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Spring 2021

WPA News 114 (2021)

World Pheasant Association

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WPA

news

The International Newsletter of the World Pheasant Association

Number 114 Summer 2021



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Registered Charity No 1181022

WPA COMMITTEES

Conservation Breeding Advisory Group (CBAG)

Chairman	Billy Wilson
Vice-Chairman	Stuart Wilson
Treasurer	Nigel Hester
Secretary	Tim Lovel
Stewart Henderson	Jimmy Reekie
John Corder	Paul North
Belinda Moyle	Will Harrison
Robert Wilding	Gavin Harrison
Keith Chalmers-Watson	

European Conservation and Breeding Group (ECBG)

Austria	Franz Prisching
Benelux	Ludo Pinceel (Scientific advisor) Paulo Raeymaekers Frederic Verstappen (Chairman)
Czech Republic & Slovakia	George Mrnka
France	Laurent Fontaine Bernard Giboin Edouard Jelen
Germany	Gerd Laub Siro Serena Heiner Jacken Bernd Marcodes (Scientific advisor)
Hungary	Miklos Pogany Naszáli Dezső
Poland	Marcin Chrapowicki Karol Sepielak

United Kingdom	Keith Chalmers-Watson Nigel Hester John Corder Tim Lovel
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Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

David Baines	Edouard Jelen
Brian Betram	Rahul Kaul
Tim Bray	Tim Lovel
Ian Clark	Ludo Pinceel (Chairman)
John Corder	Nick Sotherton
Roland Wirth	Geoffrey Davison
Simon Dowell	Prof Zhang Zhengwang
Heiner Jackeni	

Cover Page

The front cover depicts a male Bornean peacock-pheasant (*Polyplectron schleiermacheri*) photographed by John Corder. This elusive bird is endemic to lowland forests of Borneo and is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. It is listed on Appendix II of CITES.

Avian Flu

Avian influenza H5N8 has been found in poultry and captive birds at a premises in several locations across the UK. You are strongly advised to step up biosecurity. Don't bring in new birds or have visitors to the aviaries. Where possible aviaries should be covered to protect from wild bird droppings. More information including important biosecurity advice is available on GOV.UK at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

MEMBERSHIP RATES

	UK	Non-UK
Individual	£30	£35
Junior	£15	£17.50
Family	£60	£70
Corporate	£120	£120
Life membership, single payment	£600	£700

More details on membership and events can be found on the WPA website or contact the office office@pheasant.org

DIARY DATES

WPA AGM & Conservation Breeding Advisory Group Meeting - Sudeley Castle, Gloucestershire	11 September 2021
European Conservation Breeding Group - Zoom meeting	11 April 2021
Blacknecked Pheasant Charity Clay Shoot - Acorn Shooting ground, Amesbury	9 July 2021
Dunkeld Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot	24 July 2021
WPA Germany AGM	3 - 4 September 2021
Scottish Game Fair - Scone Palace, Perth	24 - 26 September 2021

Please check the WPA website news section for more details on events.

Copy Dates

The next issue of WPA News will be produced in July 2021. Articles, stories, letters and adverts for consideration for publication should be with the Office by the end of May 2021.

Articles printed in WPA News may not necessarily represent the views of the World Pheasant Association.

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NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Despite the restriction imposed on us all due to the Covid pandemic you will be pleased to note the WPA has moved forward in a number of ways.

Firstly, the pandemic has allowed us more time at home, and this has enabled our President Emeritus Keith Howman to write his memoirs and this publication is well worth a read. The book covers Keith and Jean's life and whilst pheasants play a large part, family and fishing are highlighted throughout. The photographs and locations are breath-taking, and Keith must be congratulated in finding time to give us all the benefit of his great life.

After many years as trustee for WPA Jon Riley will retire at the end of the year and his role will be undertaken by Richard Alsept who already knows WPA in his involvement as independent examiner.

We are very pleased to announce that an active member Jonathan Pointer has joined the fundraising committee and has taken up the role of Communications and Marketing Officer. He is already exuding new ideas commensurate with the technical world which we now live in. Our ECBG meeting will be held virtually but it is hoped that an actual meeting might be possible in the Autumn either in Hungary or Spain.

Plans are in place to hold the AGM for both WPA and CBAG at Sudeley Castle on Saturday 11th September and the programme will include presentations of both conservation and avicultural themes.

Virtual meetings have now become standard practice and recently I attended my first meeting with some WPA members in the US and Canada. We discussed many areas of mutual interest and agreed that we should meet virtually on a regular basis under the chairmanship of Jo Gregson.

Stewart Henderson's efforts to increase the number of census returns produced a record of over one hundred reports from zoos and private individuals and he hopes to encourage even more members to make returns in the coming years.

We are beginning to feel optimistic about the chances of being able to hold the 8th International Galliformes Symposium in Taman Safari, Prigen, Java, Indonesia from 12th-14th October 2022, you can read more about this on page 11, as well as our funding appeal for a project on threatened Indonesian Galliformes.

Finally, and sadly, we have lost a good friend of WPA in Jeremy Mallinson, former director of Jersey Zoo. His experience and wit will be sorely missed by all those of us who knew him, and the obituary notice is found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Keith Chalmers-Watson - 3rd March 2021

World Pheasant Association- 2020-2021 Limited Edition Raffle of 250 Tickets only Tickets £40

**(buy 5 and get a free Edwards's Pheasant print worth £90)
Original Painting by Jonathan Pointer of the Edwards's pheasant**

We are delighted to be able to offer members a unique opportunity to win this beautiful original painting by Jonathan Pointer of the Edwards's Pheasant valued at over £2,000 which has been very kindly donated by Keith Howman. The framed painting measures approx. 50cm by 40cm. Details of Jonathan's work can be seen at: <http://www.pointer-wildlife-art.co.uk/>

Please support this fundraising raffle. All proceeds will go towards the Edwards's pheasant reintroduction programme in Vietnam. Tickets are being sold on a first come first served basis and being limited to only 250, the odds are good and can be bettered if you buy more than one ticket.



The winner will be announced by draw at 11:00 on Friday 7th May 2021 at a Zoom meeting, which ticket holders will be invited to. The artist Jonathan Pointer will draw out the winner and a panel of experts will be available to answer questions on the Edwards's pheasant project.

Participants will be informed of the name of the winner by email shortly after the draw.

To buy your raffle tickets contact the WPA Office by email: office@pheasant.org.uk or phone: +44 1434 345526

VIETNAM PHEASANT NEWS

Jo Gregson, Ivan Roels and Heiner Jacken

There is again some interesting news to report from the Vietnam pheasant project in Europe and in Vietnam.

As reported earlier a supposed Edwards's pheasant from a studbook collection in Belgium was DNA-tested in round six and unexpectedly showed a hybridisation of 75% *edwardsi* and 24% *hatinhensis* genes. Ivan Roels, studbook coordinator for the Benelux Vietnam pheasant population and "detective in chief" reconstructed the pedigrees of all studbook birds in Belgium. He found another 21 possible hybrids, as well as the source of the hybridisation, an accidentally exchanged 2014 *hatinhensis* chick, that was thought to be an *edwardsi* bird. It turned out that seven studbook breeding pairs in Belgium were hybrid birds. The accidental exchange remained undiscovered until the DNA-test because none of the offspring developed any white tail feathers.

Meanwhile all seven hybrid breeding birds were replaced by >99% pure *edwardsi* type birds, and all offspring from them were removed from the studbook and secured.

However, it should be made clear here once again that all owners of Vietnamese pheasants of the *edwardsi* and *hatinhensis* types should keep both forms strictly separate and do not cross any birds "on their own"! It requires precise knowledge of the pedigrees and the genetic and phenotypic characteristics of the animals in order to select the right birds for the crossing -in!

Since September 2020 studbook coordinators worked hard to recommend as many studbook offspring into new studbook locations as possible.

Within ECBG-collections 12 new studbook participants received new pairs, which is 20% of all 2020 offspring. 80% were released from the studbook due to lack of demand. At the end of the year most of the transfers had been completed, except some exchanges with collections in France and Italy.



Well-structured aviary with lots of natural vegetation make the birds feel safe and relaxed and provide good conditions for parent rearing
Photo: Heiner Jacken



Spontaneous natural vegetation provides well protected nesting sites
Photo: Heiner Jacken

Recommendations within the EEP population in European EAZA zoos are also in a good way, but still ongoing. In December 2020, Veronika Zahradnickova from Prague Zoo succeeded Tom Kapic as EEP-keeper for Vietnam pheasants. With a lot of fresh energy she brought a new momentum into the EEP population. With the help of Ivan Roels and Heiner Jacken she managed to recommend nearly 30 (!) new pairs in European zoos.

The applied selection criteria for all recommendations were; relatedness based on DNA-analyses, rearing method with priority on parent rearing, and logistics.

In March 2020, feather samples were collected from 15 Vietnam pheasants (both type *edwardsi* and type *hatinhensis*) from EAZA institutions. DNA analyses showed that 13 out of 15 were > 99% pure. These DNA tested birds (or siblings) were selected to form new pairs, but also birds from private studbook locations were included where necessary.

Among the 30 new pairs were also three pairs for an Asian satellite population in Taipei Zoo in Taiwan as recommended in the Long Term Management Plan jointly agreed by EAZA, WPA and Birdlife. In December 2018 Prague Zoo kindly offered to handle the enormous paperwork and quarantine efforts for these six birds.

In December 2020, six birds had been selected from the zoos in Prague, Stuttgart, Chemnitz, Paignton, ZSL Whipsnade, and the private collection Droste in Dusseldorf, Germany. Also here selection criteria were relatedness based on DNA analysis and parent reared birds born in 2019/2020. Unfortunately the transfer of the two UK birds before Brexit failed due to temporary closing of the Channel Tunnel, and the decision was taken to look for two alternative birds from Zoo Halle and from a private location in Roels Belgium. Transfers to Prague Zoo are ongoing and expected to be completed early February 2021.

Another satellite population in Asia has been planned in



*Well hatched and off with their mother!
Photo: Heiner Jacken*

Singapore Jurong bird park for the last two years. A pair selected for Singapore is currently located in Zoo Mulhouse and has been DNA tested as > 99.3% pure *edwardsi*. In 2020, this transfer, previously initiated by Tobias Rahde, had to be postponed due to his unexpected passing away at the end of last year. But the Vietnam Pheasant Recovery Team hopes to complete this transfer before the end of the year.

