

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Galliformes Specialist Group and Affiliated
Societies: Newsletters

Galliformes Specialist Group and Affiliated
Societies

Spring 2013

WPA News 91 (2013)

World Pheasant Association

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/galliformes_newsletters



Part of the [Biodiversity Commons](#), [Environmental Policy Commons](#), and the [Ornithology Commons](#)

World Pheasant Association, "WPA News 91 (2013)" (2013). *Galliformes Specialist Group and Affiliated Societies: Newsletters*. 117.

https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/galliformes_newsletters/117

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Galliformes Specialist Group and Affiliated Societies at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Galliformes Specialist Group and Affiliated Societies: Newsletters by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.



WPA news

The International Newsletter of the World Pheasant Association

Number 91 Spring 2013

Conservation Breeding Report

Edinburgh to host AGM and Convention

Status of Vietnamese Pheasant



The World Pheasant Association Middle, Ninebanks, Hexham, Northumberland, NE47 8DL UK

Tel: 01434 345526

Email: office@pheasant.org.uk www.pheasant.org.uk

Registered Charity No 271203



Cover Photograph

The cover picture of a Horned Guan (*Oreophasis derbianus*) gained first place for Javier Rivas Romero, a biologist from the University of San Carlos in Guatemala, in the 3rd International Camera Trap Competition organised by fototrampeo.es, Madrid, Spain.

The camera trap photograph was taken as part of his research project entitled "Potential dispersers and predators of *Ocotea salvinii*, an important tree in the feeding of the Horned Guan".

Javier also submitted the photograph to the 2012 Camera-trap contest of the BBC Wildlife Magazine, and was judged runner-up in the Animal Portraits category.

CONTENTS

From the office	2-3
Conservation Breeding Weekend	4-5
Chinese Monal Aviaries.....	6
Vietnamese Pheasant	7
Golden Pheasant Club Meeting	8
Camera traps	9
WPA Golden Pheasant charity clay shoot	9
WPA AGM & Convention 2013.....	10
We loose a friend in Malaysia	11
Come & talk turkey	12
Grouse News	12
Book Review	13
Fundraising	14
Obituary	15

Thank You WPA Subscription



In the last edition of *WPA News* (Number 90 Winter 2013) it was reported that over 100 members who pay their subscription by standing order were still paying at the old rate.

We would like to say thank you to those members who took the time to bring their subscription up to the correct amount.

WPA administrator Barbara Ingman has mailed an information pack including new forms and advice on their completion, to those members whose contribution is still at the old rate.

Any queries relating to membership can be emailed to: office@pheasant.org.uk or by phone to 01434 345526.

Membership Rates have remained the same since 1st January 2012 and are as set out on the right.

Membership class	UK (£)	Non-UK (£)
Individual	30	35
Junior	15	17.50
Family	60	70
Corporate	120	120
Supported	30	30
Life membership (single payment)	600	700

DIARY DATES

2013

3 May	WPA Charity Clay Shoot, Stockbridge, Hampshire
21 June	Golden Pheasant Charity Shoot, Witney, Oxfordshire
5-7 July	Scottish Game Fair, Scone Palace, Perth, Scotland
16-18 August	British Birdwatching Fair, Rutland Water 25th year
27-31 August	9th Conference of the European Ornithologists' Union, University of East Anglia, Norwich
6-8 September	WPA Germany Convention, Magdeburg, Germany
14 September	WPA Benelux, Zoo Parc Overloon, Netherlands
19 September	Black Grouse Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot, Leuchars, Fife
20-22 September	WPA Convention, Edinburgh, Scotland
13 October	National Exhibition of Birds, Stafford County Showground

2014

22-23 February	CBAG Meeting, Cotswolds
----------------	-------------------------

COPY DATES

The next issue of *WPA News* will be produced in January 2014. Articles, stories, letters, and advertisements for publication should be with the office by **4 November 2013**.

WPA Annual Review will be produced in August 2013.

Articles printed in *WPA News* do not necessarily represent the views of the World Pheasant Association

Cover photograph: Horned Guan © Jarvier Rivas Romero

Copyright © 2013 World Pheasant Association



From the Chairman

In the four months since the Winter issue of WPA News we have had further changes on the office front. Laura Owens left us at the end of February, to work next with Matt Grainger, sharing his varied programme of Galliformes research. We wish her well in her future career. Newcastle University has been given notice to move its Biology Field Station out of Close House. That necessitated a move for us too. Barbara Ingman who is continuing to administer our affairs has transferred operations to her home. Contact details were in her email to members of 19 March, and are on the front cover. We owe thanks to Barbara for conducting business seamlessly, and with flexibility and loyalty.

Shortage of funds has been a central concern for us over the past year and more. I am pleased that we have a series of fundraising events planned for this summer (further information inside), aimed at bringing in new income for general purposes and to rebuild our reserves. The more members who can support these events, the better for our future spread of activities.

This Issue contains an obituary for our much-loved colleague Simon Mayes. His death, in March, came as a great shock. We shall feel our loss keenly each time an event comes up at which Simon would have been with us. I felt that at the ECBG meeting I have just attended; CBAG has lost a warm-hearted chairman. The Compton clay shoot in May felt the absence of Simon, himself a keen shot, who always brought a team of friends to add zest to that occasion.

