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Summer 2021

### WPA News 115 (2021)

World Pheasant Association

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# WPA

news

The International Newsletter of the World Pheasant Association

Number 115 Summer 2021



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**[www.pheasant.org.uk](http://www.pheasant.org.uk)**

**Registered Charity No 1181022**

## WPA Chapters

<b>Austria</b>	Franz Prisching
<b>Benelux</b>	Ludo Pinceel
<b>China</b>	Prof Zheng Guangmei
<b>Czech Republic and Slovakia</b>	Petr Vrana
<b>France</b>	Laurent Fontaine
<b>Germany</b>	Simon Brusland
<b>India</b>	Shri Shekhar Singh
<b>Pakistan</b>	Brigadier Mukhtar Ahmed S.I.SI(M), Retired
<b>Poland</b>	Karol Sepielak
<b>Portugal</b>	Paula Grilo
<b>UK</b>	Billy Wilson
<b>Hungary</b>	Naszáli Dezső
<b>Spain</b>	Iñaki Hernández García

## Wanted/Surplus Stock

WPA members can add wanted and surplus birds to a list available on the website. If you are contacted by a potential customer and would like advice, please contact WPA HQ for advice.

## Cover Page

The cover page depicts a male capercaillie in the Black Forest, Germany by David Palmer via Flickr on 19 May 2012 CC BY 2.0 (the image has been cropped).

An article on capercaillie is featured on pages 12-13.

## Studbook Holders

<b>Cabot's tragopan</b>	(ESB) Veronika Zahradníčková
<b>Edwards's pheasant</b>	(EEP) Tomas Kapic
	(ISB) Vacant
<b>Malayan crestless fireback</b>	(ESB) Marcin Chrapowicki
<b>Palawan peacock pheasant</b>	(EEP) David Jeggo
<b>Mountain peacock pheasant</b>	(ESB) Gavin Harrison
<b>Malaysian peacock pheasant</b>	(ESB) Gavin Harrison
<b>Great argus pheasant</b>	(ESB) Chaz Barr
<b>Congo peafowl</b>	(EEP) Steven Vansteenkiste
<b>Siamese fireback</b>	(Mon-P) Ryzard Topola
<b>Salvadori's pheasant</b>	(Mon-P) Frédéric Verstappen
<b>Satyr tragopan</b>	(Mon-P) Trevor Franks
<b>Temminck's tragopan</b>	(Mon-P) Davide Frigo
<b>Golden pheasant</b>	(Mon-P) Iñaki Hernández García

Contact details can be found on the WPA website.

ESB = European studbook

EEP = European endangered species programme

Mon-P = Monitored by person

ISB = International studbook

## WPA Editor

If you would like to send articles or letters to WPA News please email the WPA Editor at the new email address: [editor@pheasant.org.uk](mailto:editor@pheasant.org.uk)

## 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](mailto:office@pheasant.org)

## DIARY DATES

WPA Germany AGM	3 - 4 September 2021
WPA AGM & Conservation Breeding	11 September 2021
Advisory Group Meeting - Sudeley Castle, Gloucestershire	
Scottish Game Fair - Scone Palace, Perth	24 - 26 September 2021
Scottish Open Day	30 - 31 October 2021
8th International Galliformes Symposium - Java, Indonesia	12-14 October 2022

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

## Copy Dates

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



One of the more significant pieces of news at this time is my retirement as Chairman of WPA. Many of you will know that I have been in the chair for eight years now, on a three-year appointment!

I am delighted to inform the membership that Jo Gregson, formerly Bird Curator at Paignton Zoo, has agreed to take the chair with effect from the AGM on 11th September. Jo was appointed Liaison Officer for WPA in September 2020 and has carried out enormous work on our behalf particularly in the US, Canada and elsewhere. She comes with great experience with Galliformes and huge enthusiasm to take WPA forward at this time.

Another major opportunity arises now that we have electronic communication enabling us to involve US and Canadian members as well as have greater attendance at meetings from our European trustees.

Changes and additions to Council are proposed and may be viewed on the AGM

agenda published on page nine.

Jonathan Pointer has taken on the role of Communications Officer and the posts on the WPA Facebook and Instagram pages are having a positive effect on membership numbers as we have had an increase in the number of new members.

We look forward optimistically to meeting in person at the re-scheduled CBAG Meeting and our AGM at Sudeley Castle on Saturday 11th September, provided that the covid restrictions have been lifted. Full details will be circulated as soon as we can confirm that the event can take place.

We are looking forward to setting up our exhibit at the Scottish Game Fair which has been moved to 24th- 26th September at Scone Palace in Perth and expect to exhibit golden pheasants and Lady Amherst to promote WPA to the visitors.

Following the article in the last WPA News about the construction of new Galliformes aviaries at Taman Safari Prigen in Indonesia, I am delighted to inform members that all the funds have been raised by WPA and our European Chapters. The aviaries are already halfway through construction so we hope that symposium delegates will be able to see them complete with galliform occupants in October next year.

We wish Emma Zeale, our excellent Newsletter Editor well on her forthcoming maternity leave and we say goodbye to Jon Riley who has been WPA Treasurer since 2010, although he still has links to us through the Maleo Project in Northern Sulawesi.

Finally we are receiving very good reviews about President Emeritus Keith Howman's outstanding memoirs some of which can be read on page 20. All proceeds from the sales of the book come to WPA.

KCW 30th June 2021

### 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**

# MASKED BOBWHITE

**Barbara Ingman**

Masked bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus ridgwayi*) is a critically endangered quail historically found in the Sonoran grasslands of southern Arizona, USA and northern Sonora, Mexico. Native populations of masked bobwhite may already be extinct in the wild, but USA captive populations exist at G. M. Sutton Avian Research Center and Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. Recovery efforts in the 1970s and 1980s were initially successful but suffered debilitating setbacks in the mid to late 1980s and 1990s that ultimately resulted in failure and substantial releases were suspended in 2005.

Improved habitat restoration efforts and promising conditioning and release techniques led to the belief that reintroductions could again be attempted and successful. In 2016-2017 plans were developed to increase captive propagation and release efforts. Overwinter survivorship of birds released in 2018-2019 ( $\geq 20\%$ , which is comparable to most wild quail populations) was encouraging, and reproduction of wild birds was documented in 2019. An existing base of wild birds, in addition to improvements in habitat restoration, rearing, release and conditioning methods along with increased production from captive facilities has renewed hope that full recovery of the species in Arizona is possible.

The 47,000-ha Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, located in south-central Arizona, was established primarily for reintroduction of masked bobwhite. While some sizable portions are now deemed suitable masked bobwhite habitat, efforts to expand and connect those portions are underway. Restoration techniques include mesquite removal; half-cutting and hinge-felling mesquite; brush piles; seeding native forbs, shrubs, and grasses; and loose rock dams and brush dams to reduce and reverse erosion, slow water flow, and establish native vegetation.



*Bobwhite quail chick*  
Photo: USFWS

Captive breeding programs at the G. M. Sutton Avian Research Center and Buenos Aires NWR have provided over 2000 masked bobwhite chicks for release from 2018 through 2020. The majority of these birds were produced at the Sutton Center, as capacity at the Buenos Aires NWR facility is limited. Of great importance is that the two facilities, being separated by nearly 2000 kilometers, provide some assurance that a single catastrophic event would not destroy all or a majority of the captive population. Both facilities maintain approximately 300 birds each for breeding purposes. Efforts are underway to establish a third breeding facility in Mexico that would ideally provide birds for release in Sonora, Mexico.

Reproduction in the wild from birds released in 2018 was documented in 2019. We have observed coveys either merging or gaining single birds, including a covey that was repeatedly observed in 2019 with at least 22 individuals. In 2020, two nests from released birds were located, but both failed. However, considering that there were an estimated 200 masked bobwhite on Buenos Aires NWR going into the 2020 breeding

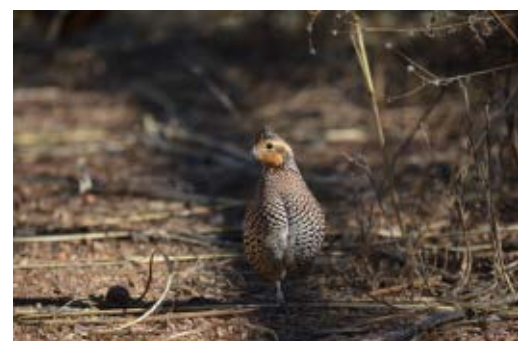
season, there is a likelihood that there was successful wild reproduction in 2020, but not confirmed. Due to severe drought in 2020 and resultant paucity of arthropods, survivorship of birds released in summer of 2020 was much lower than 2018-2019.

In addition to the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, the U.S.F.W.S. Biological Services, and the G. M. Sutton Avian Research, there are many partners committed to this project, including Altar Valley Conservation Alliance, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, Friends of the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, Light Hawk, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, San Diego Natural History Museum, Southern Arizona Chapter of Quail Forever, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Tucson Audubon Society, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

*There is also an interesting article in WPA News No 4 (1984) by Gary Robbins about the masked bobwhite quail and if you login to the WPA Website you can access this and all past WPA Newsletters and Annual Reviews.*



*Bobwhite quail*  
Photo: USFWS



*Bobwhite quail*  
Photo: USFWS

# STUDIES ON TRINIDAD'S ENDEMIC BIRD 'THE PAWI'

## Part Two - Gaining momentum

**John and Margaret Cooper**

In Part One we recounted how in 2003, based in Trinidad & Tobago (T&T) at the University of the West Indies (UWI) and encouraged by Keith Howman, we started a project on the "Pawi", the endemic Trinidad piping-guan (*Pipile pipile*). We formed the "Pawi Study Group" (PSG) and obtained permission to carry out studies and use the house at an old nutmeg (*Virola surinamensis*) plantation near Grande Riviere in the north of the island.

As the PSG logbook and John's diary for the period attest, regular trips and sightings of Pawi at the plantation increased. However, for extended treks into the forest the terrain and environment were challenging. Risk assessments dealt with the usual hazards associated with studying pheasants or other species in the wild but Pawi work brought with it additional concerns. The plantation was named after a young man who had died there some years before, following a bite from a fer-de-lance snake (*Bothrops asper*), known locally as the "mapepire balsain". His grave is close to the best places to watch Pawi feed on nutmeg. In our time a local dog, "Titch", cared for by the PSG, was killed by a bite from this same species.