Promising news was also received from Vietnam. The Vietnam Pheasant Recovery Team is regularly meeting online and includes Jan Dams - Antwerp Zoo, Simon Dowell - Chester Zoo, Nigel Collar - Birdlife, Jo Gregson - WPA, Ludo Pinceel - WPA, PhamTuan Anh - VietNature, Le Trong Trai - VietNature, Katharina Herrmann - Berlin Zoo and Dr Sonja Luz - Wildlife Reserves Singapore.

Most of 2020 was spent fundraising and the team has been quite successful. \$140,000 was raised with major contributions from WPA and some zoos, namely Karlsruhe and Berlin. This will enable the first conservation breeding centre to be built in Central Vietnam along with the employment of a project manager. Now funding has to be found to carry out the disease risk assessments. In addition the team is in talks with ZSL and hopes they will come on board. They will soon be advertising for a project manager. Once someone is in place they hope to move some birds out of Hanoi Zoo so that they are not all in one place.

Viet Nature has established a new company and they are finalising the administration. This should enable them to

start constructing the perimeter fence for the conservation breeding centre and put in some utilities so they can start to build the aviaries.

Two projects combining in- and ex-situ projects are currently on the way in European collections. Under the supervision of WPA Liaison Officer Jo Gregson and with major help of the WPA studbook team three adult pairs of Vietnam pheasants have been brought into three European Zoos (Burgers Zoo, Arnhem, Emmen Zoo and ZOOM Erlebniswelt, Gelsenkirchen) with large tropical halls. Their roosting, breeding and territorial behaviour will be investigated in semi-natural conditions in these zoos. Also the age at which young birds get independent from their parents they will be monitored.

In another project initiated by Tobias Rahde, a biology student, Max Lehmann from Bonn University, is working on his master thesis about the impacts of fixed radio transmitters on the behaviour and food intake of Vietnam pheasants. Eight pairs of experimental Vietnam pheasant EDW x HAT hybrids in the private collection of Heiner Jacken in Germany, previously produced to investigate the heredity of the white tail feathers, serve as perfect test animals for this investigation.

Results of these examples for captive birds serving science and conservation will be published as soon as they are available.



*Parent reared Vietnam pheasants are robust and grow well. Most important: Keep your hands off and let the birds do the job!
Photo: Heiner Jacken*

GOLDEN PHEASANT CLUB



Advance Warning

We always try to give plenty of advance warning about the next meeting of the Golden Pheasant Club as we have members from as far afield as the USA who may wish to plan a break around the event. This will be held on Friday 10th June 2022 at Bowood House, Wiltshire.

It will include a private lunch and tour of the superb gardens. There is a 4* Hotel in the grounds of Bowood House.

Full details will be in the next Newsletter.

THE OCELLATED TURKEY

Dr Cliff Nixey

The ocellated turkey (*Meleagris ocellata*) is a very rare species of bird. It only exists in a 50,000 square mile area of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, Guatemala and Belize. It inhabits tropical forests and is hunted for sport and consequently faces tremendous pressure. The good news is that the species is faring well in forests managed by Programme for Belize, a partner of World Land Trust.

It is smaller than the more common wild turkey. It lacks the beard and is brighter coloured. Its head looks very different to the wild turkey as it has two fleshy appendages on the head. In common parlance these are known as snoods. The most distinctive aspect of its feathering is its eyed (ocellated) main tail feathers. The main tail feathers are indistinctly but evenly pencilled black on light grey. There is a broad, rounded tip of brilliant, coppery red with green reflections below which is a wide, bluntly-diamond shaped band of black extending completely across the feather. The centre of this black band is largely occupied by the eye-shaped ocellus or eye, the long axis of which lies crosswise of the feather. The ocellus consists of bright, iridescent, purplish-blue bronzing. The greater tail coverts are similar to the main tail feathers except that the ocellus is much larger. This description has been taken from the book 'Turkey Management' by Marsden and Martin. It is now out of print and hard to find. If anyone requires a full description from the book, I will scan the relevant pages and email it to them.

I think the photograph on the cover of the winter newsletter 113 may be an ocellated turkey but the snoods are under-developed, and the tail feathers are not displayed although if you look closely the tips of the tail feathers, they are black with a possible light sheen in the centre. An internet search will reveal several sites with pictures of ocellated turkeys. The male's tail when displaying is spectacular.

I do not know of any kept in the UK but I have heard that there are some in a zoo in Belgium but I do not know the name or if they are still kept there. It would be good to have some in the UK but it may be difficult to import them from the USA because of veterinary regulations. There are some in zoos in Australia and I believe New Zealand. It may be that a UK zoo could get dispensation to import them as they are very rare.

It is pleasing to know that the ocellated turkey survives in the wild in Mexico and that a captive population exists in some world zoos. From the perspective of the private breeder I am able to confirm that there are quite a large number of captive birds in existence in Europe and to my knowledge a lot of young birds have been bred in 2020. I do not believe it will be too long before the species is represented in the UK.

Keith Chalmers-Watson

CONSERVATION LIAISON UPDATE

Jo Gregson

I have been part of the WPA team as Conservation Liaison Officer since October 2020. It was originally intended that the role would be a full-time position, but the current financial situation due to COVID-19 virus meant there was not enough funding. So it was decided to start with a part-time position in order to make some progress.

The aim is to pull EAZA, WPA, AZA and other institutions to work together building a one-plan approach moving forward under the GSG, where we could be much more effective with our work. So far, we have gathered a small group of like-minded individuals including myself, Jan Dams, EAZA Galliformes TAG chair, Chris Homes, AZA Galliformes TAG chair, and AZA vice chair Gen Anderson. We are also keen to include private holders in the USA in our group; More recently Paul Insua-Cao of OBC has joined us.

At the same time I am looking at our projects and the reports that come in from them. In the future it will be important to prioritise our projects and not be led so much by outside proposals. We need coordinated planning to be sure money goes where it will do the most good for the Galliformes species and their habitats. With combined knowledge of the above group, more effective planning should be the result. In the past WPA has produced excellent action plans that have been a solid reference for all Galliformes project workers. Currently there is so much more web-based information available, the Red Data List and Birdlife International along with Cornell's Birds of the World keep us supplied with up-to-date information at our fingertips, a luxury never known before. We now need to compliment that work with our research and ex-situ understanding of the species that we work with. By combining all our information we would have a full picture and will be well equipped to run projects.

Other projects that I have been involved with show how important ex-situ information can be. When there is already good husbandry information in place it can change the way a project is set up and advance it by years. It really is worth recording the little facts that we all learn in our everyday care of livestock. The Vietnam pheasant project is a good example of how fast things can move when all the teams work together, and the research is already available. We should not wait for a project to start before we gather ex-situ information, research is valuable at all times.

EGG EATING

Barbara Ingman

Looking back at some of the aviculture articles in the World Pheasant Association Newsletters, I found some interesting articles including the following: "A cure for egg eating written" by Tim Lovel in 2009:

One of the many trials that plagues aviculturists is the bird that eats the eggs of its mate as soon as they are laid. Usually it is the cock which is the culprit, although I have known a hen which, immediately after laying, would turn round and spike the egg.

Many remedies have been suggested to discourage this behaviour, most of which involve filling eggshells with an unpleasant substance in an attempt to deter the villain. Personally, I have never found this to work well and sometimes the culprit even seems to develop a taste for the nasty matter that I have (messily) put into the shell. Separating the sexes on alternate days can work well but requires a double aviary, or an aviary plus house, to be practical, and the hen needs to be regular in her laying routine.

Some breeders try to confuse their birds by scattering golf balls around the aviary, on which they can peck away until they tire of it. Other breeders in the USA have taken this idea further and devised a plan which they claim is 100% effective: they tire the birds with eggs! Every day, the aviary is strewn with chickens' eggs. Initially the eggs are all eaten avidly, but within a few days the birds apparently become tired of eating eggs and soon consumption ceases completely. The wanted eggs can then be safely laid and collected. I must stress that I have not yet tried this scheme myself but will experiment with an egg-eating golden pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus* cock this spring.

Another member suggested that if the cock knows there is a threat from rats, it destroys the eggs in an attempt to encourage the hen to lay eggs in a more secure location and therefore improve the chances of successful reproduction.

In 2020 another aviculturist who had problems with egg eating in eared, copper and fireback pheasants solved the problem in each case with the use of 'SPEX' attached to the upper mandible of the male bird. Available from Game and Country <https://www.gameandcountry.co.uk/>

Any additional suggestions for stopping this infuriating problem can be sent to office@pheasant.org.uk or write to WPA, Middle, Ninebanks, Hexham, NE47 8DL.

A WELL TRAVELLED LIFE

Keith Howman our President Emeritus spent "Lockdown" from March to August 2020 writing his memoirs. He had been pestered for years by his children to do so. Between 1975 and 2020 he and his wife Jean had visited over 50 countries, fished in over thirty and accumulated over 100 books of photographs so he had plenty of material to work with.

The result is 270 pages of A4 including over 100 full pages of photographs and many more within the text. Jean very cleverly rephotographed many of the original photos from the 1970s, 80s and 90s with a digital camera with remarkably successful results.

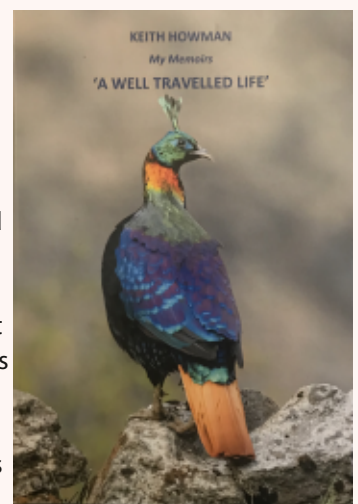
The memoirs were intended for family only but so many friends started asking for a copy that he decided to do a small print run and make them available in aid of World Pheasant Association Projects. 2020 has been a hard year for WPA fundraising. Keith commented, "We have been very fortunate largely due to the formation of WPA in 1975 in meeting many fascinating people: 'The Lion of Kashmir' Sheikh Abdullah in 1978 and his son Dr Farook Abdullah in 1982 along with Rajiv Gandhi Prime Minister of India in 1981 and Ted Heath in the political world. In the conservation world Gerald Durrell, Sir Peter Scott and John Knowles and so on." He said he had been very privileged and fortunate to have been allowed to visit such places as The Neelum Valley (the border between India and Pakistan) in a Pakistan airforce helicopter and Kohima in Nagaland, North East

India. The stories behind these visits are recounted in the memoirs.