I was privileged to have my first visit recently to the famous Walsrode bird park. Those of us who went took the opportunity of talking with German colleagues about some high-priority issues: Edwards's pheasant and the opening up of Myanmar among them. Our talks gave us

helpful thoughts on where WPA, with its broad expertise and international alliances, can add value in cutting-edge conservation work.

For many members whose foremost interest is captive breeding, there is much in this Issue to interest you. It would be easy to treat captive breeding as the "comfort zone" for WPA to operate in, at a time when our links with conservation work in the wild have taken a knock. But that would be to turn away from the really pressing need for work in the field to continue, to shore up the position of many of our species in many regions where they are either known to be battered by human pressures or - as in Myanmar - just not in a state we know enough about.

There are really exciting opportunities for WPA to show its strengths on the international front. Whatever the present tensions, what the birds need is for all interested humans to pool their knowledge, skills, expertise, enthusiasm and - yes - money, for the good of the conservation cause.

I hope the year ahead will see WPA finding ways to make its impact felt fully. Your Council is thinking actively, and in some new directions. We shall have more to tell you when you gather for our Annual Convention and AGM this year in Edinburgh, 21 September. Information about that is already on the website, with a full programme in this Issue. Do all come!

Richard Carden
Chairman

Male golden pheasant -Sichuan



© Dong Lei

The Golden Pheasant Club

The Golden Pheasant Club is open to all UK members of the World Pheasant Association past and present who advise WPA HQ that they have left a legacy to WPA in their will. Membership is otherwise free.

Meetings will be held for members every second or third year and will be advised well in advance. The meetings will take the form of a lunch or dinner with a guest speaker and will include an update for members on the current activities and future plans of the Association. It is intended that this event will be sponsored.

The most recent event, reported in this newsletter was by invitation of Sir William and Lady McAlpine to a tour of their estate at Fawley followed by a champagne reception and lunch.

For more information contact the office.

Conservation Breeding Weekend 2013

Paul North

The annual meeting of the Conservation Breeding Advisory Group (CBAG) was held at the Cotswold Wildlife Park over the weekend of the 9th and 10th of February.



The Manor House

As those of us that are regular attendees know only too well, the weather can be a limiting factor as to numbers attending. This years weather was comparatively reasonable, just cold persistent driving rain intermingled with snow showers, which pushed the numbers attending into the high forties.

A good number of members met informally on Friday evening for drinks and a meal at the Mermaid pub in the centre of the local town of Burford. This social gathering is ideal to renew old and new friendships and to catch up with the latest news.

Saturday morning saw the start to the meeting with registration and coffee in the splendid surroundings of the Manor House. The meeting began with a short welcome from Mr. Reggie Hayward, managing director of the Cotswold Wildlife Park. This was followed by Stuart Wilson who described the building and equipping of an aviary and shelter, part of which would maintain a temperature of between 15 and 20°C which is one of the conditions of the breeding loan agreement for the bornean peacock pheasants.

Andy Beer followed with a pictorial presentation of the digestive anatomy of Galliformes. The patient, a game pheasant was dissected in stages to reveal the passage of sustenance from the bill to the vent with a description of the major organs and their function along the way.



©Andy Beer

Content and structure of Crop



Gizzard and Duodenal Loop



Section of Proventriculus and Gizzard

©Stuart Wilson



14'X8' ship lap shed



Concealed Nestbox



Black paint makes it easier to see through



Plantpots in trays for watering

*Lunchbreak*

Pheasant breeder John Newsome gave us an insight into some of his breeding and rearing techniques with his illustrated talk entitled Environmental enrichment and stimulation in the aviary and Practical considerations for Galliformes. Perhaps the item touched on by John that brought most questions from the audience was the use of an egg temperature data logger. This is a dummy egg that records downloadable information on the temperature and humidity around it.

To complete the morning session Louise Peat, registrar at Cotswold Wildlife Park gave us an insight into record keeping and breeding at the park. She introduced us to a new website, launched in 2010 and called Avian Rearing Resource. The aim of the website is to bring together in one place 'all current hand rearing protocols for all avian species' and make the information accessible to all and simple to navigate. The site currently holds information for 138 species although not many are Galliformes.

For the future Louise would like to see a similar site to cover avian nutrition.

During the break for lunch many members took the opportunity to browse the antiquarian and later books and to talk to Alan Gibbard the proprietor of Wildside Books. Alan has brought a very interesting selection of books and pictures to this event for the last few years.

To open the afternoon session WPA Chairman Richard Carden began by comparing this year to last. He thanked Stuart and July Wilson for their organisation of the Tring Convention and went on to give

details of the 2013 Convention to be held in Edinburgh in September. He outlined the financial situation and described how it had changed. He commented on the resignation of our Conservation Officer Laura Owens and the changes that moving the office might bring.

In looking forward he reviewed the organisation of our European Chapters and contacts with other NGO's and the importance of maintaining scientific standards and ensuring compliance with Charity Commission rules.

Tim Lovel thanked Richard for his stewardship saying that the recent difficult times have made the Association leaner and fitter, but that is how we started.

Nigel Hester took us through his thoughts on how the leg colour of his Golden Pheasants had changed when they were reared on a grass surface. This provoked much discussion in the question and answer session at the end of his talk.

*Golden Pheasant*

Conservation Breeding – A Changing World, was the subject of Keith Chalmers-Watson's presentation touching on the purity of Golden, Amherst, Junglefowl and the Tragopans and he updated the position with regard to the Bornean Peacock-pheasants.