Photo 2 - Kristel Ramnath carries out behavioural studies on captive Pawi

Photo: Margaret Cooper

At that stage the main thrust of the PSG's activities was a) surveying the Northern range for evidence of the Pawi b) to determine the impact of hunting and other pressures c) collection and analysis of information on the species' ecology, behaviour and health, and d) education and ascertaining public attitudes. The work expanded. Specific Pawi research was augmented by projects by undergraduates and naturalists on diverse topics, including recording sightings of other wildlife, identification of vegetation, and cataloguing invertebrates from locations where Pawi were known to survive. Every effort was made to involve Trinidadians fully in the research – ranging from local villagers to students and research scientists and, of course, PSG members.

The captive Pawi at Emperor Valley Zoo (EVZ) continued to provide opportunities for study. Observations by Crystal Feingold (University of California, Davis) led to a systematic investigation by PSG member Kristel-Marie Ramnath, a UK-qualified Trinidadian animal ethologist, who developed an ethogram to monitor the behavioural repertoires of



Photo 1 - Visiting veterinary students, some of them members of PSG, on a forest track during the rainy season.

Photo: Margaret Cooper

We drew up a number of protocols to guide PSG members and overseas visitors in their work (photo 1), ranging from how to adapt to life in Trinidad (for expatriates) or deal with hunters in the forest to avoiding altercations in rum shops and circumventing occasional incidents in Port of Spain. Specific guidelines were produced for the Pawi habitat and with limited mobile telephone access, personnel carried whistles and PSG identity tags. Health precautions were important, including protection against rabies which in Trinidad is transmitted by vampire bats (*Desmodus spp*), not by dogs.

In September 2005 the PSG produced its first report (World Pheasant Association, 2005). Distributed widely within T&T and overseas, this provided a synopsis of the project, its aims objectives and achievements in its first two years. Gratitude was expressed to WPA and Dr Phil McGowan for guidance and to Conservation International (CI) and the American Bird Conservancy for grants to support the project.



Photo 3 - Health monitoring - examination of the guan's buccal cavity

Photo: Margaret Cooper



Photo 4 - The egg of the free-living Pawi, as found  
Photo: Margaret Cooper

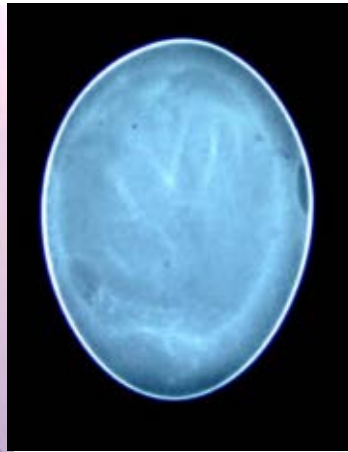


Photo 5 - A radiograph reveals the bones of a chick in the unopened egg  
Photo: Margaret Cooper

the Pawi and devised standard record (check) sheets for use in the field (photo 2). A health-monitoring protocol was also devised for the captive bird and then appraised on domestic fowls for use if and when free-living Pawi were captured (photo 3).

Kerrie Naranjit study of vegetation at Grande Riviere (see above) led to a further two years' research for her degree of MPhil in Environmental Biology (Naranjit, 2015) during which she assessed the phenology (plant and animal life cycle events and how these are influenced by seasonal variations) in respect of the Pawi at Grande Riviere and Morne Bleu. It was Kerrie who first reported the finding of a presumed Pawi nest in a coffee tree; two

damaged eggs were found on the ground nearby (photo 4). Initial investigation at the UWI School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) included radiographic examination and dissection (photos 5 and 6). This provided an opportunity to put on a display for UWI students, staff and visitors at the SVM. Kerrie's unpublished thesis incorporated a brief description of the egg and embryo, providing an opportunity for the future publication of an exhaustive account, with further laboratory investigation and appropriate credits.

Externally-supported projects began to grow. Gabby Drake's short but pivotal blueprint for instigating a Pawi field project was commended in Part 1 (Drake, 2005); it was complemented by a study by Amy Jennings (2004). Kerry Waylen, Imperial College London, visited for three months and, as part of her MSc degree, investigated local perceptions of the Pawi, of turtles and of conservation (Waylen et al, 2009). Aiden Keane (BP Conservation Gold Awardee, 2005) and Bethany Stoker (University of Cambridge) attempted a four-month study on the range and status of the Pawi and assessed measures to ensure its survival. Their field surveys were augmented by developing a database of Pawi-related literature and the construction of a feeding platform at Grande Riviere. These projects were substantially supported by members of the PSG in terms of Trinidad know-how, community liaison and data collection.

The Coopers' lecturing commitments at the University of Chester permitted discussion of Pawi-related projects with Dr Ian McDowall and Louise Robinson joined the university to undertake her PhD study on the genetics of the Pawi (Robinson, 2011).

To be continued...



Photo 6 - The embryo, removed from the egg for examination and sampling  
Photo: Margaret Cooper

## NEWS FROM NEPAL

### David White

Our sympathy goes out to the Nepalese. The thousands of Indians that come into Nepal along its Southern Boundary each day brought in the Indian variant of Covid which is now rampant in the country and has resulted in it now being under total lockdown. This has meant that our Pipar Survey due to be carried out in May has had to be cancelled.

Robin and Wendy Marston were over here in March/April and managed to get their second jab before returning to Nepal just before the clampdown. The only good news is that David White has heard from Tenzing Tashi that they have completed the renovation work on the Lakyok Bird Conservation area. This is high in the mountain called Khumbu Youllha, above the village of Khumjung, in the Everest National Park. This is excellent news in that the area will now attract both the monal, and the blood pheasants, also hopefully snowcock. Musk deer and snow leopard have also been seen in the conservation area.

Tashi writes "We have done fence, pond and water pipeline repairs and built a second pond and I am pleased to report have had excellent support from the National Park authorities. The ponds are an important part of the project. That is the good news, and we are pleased to have got the work done before Covid really came into Khumbu. This has been brought in by the Everest climbing parties from many countries. Some Sherpas have been affected but so far no deaths."



## THE GOLDEN PHEASANT CLUB

**Founders:** Keith Howman, Tim Lovel, John Corder, Iain Grahame, Kit Savage, James Goodhart

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

### **YOUR LEGACY will make a difference.**

Most importantly, leaving a legacy to WPA, whether large or small, will allow us to keep working for our birds, their habitats and the rural communities that live alongside them. All legacies made to a charity are tax free. This means that the value of a legacy to WPA will be deducted from the value of an estate before Inheritance Tax is applied.

**Meetings** will be held for members every two to three years at different locations, advised well in advance. They are informal social gatherings taking the form of a lunch or dinner with a guest speaker and will include an update for members on WPA's current activities and future plans. It is intended that these events will be sponsored. By leaving a legacy you will automatically become a valued member of our Golden Pheasant Club.

If you would like to discuss leaving a legacy to the World Pheasant Association, please contact the office ([office@pheasant.org.uk](mailto:office@pheasant.org.uk)). You will be sent a form to complete which ensures that any money left in your will to WPA is spent according to your wishes. You may wish to specify that your legacy is spent on specific projects. We can also put you in touch with someone who specialises in wills and offers free telephone advice.

## WINGNUT THE PHEASANT

### **Edina Jamal**

*With thousands of internet followers, Wingnut the hand reared, ring-necked pheasant has become an international, social media star. Here Edina Jamal tells his tale.*

Wingnut is our beautiful, ungrateful pheasant who has grown to become a very loved and important member of our family. Wingy is a four year old male ring-neck pheasant whose hobbies include playing the guitar, going to the park, eating almonds and biting feet.

Wingnut's story begins in December 2016 when one of our lovely pigeons incubated some pheasant eggs and hatched three chicks. We named them Garf, Toothless and Wingnut. The pheasant chicks spent their first few weeks indoors before moving to a large aviary with the other pheasants and free ranging in our backyard. Sadly, Toothless who was born weaker than the others passed away at a young age.

We moved closer to the city and had to rehome many of our birds, taking only Wingnut with us. Garf was rehomed due



*Wingnut and Edina  
Photo: Edina Jamal*



to her skittish personality which wouldn't have worked out in the new, smaller house.



*Wingnut on the sofa  
Photo: Edina Jamal*

**Fears:** Wingnut has some strange fears. Sprouting potatoes are one of the anomalies which absolutely terrify him. Any potatoes of the sprouting sort must be disposed of (or planted immediately) or else wingnut will spend the entirety of his day eyeballing it. We have absolutely no idea why. Baguettes too are another one of his irrational fears that we discovered one morning while unpacking the groceries. Perhaps he has something against carbs?

**Diet:** Wingnut's diet is a bit of a mess as it has been since he was a chick. During his first few weeks, we fed him on small-bird seed mix, before we moved him onto a high protein chick starter pellet. Unfortunately, this led to his favourite food becoming finch mix which obviously isn't the most healthy thing. He gets a high-protein diet during his yearly moult, where we treat him to lots of mealworms, insects, nuts, fresh fruits and veggies. He also apparently never learned table manners which is why he eats like a toddler and likes to spread his food about!

**Personality:** Wingnut is a terribly spoilt bird who knows no one in this household can deny any of his requests. Rarely does he eat insects outdoors, but instead prefers store bought, live mealworms (which are considerably more expensive than the dried ones) and straight from the container or he just won't eat them. Any food that has dropped will not be accepted either. Wingnut is also aware that the entire seven-seater couch belongs to him, and he has the authority to steal any spot, any time he feels like it!

**Travelling:** Wingnut always comes to the park with us. If we drive, he usually sits in my lap or gets a car seat to himself and if we walk, he trails behind us like a tame dog.