"We have fished for trout in special government reserved beats in Kashmir, and for our dinner in Pakistan. We have fished for Mahseer in Corbett National Park and the Jungles of Malaysia and for monster sea trout in Tierra del Fuego and salmon in Russia". All this and much more besides fill the pages alongside all the family weddings, accounts of the 26 dogs in their lives, their farm in Scotland with highland cattle and belted galloway and the trout fishery at their home in Middlesex.

A short print run of a 280-page book is not surprisingly expensive and the cost with 20% for WPA is £65 including P&P. It can be ordered from Barbara Ingman (office@pheasant.org, +44 1434 345526).

Iain Grahame wrote, 'Having just completed reading the brightest, breeziest and most enjoyable memoirs that I can ever remember, all that remains for me to do is to thank you for my copy which I shall treasure.....you really have excelled. Amusing, informative the lot and to top it all a wonderful batch of photographs.'



WHITE -NECKED PARTRIDGE *Arborophila gingica*

Llyer Davies

Status in the wild

Justification of Red List category

This species was downlisted to Near Threatened from Vulnerable in 2012 because published survey results indicate that it is more widely distributed than previously thought, necessitating an upwards revision of the population estimate, which is now estimated to be moderately small. On-going habitat loss and degradation, as well as hunting pressure, are still thought to be driving a continuing decline in the population.

Population size: 10000-19999

Population trend: Decreasing

Extent of occurrence (breeding/resident): 518,000 km²

Country endemic: Yes

However, Simon Dowell (IUCN-SSC Galliformes Specialist Group Co-chair) has recently expressed his concern about the status of this genus in the wild.

EAZA Population

6/9/2018 inventory: 28.23.4 = 55

Births: 19

Acquisitions: 4

Deaths: 11

Dispositions: 76/9/2019 inventory: 31.25.4 = 60

Genetic situation

- 1 possible founder (undetermined birth location, with living descendants). GAN: 25812429.
- 4 possible potential founders (unconfirmed birth location, no recorded death or descendants). GANs: MIG12-29706017; MIG12-29706018; NKY18-03767; NKY18-04746.

Source of earliest known ancestor(s) of a line	Abbreviation of holder(s) of this line	Number of holders of this line
JURONG	JU	1
GOODWILL	JU	1
PRIVATE. NETHERLANDS BORN.	AN; BTP; BEZ; BV; CZ; JY; KN; OS; PL; WN; WW.	11
Phil Cleaton/Belgium	AN; BEZ; BSL; CZ; DU; FF; JY; KN; NY; PL; PT; WN.	12
Daniel Cullen/Branchtide Birds/Belgium	AN; BEZ; BSL; CZ; DU; FF; JY; KN; NY; PL; PT; WN.	12
Jeu Gielen/Netherlands	AN; BEZ; BSL; CZ; DU; FF; JY; KN; NY; PL; PT; WN.	12
WALDMANNK	AU	1
PRIVATE UNKNOWN LOCATION	KN	1
LAUBE Z	KN	1
PRIVATE CAPTIVE BORN	OS	1
Sascha Fischer/Germany	BEZ	1
PRIVATE/VRANA	WW	1
18 holders in total		

Health situation

Mortality fairly stable.

Reproductive situation

- Easily bred, provided pair compatibility, adequate privacy and nesting sites/materials (leaves (e.g. bamboo & pine), straw & moss).
- 10.4.4 unpaired
- Intra-species (including -pair) chasing/aggression (among adults) can develop quickly, especially following major environmental change/disturbance. Plenty of hiding places and single-bird perches useful for such occasions. Splitting, then reintroducing a pair when receptive works. Pairing according to temperament improves the chance of breeding e.g.



White-necked partridge
Photo: Der Irbis, CC BY-SA 3.0
<<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via
Wikimedia Commons

Surplus birds:

BRISTOL: YML19-13173 (PC, BB, JG.) offered to DUDLEY.

NEWQUAY: FQM17-04485; FQM18-04862; FQM18-04863 (PC, BB, JG.)

Offer to JU (male); OS (FQM18-04862); WW (male).

nervous females with relaxed males.

- Mixed-sex siblings held together for 5 months (till October) before aggression requiring splitting occurred, then a further 3 months (till January) in single-sex groups before further aggression recorded.
- Adult males have blue irides vs. brown of females' & juveniles' — what age do these develop?
- Leg band size R (7mm) — what age to close-band?

Citations

BirdLife International (2019) Species factsheet: *Arborophila gingica*. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 26/08/2019.

Species 360 Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS) (2019), zims. Species360.org.

Thank you to all holders for their communication and co-operation with the monitoring of this species in EAZA institutions.

STUDIES ON TRINIDAD'S ENDEMIC BIRD 'THE PAWI' Part One - Starting from scratch

John and Margaret Cooper

Background

In the Annual Review of the World Pheasant Association (WPA) for 2003/2004 there is a brief report by Philip McGowan and Rahul Kaul stating that, "We have started to determine the status of the Critically Endangered Trinidad piping-guan ... Fieldwork is underway in the species' remaining stronghold..."

This rather bland statement belies the story of a project that saw its roots in the WPA convention run by Billy Wilson and his colleagues in Northern Ireland in 2002. John attended and gave a lecture at the invitation – no, insistence – of Keith Howman just before we left for Trinidad & Tobago (T&T), where John had been appointed Professor of Veterinary Pathology at the University of the West Indies (UWI). At the conclusion of the meeting, Keith drove John to Belfast Airport and made him promise that, while we were there, we would "look out for the Trinidad piping-guan and see what might be done to study and conserve it". John agreed to do this – as one does when Keith makes a strongly-worded suggestion!

Our first task once we had settled into our new home was to find out more about this enigmatic bird. While its scientific name is *Pipile pipile*, we quickly learned that it is known as the "Pawi" to Trinidadians. This is a name of Amerindian origin, probably onomatopoeic, and similar words are used across the region to refer to other members of the Cracidae.

It seemed, however, that few Trinidadians had ever actually seen a Pawi. We were told that that the main habitat for the bird was probably the Matura National Park, in the North Eastern Peninsula of the island, which was designated as an ESA (Environmentally Sensitive Area) under the Environmentally Sensitive Area Rules, 2001. Various individuals and organisations pointed out that, although the Pawi was a protected species, it was threatened by various factors, including



Some of the members of the Pawi Study Group toast the future, on the verandah of the Coopers' home
Photo: Margaret Cooper



A notice about protecting the Pawi has a banner attached to it advertising "wild meat" (the Trinidadian term for bushmeat).
Photo: Margaret Cooper

hunting. We also learned that it was elusive and little-studied, beyond the work of Alexander (2002), Brooks (1999), Hayes (2002) and James and Hislop (1998), despite being listed on CITES and the Red Data List. The only legal protection from hunting for the Pawi at that time was in protected areas and during the close season.

Our next step was to establish a "Pawi Study Group" (PSG) and to invite interested parties to join this. Very soon we had representatives from UWI staff and students (Biological Society and Veterinary Faculty), Emperor Valley Zoo, Asa Wright Nature Centre and the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club (TTFNC). Close contact was maintained with the government's wildlife section and the Environmental Management Authority

(EMA), especially regarding legal and ethical aspects of the work. Minutes were kept of all PSG meetings and a PSG logbook was established for field studies. In September 2005 our first report was published (Pawi Study Group, 2005).

The PSG usually met at our university house in St Augustine and the group was joined by visiting scientists, interested Trinidadians and expatriates, on one occasion including the local Roman Catholic priest. The PSG's stated mission was, "To increase knowledge and understanding of the endemic and endangered Trinidad piping-guan while promoting the conservation of this bird and its habitat through awareness raising and public support".

An early PSG venture was to visit Emperor Valley Zoo (EVZ), to see the one officially captive Pawi. Once bureaucratic reservation was overcome, we were able to arrange a practical session during which the bird was handled, weighed, measured and given a full clinical examination. We took blood and other samples for laboratory investigation. The work at EVZ provided an excellent opportunity for the newly-fledged PSG to work as a team and to develop protocols that might later be applied to free-living Pawi in the field. There was another bonus; parasites collected from the bird proved scientific interest and spawned a scientific paper (Menier et al, 2007). Feathers collected under licence (CITES and animal health) were sent to Dr Ian McDowall, University of Chester, for genetic (mitochondrial DNA) studies (Robinson, 2009/2010).



*A Trinidadian veterinary surgeon examines the captive Pawi under the watchful eye of an experienced keeper.
Photo: Margaret Cooper*



*A clear sighting of a Pawi in the canopy.
Photo: Margaret Cooper*

The next stage was to see free-living Pawi. We visited one of the few sites recommended to bird-watchers, on an old nutmeg plantation on the north of the island. The Pawis' fondness for nutmeg would often bring them to the edge of the forest at first light to feed before disappearing into the high canopy. When we were generously offered the use of a house as a base at this location, we were ready to commence field studies.

There was initially considerable reticence on the part of students, sometimes backed by parents, to venture up into the rainforest, especially before dawn or late in the day or in public transport ("maxi-taxi"). This was largely the result of an unprecedented increase in violent crime in Trinidad, exacerbated in some circles by fears about poisonous snakes and mosquitoes (vectors of dengue fever). An apparent impasse was broken by two factors - the enthusiasm of biology society students Alësha and Kerry Naranjit and Srishti Mahase, and confident ground-breaking visits by British veterinary students, Gabrielle Drake, Rosie McAlister and Amy Jennings. The latter established our base and drafted a project proposal (Drake, 2005). The scene was set for future work.

Part two will feature in the next issue.



*Left: Margaret Cooper, Rosie McAlister and Gabrielle (Gabby) Drake arrive at the PSG base.
Photo: Margaret Cooper*

WPA'S NEXT INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Taman Safari Prigen - October 12th-14th 2022

We hope that lot of WPA members may be interested in our next International Galliformes Symposium, which we plan to hold in Java, Indonesia in October next year.

The Taman Safari Group has several zoos in Indonesia and it has the reputation of being the most active conservation organisation in that country. We are delighted that the Taman Safari Group has agreed to act as our partner in staging the symposium. One of its zoos, at Prigen in East Java, already has a well-established conservation breeding facility with several hundred aviaries for threatened Indonesian songbirds, operated in close conjunction with ZGAP and EAZA. This zoo, located near the town of Prigen, has a hotel within its grounds and our symposium is planned to take place here, so delegates will have the opportunity to enjoy the very comfortable facilities of this hotel as well as having access to the zoo and its special conservation breeding centre.