After a break for refreshments Paul North gave a talk on Chinese Painted Quail.

The afternoon was completed with ten simple but well thought out tips for aviary improvement and a selection of video clips from John Corder.

*Raffle prize presentation*

Jimmy Reekie sold raffle ticket, as only Jimmy can but not for his usual bottle of whisky but for a canvas print entitled 'Grey Partridge' that was offered by the renowned wildlife artist Carl Bass. The raffle prize was won by Louise Peat, the registrar at the Cotswold Wildlife Park and presented to her by Nigel Hester. Carl's stunning work can be seen at www.carlbasspaintings.com.

Later that evening 26 members sat down for the official meal that was held as previously at the Windmill Carvery just outside Burford.

On Sunday morning the business of the annual general meeting of the Conservation Breeding Advisory Group of WPA got underway with the treasurers report and election of members. Item 6 on the agenda called for the fixing of the date for next years meeting. After some discussion, and probably helped by the cold driving rain outside it was decided to move the date from the first weekend in February to the last. The date for next year is Saturday and Sunday, 22nd & 23rd February 2014.

*Chinese Painted Quail**© Paul North*

Chinese Monal Aviaries

All photos © John Corder



Newly completed aviaries at Feng Tong Zhai

New aviary design has revolutionised the conservation breeding of Chinese Monals (*Lophophorus lhuysii*). In China, the Szechuan Forest Department has been working with captive Chinese Monals since the early 1990s but after some early success the breeding rate gradually declined.

For about five years they did not breed anything and DNA analysis showed that most of the surviving birds were closely related. The birds were housed in large aviaries but with very little planting and were fed on a basic chicken diet.

In answer to a request for help Alain Hennache from France and Zhang Jing from Beijing who is the studbook holder for this species visited Szechuan. This was followed up with a later visit by the French aviculturist Laurent Fontaine, who spent several weeks explaining current techniques to the Chinese staff at Feng Zhai, where the breeding aviaries are sited at an altitude of more than 2000m.

New aviaries have now been created by revising the layout of the existing pens and incorporating features that have been pioneered in the UK by the staff at the Sparsholt College in



Chinese Monal Male in new aviary at Feng Tong Zhai

Hampshire, which has close links with British Zoos and with WPA. The refurbished aviaries have zig-zag sections that are heavily planted with low-growing bamboo, where the hens can hide from over-amorous males during the breeding season. This should help make the most of every egg; they do not lay as many eggs as Himalayan monals.

As an immediate result of these changes, the 2012 season produced two healthy chicks (a male and a female) and in the forthcoming season there will also be two pairs of birds whose DNA profiles show they are not closely related.

The new aviary layout and improved diet have revolutionised conservation breeding of endangered pheasants in China and is also being used with Cheer pheasants (*Catreus wallichii*) and Western Tragopans (*Tragopan melanocephalus*) in India.

The Chinese Monal is the largest of the three monal species and is



Chinese Monal Hen



Juvenile male at Feng Tong Zhai



Chinese Monal Male

endemic to central China where it lives at high altitude in the mountains of Szechuan. It is a rare and little understood bird occupying alpine and subalpine meadows and rhododendron scrub at altitudes of between 3,300 and 4,500 m.

It is a most spectacular bird, the males have shining, iridescent plumage in blue and coppery-gold with a golden cape and a droopy crest and a much stouter bill that sets it apart from the other monals. The hen has fairly narrow rufous and black barring on the tail and more white on the lower back than other female monals.

It is thought that there may be as many as 10,000 birds in their wild mountain home but their habitat is facing increased pressure from overgrazing by wild yaks and the harvesting of their preferred foods (such as fritillary bulbs) by collectors who can now reach the high meadows on the many new roads that are extending into the mountains.

Vietnamese Pheasant

Paul North

The status of the Vietnamese Pheasant *Lophura hatinhensis* as a species has been in question almost since the day it was first described in 1975. New evidence suggests that it is a sub-species of Edwards's Pheasant *L. edwardsi* and should now be listed as *Lophura edwardsi hatinhensis*.



Vietnamese Pheasant

The justification for this change is detailed in a paper entitled '*Lophura hatinhensis* is a invalid taxon' written by Alain Hennache, Simon P. Mahood, Jonathan C. Eames & Ettore Randi and published in the Oriental Bird Club Journal Forktail 28 (2012): 129-135. Here the authors present the results

of the first thorough investigation into the validity of *L. hatinhensis*, bringing together genetic and morphological data.

Originally described in 1975 from one male specimen which was superficially similar to Edwards's Pheasant but for four white tail feathers. The female

was described for the first time by F. Rozendall *et al* (1991) in *Dutch Birding*. It looks exactly like the Edwards's hen, except perhaps for a warmer brown tone to the underparts. A photograph supplied by F. Rozendall of a pair of Vietnamese pheasants appeared on the cover of WPA NEWS number 41, August 1993. Over time other differences have been described from birds bred by conservationists, some of which point to inbreeding due to the possibility that the wild population is close to extinction.

The listing of this bird has been questioned many times by many people across the full conservation spectrum, most of whom will appreciate the work that the authors have put into their research and accept their conclusions.