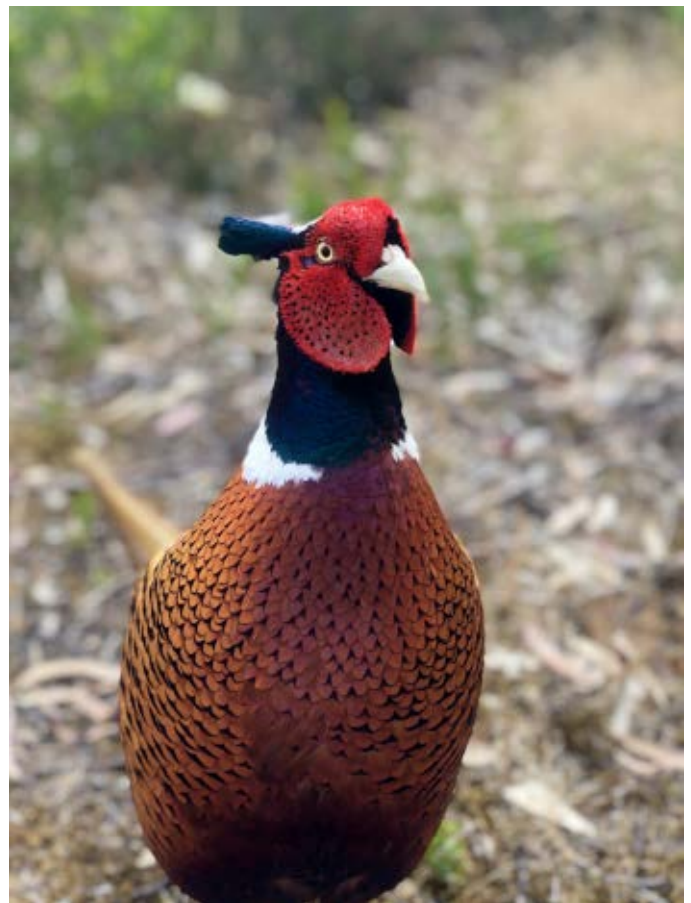
**Musical abilities:** Wingnut is possibly the only pheasant in the world with musical abilities, I have yet to come across another. He is a pro at playing the guitar and will often seek it out so he can pluck at the strings.

**Housing:** Wingnut has two outdoors enclosures, a large

aviary where he can forage, dust bathe and other pheasantry things. This enclosure has very weak netting, and while we do not necessarily worry about him escaping, it wouldn't be too difficult for a predator to get in, so we have a smaller second cage, fully predator-proof and also covered on the top to protect against bad weather. Wingy only sleeps in this smaller cage but despises it whenever we have put him inside. These enclosures are outside, but we have occasionally brought him inside for emergencies. One such situation was when the air quality in Victoria became particularly bad during the 2020 bushfires and because birds having sensitive respiratory systems, we kept him indoors for an entire week. During this period, he slept on top of the piano!

We recently bought a cockatiel, named Emrys, as a friend for Wingnut. Unfortunately, these two are polar opposites and don't always get along. Wingnut is a very reserved and introverted bird who likes to keep to himself. Emrys, however, loves to sing, cuddle and climb all over things, including a reluctant Wingnut! On a positive note, having Emrys around means that we have small-bird seed mixes in the house once again, and Wingnut gets to eat his favourite childhood snack on occasions.

*You can follow Wingnut and Edina on Instagram at [wingnut\\_the\\_pheasant](#)*



*Wingnut  
Photo: Edina Jamal*

Registered Charity No. 1181022

## Notice of the 46th Annual General Meeting of THE WORLD PHEASANT ASSOCIATION

Saturday 11th September 2021 at 14:00 to be held at Chandos Hall, Sudeley Castle,  
Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, GL54 5LP

Members can also attend the AGM using Zoom software, they should notify the WPA Administrator via email ([office@pheasant.org.uk](mailto:office@pheasant.org.uk)) by 1st September and you will be sent a meeting id.

### AGENDA

**1. Agreement of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 12th September 2020.**

**2. Receive and consider the trustees' annual report.**

**3. Receive and consider the annual statement of accounts for the year 2020-21.**

**4. Succession:**

- a. KCW has been seeking a successor as Chair and we are very pleased to announce that Jo Gregson has accepted an invitation to take up the Chairmanship.
- b. KCW would like to put his name forward as Vice Chairman for a period of three years.
- c. Assuming KCW reverts to Vice President, one further trustee may be appointed to maintain our numbers as per the constitution.

**5. Election of Trustees:**

The following have agreed to stand for re-election:

Heiner Jacken agreed to continue as a Vice-President for a further three-year term.

Nigel Hester, Susie Walker-Munro, Laura Gardner, Laura Owens, Ian Clark and Ed Godwin agreed to be put forward to serve as Trustees for a further three-year term.

Jonathan Pointer, Simon Bruslund, Sarah Patterson and Clayton Botkin have been approached and would like to stand as new Trustees from September 2021.

Jonathan Pointer is a wildlife artist and long-standing member of WPA who has taken on the role of Communications Officer and is successfully promoting WPA through social media and press releases.

Sarah Patterson is a bird keeper at Alligator Zoo in Florida, SSP co-ordinator for the Edwards's pheasant and a member of the Vietnam Pheasant Species Recovery Team and is starting to do research with other zoos.

Clayton Botkin, a Director in the Canadian Ornamental Pheasant and Gamebird Association and president of the IWWA-International Wild Wildfowl Association. His record keeping skills should prove useful and he has a good understanding of legislation.

Simon Bruslund, Chairman of WPA Germany, is already working with the Prigen Ark in Indonesia and his wealth of experience, particularly his leadership in EAZA meetings will be especially useful.

**6. Accountant:**

Due to the retirement of Jon Riley, Richard Alsept has accepted the position as accountant and will continue as independent examiner.

**7. Any other business**



Registered Charity No. 1181022

# Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting of THE WORLD PHEASANT ASSOCIATION

Saturday 12th September 2020 at 11:00

The meeting was held as a video conference, using Zoom software.

**Present:** Keith Chalmers-Watson (Chairman) and 18 Members of the Association

## 1. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 6th September 2019

It was agreed unanimously that these minutes be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

## 2. Chairman's Report

In September 2019, the 7th International Symposium on Galliformes was held in Quang Binh Province, Vietnam and was attended by over 100 delegates and speakers from all over the world. A copy of the Proceedings can be found in the Publications section of the WPA website. The WPA Symposiums are an opportunity for first rate Scientists to present papers on conservation, habitat destruction, captive breeding and reintroduction. They are also an opportunity to tour the host country and we were able to visit Hanoi in the north, tour part of central Vietnam in the area where it is hoped to release Edwards's pheasants back into the wild and a small group also visited Saigon Zoo. It is expected that the 8th International Symposium on Galliformes will be held in Indonesia in September 2022 and a subcommittee has started to make plans for this event. Details will be released towards the end of 2021.

The ECBG autumn meeting was in Clères, where we joined WPA France to celebrate 100 years of The Parc de Clères. The Château de Clères was acquired by the late Jean Delacour in 1919 to house his bird collection.

November saw one of WPA's most successful fundraising events organised by the Fundraising Committee in Wiltshire raising a staggering £12000.

Our Conservation Breeding and Advisory Group (CBAG) meeting went ahead as usual early in February with record attendance at Waddesdon Manor. The day conference always has excellent speakers, and this year was no exception with John and Margaret Cooper demonstrating post mortem techniques on Galliformes (albeit simulated using stuffed toys but very useful all the same).

Our plans for the rest of the year, i.e. a European Conservation Breeding Advisory Group meeting in Budapest, charity clay shoots, the Scottish Game Fair and the conference linked to the AGM have all been cancelled because of covid. Consequently, the income for the year 2019-2020 has been drastically reduced. We hope for better times to come.

Last but not least, I would like to congratulate John Corder on his appointment as technical adviser to Beijing Zoo on pheasants and breeding pheasants. This is for a period of five years, an accolade earned through John's untiring WPA work. For the coming year we hope to welcome members regardless of their interests in either conservation, aviculture, or both at next year's meetings, starting with CBAG on Saturday 6 February 2021 at Sudeley Castle (covid permitting).

## 3. Receive and consider the annual statement of accounts for the year 2019-20

It was carried unanimously that the Accounts for the year ended 30 April 2020 be adopted.

## 4. Election of Trustees

The following were re-elected as Trustees:

Keith Chalmers-Watson (Chairman)      Jon Riley (Treasurer)      Dr. Carla How      James Pfarr      Jo Gregson

David Field and David White were elected as new Trustees.

These were carried unanimously.

## 5. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner

Council unanimously elected Richard Alsept as Independent Financial Examiner.

## 6. Any other business

No matters were raised as any other business.



## OUR JOURNEY TO JAVA IN 2019 - PART TWO

### Fritz Esser

The second day in the savannah was similar to the previous one. The peafowls were very shy, and my 300mm telephoto lens with 1.7 telephoto converter was hardly enough to take a closer look at them. But the richly set table on our chartered boat in the evening made us forget this disappointment. After dinner, on the way to our tent, which they had pitched 200m from the jetty, Joe told us not to go swimming in the sea because there had been a crocodile attack a few days ago. The incidental information that our boat crew could not anchor on the beach at night, as this is forbidden in the national park, but had to spend the night on the open sea, did not exactly contribute to our calming down either. We slept a little softer now, but the thought of crocodiles, feral dogs and leopards did not let us have peaceful dreams. In the morning at 5:30am we set off again for the savannah, where the Bantengs were already waiting for us, but this time from a safe distance. We were able to observe up to seven male peafowls displaying at the same time. Despite this nice scenery, the absence of plumage color and the large flight distance of the peafowls damped our joy a little. In the evening at around 8pm, an earthquake tore us from our first sleep; shortly after that, a second quake followed. Immediately we thought of the devastating tsunami that had occurred only a few weeks earlier. We watched the sea spellbound and thought about what we should do. We saw the boat of our crew swimming on the dark water in the distance. Fortunately, the sea remained calm that night, but we awaited the next morning with longing.



*Male Pavo m. muticus displaying*  
Photo: Fritz Esser



*Two year old male and adult female Pavo m. muticus*  
Photo: Fritz Esser

Back in the savannah everything seemed normal at first but then we heard human voices. A troop of forestry workers had arrived to clear the savannah of unnecessary plant growth. We spent the whole day in our camouflage tent, but the peafowls remained hidden in the jungle. What a coincidence, 11 years ago we already had the same problem in this area. Our crew hadn't noticed the earthquake last night, but they had been informed by cell phone from the mainland. Since the forestry work in the savannah was supposed to last longer, we decided to return to Jakarta very early the next morning. Thanks to the turbulent sea, this took us almost the whole day.