One of Indonesia's principal airports at Surabaya is just 46km from Prigen so transport there should be quick and easy. As with previous symposia, we are looking to have several pre- and post-symposium tours, which may be of interest. Covid travel restrictions are currently making planning a little difficult, but we hope it might be possible for delegates travelling from Europe to fly via Singapore, where we could visit the world-famous Jurong Bird Park, night and river safaris and the Zoo. Jurong Bird Park is currently re-locating to a site close to the zoo, but this should be completed by the time of our visit. There should be some very good opportunities to see wildlife and even some galliformes on a post-symposium tour to nearby Baluran national park. Baluran is famous for its green peafowl so delegates who attend this tour are almost certain to see plenty of green peafowl and maybe green junglefowl as well as many other species. Baluran is located right at the eastern end of Java and there is a ferry that takes only about half an hour to go to the neighbouring island of Bali. This ferry runs every hour so we are also evaluating whether we might take the Baluran Tour to Bali, since there is another National Park called Bali Barat close to the ferry terminal. Following the Baluran Tour, we also plan to offer the opportunity to visit Tangkoko Nature Reserve on Northern Sulawesi. The reserve is known as a paradise for bird watchers where you may see endemic bird species such as Knobbed Hornbill, Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill, Red-backed trush, Sulawesi Pitta, and some pretty forest kingfisher like Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher, Green-backed kingfisher and Lilac-cheeked kingfisher. Not only birds, in Tangkoko you will see endemic mammals of Sulawesi such as tarsier, bear cuscus, and Celebes crested macaque. We may also be able to include a visit to the Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park where it may be possible to see maleo.

We hope we can offer a symposium and tours that offer unrivalled opportunities in Indonesia at very economic rates. If you would like to register an interest and receive further information as planning develops, please let Barbara Ingman know.



*Green peafowl at Baluran
Photo: Friedrich Esser*

As mentioned previously, Taman Safari Prigen has a Conservation Breeding Ark from which a number of Indonesian songbird species have been bred and returned to reinforce the dwindling wild populations. At present, there is no major facility within Indonesia that concentrates on conserving threatened galliformes. But with its long-established record of conserving Indonesian songbirds and some other species, the Prigen Conservation Breeding Ark (PCBA) has submitted a proposal to build a set of aviaries specifically for Endangered Indonesian galliformes. PCBA has two very experienced curators from Europe and a very committed staff of local keepers, many of whom have worked in this conservation area for a number of years.

WPA Council has endorsed the galliformes aviary project and has agreed to provide a significant amount to help with the funding. Already, WPA Germany, WPA France and WPA Austria have also supported the project proposal with additional funding. Of the £22,000+ needed to construct this unique facility, we have already raised just over £17,000; if any WPA member feels able to help, or can suggest a funding source, it would really help to get this facility built and operational by the time of our symposium.

One of the principal aims of our symposium is to try and encourage more work on conserving galliformes in the host country. Indonesia is an immense country spread over a wide geographical area and has some galliformes about which little is known and are in need of further research. Species such as Bulwer's and Bornean peacock-pheasant come immediately to mind, as well as researching the differences between Hoogerwerf's pheasant and Salvadori's. The grey-breasted partridge is endemic to our symposium area and appears to need considerable support. If we can kick-start an interest in galliformes conservation with the initial construction of these conservation aviaries, maybe there might even be the possibility of breeding some of them there.

OUR JOURNEY TO JAVA IN 2019 - PART ONE

Fritz Esser

Eleven years after our last trip to Java, my wife Prani and I decided to visit the island, especially for seeing the Java green peafowl (*Pavo muticus muticus*). Initial research suggested that it would be better to book at least the visit to Ujung Kulon National Park through a travel agency. Last time we went there at random and were lucky that everything went smoothly. It was important for me to choose the optimal season for this trip, because *Pavo m. muticus* only shows a certain brilliance in the plumage, especially in the neck area as well as on the shoulders and wings at a certain time of the year.

I found a travel agency suitable for our needs and a quotation at a relatively high cost. A few days after the first

correspondence by email, a tsunami at the southwestern tip of Java caused great damage in this region. Should our trip not take place after all? The inquiry with our travel agent brought clarification: the part of the national park we wanted to visit had not been affected by the tsunami, so I booked the tour. We set off with just under 60 kg of luggage, most of it consisting of equipment such as cameras, lenses, tripods, camouflage tent and folding chairs.

From Chiang Mai in the north of Thailand we went via Bangkok to Jakarta. After the first night in the airport hotel, we were picked up in the morning shortly before 6am. Our driver brought us to our agency in a fast, almost four-hour drive. To our surprise, the head office of the agency turned out to be a table with a wooden chair, which stood in a small restaurant run by the wife of our tour guide. After a warm welcome, we were ready to get down to business. First, we paid the previously agreed full price, then our camping equipment and provisions were loaded, and we were introduced to our tour guide Joe. We started our trip to a small fishing village near Labuan. On the way, we saw many houses that had been washed away during the tsunami like tiny matches and piled up again like garbage meters further on. That sight frightened me. What kind of elemental force had raged here and how many people had lost their existence or even their lives?



Our boat
Photo: Fritz Esser

searched the landscape for the peafowls. They discovered me at once and disappeared in the jungle. I looked for a favorable place for our camouflage tent and set it up under a tree, where it should stay during our national park trip. Then our guide Joe showed up to tell us that he had set up our camp. Through the jungle we made our way over a 400m long narrow path. The so-called 'camping site' was located in a clearing of about 15m diameter. Joe had set up two very small tents there and explained to us that we could wash ourselves in the nearby small stream. Smiling, he also mentioned that we might get a visit from a rhino that had recently been caught here by a camera trap. Our captain served an excellent dinner on a table made out of some old boards. We had a look into the first tent, where a thin mattress and a blanket for each of us was lying on the floor. In the second, somewhat smaller tent, was our private equipment. Our crew also told us that they would sleep on the boat and that it was forbidden to light a fire. We made an appointment for the next morning and off they went.



Adult male Java green peafowl
Photo: Fritz Esser

Arriving in the small fishing village, we first put all the luggage on a small rowing boat and from there, after a short trip, on a fishing boat specially converted for this purpose, which we had booked for the next few days. The crew consisted of our guide Joe, the captain and a cabin boy. To avoid time-consuming transits between the island and the mainland by boat in the dark, we decided to spend the night on a 'campsite' near the Sidaon savannah. We reached the mainland at a small landing stage after a three-and-a-half hour drive.

Immediately, we took the short way to the savannah to get our first impressions. I noticed many pale bones on the ground that made me shiver in the first moment before I

The night broke in at about 6pm and after a short time it was pitch-dark. Our accommodation soon turned out to be a torture chamber, since the tent was so small that head and feet touched the wall of the tent, which was only a single-layer. Moreover, the ground was so hard that normal sleep was impossible. In addition, a strong wind blew, which dropped small pieces of wood from the surrounding trees onto the ground covered with leaves. Constantly, we were aware of the danger that arises from the leopards, feral dogs and other carnivores living here. At about 2am we heard the first barking of feral dogs creeping around our camp. The night seemed endless and the bones ached.

Around 5am dawn arrived and we set off for the savannah. When we reached it, we immediately found ourselves facing a herd of Bantengs. The two impressive bulls did not look at us very friendly, so I chose a tree on which we could escape to safety. Then I took some photos of the scenery. The sound of the camera caused the Bantengs to flee, and they disappeared into the nearby thicket. Now we were both wide-awake. We went to the camouflage tent and stayed there for the next few hours. We recognised that the males of the green peafowl here were unfortunately already (against my expectation) at the height of their courtship display. There was hardly anything to see of the shining plumage of the hens, which ran from one dunghill to the next to look for beetles. In my time calculation I had made a little mistake and probably should have come two months earlier. Nevertheless, it was exciting to watch the different bird and mammal species. Several times, groups of Bantengs passed by on the open savannah, allowing



Our tents
Photo: Fritz Esser



Bantengs and Java green peafowl
Photo: Fritz Esser

crowds and green peafowls to free themselves from annoying insects. We could also observe different monkeys and wild boars. In front of us, blue-throated bee-eaters fed their offspring. Sunda pied hornbills (*Anthracoeros albirostris convexus*) searched for ripe fruits in the trees, which provided some shade here and there. In the morning around 11am we left our hiding place and went back to the camp, where a very richly set table was waiting for us. At 2pm we went back to our hiding place where we stayed until dusk. Our second meal around 6pm rounded off the first day. The second night in the small tent was as bad as the first, so the next day we told Joe that it was almost impossible to sleep in this torture chamber. It seemed to be no problem for him, as he immediately agreed to move our camp to the beach.



Female Java green peafowl
Photo: Fritz Esser



Ujong Kulon National Park
Photo: Fritz Esser

ROTHSCHILD'S PEACOCK-PHEASANT & MALAY PEACOCK-PHEASANT STUDBOOKS AND BREEDING SUCCESS AT WADDESDON MANOR AVIARIES

Gavin Harrison

The *Polyplectron* genus is a cryptically coloured, illusive group, with six of eight species being threatened, therefore requires close attention in the wild and support through captive breeding programmes.

Breeding success, Waddesdon Manor Aviaries, Rothschild Foundation

We currently hold three *Polyplectron* species: Rothschild's/mountain, Palawan and Bornean peacock-pheasant (pp). I have managed the Rothschild's pp studbook since 2014. Waddesdon has since succeeded in breeding ten plus Rothschild's pp, with the first parent-rearing in 2020 (previously chicks hand-reared as females were not broody). Many Palawan pp have been bred since joining the studbook in 2013. Our Palawan pp pair have successfully fostered for Rothschild's pp. Our team is working hard to breed Bornean pp,

however this is proving difficult as our female is 11+ years old and only laying soft-shelled eggs. We continue to increase calcium and protein in the hope that this female will lay a viable egg before a younger female can be sourced.