Advice to members who are currently keeping Vietnamese and Edwards's pheasants in their collections is to keep the two taxa separated for several reasons. On the one hand we do not know anything about the inheritance of the white tail feathers and other hidden genetic differences and on the other hand *hatinhensis* remains a very good example of "evolution at work" for educational purposes.

Chinese Monal Aviaries Team



Members of the team involved in helping to develop the Conservation breeding project

From Left: Zhang Jing from Beijing Zoo; Andy Beer from Sparsholt College; John Corder (WPA); Satpal Dhiman from Himachal Pradesh, India; Minla Lachungpa, veterinarian from Sikkim State; and Shi Yujie, translator and panda vet from Chengdu Zoo, Szechuan.

Golden Pheasant Club Meeting

The Golden Pheasant Club held its 4th biennial party on Sunday 17th March at the home of WPA Trustee Sir William McAlpine and Lady McAlpine near Henley on Thames.

All photos © Keith Howman



Members gather at the home of Sir William



Sir William McAlpine, Didy Grahame, K. Howman

Sir William is a train lover and as some of you may have seen in the recent BBC documentary owned The Flying Scotsman for 23 years. He still owns a full sized Steam Engine (sadly currently in for repair) which can take guest around the parkland which is full of several Deer species, Llamas etc. The weather was dreadful but the guests were taken in 4WD vehicles before or after a glass or two of Champagne. An excellent lunch was enjoyed by 45 members and friends before what Keith Howman described as the bad news of the day, a speech by him. Professor Lovel had been the preferred speaker but had had to pull out the previous day.

Keith began by recalling that when WPA was formed in 1975 only one person, Dr Sheldon Severinghaus had ever obtained a PhD for studying a Rare Pheasant. Today there were dozens thanks to motivation and very often funding by WPA. Similarly in 1979 at the 1st International Pheasant Symposium in Nepal WPA had struggled to get Asian speakers and 75% came from the West. Ten Symposia later in Thailand over 75% of the speakers were from Asia. He went on to say that back in 1975

there had been almost no information recorded on Pheasant distributions for some 50 years. Today the picture was broadly speaking almost complete barring Burma (Myanmar) and Laos. Almost entirely due to the motivation provided by WPA.

But things were changing. No longer were projects coming through from countries like China and India. These had become wealthy countries able to fund their own projects so WPA's priorities were changing. Over the years 4 particular long term projects had been identified and would be concentrated on. (1) The Pipar Project in Nepal, (2) Black grouse in the UK where a study of population changes of Black Grouse in Perthshire over the past 20 years had just been completed and a study of the effects of Wind Farms on Black Grouse was just starting its 3rd year. (3) The Edwards's pheasant and (4) Green Peafowl.

Keith ended by thanking Sir William and Lady McAlpine for their kindness in hosting the day, wonderful lunch and brilliant organisation. Subsequent letters and emails have been effusive in their praise of a great



Sir William MacAlpine driving Sylvie Mills beside him and Helen May, Roger Gott and Anne O'Flynn in the back



Off round the estate B. Bertram Robin Mills and driver



Lady McAlpine, David Atkin and Anne Ali Khan



Winner of Heads and Tails Jolyon Oxley

occasion and wonder as to where we could possibly find a better or more interesting location for the next Golden Pheasant club meeting.

Camera traps

What do your birds do when you are not looking? What visitors do your birds attract when you are not there? If you want to know, then perhaps a camera trap is the answer.

© J Corder



Typical camera trap location



Typical Camera Trap

Probably best known for their use as a conservation tool, set up on a forest path or jungle waterhole to record animal movements round the clock automatically for a period of many days. The earliest models used traditional film and a one-shot trigger function. Today's more advanced cameras utilize digital photography, storing images on a digital card or sending photos or video directly to a computer.

The range of equipment available today is enormous and prices are tumbling as more equipment comes onto the market. The range of features include detection range,

trigger speed, photo delay and multiple shot or video, most can be set up to suite your location and requirement and considerable thought may be needed to prioritize which functions would suite you best. Each image can contain a date and time stamp, and temperature and moon phase if required. Color images are produced in daylight with black and white in darkness using infra red LED's that do not spook the animals.

If you have any experience of this equipment in a suburban rather than an exotic environment then we would be interested to hear and possibly see your results



Pheasants of the World Poster

During the packing up of the office prior to its move from Close House, a pack of the large unmounted 'Pheasants of the World' posters were uncovered.

These are aprox. 885 x 550mm and feature images painted by Esdaile Hudson of the Argus, Peafowl and Pheasants. These are offered at the giveaway price of £5 each plus postage and packing at cost. When they are gone they are gone. Order from the office.

Friday 21 June 2013

Golden Pheasant Charity Clay Shoot

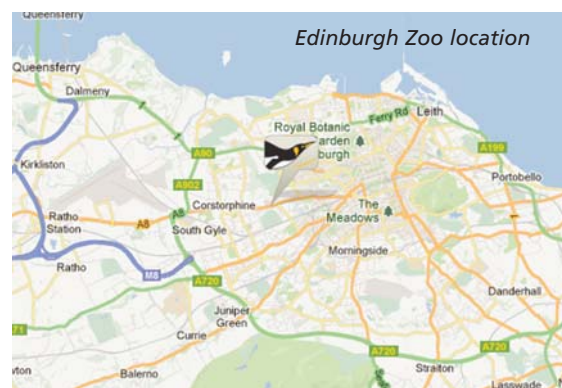
To help WPA raise vital funds and to support our work Francis Lovel & Co. Ltd and Aardvark Mcleod are generously sponsoring WPA's Golden Pheasant Charity Clay Shoot at the Oxfordshire Shooting School on Friday 21 June 2013.