The following morning, we left for Surabaya and from there we took a cab to the Baluran National Park, arriving in the late afternoon at a nearby guesthouse. The organisation of the journey to the

national park posed the next problem, because hardly anyone in the guesthouse spoke English. Finally, we were provided with a scooter on which we drove to the national park the same evening. Shortly before closing time, there was just enough time to get a first impression. It almost seemed like an amusement park, as I had never seen so many cars and motorcycles here before. We reached the first ranger station and finally met someone who spoke English. I told them about our problem with the accommodation, whereupon the ranger showed us a free double room near the station. Directly opposite there was even a small snack bar; that was our rescue! The next morning, I paid for our accommodation in the guesthouse, and they got us a car to take us to our new accommodation. After all, we were now right on the spot, and we were even allowed to set up our camouflage tent at a waterhole in a cordoned-off area. Exactly where it had been 11 years before.

Again, the peafowls were a bit further in the molt than I had expected, but at least the hens still showed their splendid plumage. The Javan junglefowl (*Gallus varius*) we saw there were still in an intermediate stage of their molt. The rutting

season of the Sambar deer had begun, and we could hear them roaring during day and night. The savannah in the Baluran national park is not exactly a life-friendly place in the dry season. The main food of the peacocks consists of very small seeds, which they look for incessantly, and of beetles, which they track down in the dung of water buffalos and Bantengs. The monkeys are so hungry that they search the excrement of the Sambar deer for something to eat. We also met some young forestry workers here who were preparing for their exams. One of them was studying the green peafowl and was very interested in my experiences with this species. At the waterhole, we could take some nice photos of the *Pavo m. muticus* living here. On the third day of our stay, some forestry work was started in the savannah, and dried grass and small bushes were burned down in a controlled way. Due to these activities, our stay here came to a sudden end. Two of the rangers brought us with a private car in a six hour-drive to Malang Batu.

One of our acquaintances is the owner of a zoo in Malang Batu and some of the employees were in Thailand for a training course with us years ago. By email, I learned from the veterinarian there a few weeks before that they are proud owners of Bornean peacock pheasants (*Polyplectron schleiermacheri*), I had never seen them alive (except on photos and movies). The disappointment was huge when I saw that the birds were Germain's peacock pheasants (*P. germaini*). But at least, we saw a very rare pair of Sumatran pheasants (*Lophura inornata hoogerwerfi*) and a red-billed partridge (*Arborophila rubrirostris*) from Sumatra, which I had never seen alive before. Unfortunately, the animals were sitting behind glass panes, so it was impossible to take good photos. On the way back to Surabaya, we visited the breeding station in Prigen, which is funded by ZGAP. Under German management the station had achieved some very good breeding results. I hope that in the future some rare Indonesian pheasant species like Bulwer's pheasant and Bornean peacock pheasant will be kept there.

From Surabaya, we went via Malaysia back to Thailand, where we first had to recover some days from this turbulent journey.



Red-billed partridge  
Photo: Fritz Esser

## GROUND-BREAKING GENETIC RESEARCH TO HELP SAVE NATIVE BIRD

### Royal Zoological Society of Scotland



A male capercaillie  
Photo: Mark Hamblin

The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland's (RZSS) WildGenes experts are working with the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project on ground-breaking scientific research to help secure a long-term future for the UK population of the world's largest grouse species.

Based at Edinburgh Zoo, the wildlife charity's conservation genetics laboratory has been commissioned to analyse

capercaillie DNA samples to inform critical conservation action for the species as part of a project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Over the last 50 years, UK capercaillie numbers have fallen by over 90% due to a range of issues including human disturbance, habitat loss, predation and climate change, with the majority of remaining birds now only found in the Cairngorms National Park and at risk of a genetic bottleneck.

Dr Alexander Ball, RZSS WildGenes programme manager, said, "Understanding the genetic diversity of the UK's capercaillie population is critical for its long-term survival and resilience to threats. Our research will determine whether the conservation focus for the species needs to be on expanding the gene pool rather than simply increasing numbers. We will be using a novel technique that will maximise our ability to work with the degraded DNA fragments found in feathers collected from the capercaillie's current range in the Cairngorms National Park."

Carolyn Robertson, Project Manager for the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project, said, "We're incredibly excited to be working with the RZSS WildGenes laboratory. This method

of analysis has never been used in capercaillie conservation before. It will significantly help the management of these birds in the UK, and it could also pave the way for future conservation projects across Eurasia. Collecting the DNA samples for this analysis was a large-scale operation in itself, with a small army of people responding to our project’s call for help. Foresters, rangers, stalkers, gamekeepers, ecologists and trained volunteers responded carefully gathering over 1,000 feathers to be sent to the lab.”

As part of the project’s work, additional capercaillie DNA samples have also been obtained from Sweden, Poland, Germany, Austria, Norway and the French Pyrenees to give insight into genetic differences between capercaillie in the UK and other populations. These samples will also enable the researchers to develop genetic tools that are applicable to multiple European populations.

“There is great potential to replicate the toolkit developed during this project and use it to study other capercaillie populations across the global range,” continues Dr Ball. “We can already see genetic information having a positive impact on capercaillie conservation across mainland Europe, so we’re looking forward to seeing what our work with the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project can achieve.”



WildGenes experts extract DNA from capercaillie feathers  
Photo: RZSS

As part of the genetic research, work is also underway to source historic DNA samples from Scottish birds to compare with present-day ones. These samples are usually taken from the toe pads of historic specimens now preserved for display. The project has been in contact with private collection owners across Scotland, but invites anyone who might own a capercaillie specimen to contribute to the research, by contacting capercaillie@cairngorms.co.uk.

## PHEASANTS OF THE WORLD POSTER

**A new poster depicting the 52 species of pheasants of the world is available from the office as a limited time special offer, see details below.**

It is in the same style as the original pheasants of the world poster, first produced some 40 years ago and depicts a mature cock and hen of each of the species with an additional four new pictures.

Esdaile Hudson did the original artwork, and he has also done the four new paintings in the same style, so they blend in with the original paintings which were done all those years ago.

The poster is further enhanced by the addition of IUCN threat level information.

It is available in 3 sizes and is printed on 250gsm paper with a semi-shiny finish to give a sturdy and long-lasting poster. The price includes post and packaging and comes with a free bookmark. 40 years on, with the use of new professional printing techniques, the colours and details of the birds are displayed at their best.

**Limited time special offer includes postage and a free bookmark:**

Pheasants of the World	UK	Europe	Rest
A4 size 297 x 210mm	£ 3.50	£5.50	£6.54
A3 size 420 x 297mm	£ 5.50	£8.15	£13.15
A1 size 841 x 594mm	£ 12.00	£14.40	£23.20
Bookmarks	£ 1.50	£2.54	£2.54

**Order from the office, contact details are on the front cover.**



# FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR YEAR ENDING 30 APRIL 2021

## Jon Riley

Like all of us, WPA has felt the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on its finances throughout the last financial year. The cancellation of our various fundraising events meant that income was much reduced. This meant that few new conservation initiatives could be supported this year. However trustees were able to continue to support longer-term initiatives in Indonesia, Greece and Pakistan, and our new Conservation Officer, Jo Gregson, started to develop initiatives and partnerships for the future. The gradual easing of lockdown restrictions in the UK mean, at the time of writing, prospects for 2021 are brighter. This was reflected in the recovery of the stock market, which saw our investments recover much of their value; the investments continue to generate approximately £5,000 dividend yield each year, which we use to support our core work. Despite these continuing uncertainties income and reserves remain sufficient to meet all existing project funding commitments and day-to-day running costs for the next two years.

Total income in the year was £78,052. This compares to total income in the previous year of £176,831. Trading activities of £36,155 were much reduced on the previous year (£130,632), which had seen significant income from our Symposium in Vietnam and a successful Nepal fundraising evening. Income from membership was stable at £11,212 (2020: £11,654) whilst income from fundraising activities was hard hit and decreased to £4,784 (2020: £76,525). Expenditure for the year was £89,274 (2020: £166,798). Total spend on charitable activities decreased to £88,363 (2020: £121,227). This included £40,252 (2020: £33,536) invested in field-based activities or conservation genetics research. The various projects supported were:

### Pipar, Nepal

WPA continues to fund teachers' salaries and ongoing maintenance and improvements around the schools in this area. A total of £9,250 was granted through the year.

### Conservation of Sulawesi's Mascot Bird – The Maleo

This was the final year of a three-year funding agreement to support a long-term Wildlife Conservation Society initiative on the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia. This is enabling the ongoing protection of four maleo nesting sites in the Bogani landscape; three of them (Tambun, Muara Pusian, and Hungayono) within the protected area of Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park and one beach nesting ground at Tanjung Binerean, Mataindo Village. WPA funding is supporting daily monitoring of maleo breeding behaviour by local guardians and park rangers, and the regular clearing of invasive vegetation. Our support is also allowing the development of work to tag maleo and track them across the landscape using remote drones.

### Taman Safari Prigen, Java, Indonesia

A £10,500 grant was made to the KASI Foundation, Prigen Conservation Breeding Ark, Pasuruan, East Java. The long-term objective of the project is to set up viable captive populations of several species or subspecies of threatened Galliformes which are either endemic to or with a significant part of their world population within Indonesia. Further, all the taxa either presently have no or only small, and likely not viable populations, in captivity. No active capture of founder stock will be pursued, but rather founder animals will arrive as a result of confiscation or as rescue in cooperation with the authorities from existing private holders. Wild animals (including Galliformes) held in private households in Java are rarely kept in a fashion which allows any form of breeding and thus are lost to conservation. Funding requested from the World Pheasant Association will be used to build a state-of-the-art world class captive breeding facility based on the concept already existing at the PrigenArk for songbirds and parrots. The Prigen facility is the site chosen for the 8th International Galliformes Symposium in October 2022. WPA hopes to strengthen its links in Indonesia through this project.