Studbooks

The Rothschild's and Malay pp studbook populations are small and will require considerable effort and cooperation to create sustainable populations. Progress has been made with Rothschild's pp with an increase from zero to 22 birds in UK zoos since 2014, and 42 birds (21.21) in the studbook between WPA and EAZA holders. Waddesdon started with five birds – kindly donated from UK WPA studbook holdings. Waddesdon has acted as the EAZA breeding base for Rothschild's, setting up multiple pairs and diversifying genetics when possible. This progress has been greatly assisted by the WPA genetic project – part-funded by the Rothschild's Foundation - resulting in 30+ Rothschild's and Malay pp tested for genetic purity from outside the studbook. There were no hybrids found during this study, which gives confidence in the purity of the European captive population. It also highlights the importance of not hybridising species, which can be greatly detrimental to conservation breeding programmes.



Above: Bornean peacock-pheasants
Below: Rothschild's peacock-pheasant chicks
Photos: Gavin Harrison



Waddesdon Manor aviaries
Photo: Gavin Harrison

My background

I have been working with galliformes for many years - the first species I kept and bred in the early 90s were Japanese quail, then Chinese painted quail and a prized pair of rain quail. I subsequently worked with various interesting galliformes species while Senior Bird Keeper at RZSS Edinburgh Zoo, including Argus pheasant, ocellated turkey, vulturine guinea fowl, green peafowl, Cochinchinese red jungle fowl and Himalayan monal.

I started working with WPA when (the late) Gary Robbins approached Ian Valentine (previously RZSS Director of Animals) regarding a Bornean pp importation from Singapore in 2009. In 2011, I transported 18 Bornean pp from Glasgow Airport to RZSS Highland Wildlife Park for quarantine. I stayed for several days to settle the birds and assist Ministry Vet's testing. It was a privilege to contribute to this importation and a career highlight.

I have managed the Malay pp studbook since 2018. I am committed to help increase numbers and holders in WPA and EAZA collections. Very few Malay pp have been kept in UK zoos although Prague Zoo has three pairs with good breeding success, as well as good breeding results with UK WPA studbook members. I hope to establish a Malay pair at Waddesdon in the near future.

SEARCHING FOR GALLIFORMES IN HAWAII - PART TWO

Stuart Wilson

No list of introduced galliformes would be complete without the inclusion of the game or true pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*). This species is found on all islands except the most westerly Ni'ihau. The first birds of sub-species mongolius were imported to Honolulu in 1866 and were quickly followed in 1868 by a shipment of an unspecified sub-species sourced from New Zealand. Over the following years a number of other sub-species were released, primarily torquatus from China resulting in a hybridised game pheasant akin to those in Europe.

Much like the shooting estates of the UK, game pheasants can be seen almost anywhere on Hawaii and are easy to find. However, that is not the case for the final feral galliform of Hawaii, the Japanese green pheasant (*Phasianus versicolor*). Initially released around 1895 on most islands this species quickly declined and by 1964 was found only on Hawai'i (island), along the slopes of Mauna Kea. It preferred moister higher-elevation forests than the true pheasant and by the mid-2010's was found only in the vicinity of the Volcano Golf Course. Although there are occasional reports, it seems there is every possibility that the Japanese green pheasant has been extirpated from the Hawaiian island group. If this is the case, the Japanese green pheasant joins a long list of failed introductions of galliformes. Attempts to establish a further 29 species, including three species of cracid have not succeeded. Two pairs each of grey-headed chachalaca (*Ortalis cineieiceps*) and great curassow (*Crax rubra*) were released on Hawai'i in 1928 but were lost by 1933. Three pairs of crested guan (*Penelope purpurascens*) were also released at the same site that same year, but also failed to establish themselves. Several attempts to introduce helmeted guineafowl (*Numida melagris*) have been made notably in 1874, 1908 and 1914, and although they survived on O'ahu until the 1970s the last record of a feral bird was on Hawai'i in December 2016.



Hawaii cloud forest
Photo: Stuart Wilson



Erckel's francolin
Photo: Stuart Wilson

Several New World quail have come and gone too. mountain quail (*Oreotyx pictus*) were common on four islands from 1901 but last recorded on Pu'uana'hulu in 1966. Northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) flourished from the early twentieth century but were lost by 2016. Similarly scaled quail (*Callipela squamata*), elegant quail (*Callipela douglasii*) and Montezuma quail (*Cyrtonyx montezumae*) were introduced in the early 1960s but failed to survive the decade. A few individuals of crested wood partridge (*Roulei roulei*) were liberated on O'ahu in 1924 and never seen again. A group of 73 see-see partridge (*Ammoperdix grisgeogularis*) were released on Hawai'i in 1957 and survived at least until 1966. The following year a total of 858 barbary partridge (*Alectoris barbara*) were released at the same site but were removed from the Hawaii Checklist by 1983. Although the three aforementioned introduced francolin species survive to the present day, four other species do not. Nine individuals of Heuglin's francolin (*Pternistis icterorhynchus*) were unsuccessfully released in 1961. Two separate releases of red-billed francolin (*Pternistis adsperus*) were made on Hawai'i in 1963 and they were present in reasonable numbers until 1978. There have been occasional sightings from the Saddle Road area up until 2004, though it is more likely that these were simply misidentified grey francolin. None of the Clapperton's francolin (*Pternistis leucoscepus*) survive from two introductions of 13 birds on Maui and 10 birds on Hawai'i in 1958 and 1962. Yellow-necked francolin (*Pternistis leucoscepus*) were liberated from 1958 but the last specimen was collected in 1967 and the species was deemed too tame for good sport. Chinese francolin (*Francolinus pintadeanus*) were released in 1961-2 but none remained by 1971.

Large numbers of grey partridge (*Perdix perdix*) were introduced for shooting from 1895 onwards. Some of these groups are recorded as numbering 200, 352 and 400 individuals but none have been seen since the 1960's.

The tiny blue-breasted quail (*Synoicus chinensis*) were released on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Moloka'i, Maui and Hawai'i in 1910 but they did not survive beyond 1961. Stubble quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*) were introduced to Maui Nui in 1922 and despite being described as abundant in 1947, none survive today. From 1959 Chinese bamboo-partridge (*Bambusicola fythcii*) were liberated in their hundreds for shooting but the last bird taken by a hunter was in 1988.

The Puu'wa'a wa'a ranch released 14 grey junglefowl (*Gallus sonneratii*) on Hawai'i in 1962. Some of these birds hybridised with red junglefowl but no pure birds are present today.

Huge numbers of Reeve's pheasant (*Syrnaticus reevesii*) were liberated across the Hawaiian chain, including 1502 from 1958-1961. But, despite some breeding success, they were all gone by 1968. Copper pheasants (*Syrnaticus soemmerringii*) were introduced in unknown numbers to Kaua'i, O'ahu and Maui from 1907 but did not survive. There is evidence of hybridisation with ring-necked pheasants judging by the copper headed individuals collected in Hawai'i in 2003. Unknown numbers of golden pheasant (*Chrysolophus pictus*) were released near Honolulu Hawai'i in 1866, and on Kaua'i in 1870, but despite thriving throughout the twentieth century the last feral birds were seen on Hawai'i in 2016. The island of O'ahu was the only area in Hawaii to see the introduction of Lady Amherst pheasant (*Chrysolophus amherstiae*) when 95 birds were released in 1931-2. None survive today. Silver pheasant (*Lophura nycthemera*) were released on Hawai'i in 1866 and O'ahu and possibly Kaua'i in 1932-1933 but the last birds seen were in December 1995.

There have even been attempts to establish lucrative grouse shooting. Sharp-tailed grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*) were released on Hawai'i in 1932. Only one bird was recovered in 1933 and none have been recorded since. Lesser prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) were introduced to Ni'ihau in 1934 and were still present in 1947. Further sightings were made in 1987 and as the terrain is difficult to survey, it is possible that this species may still occur there.

Although thirteen galliformes have been successfully introduced to Hawaii, it is a sobering thought that 29 of its bird species are now extinct, including two since my visit. Many species have been lost due to habitat loss, persecution and introduced disease. Hawaii's honeycreepers in particular have suffered badly from avian malaria. Thankfully the beautiful I'iwi that I eventually tracked down on that volcano survives to this day because it lives at an altitude too high for the host mosquito to tolerate.

On reflection although it was interesting to see many of Hawaii's introduced galliformes, nothing can compare to the islands stunning endemic species.

MEET YOUR WPA COUNCIL

Over the next few issues we will be introducing you to WPA's council and trustees

Susie Munro - Trustee

As a child over 45 years ago I was paid 1p per pheasant water dish that I cleaned and refilled! What was there not to love about pheasants!! I suppose I had the equivalent of a suburban 'Gerald Durrell' upbringing - not at the age of 7 or 8 appreciating that it was not normal to have a blue-eared pheasant walk in through your front door, or how special it was to hold on your lap a precious satyr tragopan chick, (it was just a cuddly chick!). My parents had a fishery and my father's pheasant collection expanded over the years around the water's edge but expanding awareness of the world's pheasants was no easy task pre digitisation. Not many people 45 years ago had the opportunity to see the stunning beauty and diversity of the Galliformes. To try and remedy this my father, if anything in his collection died, would be on a mission to find out why,



it would be sent to the pathologist for answers, then to the taxidermist to have it stuffed. The stuffed birds were then piled into our caravan and set up as a display showing the Mikado, Lady Amherst, golden pheasant, copper pheasant, etc. at the Game Fair, which was an annual outdoor tented event, which even in those days had a large foot fall. It had a huge impact and worked to raise public awareness for many years, and I have fond memories of chatting to the public and explaining why these birds needed their help in the zealous way a youngster has!

My parents first travelled to Pakistan in 1975 (the year WPA was formed) and returned with cine film of the Margalla hills and plans to send out eggs from their collection to start a re-introduction project for the cheer pheasant there. That was the point I was hooked and promised myself I would work in Pakistan one day - as it turned out in a different direction, working with Sandy Gall's Afghanistan Appeal in Peshawar. However, a couple of years later found me in Jamnagar, Gujerat, India working for Rahul Kaul, (on the WPA



Red junglefowl
Photo: Stuart Wilson

scientific advisory committee,) funded by the Jamsaheb of Jamnagar, to assess if painted francolin were extinct. They were not and having the chance to just sit quietly in the bush and watch wildlife was very special. I just wish the maths and statistics that I had not appreciated went hand in hand with observations in the field were not so difficult! I then met my husband and we moved to Scotland.