The day promises to be great fun with plenty of prizes and a relaxed and not too competitive atmosphere, suitable for not only the experienced shooter, but families and friends as well. There are instructors on each stand who are there to help you so beginners can feel comfortable and getting help from the instructors is not considered to be cheating.

If you would like to take part on the day and come with your own team of four or join another team as an individual, please do contact the office and book your place.

WPA AGM and Convention 2013



The Convention and Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at Edinburgh Zoo on Saturday 21st September, with the convention dinner being held in The Scotch Whisky Experience in the evening, with a visit to the collection of Keith Chalmers-Watson on Sunday 22nd September.

Edinburgh Zoo, home of The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland is the largest and most exciting wildlife attraction in Scotland, committed to the highest standards of animal welfare, conservation and environmental education. The zoo is located to the west of the city close to the airport and is well served by transport links.

For those delegates arriving on Friday 20th September an informal dinner and get together can be arranged in the Holiday Inn which is situated adjacent to the zoo.

The Saturday morning conducted tour of the Zoo will include the panda display.

Prior to the meal on Saturday evening you will have the chance to take a swirling, bubbling barrel ride through a replica distillery as you become part of the whisky making process. Along the way you'll hear the stories behind this magical craft, with expert tour guides and whisky advisors with you every sip of the way. You will discover the aromas and flavours that appeal to your palate and lead you to your perfect Single Malt Whisky in this 5 star visitor attraction.

Sunday promises to be a relaxing morning enjoying the excellent hospitality at Fenton Barns, the home of Keith Chalmers-Watson. His collection contains examples of nearly all the galliform elements; pheasants, quail, partridge, grouse and cracids

THE PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Saturday 21 September

- 09.30 Meet in the main Zoo reception area for an escorted tour of the Zoo, to include the giant pandas
- 12.30 Meet in the Mansion House for lunch
 - Welcome address by Chris West, CEO of RZSS
- 14.00 Annual General Meeting
- 14.30 Address by Ian Ventine, Head of Pandas & Strategic Initiatives
- 14.50 Address by Dr Peter Garson - Chairman of Pheasant Specialist Group
- 15.10 Address by Andy Beer - Consultant Nutritionist - RZSS
- 15.30 Tea / Coffee break
- 16.00 Address by James A Pfarr - Breeder and Author
- 16.20 Round up and current affairs report by John Corder
 - Questions, procedure
- 17.00 End of Convention

Delegates will then move to 'The Scotch Whisky Experience' situated at 354 Castlehill, The Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH1 2NE for the evening entertainment.

- 18.00 Delegates arrive for a tour of the SWE centre
- 21.00 Three course dinner in the Castlehill Room
 - Address by Professor Roger Wheater - Vice President of WPA
 - Address & auction by K. C. R. Howman
- 23.00 Depart for hotels

Sunday 22 September

- From 10.00 Coffee at Fenton Barns
 - Visit collection
- 12.30 Buffet Lunch
- 14.00 Depart

The price for the complete weekend package which includes all entrance fees, refreshment breaks, lunch and dinner on Saturday and lunch on Sunday is £99.

There is no charge for Members wishing to attend the Annual General Meeting.

The booking form is available on the WPA website www.pheasant.org.uk

We loose a friend in Malaysia

Gary Robbins

©Wendy Robbins



Hjhi Siti Hawa

Hjhi Siti Hawa BT.Yatim is currently the State Director for Wildlife in Johor, Peninsular Malaysia. Siti as she is known retires in July after 31 years of service with the Malaysian Department of Wildlife and National Parks.

It was in 1986 that WPA became involved with Siti after the Pheasant Symposium in Chang Mai when we helped to settle a dispute over the ownership of two pairs of Mountain Peacock pheasants which the Department had trapped but had found their way into the hands of a Dealer in Singapore and subsequently the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hong Kong.

The Department of Wildlife keen to establish some offshore gene pools for their endemic species WPA was asked to establish a flock in the UK. In 1989, when the Mountains had bred in Hong Kong, two pairs were sent back to Malaysia and six months later these birds were sent to the UK on a strict breeding loan. The birds were placed with Rob Harvey at Birdworld, who after two years was successful in breeding the species thus was the start of the current flock held by WPA.

Mohd Khan, the then Director General of Wildlife and National Parks was very keen to reintroduce the Green Peafowl back into Malaysia, having become extinct in the late 1960's. Siti was put in charge of this project and we collaborated by



Green peafowl in Malacca

sending out the first batch of young peafowl to the Sungkai Breeding Centre. The birds were considered to be the nearest we could find similar to the Javanese sub-species found in the country prior to 1960.

After quarantine some of the stock was then sent to Zoo Malacca which was run by the Department, they bred in the 1990 and were released into the forested area around the Zoo. They soon bred and were often seen by the public feeding in the animal enclosures, a total of 21 were recorded in 2000. Unfortunately when it was decided to move some birds to Taman Negara the catching process caused the flock to disperse from the area not to be seen again.

In addition to the Green Peafowl, we returned pairs of both the Mountain and Malaysian Peacock pheasants to help with their gene pools thus preventing more birds being taken from the wild.