### Edwards's Pheasant Vietnam

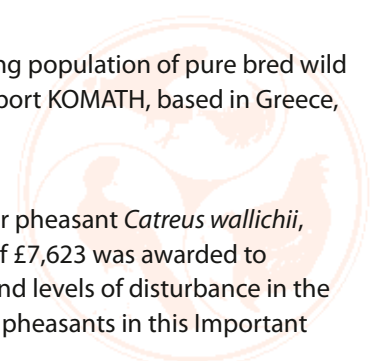
WPA continued to liaise with the Vietnamese Edwards's Pheasant Committee, co-ordinated by VietNature in Vietnam. Funds were set aside to provide WPA expertise and support to a captive breeding and reintroduction programme. The birds would be bred and reared in captivity in Vietnam for several generations until they were suitable for reintroduction.

### Black-necked Pheasant in Nestos, Greece

This was the penultimate year of a five-year partnership project to conserve the last remaining population of pure bred wild pheasants in Europe. WPA worked with the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, UK to support KOMATH, based in Greece, to raise the profile of its conservation work and support field-based work.

### Globally threatened pheasants in Machiara National Park, Azad Kashmir, Pakistan

Machiara national park is one of the most important sites for threatened pheasants like cheer pheasant *Catreus wallichii*, Western tragopan *Tragopan melanocephalus* and other Himalayan pheasants. A third grant of £7,623 was awarded to support this project that monitored changes in pheasant population densities, habitat use and levels of disturbance in the park area, identifying new monitoring sites with potential threats to the globally threatened pheasants in this Important



Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA), further conservation capacity building of the park staff, and spread conservation education and awareness of pheasants in the surrounding communities.

### **Monograph of the Pheasants**

The World Pheasant Organisation has worked with the Authors Alain Hennache and Michel Ottaviani to translate their acclaimed two-volume "Monographie des faisans" into a single English volume. Sales remained strong throughout the year and a reprint was made.

At the end of the year total reserves were £178,228 (2020: £170,928) and general (unrestricted) reserves were £117,579 (2020: £110,813). The level of general reserves exceeds the minimum reserve requirement set by Trustees, of £80,000 or two years' running costs of the charity illustrating that WPA is in sound financial health.

## **CONSERVATION BREEDING ADVISORY GROUP AVICULTURAL WEEKEND**

### **Nigel Hester and Billy Wilson**

This year we plan to combine the delayed CBAG meeting with the WPA AGM. It will be held on Saturday 11th September 2021 at the Chandos Hall, Sudely Castle, Winchcombe. The Chandos Hall is not in the main castle grounds but in the Sudeley Castle Country cottage complex at the top left of the main castle car park (near the town). For those with walking problems it would be best to park in the cottage complex near the hall.

There will be time for a tour of the aviaries within the pheasantry.

We normally charge a nominal fee of about £10-15 to cover refreshments/sandwiches for lunch. We will finalise the costs in the coming weeks.

### **Accommodation:**

As regards to accommodation there are many choices around in Winchcombe, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury to suit all pockets. For economy we suggest to members that they book either the travel lodge or the premier inn at Tewkesbury like last time. The pre-paid standard rate does not offer a refund but does allow you to change the date up to 1pm on the day of arrival.

Premier Inn Tewkesbury Hotel, Shannon Way, Ashchurch, Tewkesbury, GL20 8ND. Tel: 0333 321 9076

Travelodge Tewkesbury, off Shannon Way, Ashchurch, Tewkesbury, GL20 8ND. Tel: 08719 846436

### **Meals:**

We normally meet on the Friday and I suggest as last time we go to the Brewers Fayre "Elmbury lodge" pub attached to the premier inn. When I know we are on and how many are coming I will try to reserve some tables for the evening.

If you intend to attend can please send me an e-mail with the names of prospective attendees, so I can plan the lunches and evening meals (nigel.hester@adive.co.uk).

We have booked a pub for the Saturday evening meal at the Gardeners Arms in Aldereton. They would like us to pre-order our starters and mains, they can do the sweets on the night if you still have room. If you plan on coming, please contact me with your meal choices (nigel.hester@adive.co.uk). The pub will set up individual tabs so you only need to pay on the night, and you can add your drinks and any extras to your own tab. This link is for the evening menu <https://www.gardenersarms.biz/our-menus/evening/>.

### **Provisional Programme:**

#### **Planned presentations-**

Paul North – "A diet for smaller Galliformes"

John Corder – "Peacock pheasants including breeding, diet, calls and much more"

Stuart Wilson – "Galliformes in the wild including superb new video footage"

Dr. Frances M. Baines, M.A., Vet. M.B., M.R.C.V.S.

Time permitting there will be a question and answer session with a panel of experts.

At some point there will be a guided tour of the aviaries at Sudeley Castle. This will involve a 10-minute walk from the meeting room to the aviaries.

**Full details will be announced on the website in the coming weeks <https://www.pheasant.org.uk/aviculturalweekend.aspx>**



## WPA CENSUS

### Keith Chalmers-Watson

In 2020 we received 109 census returns, the biggest return for some time. This is because Stewart Henderson and other volunteers worked hard to encourage breeders to send a record of birds in their collections. The information helps to identify the status of captive Galliformes in the UK, consequently allowing us to determine what necessary action might be needed and provide recommendations to breeders about stock levels.

The 2020 census recorded:

38 cheer pheasant in seven collections.

43 white-eared pheasants in seven collections.

29 Germain's peacock-pheasants in four collections.



*Cheer pheasant at Fenton Barns  
Photo: Stewart Henderson*



*White-eared pheasant at Fenton Barns  
Photo: Stewart Henderson*



*Germain's peacock-pheasant at Fenton Barns  
Photo: Stewart Henderson*

A copy of the results can be found at: <https://www.pheasant.org.uk/census.aspx>.

All the information is treated as strictly confidential and combined with results from other breeders across Europe. This enables us to determine the trends of different species in collections in the UK and Europe. Without this the European Conservation Breeding Group cannot accurately measure the status of captive birds and provide advice for their conservation. The European census data can be viewed at: <http://wpa.serena-mueller.ch/index1.php>. This information is essential for managing captive populations across Europe and is managed by Siro Serena from WPA Germany.

WPA have carried out censuses since it began. Diane Hewitt managed one of the first WPA census in 1991 and said the development and maintenance of captive populations of galliformes has always been a crucially important part of the activities of WPA. The aim of the international censuses held in 1979, 1982 and 1991 was to monitor the captive bird numbers and individual chapters or specialist groups also held limited censuses during the intervening years.

In 2008 Simon Mayes, former Trustee and CBAG Chairman, said 'we continue to emphasise the importance of the captive census. It not only provides the best available information on the captive status of our birds in the British Isles, but it also demonstrates the conservation value of members' collections'. Simon went on to mention our regular contact with DEFRA during the development of a response to the threat of avian flu. The conservation value of the birds at Fenton Barns meant that threatened species were saved when there was an outbreak of Newcastle Disease.

Restrictions and legislation are now being introduced in many European countries. WPA wants to ensure that the movement of rare and endangered species around the world is not restricted, thus ensuring that a genetically viable captive bred stock is maintained.

The updated 2021 Census forms are now available on the WPA website and will be circulated by email in August. Breeders should complete the form showing the birds they have on 31 August 2021.

## SEARCHING FOR RUBEHO FOREST PARTRIDGE

### Melissa Gallardy

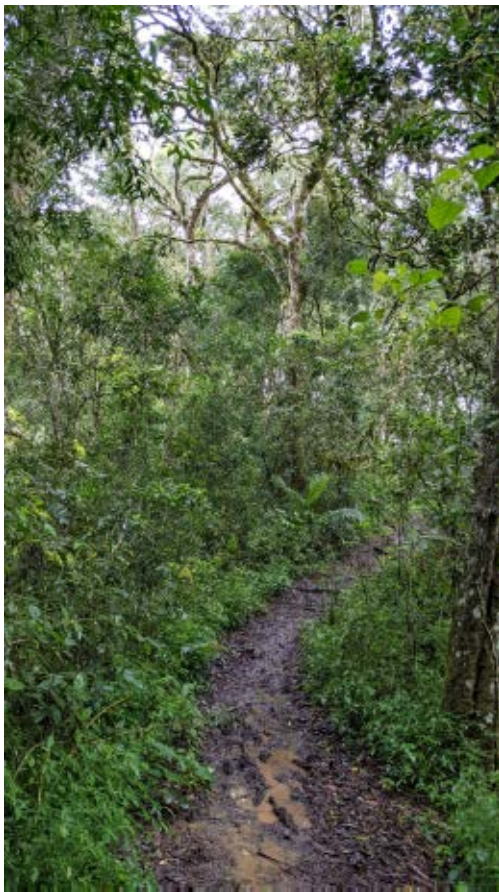
"How did they discover the bird?" I said to my husband as he was researching our upcoming trip to Africa. "It says here that the researchers were having dinner around the campfire when they noticed some strange partridge feet in their soup" he replied. As legend has it, Udzungwa forest partridge was first noticed as two feet sticking out of a native pot at a dinnertime meal. A Kenyan birder we met along the way even told us this story. But while some legends are based on the truth, this one is not – it's just an old wives' tale that is told. But the truth is even more exciting if you ask me.

In 1991 four Danish biology students set off up a remote mountain in Tanzania to research the flora and fauna of a region that no Westerners had yet explored when they noticed five plump partridges walk out from the undergrowth near their camp. They were able to watch and study these birds, alive, from close range and eventually (albeit after returning from their expedition) realised

that not only was this a species new to science, it was also an entirely new genus! These were partridges in a forest in Africa, where nothing else quite like them exists on the continent. In fact, this forest partridge most closely resembled hill partridges from Asia! The researchers determined that Udzungwa forest partridge was the only African survivor of an ancient group of birds that once gave rise to all hill partridges. That is until 2002 when a second, similar forest partridge was discovered on a completely different mountain. Today that bird is known as Rubeho forest partridge and no one, outside of a small team of biologists, has ever seen it in the wild. That is until we came along.