Now we are on an arable farm embarking on regenerative techniques around Conservation Agriculture (not the same as organic) and at the coalface on an issue so far little publicised in the south with beavers. An illegal release in 2007 has resulted in continuous damage to our farm at large expense to us, and no expense to the public who we are told are in favour of their presence. You cannot have a better learning ground than actually experiencing what it means when in the perceived interests of nature, the local farms get over ridden. I am happy to say this is not something that has happened with WPA's projects!

Carla How -Trustee

A few years ago my interest in Galliformes was minimal. Just local pheasants, mostly because they were eating my plants, and noticing stunning feathers on vintage clothing. I was blissfully unaware of a bigger picture that involved international support for a myriad of birds.



One day a brightly coloured small juvenile pheasant appeared in our garden which my son gradually trained to eat out of his hand. I knew nothing about looking after pheasants and indeed what or why we had been blessed with this young male galliform. It turned out that he was a golden pheasant, who as he grew thought that displaying to our chickens would yield a positive outcome, but sadly they seemed to think he was a silly creature and just pecked him on the head to get him to stop strutting and go away. My son named him Edward. As it seemed Edward was here to stay, I had to learn a bit more about pheasants, so I looked online to see what was out there in the great world wide web and found WPA. I became a member and received the lovely magazines which helped me understand that there was a much bigger picture and a lot of work to do to support the future of these birds.

In one magazine there was a request for trustees, and I thought that this would be a great way of improving my understanding of the work of WPA whilst supporting the organisation at the same time. I had been on various national and international committees and organisations before both as trustee and as board member - so although I did not have the galliforme understanding, just the passion for the subject, I did have something to bring to the position. I have never looked back. Unfortunately Edward is no more but the interest continues, and I hope at some point to build a large aviary and put in a variety of male galliformes that can cope with the Scottish weather all year

round. This would be built beside a popular walking route and I hope this will educate the public and encourage donations and maybe new membership.

Ian Clark - Trustee, member of SAC and Chairman of Syrmaicus Focus Group

I can't remember a time when I haven't been involved with birds. When I was around nine years old, I invented my own bird trap (the one I'm sure countless generations of youngsters had invented before me!). It consisted of a simple garden riddle, propped up at one end with a clothes peg attached to a piece of string. The starlings and sparrows attracted to the humble bread I placed out for them could be trapped harmlessly and safely released. As I caught each bird, I put on a split ring, and it wasn't long before most of the birds in the area had rings – some more than one! Countless hours of sitting holding the other end of the string taught me the art of sitting still. Through this endeavour, I also learned the concept of the patience, which is required by all passionate 'bird people', to truly appreciate the behaviour and natural forms of such wonderful creatures.



Photo: Paul North

Over time, I bred border canaries, budgerigars, foreign finches and ornamental pigeons. However, it was in 1965, when I was given my first pair of golden pheasants, that my love for pheasants truly blossomed. My zeal and passion for learning about and looking after pheasants found me purchasing a small-holding in the South Lanarkshire countryside, where I still live to this day. Several decades later, it has fenced woodland, with gardens and more aviaries than I would like to admit.

Currently, I care for 20 species of rare and exotic pheasants plus assorted poultry. For the last ten years, I have allowed my birds to parent rear their own young with some success. I find that young birds, especially if they have been artificially reared, often get it wrong on the first attempt. However, they do seem to learn from their mistakes and do better the following year. As the old saying goes - 'Every day is a school day'. Well, when it comes to pheasants, I am constantly learning something new. As well as breeding my own birds, I have a strong interest in the science which underpins WPA conservation work, much of which is fascinating and cutting-edge. I believe the WPA has the right balance in supporting both practical daily bird keeping operations and scientific research initiatives. It is this balance which makes us successful and ahead of the curve.

As a proud member of the WPA, I love to support education and foster interest amongst our members and other potential bird keepers. I enjoy assisting members with their problems and I make an effort to attend as many of the WPA events as possible. As a result, I have been fortunate to meet and make friends with so many amazing people throughout the world.

WHITE-EARED PHEASANT - PART TWO

Karol Sepielak

Reproduction in nature and captivity

There is very little information in the literature about the course of the breeding season in the natural environment. They are monogamous birds and reach sexual maturity in the second year of life, less often in the first year (Johnsgard, 1999). The ties between individuals in a pair are extremely durable and couples spend the full year with each other (Kruszewicz and Manelski 2002). In the breeding season, the cocks become very aggressive towards other males against which they defend their territory. The breeding season begins in May and lasts until June (Madge and McGowan 2002) but others report that females lay eggs at the end of April and in May (Wang et al. 2006).

The nests are located on the ground, under cover of vegetation or fallen logs, and also on rock shelves (Baker 1930, Wu and Peng 1996, Wang et al., 2006). The nest is a scrape dug 3.5-10 cm deep, shaped like a deep dish (Wang et al. 2006) and sparsely lined with nest material. The clutch consists of four to nine eggs (Wu and Peng 1996), however, according to Madge and McGowan (2002), the female rarely lays more than seven eggs. The female undertakes incubation which takes 24-25 days, however it is worth noting that hens have also been observed to incubate the eggs for 28-29 days (Johnsgard 1999). The difference may be caused by the frequent departure from the nest by the female to feed, and thus, periodic cooling of the eggs. The eggs are bright, cream-colored with an average weight of 58.4g and size of 60x 42mm (Johnsgard 1999). Hens usually lay only one clutch per year but may lay again if they lose the first clutch and the weather is still favourable (Cheng 1963). The chicks are light yellow with very light brown markings on the back and wings. Both parents take care of the chicks, and often the young stay with their parents until the end of winter.

In captivity in Europe the breeding season starts most often in April and lasts until June. It is started by crowing, which begins in March, by both the male and female. White-eared pheasants crow the least well of all species of eared pheasants. They lay more eggs in captivity than in the wild, sometimes up to 14 (Howman 1996). Laying can be repeated once or twice if the eggs are collected regularly, but the second and third series are much less numerous. I also observed females that laid even more eggs - the record holder laid 27 in the season. The first clutch can be placed in another nest or simply incubated artificially. In captive conditions incubation sometimes takes one day less than in nature. Hennache and Ottaviani (2006) recommend that in the case of artificial incubation of eggs, the following parameters should be used: 37.6°C at a relative humidity of 45% (Hennache and Ottaviani 2006). However, observation of the incubation shows that better results can be achieved in incubators with a 55% humidity setting. In captivity, incubation usually takes 24-25 days (Howman 1996). They



White-eared pheasant
Photo: Andrzej Łużyński

are increasingly kept in flocks, the set-up usually practiced (of course aside from keeping them as a pair) is a cock with two or three hens. I also know a case of combining a cock with four hens, and fertilised eggs were obtained from all of them. However, the cock will not always tolerate all hens. He may like one and chase the other, and hens can also fight among themselves. Therefore, to increase the probability of matching a flock, it is best to combine birds of the same age and to do it in the autumn months. Adding an additional hen in an ongoing breeding season or just before it is not recommended. Some cocks are very aggressive during the breeding season in relation to their partners, they can hurt them badly and sometimes even kill them. There are known cases where male and female pheasants were sexually mature in the first year. In captivity, the low efficiency of reproduction is a serious problem, many eggs are unfertilized. This is often caused by poor breeding pairs. My observations show that the most common reason is that the male does not always accept the partner with whom he is placed in the aviary. Therefore, some breeders apply the following practice. In the autumn they buy several birds of both sexes (unrelated to each other) and put them into one aviary. During the winter, the birds sort themselves into pairs. Those birds that spend more time together and spend the night next to each other can be moved to a separate aviary. Such natural matching of birds in pairs, considerably increases the chances of obtaining a good breeding result.

Hens most often build a nest in a quiet place in an aviary, but rarely use nest boxes. If the hen selects a nest on her own and places her eggs correctly, it is worth trusting her maternal instinct and try to breed in a completely natural way. Female white-eared pheasants often incubate eggs themselves and care for the chicks with the male. The average body weight of a well-developed chick in the first hours after hatching is around 40g. The traditional method of sexing is to observe the development of the chicks. The males are a bit larger, they have a bigger head and spurs grow on their tarsometatarsus. This method allows for the

determination of sex around the fifth month of life (Hennache and Ottaviani 2006). Chicks are less active than the chicks of many other species. The diet of young eared pheasants should consist mainly of small invertebrates. In the first days of life feeding them with insects is highly recommended.

In one case in 2016, eggs were obtained which the female started to lay on the tenth of January! This is the first case I know of when pheasants start breeding season three to four months before their natural season. However, the eggs were unfertilized and some of them were destroyed by the red-billed blue magpies (*Urocissa erythroryncha*) with which they shared the outer aviary. Large amounts of high-protein food were provided to the birds such as boiled eggs and insects.

Captive breeding

White-eared pheasants until recently, very rarely appeared in private collections, but in recent years their popularity has increased significantly. They are relatively easy to care for and tolerate the winters prevailing in Europe. However, young eared pheasants often fall prey to infection by parasites, mainly nematodes that cause syngamosis. They are also attacked by parasites of the digestive tract from the genus *Capillaria* and coccidia. In addition, according to Hennache and Ottaviani (2006), these birds are susceptible to aspergillosis and mycoplasmosis. White-eared pheasants are best displayed in spacious, well-decorated aviaries with an eastern or south-eastern orientation. The optimal area according to Duister (1999) is 32m², according to Howman (1996) the aviary space should be around 20m². Hennache and Ottaviani (2006) believe that the aviary should be 25m². Duister (1999) recommends that its shape be a rectangle measuring 2 x 16 or 4 x 8m. The author also states that the aviary can be half covered or completely uncovered. In well-decorated and spacious aviaries, these birds show a strong parenting instinct, so it is worth filling the aviary with plants that will provide them with many hiding places, significantly increase the aesthetics and improve the comfort of the birds kept in it. As they are tolerant of severe winters in Europe, they do not require an internal aviary. They are one of the most cold-resistant pheasants. Like monals, they dig in the ground with their strong beaks. Therefore, the substrate

must be readily permeable and easy to disinfect, it is therefore recommended to use a sandy or gravel substrate. In order to maintain grass, which is a valuable part of the diet, the aviary surface should not be smaller than 60 m².