By 2001, WPA became even more involved when Siti asked if we would run some workshops on Husbandry and Breeding for all her staff connected with captive breeding. These workshops became an annual event as there were always new people entering the Department with only limited experience. 2010 was the last year when a workshop was held and even then a total of 41 attended, including staff from Sabah and Sarawak.

When it was rumoured that Zoo Malacca was to be returned to the private sector, Siti persuaded one of her colleagues to move the four remaining Green Peafowl to the Jemaluang Breeding Centre in Johor State, for which she is now responsible. The total number of birds held at this location is nine and a further three at the Terengganu Breeding Centre, the birds at Jemaluang successful bred in 2011 producing one chick and a further two in 2012.

After a period of illness, Siti stood down as the Director of Ex-situ Conservation at HQ and was transferred to the sister division In-situ Conservation to lighten her work load.

In the 2010 reorganisation of HQ, Siti became the State Director of Wildlife in Johor from where she will retire. With the change of policy and direction of the Department of Wildlife, the priority was no longer Conservation Breeding, but to rescue animals and birds from the public which had been confiscated for rehabilitation and return them to the wild. It is sad that so much hard work over so many years will be lost; we are told that we must move forward that is progression, one wonders.

WPA owes a lot to Siti for her help and friendship given to us over the years; we wish her well for the future.

©Gary Robbins

Come & talk turkey

or pheasant or partridge or quail or grouse, even cracid, megapode or peafowl.

The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust will celebrate its 25th Anniversary Scottish Game Fair at Scone Palace over the weekend of Friday 5th to Sunday 7th July 2013.

The Scottish Group of the World Pheasant Association will have a stand at the Fair as they have done for many years. So come and meet members of the group and learn about the most recent conservation breeding techniques and challenges. Admire the birds on display, buy a poster, or a book and gamble a one pound coin on a raffle ticket while fantasising about winning that gallon bottle of whisky. All funds raised by our members efforts and any donations received go towards funding the projects of the Conservation Breeding Advisory Group of WPA.

This years Scottish Game Fair will have over 300 trade stands and a huge variety of displays and demonstrations and it is hoped that this silver anniversary Fair will rekindle the spirit of the fair following the disappointment of 2012 caused by the atrocious weather.

Game Fair Stand



© Paul North

Meet the team Jimmy Reekie, Ian Elvin, James Reekie

Grouse News

The November 2012 issue of Grouse News, number 44 contains a report on the 12th International Grouse Symposium, held on 20-24 July, 2012 in Matsumoto, Japan .This meeting was originally scheduled for July 2011, but the tragic events following the large earthquake and subsequent tsunami forced postponement of the meeting until July 2012.

The meeting was organized expertly by Professor Hiroshi Nakamura and hosted by The Japanese Rock Ptarmigan Meeting, Institute of Mountain Science, Shinshu University, and the city of Matsumoto. The Symposium attracted eighty-six participants from 20 countries to Matsumoto City which is the gateway to the Japanese Alps.

The scientific program began each day with a plenary lecture that provided a general theme for the day's program. The first plenary, by Professor Nakamura, highlighted the

© IGS website



IGS participants at Matsumoto Castle

Japanese Rock Ptarmigan research and was followed by an entire day devoted to a diverse array of presentations on Japanese Rock Ptarmigan. The second day plenary was presented by Professor Brett Sandercock of Kansas State University, USA. His paper centred on life history variation in ptarmigan and its consequences for harvest, translocation, and environmental change. The third day's plenary was on human disturbance on grouse by Professor Ilse Storch of the University of Freiburg, Germany. Her paper provided an introduction to a potpourri of talks ranging from effects of recreational disturbance to phenotypic and genetic variation of grouse to impacts of weather on

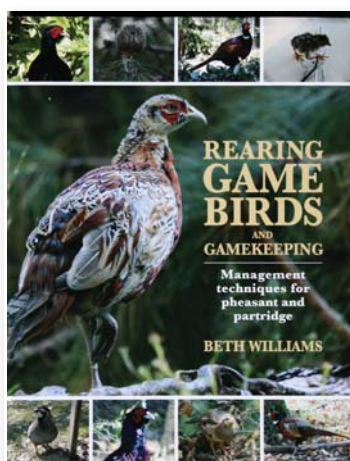
ptarmigan nesting phenology and reproduction.

The first of the conference field trips was an excursion to Mt. Norikura to visit one of the Rock Ptarmigan study areas. During the conference there were two morning birding trips and one afternoon excursion to local natural areas. There were two concurrent field trips following the conference; each was 3 days in length. One field trip was a backpacking trip in Chūbu-Sangaku National Park near Mt. Tsubakuro, Mt. Otensho, Mt. Yokodoshi, and Mt. Jonen, participants staying at Enzano Lodge and Jonen Lodge when en route. The other field trip included one day at Mt. Norikura and two days near Mt. Tateyama. Both field trips converged for a final gathering at the Omachi Alpine Museum. Participants observed Rock Ptarmigan and were exposed to throngs of Japanese hikers, which apparently made for a good opportunity to understand the potential impact of recreation on ptarmigan and alpine environments.

The 13th International Grouse Symposium is expected to be held in Iceland in the summer or fall of 2015.

Book review

Rearing Game Birds and Gamekeeping. Management techniques for pheasant and partridge written by Beth Williams and published by Quiller Publishing.