Ross and Melissa Gallardy  
Photo: Ross and Melissa Gallardy



Rubeho forest partridge habitat  
Photo: Ross and Melissa Gallardy

Ross and I are in Africa on a mission to see the birds of this completely fascinating continent. We are seasoned travelers and hardcore birding enthusiasts, not afraid of a little adventure and willing to go the extra mile, literally, to see a bird. We are tracking down as many birds as possible, but especially endemic birds found nowhere else in the world. Ross happened to be reading the research paper detailing the discovery of this partridge and decided that we should attempt to see it, even if we didn't exactly know how. Even if no one has gone before us to pave the way, we are willing to pave our own way.

With a bright red beak, yellow legs, olive-brown upperparts and blackish spotted underparts, these relict forest partridges had especially peaked our interest. Being restricted to the forests high on two separate mountains meant some legwork would be involved to see each one. We first made the long, challenging hike up into the Udzungwa Mountains where we spent four days and three nights camping at 2000m elevation with no access to any kind of amenities just to see the bird. Had other adventurous birders not gone before us and written down their detailed logistical information, it might have been very difficult to coordinate all on our own. Even big name tour companies have started taking bird watchers on visits to see Udzungwa forest partridge. But for us to get to the Rubeho Mountains it was a different story. No one, outside of the researchers who published their findings, has really done it. We had no information on how and no logistical data other than what satellite imagery of the Mafwemiro forest could provide. So Ross contacted Louis, one of the biologists, to see if he could provide any details. We knew where the forest was, we just needed to follow Tanzanian rules to access it.

We first needed permission from the forestry department and would need to show a letter from this agency to the village chairman upon our arrival. I'm

not sure if we ever found the Tanzanian Forestry Department, but we did find the Natural Lands Division Office and proceeded to be paraded around the entire office and adjacent buildings, signing no less than three visitor logs and saying hello to no less than eight people in executive positions. Four hours later we were let on our way with permission to visit the forest in hand.

The road to get there was bad, sure, but not nearly as bad as it could have been and certainly nothing our 4x4 Toyota Hilux couldn't handle. Still, no one ever said accessing remote Tanzania was going to be easy and the narrow roads through small villages were nothing more than a narrow dirt track. Thankfully we had a contact in the last village before the forest, Mopilio, who both speaks English and had joined the researchers in the past. It is always interesting to be an outsider and show up somewhere completely unannounced, but that's exactly what we did. When we arrived in the small village and asked for Mopilio, a small audience appeared. Thankfully Mopilio and one other man, Amos, agreed to join us on our three-day trip. We signed yet another visitors' log and indeed showed our permission slip to the village chairman. It was a night of sleeping in our rooftop tent in the village center with no less than 35 school-aged children watching our every move as we prepared for our trek. The following morning we set off just before dawn.



*Rubeho forest partridge*  
Photo: Ross and Melissa Gallardy

We knew we needed to gain 1,000m in elevation, so we were expecting a steep, challenging hike, but the hike was 13 kilometers long with a gradual incline for the first five or six kilometers so it didn't feel overwhelmingly unreasonable. The trail was also very wide so it felt oddly easy, certainly easier than the hike we did for Udzungwa forest partridge! It's amazing how much elevation one gains simply by walking and soon we were overlooking the valley and many small villages below. It wouldn't be right if the nice trail stayed nice the entire way though, and soon we found ourselves trudging through 15cm deep mud before cutting off of the mule track and up into the forest through a nonexistent trail. We were using the exact same campsite as the research team from years past, which required a complete overhaul to clear back the vines, small trees, and various other forms of plant life that had taken back over. It's remarkable what nature can do if left alone. It took us close to four hours to reach the campsite and the exertion was certainly enough to qualify as a workout, but overall the hike wasn't bad.

Although the Mafwemiro Forest stretches over 15.5 km in length, the Rubeho forest partridge is restricted only to the northern hills of the forest. Despite its small range, we had been informed that the partridges were typically easy to find and would even venture into the campsite at times. So despite it being the middle of the day, once our campsite had been sorted, we headed back out to the trail to try our luck in finding this rare bird. The forest was straight out of a movie set, thick with vine tangles and large trees, yet sections of the understory were open where the partridges could venture out into to feed. Much to our surprise, we hadn't been out searching for more than 15 minutes when a group of three Rubeho forest partridges came marching by. They stayed mostly obscured so we missed the photo op and the dripping from the wet leaves prevented us from getting a recording of them as they called, but we had great views. Based on this experience, we assumed it wouldn't be hard to find them again and get a photo.



*Rubeho forest partridge*  
Photo: Ross and Melissa Gallardy

Unfortunately the rest of the afternoon and the entire following day we didn't see or even hear a single partridge! Had we gotten extremely lucky on that first attempt? Was April a bad time of year for eliciting a response? Or was the rain working to our disadvantage? It began raining on our first night and didn't let up at all. We assumed that the weather was keeping these ground-dwelling birds out of sight and hoped that it would soon stop. It didn't. Despite the rain, we found ourselves out on the trails searching for birds anyway. We spent hours looking for more partridges but now we were soaking wet and still had no photo to speak of, although I will admit that we did track down a few other species of birds. Climate up in the mountains can be unforgiving and unpredictable. And as quickly as it came in, the rain cleared out and on our third and final morning, we were able to search

without any hindrance from the weather. This change was enough to elicit five Rubeho forest partridges into feeding in the open where we had the opportunity to watch them at close range and we finally managed a photo and some audio recordings! After our encounter with the partridges, we opted to pack up camp and start on the journey back to the village. Just as we finished packing everything away, the skies opened up and we got to start on our hike in the pouring down rain! We had just a small window to spend with the partridges without any rain, but it was all that we needed. Despite the weather, our time in the forest was a success and the photos we are sharing are the first photos ever made public of this species!

*Ross and Melissa Gallardy have a website, [www.budgetbirders.com](http://www.budgetbirders.com) where they detail all of their bird adventures. Or follow them on Instagram @budgetbirders to see photos of rare species and stories of their adventures.*

## DIGGING DEEPER

### Jo Gregson

It is quite surprising as well as a missed opportunity that more research is not carried out within our captive populations of Galliformes. There is much to be learned from our birds both in zoos and private collections. The information gathered would be invaluable to in-situ work; it can improve the progress of our projects; and it would certainly give individual birds a better chance of survival when released into the wild. For this reason, I am organising a group of like-minded aviculturists with the aim to learn and publish our bird behaviours in captivity, and to encourage further participation from aviculturists.



Maleo  
Photo: Arief Rahman - WCS

We could utilise so much more information from the birds we hold and ultimately make full use of their role as a backup population for in-situ projects. We spend a lot of time working out the information we need to teach our birds with pre-release, but we often do not realise the information we have inadvertently shown them. The way we present everyday life to project birds can be tweaked to make a big difference.

Here are a few examples: water is often presented in a bowl of some description. In the wild much of the water found will be moving such as a river or stream. Water depth can also be a danger. A lot of care is needed when training birds to feed in the wild, this can be a life breaker for them. Questions are also raised. What are they looking for and where? Do they think food comes from a place where there are people? Substrates need to be carefully selected. Are the birds kept on concrete, will they think that food will be found on the road? These in-situ scenarios can be

detrimental to the survival rate of released birds.

Perching research can be carried out by zoos in the big bird halls; four zoos are already working on this. Recording Vietnam pheasant roosting behaviours such as how high they perch, what kind of trees they select, the preferred diameter of branches they use. We need to know what makes them change a roost site, is it weather disruptions, natural or unnatural disturbances, breeding season etc? Does the whole family roost together? Is there a communal roost for individuals? Do they display near the roost site? All this information is useful when preparing a release aviary and selecting a site.

Habitat preference, we need to learn about the choices our birds make when offered options. Living things only survive and breed in parts of the area that is recorded as their distribution. Different elevations are the most obvious to us, but there are other reasons - temperature, humidity, wetland, rocky area, open areas, dark undergrowth, tides, seasonal food, type of vegetation- for instance colour or spikey bushes. Ornithologists are very aware of how small these sweet spots can be.

As animals develop, they imprint on various objects and behaviours to help them through life and how to survive it. Each lesson is learned at a set age which varies from one species to another. Imprinting is learning that occurs during a specific and limited time. As with geese imprinting on their parents occurs at around 13 hours of age, while passerines learn that a lot later. We can take advantage of these developmental curves to help us prepare birds for release. There are set times for learning about food, water, roosting and habitat selection. The age of independence also varies from species to species it is especially important for us to learn these parameters for each species we are planning to release. Birds released too soon will not be ready for that challenge and those released too late could have become comfortable and may never leave the release area.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact me [jo.gregsonuk@gmail.com](mailto:jo.gregsonuk@gmail.com). Thank you.

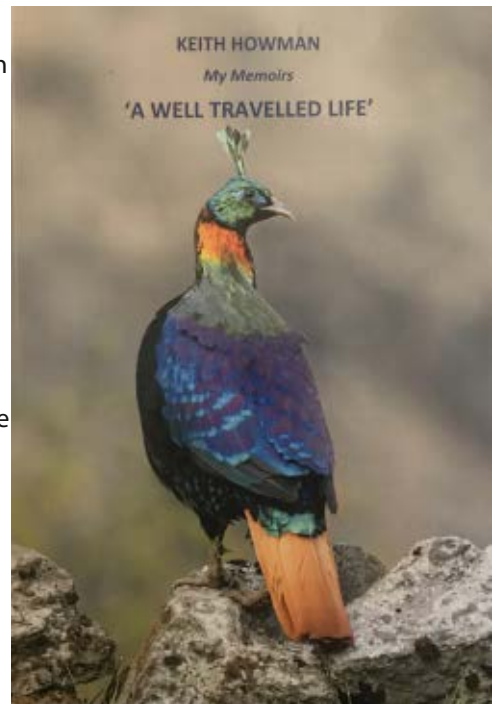
## "A WELL TRAVELLED LIFE" The memoirs of Keith Howman OBE

Born in 1935, Keith begins his story as a young boy in India, on the eve of World War II. A happy childhood spent in the Highlands of Scotland is succeeded by an indifferent boarding school experience (scholastically!). This was followed by National Service in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, mainly in Cyprus, before his return to civilian life. Five years later he started his own business, which as it grew, allowed him a few weeks each year to indulge his passions for travel, conservation, fishing and shooting. Keith has travelled extensively throughout the world. The resultant memoir is filled with travellers' tales from across Asia, Europe and Russia, Africa, North and South America, by plane, ship and rail - including the Orient Express - in pursuit of wild fish and rare birds.