These birds, like other pheasants, are mainly seed-eaters. However, their diet should be supplemented with a lot of green fodder, fruits and vegetables and insect food. Before the breeding season, it is recommended to increase the protein content in the diet. However, in the winter it is worth reducing the diet so that the feed is not too concentrated. Birds that are too fat reproduce less well and are more liable to heart attacks. White-eared pheasants can (after first clipping the wings) be released from the aviary and allowed to run free in the garden. They are eager to use the opportunities, for example, to supplement their diet. For the night, they most often come back to the aviary and occupy their favourite place on the roost. In 1979, there were 200 individuals in captivity (Howman 1979). The World Pheasant Association (WPA) has estimated the population kept in captivity in 1991 as 355 individuals (Johnsgard 1999). At present, WPA has established a working group that collects information on eared pheasants (three species kept), including their number and origin. Its aim is to create a monitored population of these species. This will allow the best breeding material to be used and - thanks to keeping the studbook - for matching up the most suitable pairs. Garson and McGowan (1995) claim, that in 1995 there were 1000 individuals in the breeding programme.

Summary

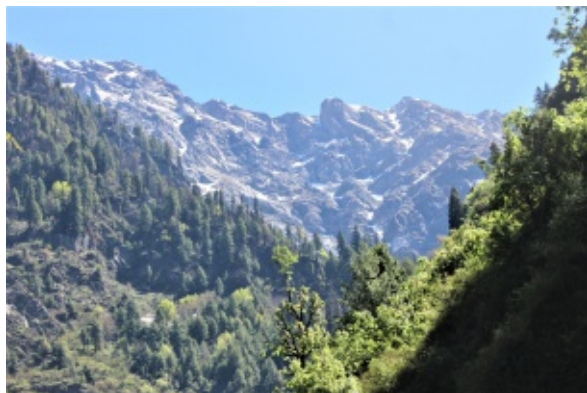
The key to reproductive success is to pair birds correctly. Apart from Tibetan eared pheasant, the white are the most difficult to breed among the eared pheasants. However, their maintenance is not very difficult, and they can be recommended to breeders with little experience. Unfortunately, most of the captive white-eared birds are not pure species. They exhibit features of coloration and morphology similar to blue or brown-eared pheasants. They occur in many zoos in the world. According to the ZIMS report (2017), they are kept in three continents - Europe, North America and Asia. In total, 33 individuals are kept belonging to two subspecies, the nominate and *C. c. drouynii*.



White-eared pheasant
Photo: Andrzej Łużyński

FIRST COMMUNITY MANAGED SAFE ZONES ESTABLISHED TO PROTECT THREATENED PHEASANTS OF MACHIARA NATIONAL PARK, PAKISTAN

Muhammed Naeem Awan



Partial view of Safe Breeding Zobe established for western tragopan in Machiara National Park
Photo: Muhammed Naeem Awan

Background

The Machiara National Park (MNP) is situated in the state of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan and has been categorized as Important Bird Area (IBA, PK017) whereas Western tragopan, cheer pheasant were identified as triggered species for this IBA. In the surrounding of the MNP, there are three Union Councils with 30 main villages. The average growth rate is 2.3% and each household, on average has seven persons. The community around MNP owns various kinds of livestock (buffaloes, cows, goats, sheep, horses, mules and donkey). During the summer season, the livestock moves to the pastures or subsist on fodder collected from the forest.

Although the government is implementing management plan for the overall conservation of the biodiversity in the park area but pheasants has never been a priority of this conservation work and

system has not been established to monitor the population trends of some of globally threatened pheasants like Western tragopan and cheer pheasant. So, with help from World Pheasant Association, UK, a long-term monitoring and conservation program of these pheasants has been started to help protect these pheasants of global conservation concern in MNP.

Previous projects recorded habitat destruction along with high level of anthropogenic disturbance in the breeding habitat of the species affecting the breeding performance of the birds. So, to mitigate these threats, it is therefore recommended a long-term monitoring of the pheasant's population in selected areas, identifying and declaring the safe breeding zones for cheer and tragopan and building the conservation capacity of the communities and park staff. So keeping in view the recommendation proposed, current project established safe breeding zones of the species and engage communities in the conservation of the breeding population and its habitat in the park area. Protection of these Safe Breeding Zones (SBZ) through community participation is recommended.

Process to Establish Safe Breeding Zone

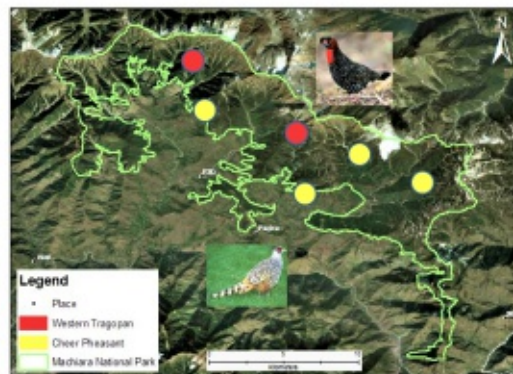
1. Consultative workshops and meetings for Safe Breeding Zones were organized to help select SBZ for tragopan and cheer at this pilot level. All stakeholders were invited to participate in this workshop. Research outcomes of the previous project were shared with the stakeholders and importance of the SBZ were highlighted. Park staff, locals and wildlife officials were invited for these workshops. Two safe zones were proposed at this pilot level but it is of great achievement after the workshop communities were keen to establish more and more safe zones. After a long debate with communities and wildlife staff it is decided to establish six zones i.e. four for cheer and two for tragopan.

2. Declaration of Safe Breeding Zone

Based on the information collected and mapping of the area, wildlife department and park management agreed to declare six safe breeding zones. Communities submitted their resolutions to the park management to establish SBZ for pheasants ensuring their full cooperation for the protection of these safe zones during the breeding season. Communities and park management jointly owned these SBZ and agreed to play their roles and responsibilities to help protect these safe zones during the breeding season (April-July) every year.

3. Signing of MoU between stakeholders

For the effective conservation of the breeding habitat, a MoU has been signed between wildlife department, local communities and WPA Pakistan. Role and responsibilities of the stakeholders were identified through discussions. Under this agreement WPA-Pakistan within its territorial jurisdiction, agrees to; collaborate with stakeholders on conducting monitoring of pheasants in and around SBZ in order to update existing knowledge of pheasant conservation and management, organise training workshops for capacity building of stakeholders to help protect pheasants in and around SBZ, and provide support to Azad Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife and Fishery (AJKW&F) project sites for research and/or teaching purposes.



Map of Safe Breeding Zones for cheer and western tragopan
Photo: Muhammed Naeem Awan

Communities of MNP within its territorial jurisdiction agrees to; help protect the safe breeding zones, will ensure to control the human activities during the breeding season through active watch and ward. Communities will further coordinate with all stakeholder to ensure the effectiveness of MoU and highlight the conservation issue related to pheasants and their habitat in MNP.

AJKW&F within its territorial jurisdiction agrees to; monitor the SBZ to ensure the purpose of its establishment, nominate a 'focal persons' for regular interactions concerning the implementation of this MoU, and facilitate each other in engaging researchers and conservationists for long-term collaboration that benefit Galliformes.

4. Establishing Monitoring System

To ensure the effectiveness of the conservation efforts, a monitoring committee has been established who will be responsible for reviewing the progress of the project activities on monthly bases. This team is comprised of a chairman (representative of the Wildlife Department), three members from locals' communities and one representative from WPA Pakistan. Monitoring committee showed commitment to ensure the implementation of the MoU. They also agree to help create more safe zones to minimize the pressure on the pheasants from other parts of the park.

5. Capacity Building of Park Staff

Conservation capacity building workshops were organized for the wildlife staff so that they may be able to protect the SBZ. Staff was trained in using camera traps for pheasants monitoring. They were also taught how to fit a radio tag to a pheasant and how to monitor the bird in the wild.

6. Communities' capacity building for Safe Zone Protection

Training was conducted for the communities living around the safe zones to help protect the species and its habitat within the declared safe zone. They were further educated to control the movement of the livestock within the safe zones to help minimize the disturbance especially during the breeding season of the species. This activity helped to educate communities to keep away their livestock from these safe zones and to avoid disturbance to the breeding birds. Communities ensured to play their effective role to protect the safe breeding zone between April and July every year to minimize the disturbance in the safe zone area.



Members of the monitoring committee
Photo: Muhammed Naem Awan

Conclusion and Recommendations

The project has achieved all objectives proposed with some more achievements like:

- Six safe zones were established keeping in view the interest and resolutions submitted by the communities' resolution whereas only two safe zones were proposed at this pilot stage.
- Communities owned these safe zones and signed the MoU jointly with WPA-P and Park management, which is very good for effective conservation and management of these safe breeding zones.
- Monitoring committee which also comprises of community representatives and park ranger will further help to monitor activities in these safe zones during the breeding season of the pheasants. It is anticipated active watch and ward will help provide undisturbed breeding grounds to birds of MNP. Keeping in view the following recommendation can help improve the pheasant protection in the park.
- To protect the globally threatened species of pheasants it is needed to replicate the safe zone idea in other parts of the park and to raise awareness among communities to help protect these SBZ.
- Population monitoring surveys from all plots established both in safe and unsafe zones will help provide measures of impacts of conservation intervention.
- Conservation education is much needed to protect the pheasants in and outside these safe zones.

Acknowledgement

We are most thankful to World Pheasant Association, UK for financial support provided for protecting the globally threatened pheasants in Machiara National Park. We are also thankful to Brigadier (R) Mukhtar Ahmed (WPA, Pakistan) for all his support and help in his pheasant's research and conservation work. Many thanks are also due to Azad Kashmir Wildlife Department for their support for the implementation of the project. We are grateful to the communities of the Machiara National Park for coordination to achieve the objectives of this project. Village Community Organizations (VCCs) play important roles in establishing Safe Breeding Zones for pheasants of Machiara so their efforts are highly acknowledged.

WPA CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

We welcome entries from all members and non members of WPA

Two categories:

- Children of 15 years and under
- Adults and others of 16 years and over

Your designs can be a photo, painting or other media and can be in colour or black and white and must be in two dimensions.

Entries must be digital images submitted as high-resolution JPEGs and WPA reserve the right to crop the image as needed. WPA would like the entries to feature an appropriate subject for the WPA (Galliformes theme- pheasants, partridge, quail, grouse etc).

The winners of the children's 15 years and under will receive a £20 Amazon voucher, two packs of cards printed with their design on the front and name on the back.

The winners of the adults, 16 years and over competition will receive an £30 Amazon voucher, two packs of cards printed with their design on the front and name on the back.

All net proceeds from the sale of the Christmas cards go to WPA.

