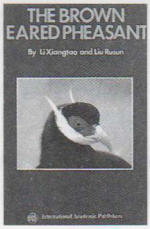

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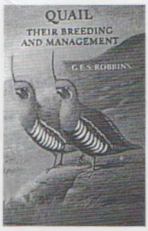

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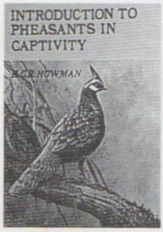

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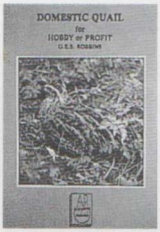

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