Over the years Keith has been instrumental in the commencement of many important conservation projects and founding of various charities, including the conservation charity The World Pheasant Association, through which many of the world's most vulnerable gamebirds and their habitats are being safeguarded for the future.

270 pages, richly illustrated throughout with the author's photos, 30 x 21 cms paperback.

£65 including P&P (UK only). Order through Barbara Ingman at the WPA Office, Middle, Ninebanks, Hexham, Northumberland, NE47 8DL or by email [office@pheasant.org.uk](mailto:office@pheasant.org.uk).



The sales of Keith's memoirs will support various charities with the principal one being the World Pheasant Association.

Keith writes "I started WPA with two friends 45 years ago with a remit to look after the conservation of all the World's gamebirds and in that time WPA has gone from strength to strength which is why it has been such a joy to be associated with".

### Reviews:

'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.'

*Keith Chalmers-Watson, WPA Chairman*

'In more than 60 essays, Keith Howman weaves a colourful garland celebrating a well-travelled life. His experiences in more than a quarter of the world's nations cover topics as diverse as fishing, wildlife art, military history, cattle breeding and conservation. Somehow, pheasants are also squeezed into the 274 well-illustrated pages. A particular interest has been the involvement of local people in conservation, whether in Pakistan, the Hindu Kush or Nepal. This is a family saga, of which many episodes have been shared with WPA members, but the scope of Keith's activities will surprise everyone.'

*Dr Geoffrey Davison, WPA Trustee*

'Like all autobiographies it is an important part of personal and social history – and, in this case, also a valuable chronicle of some of the achievements of the WPA. "A Well Travelled Life" – equally well-spiced with entertaining anecdotes - should appeal to readers of all ages. To older persons, especially those with a penchant for fish and pheasants, it will be a way of recapturing past trips, achievements and challenges. Younger folks who read the book – or even just flick through its many colourful illustrations - will be inspired to emulate the Howmans and, whether lucky enough to explore far-away places or restricted largely to home territory, strive to contribute something lasting to this threatened planet.'

*John and Margaret Cooper. John is a specialist pathologist with particular interests in wildlife and exotic species, tropical diseases and comparative medicine. Margaret is a lawyer who has made the study of animal and conservation law her special interest.*

'Keith Howman's beautifully illustrated book is worth every penny. And all the proceeds go to an excellent charity.'

*Iain Grahame, WPA Founder Member*

'Keith Howman's memoirs are a thoroughly good read. When you have had such an interesting and a well-travelled life as Keith has had, you may depend there would be some amusing occasions....and this book certainly does not disappoint. Some very funny interludes as you may well expect from Keith. A great bedside book which I was intending to take a few weeks to read his book, in fact I read it in a matter of days. Amusing, interesting and full of anecdotes. A great read indeed!'

*David White, Wildlife Photographer and WPA Trustee*

## GREAT PHEASANT HUNTERS - JEAN DELACOUR

### Keith Howman

He was born in 1890 just ten years after the death of Wilson. His family owned estates in Picardy, Ile-de-France and Normandy which included a number of farms and the late Sir Peter Scott described him in his early years as "a wealthy young amateur" but nevertheless went on to acknowledge his "extraordinary determination, adaptability and resilience" and acknowledged him as an "explorer, taxonomist, museum director, connoisseur of the arts, field naturalist, aviculturist, horticulturist and tireless campaigner for the conservation of wildlife" – not a bad achievement for a wealthy young amateur.

Delacour's own first memories as is possibly the case for many people was of a long illness when his parents were at a loss to find things to keep him amused. The solution was a baby chicken whose every movement fascinated him in its little cage beside his bed. It became his first pet and was known as 'le poulet de

Monsieur Jean'. Much of his boyhood days were spent on the family farms and in particular one near the family Chateau at Villers and he knew every cow, rabbit, hen, turkey, goose, duck and pigeon on the place but then he found that the more unusual peafowl, guineafowl and certain breeds of bantam had even more appeal and gradually his interest in the exotic was awakened and 'never ceased to grow'.

The Chateau Villers gardener was also a great bird lover and before long he had created in Delacour as great an interest in plants as in birds and animals. For his tenth birthday his father gave him as a present a large aviary divided into three. Delacour and the gardener worked hard to build ponds, waterfalls and little lawns in between many plants and then birds were introduced. They included Lady Amherst pheasants as well as Californian and Chinese painted quails. Both the latter nested naturally and hatched off their tiny young. What excitement; but then tragedy as one by one they drowned in the little pools – a lesson was learned.

From 1900 to 1908 Delacour was at school where he did well. Then three years of various courses at the universities of Paris and Little. Any spare time from these was spent at Villers building aviaries, new buildings and changing the layout. His mother, who was Trustee of the estate until he came of age, gave every support and soon a major private collection mainly of birds had been built up. When he was just 17, he built the first specific pheasant aviaries into which he put Himalayan monal pheasants and three species of tragopan.

As Delacour's collection built up so did his connection with organisations like the Avicultural Society of London and its equivalent in France and as well as the owners of many large private collections and museum curators and so by the time the war came in 1914, we have a well off young man of 24 with a deep rooted interest in wildlife in general but birds in particular with a strong leaning towards aviculture and the zoo world.

Like all young men in France, Delacour had had to do two years national service, which for him had ended just eight months before the war started. He was immediately recalled and as he put it "transported in a cattle truck to the Belgium border. In brilliant moonlight the train passed through Villers Bretonneux", his village.

General Foch who was in command of the Battle of the Somme made Villers his HQ. Delacour was stationed not far away and used to cycle to it. On one occasion he found Foch and General Weygond his Chief of Staff, discussing tactics in his aviaries. Foch commented, "When I leave this world I want to be reincarnated as a bird in this marvellous aviary. They all seem so happy here".

Early in 1918 Villers Bretonneux became the centre of the fighting and at one stage Villers received between 3,000 and 30,000 shells daily. In September of that year Delacour was allowed to return to Villers and found it completely destroyed and with it his first great collection of birds and animals. He never went back.

In 1919 he and his mother began the hunt for a new home and finally settled on Chateau Cleres some 15 miles north of Rouen. Here he began to build his second great collection with the help in particular of an Englishman, Frank Fooks, who joined him in 1920 and was still working there 45 years later.

From this background we can see that Delacour's interest in finding new pheasants was in part to enhance his own collection – but he was also something of an academic and became later a very expert taxonomist and museum director, so it was not just a case of collecting for the sake of collecting but collecting to further knowledge. The period between the wars was his one great period of actual pheasant exploration and he chose to do it in Indo-China because a friend Martial Merlin, who had recently been made Governor-General of Indo-China visited Delacour at Cleres and told Delacour he had heard that Indo-China's fauna was little known, and that systematic research needed to be undertaken. He offered that if Delacour would go he would provide every facility and help, and the collections made could be shared between the



*Dr Jean Delacour*  
*Photo: Keith Howman*

National Museum of Paris and Delacour himself. Between 1923 and 1939 Delacour was to lead no less than seven expeditions to Indo-China. The first expedition aroused great interest and subsequent expeditions were participated in by The British Museum and later other American museums.

Those expeditions in Indo-China were ones where Delacour really did at times rough it. However, in his descriptions he is at pains to point out that he never once felt at risk from wild animals or tribal people – diseases such as malaria, typhus and dysentery were the risk and certainly he was seriously ill on at least two occasions. He describes a typical day in the jungle visiting traps etc after which “we then shaved, bathed and dressed afresh. We were always dirty, scratched, bitten by mosquitoes, flies, ticks and leeches”. After a meal there would be long hours of work cataloguing specimens which often numbered up to 300 a day.



*Dr Jean Delacour being interviewed by Tim Lovel  
Photo: Keith Howman*

During these expeditions Delacour made exciting new pheasant finds. Principally these were the Edwards's pheasant and the imperial pheasant but as he recorded live specimens are more difficult than dead ones. 'On my first trip to Indo-China we were just passing some large docks when two pheasant cages tumbled down and burst open. They contained, of course, priceless birds: a female Reinhart's argus with a half-grown chick, and one of the rarest specimens in the world, a hen imperial pheasant, the only one ever to have been collected! As the three birds flew overboard towards the bank, my heart almost stopped. What an awful disaster! But sometimes luck is with the naturalist: the three birds actually flew into the wide-open door of a warehouse. A few minutes later the ship tied up and I rushed ashore. My three precious birds were roosting high up on a steel beam, stupid with fright themselves. I climbed up stealthily, and,

after some difficulty, managed to catch them.' They eventually arrived at Cleres, where the hen imperial pheasant the following year raised a brood from which all specimens so far known today are descended.

Delacour visited many other countries but one rather gets the impression that he had too many contacts and enjoyed comfortable living too much to want to make too many journeys into the hills or the jungles. In India for example, he stayed with the wealthy Ezra family and a whole string of Maharajahs. However, it may well be that like others before him, he was well aware of what a thorough job had been done by Frederick Wilson and Allan Hume and that there was not much more to be learned.

Back at Cleres the collection had really been built up but then on February 15th 1939, while on his last expedition to Indo-China, a terrible fire broke out in the Chateau completely destroying the interior along with works of art and his library, files and notes – fortunately the ancient structure which I have visited myself has enormous thickness and strength in its walls and was little damaged. Although war threatened, repairs were put in hand and completed just before war broke out – once more Delacour was called up by the army and once more a beautiful Chateau in which he had invested so much and created the finest private zoo in the world was to be bombed (May 24th and June 7th, 1940) and then occupied by the Germans. However, this time it was not completely destroyed and Delacour returned to it in October 1946. In May 1947 it was officially re-opened and was gradually improved every year until by 1960 it was back to its former glory.

Delacour was by then 70 and he made over the Chateau and zoo to the French nation, retaining only the right to return each year and stay in the dower house, which he did until the year before he died in 1985 at the ripe old age of 95.