Closing date: 31 August 2021.

See our website for Terms and Conditions and Entry Form

OBITUARIES

Richard May

It is with great sadness that we record the death in November 2020 of Richard May. He was an honorary Life Member of WPA and member of the Golden Pheasant Club and was a member of WPA's Fund Raising Committee. His family was the greatest love of Richard's life, followed closely by shooting and horse racing. The latter he did until a year ago in the company of the late David Malaperiman who was also a member of the Golden Pheasant Club and the Fund Raising Committee.

Richard battled with cancer for a year including a number of operations which he endured with his trademark laugh and total cheerfulness. He just was not going to let it get him down and he intended and succeeded in keeping on doing all the things he wanted to do. Two days before a stroke put him into hospital, he was out feeding the pheasants on his farm. The day before he backed two horses!!

David White a very close family friend recalls that he enjoyed making speeches or appeared to. Richard making the speech for the bride at a wedding was guaranteed to make it a success. Invariably he included risqué jokes, but he instinctively knew just how far to go. David recalls him making a speech at a charity event he was running and bringing the house down and thus ensuring a successful event. WPA members who came to our fund raising Nepal Evening will recall his masterly MC-ing of the evening of music and song provided by his talented daughter Jackie.

Richard loved running the shoot on his farm. It was always a very relaxed affair with much laughter, leg pulling and comradeship. His use of the radio to control events was hilarious and should have been recorded. He never minded if a dog misbehaved and, on many occasions, when David's dogs were even better than their norm "I must give you a rise. Would 10% do?" Knowing full well that he never paid David a penny.

Fishing came to Richard later in life than shooting. He had a unique technique for choosing his flies. For trout he used only a grey wulff. For salmon, a stoats tail. He felt that the need to keep changing his flies as most fishermen do was completely pointless. His motto was the longer the fly is in the water the better your chance and he would then comment "I don't change my gun when I miss a pheasant". He used to drive his much more experienced friend David Hewetson-Brown to



distraction and how he loved that.

Richard took great pride in and loved his farm. David White recalls him saying how he enjoyed driving up through an avenue of wild cherry trees that he had planted and seeing them in full blossom. "When I get home I turn round and drive up through them again."

Richard was a gambler on horses, on cards, on anything. But a gambler of the most sensible kind. He got great pleasure in taking money or maybe it was matchsticks off his grandchildren. In fact he did that successfully just a few days before he died. He was also a very good and very competitive tennis player.

By contrast Richard was a man of deep faith and was involved with his local church as church warden for 30 years. He was a true countryman, a true gentleman and a true friend.

Richards passing marks the end of a group of three close friends who did unbelievable fundraising things for WPA. The other two were David Malaperiman and David Hewetson-Brown. None of the three ever owned an ornamental pheasant and all three were keen shooting men. However, all three were keen conservationists and approved of the work that WPA did to ensure the survival of gamebirds in their countries of origin. Between them they raised tens of thousands of pounds for WPA. Their generosity will be sorely missed.

Richard leaves two daughters Sue and Jackie to whom we send our sympathy.

Jeremy Mallinson

On the evening of the 2nd February 2021, Jeremy Mallinson slipped peacefully away from what had been an amazing journey of a life dedicated to the conservation of a wide range of species and wild places. He died as was his wish, at his home in Jersey surrounded by reminders of his life's work, memories of his wife Odette who had died in 2004, and the presence of his children Julian and Sophie.

Born in Ilkley, Yorkshire in 1937 he later moved south to complete his education at Kings School Canterbury. Whilst staying in London on holiday from school he discovered and much appreciated the wonders and variety of animal life. Not at the zoo but in Harrods pet department where he spent many hours as volunteer assistant getting to know some very exotic animals.

On leaving school he moved to Jersey to join his father's wine business. He quickly realised that he really wanted to work with animals. He discovered that he could apply for a two-year traineeship with the Rhodesian and Nyasaland Staff Corps. Thus his dream to observe animals in the wild was fulfilled and his wish for further involvement became very apparent.

On his return to Jersey he found that Jersey Zoo had just been opened by Gerald Durrell. Jeremy liked what he saw not only the animal collection but the conservation message that was central to the organisations mission. He applied and was selected, for a temporary appointment. Thus began a lifelong career that included his appointment as CEO of Jersey Zoo following the death of his friend and mentor Gerry Durrell. In this post he continued to further the considerable reputation of the Trust. His easy-going style, his ability to engage so well with staff, visitors and members meant that although he demanded high standards in every aspect of the Trusts activities, he was always at pains to point out the contribution of others in the successes that were achieved.

He was closely involved in the management of many species including gorilla, pygmy hog and golden lion tamarind. Much of this work was truly international and his ambassadorial skills, infinite patience and good humour resulted in success that was recognised by the award of the OBE an honorary doctorate, and recognition from national and international organisations for his contribution to the management of species both in the wild and in captivity.

Jeremy enjoyed the company of like thinking people and he was extremely appreciative of the conservation work of the WPA and was always delighted to share his thoughts with us. In the 1980's he gave editorial assistance to the WPA magazine on matters relating to conservation. He was International Record holder for the white-eared pheasant.

Sadly we say goodbye to a remarkable man, a man of great strength of purpose and commitment, a writer of many books and over 400 publications, a friend to so many and a gentleman to all.





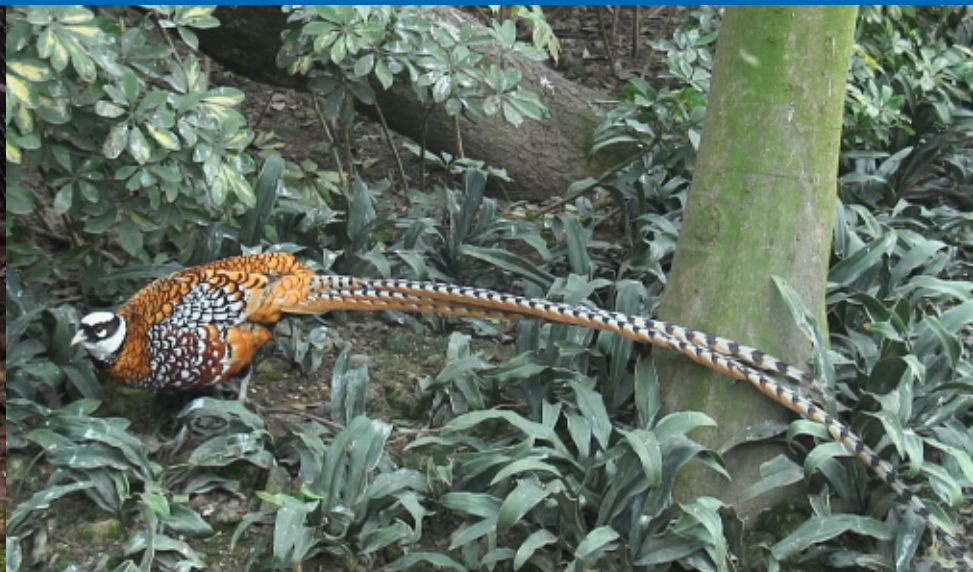
Female Chinese monal
Photo: John Corder



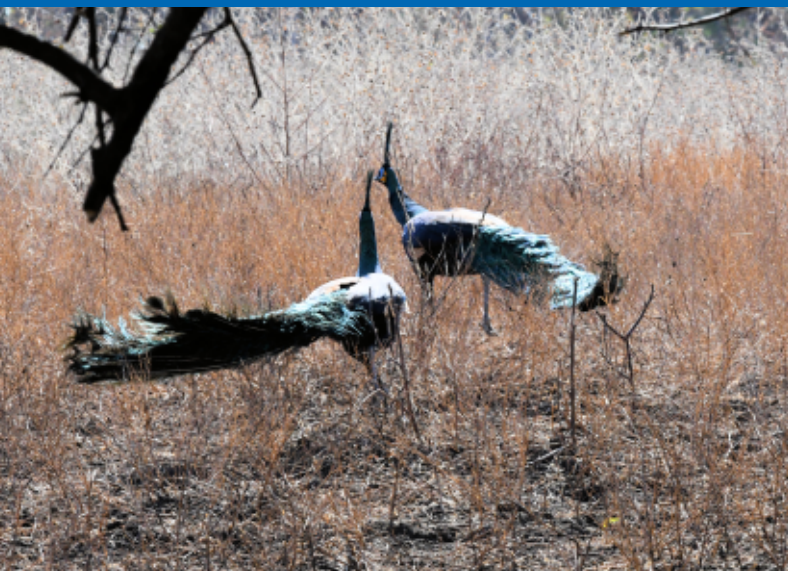
Male chinese monal
Photo: John Corder



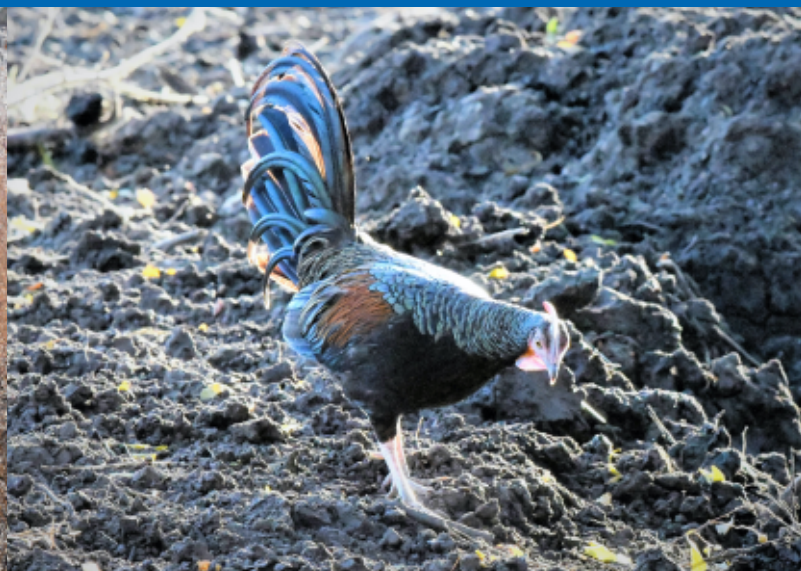
Female mountain peacock pheasant
Photo: Jo gregson



Male Reeve's pheasant
Photo: John Corder



Male Javan green peafowl
Photo: Friedrich Esser



Gallus varius
Photo: Friedrich Esser