This book is a comprehensive, detailed guide on how to raise pheasants and red-leg partridge in a low cost and efficient way. From providing an understanding of each species, choosing the breeding stock, incubating the eggs, rearing the chicks to release and then nurturing the game through to the start of the shooting season, Beth even provides

information on predator control and game crop management. All this whilst ensuring, and showing how, the health and welfare of the birds can be given the highest priority.

This step-by-step guide draws on a wide range of the best accepted practises and advice taken from the UK and overseas in order to become a reliable source, whilst simultaneously proving humour to readers who may find the task a daunting project, by containing several frank and often amusing accounts of incidents where Beth herself has made mistakes. These are included to become genuine learning points for any amateur gamekeeper who may end up making similar errors.

The book is filled with colour photographs of various breeds, illustrations, diagrams of timelines and the anatomy of an egg, to pie charts and other such useful information that anyone keen on raising game could utilise in order to successfully raise their birds.

The Author: Having grown up in the countryside and spending most of her time either working with the local gamekeeper or out exercising flat racers and hunters, before eventually moving to the city in order to work, Beth Williams has finally gone back to her roots. Both she and her husband bought a small estate where they established their own rough shoot. However, in the absence of any complete information on how to rear Pheasants and Partridges from scratch, Beth decided to put the information together herself in one book, benefiting from constant learning and refining of rearing techniques; and conveying the full sense of passion that they have for their work.

Product Details

224 pages, 246mm x 189mm RRP £25.00

To order go to www.countrybooksdirect.com

A Life on the Wild Side, The adventures and misadventures of a wildlife film-maker. By Colin Willock.



For nearly thirty years Colin Willock wrote and produced more than four hundred films in Anglia Television's famous wildlife series Survival. His work took him to some of the wildest places on earth, from the Arctic to the Antarctic. He likens the Survival unit to a kind of small foreign legion armed with wildlife knowledge, sophisticated camera equipment but, most important of all, complete dedication to their work. It is a story about the fun of wildlife film-making and the behind the scenes adventures that never reached the television screen.

While clearing the office at Close House we came across just a few remaining books and offer them at a reduced price of £10.00 + p.p. Please Order from the Office.

Save the Last Dance, a Story of North American Grassland Grouse.



We are at the point in American conservation history where many grassland grouse species may go the way of the passenger pigeon and the ivory-billed woodpecker. A new book by photographer Noppadol Paothong and writer Joel M. Vance strives to rescue grassland grouse from the brink of extinction by showing the world what it stands to lose if these species are allowed to disappear forever.

The 204-page hardbound book, *Save the Last Dance, a Story of North American Grassland Grouse*, captures the dazzling beauty of seven grouse species whose populations are diminishing across the prairie and plains of America and one species that has already lost its battle for survival.

The book lavishly captures the dance and displays of the grassland grouse in more than 200 photographs. Paothong has spent the past 11 years chronicling the species' stunning mating rituals as the birds vie with development for space to breed and raise their young.

The book covers the following species: Heath Hen *Tympanuchus cupido cupido*, Greater Prairie-Chicken *T. cupido*, Lesser Prairie-Chicken *T. pallidicinctus*, Attwater's Prairie-Chicken *T. c. attwateri*, Greater Sage-Grouse *Centrocercus urophasianus*, Gunnison Sage-Grouse *C. minimus*, and Sharp-tailed Grouse *T. phasianellus*.

Product Details 204 Pages, Hardcover, \$45.00,

Publishing date: August 2012. Available for orders at www.savethelastdancebook.com.

Published by NoppadolPaothong Photography, LLC, ISBN: 978-0-615-61748-0

A little could go a long way: one method of fundraising

Mark Baker

Mark Baker, a WPA member from Australia gives an insight into Project fundraising.

For the last few years I have been meaning to raise funds for WPA. It's taken me a while to work out how to go about it.

The way I have gone about fundraising isn't new or innovative and is far from high powered however, I thought sharing this information may help others who are thinking of making a similar effort. This is the first time I have done this sort of thing and I feel I have learnt a lot already.

The aim was to make a financial contribution. I thought any contribution was better than none. The fundraising had to be simple and take up as little time as possible. Like most people I feel I am busy enough already.

Firstly, I set up a Justgiving fundraising webpage. Laura Owens had done this a while ago and it seemed like a very good way to go about fundraising particularly for the level of funds I thought I could achieve.



Green Peafowl

What I like about justgiving is that you set a goal, and it keeps a track of how your fundraising is going. Plus this information is available on the web for anyone who may be interested. The goal I set was \$2000 Australian dollars or approximately 1300 English pounds. Not a lot in the scheme of things but it's a start and to be honest it feels ambitious. My

thinking is if 10 or 15 WPA members made a similar effort it may start to increase WPA fund significantly.

**Deciding on the project to support:
Green peafowl**

The project I have chosen to support evolved just as much as the method of fundraising has. I have owned green peafowl for a number of years now so I feel I know a little about this pheasant. I had parent reared them and made a small video of this, I thought it may help promote the WPA and my fundraising attempt. Also I had a lot of green peacock tail feathers sitting around the house which I thought I could sell plus the green peafowl has become endangered in the wild, due to hunting and habitat modification....so they obviously needed the help.

The methods so far....