I had the pleasure of knowing Delacour personally. He was a great raconteur and very amusing in often a rather naughty way. I recall sitting in front of him at a conference on endangered species whilst a rather serious lady was giving a rather dull lecture on the genetics of some rare species. In an all too loud voice Delacour was heard to say in his delightful English with French intonations “the lady is a fool and she is not even a good-looking one”.

A short article like this does little justice to a man of great intellect and strong beliefs, who added much to our knowledge of pheasants and in particular their taxonomy with which few have quarrelled since. His book 'The Pheasants of the World' is still a classic and a collector's item. He was the first President of the World Pheasant Association, which owes much to his insistence when taking on the job at the age of 75, that the Association must embrace all of the world's gamebirds and not just the pheasants. With just that one piece of wisdom he did much for the conservation of the four other groups of gamebirds which now have specialist groups within that organisation.

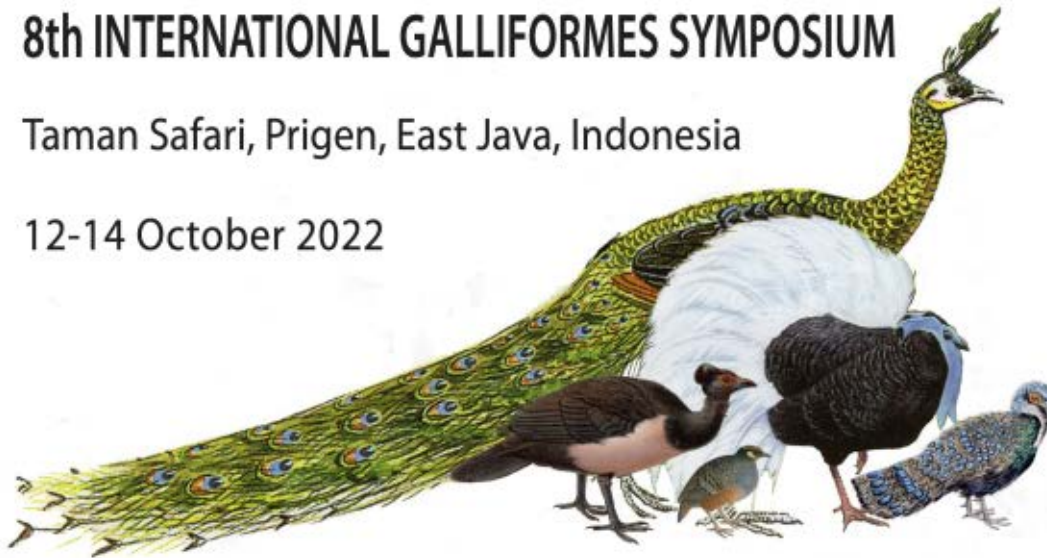


*Cleres  
Photo: Paul North*

# 8th INTERNATIONAL GALLIFORMES SYMPOSIUM

Taman Safari, Prigen, East Java, Indonesia

12-14 October 2022



## 8th INTERNATIONAL GALLIFORMES SYMPOSIUM Taman Safari, Prigen, East Java 12-14 October 2022 Sponsorship for Young Scientists

Galliformes are an order of ground-feeding birds that include megapodes, cracids, guineafowl, quails, turkeys, grouse and pheasants. The World Pheasant Association (WPA) is committed to the study and conservation of Galliformes and the habitats they depend upon, both in captivity and in the wild to prevent their extinction. WPA holds international symposia on Galliformes regularly around the world.

WPA will hold a symposium on the conservation and sustainable management of all species of Galliformes, with a special emphasis on threatened species and their habitats at Taman Safari, Prigen, East Java from 12-14 October 2022. It will be jointly organised by WPA and our Indonesian partner organisation. The objective is to hold a major gathering of all those with an interest in Galliformes and the conservation of these birds and their habitats.

Participants initially submit abstracts of proposed presentations to our Scientific Programme Committee in advance of the Symposium. Promising young researchers from developing countries are then able to benefit from networking and training. This is an opportunity for high-ranking scientists and researchers to share their work and ideas with younger colleagues and to formulate new ideas for collaborative research as well as suggestions for new research. We are looking for sponsors to pay towards the travel and accommodation costs of research students. Ultimately funds will help to safeguard the future of Galliformes in the wild, and to build up a future generation of experienced conservation professionals in countries with rich biodiversity.

Some of our past participants have come from India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Thailand, and have gone on to develop successful careers in national parks and wildlife services, universities and research institutions in their home countries. Many still have strong research links with WPA.

We would appreciate any financial contributions and if you can help please contact Barbara Ingman at WPA HQ (office@pheasant.org.uk or by phone 01434345526)

**Keith Chalmers-Watson, Chairman WPA**

### SCOTTISH OPEN DAY

**Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st October – Fenton Barns, North Berwick**

The Scottish open days are a lovely way of seeing a private bird collection, meeting friends old and new, and also a popular way of exchanging birds, as so many of our members are in the one place for the event. Refreshments will be provided, and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Fenton Barns on Saturday 30th or Sunday 31st October. Visitors should arrive by 11:00 and if you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact Barbara.

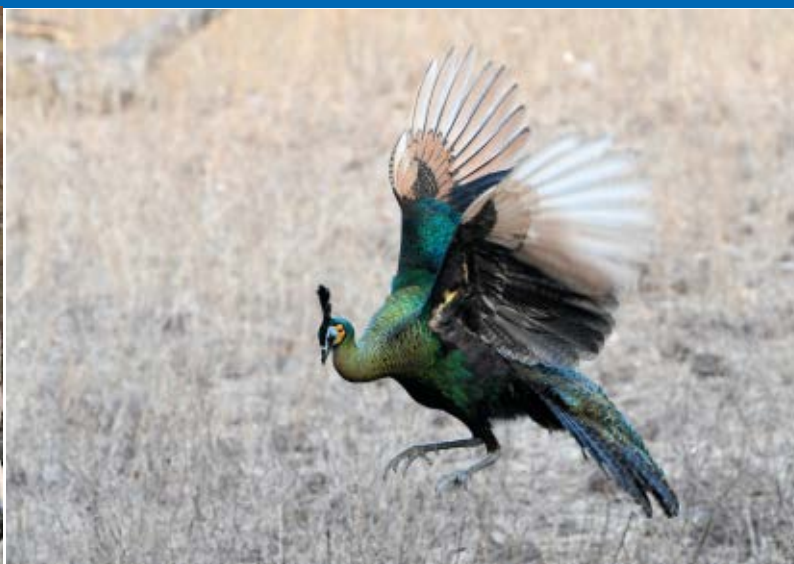
If you plan to attend, please inform either Stewart Henderson

(stewart\_fbpheasants@yahoo.com, 07853959714) or Barbara (office@pheasant.org.uk, 01434 345526).

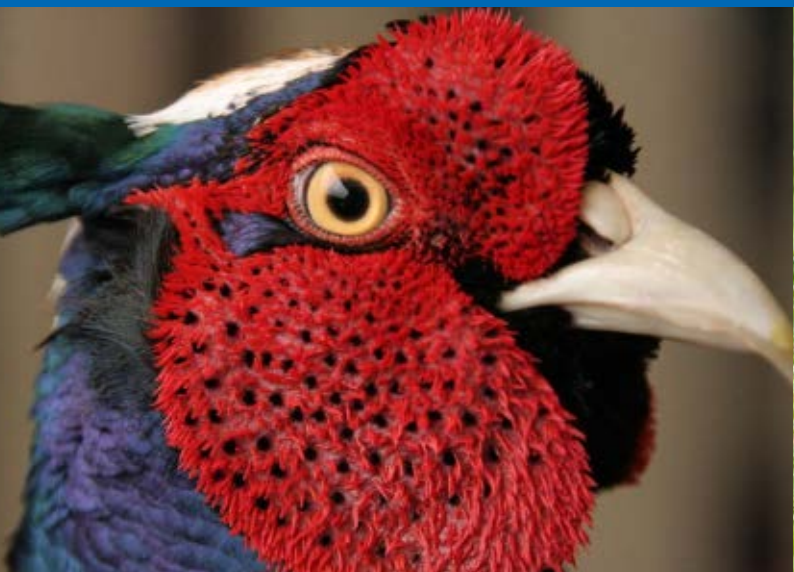




*Red-billed partridge*  
Photo: Friedrich Esser



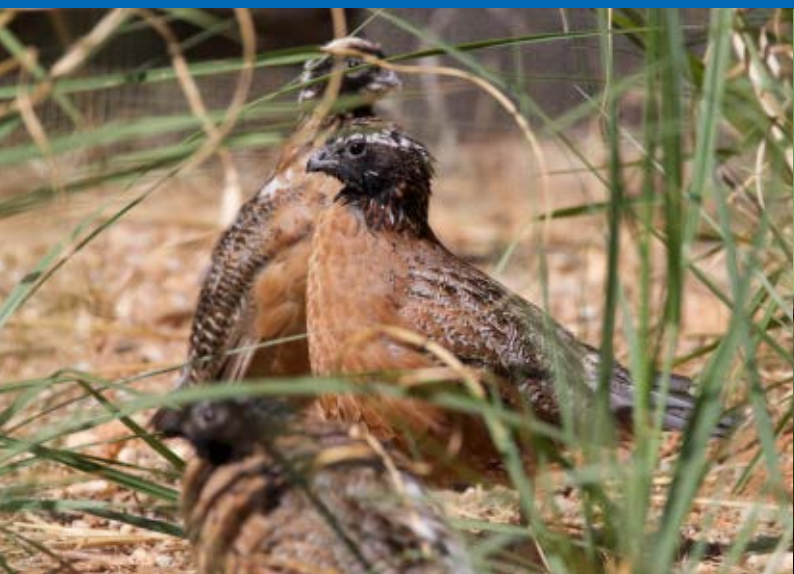
*Female green peafowl fleeing*  
Photo: Friedrich Esser



*Wingnut the pheasant*  
Photo: Edina Jamal



*Female capercaillie*  
Photo: Sergey Yeliseev via Flickr on 30 July 2011 CC BY-NC-ND 2.0



*Male Masked bobwhite male*  
Photo: Bettina Arrigoni via Flickr on 15 April 2016 CC BY 2.0



*Maleo*  
Photo: Josh More via Flickr on 31 May 2017 CC BY-NC-ND 2.0