I decided to get a very clever friend of mine to paint a portrait of a pair of green peafowl, its something I have always wanted. This portrait has been made into a limited edition print and offered for sale. With her 30 years of experience Fiona did a fantastic job and produced a really beautiful painting.

The painting hasn't sold like hot cakes but it has sold and the portrait has become a very useful part of the fundraising - It provides an important educational angle and a focus for the fundraising.

I have hung it in a number of local veterinarian clinics, offering it for sale. Beside where it hangs is a brief information sheet explaining that the green peafowl is now endangered and information about the WPA. There is also a sign advertising peacock feathers for sale.

The feathers act as raffle tickets, the sign says "buy a feather and go into a draw to win lunch".... at a well known local café. In Australia if you simply put a donation box out not much will happen but if people can buy something plus there is an offer

©Mark Baker



of a free lunch this tends to attract more attention (The free lunch was donated).

It's been a bit of an effort to set up but instead of the feather sitting in the corner of my living room they are now making a contribution. I really like the idea that my captive green peafowl are helping their wild relatives survive in the wild. I am hoping next year I will have everything made up. I will take them around to 5 different clinic/outlets and this should raise approximately half the funds...maybe. Of course you need quite a few green peacocks to produce the right number of feathers.

For this to work well people need to be given certain information and feed back: Ideally they are told 1) what the funds are being raised for 2) what the fundraising goal is and how the fundraising is going and most importantly 3) when the draw for the free lunch will happen! I have decided to have 2 draws one when the funds reach \$1000 and a second when we reach \$2000.

The best thing about this is once it is set up you just go back every now and then and collect the money.

I have also sold a painting and directly asked friends for support.

Next year I hope to make green peacock feather earrings, I know it's a bit 1970's but it may increase the value of the tail feathers7....I'll give it a try.

So it is slowly getting there. How successful have I been so far? About 37%according to Justgiving.

Obituary – Simon Charles Mayes

1938 – 2013

Simon died peacefully after a short illness on 12 March 2013.

Many will remember Simon for his enthusiastic organisation of the Conservation Breeding Advisory Group's annual February gathering, but he did so much more for the Association. He was Chairman of CBAG for 10 years and he also served as Treasurer for the European Conservation Breeding Group which gave him contact with many WPA members in our European Chapters. He helped to pioneer CBAG's first ever tour abroad, with a visit to Prague in 2011.

He loved to drive and travelled widely on the continent; he was always ready to assist with the movement of birds and WPA members. Perhaps his most epic journey was driving a group of curassows from Portugal to Scotland.

Simon was a Trustee of the Association for ten years and rarely missed a Council Meeting. He was also a great supporter of WPA's Charity Shoot and last year he brought six teams of friends to the event.

Simon was a private person, many of us knowing him mainly for what he did for the benefit of game birds. For so many of us, what begins as a hobby becomes a passion. Many pheasants needing to be re-homed were



either transported to their new aviaries by Simon, or were lovingly cared for at his home on the Isle of Wight.

In addition to his unflagging work for WPA, Simon ran Nelson Engineering, a company which built a range of sea-going Nelson Boats for many years. The Nelson Boat Owners Club has branches throughout Europe and Simon was keenly involved in their organisation and social events. He recently retired after 27 years as their secretary. He also organised an annual week's cycling tour in Europe for a group of friends from the Isle of Wight. Each year, Simon would plan the whole event, finding new routes, booking hotels and transporting all the bikes on a specially designed trailer.

Simon's extensive travels made him friends throughout Europe and probably all of them will remember him for helping them in some way or other; that's just the very generous and helpful man he was. He was always looking for new ways to help WPA so now some of us may need to take up his ideas of producing tablemats and coasters featuring tragopans and peacock pheasants, or of importing pheasant books from the USA to help our members.

Our thoughts are with his four daughters, Ros, Miranda, Sasha & Natalie and his grandchildren.



Obituary – Dr. Wolfgang Grummt

1932-2013

Wolfgang Grummt, a leading member of WPA-Germany for many years and their chairman from 1994 to 2009, died on 7 January 2013 at the age of 80. A passionate ornithologist with worldwide contacts, he worked to engage WPA-Germany in international projects and to give it international standing. WPA-Germany and WPA at large owes him a great debt.

Born on August 22nd 1932 in Wildenfels near Zwickau in Saxony, Wolfgang Grummt developed a passion for animals from an early age, keeping and breeding chickens and pigeons. He attended Leipzig University, specialising on the European pine vole for his first degree. His doctoral thesis at the Humboldt University

in Berlin was on pelican reproduction. The foundations of an ornithological career had been laid.

In 1956 he joined Tierpark Berlin as scientific assistant, later curator, and served there for more than 40 years. He became an expert in many fields, publishing more than 200 contributions to learned journals and books, mainly on ornithology. Through his innovative breeding projects he helped to win international recognition for his Tierpark - but he also valued and encouraged the work of private breeders. Next to his family, the Tierpark was the most important thing in his life. He was instrumental as acting director in seeing the zoo through testing times after the unification of Germany. Even in retirement he visited the Tierpark almost daily.

He travelled widely, was a member of numerous societies and organisations, honorary member of many, reflecting the high esteem in which he was held. He was joint editor of several acclaimed journals. His personal charm and easygoing nature made him a popular figure who could be relied on to provide an ornithological fact as well as being able to retell the most amusing anecdotes



Galliformes seen in European Zoo's

All Pictures: © Paul North

