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Summer 2022

WPA News 118 (2022)

World Pheasant Association

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WPA

news

The International Newsletter of the World Pheasant Association

Number 118 Summer 2022



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Registered Charity No 1181022

WPA Chapters

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

A newly hatched Temminck's tragopan (*Tragopan temminckii*) chick photographed by Jonathan Pointer.

These sweet looking chicks are very agile as soon as the hen tragopan leads them down from an elevated nest in a tree or rock ledge, they fly well and grow quickly as their mother leads them through the undergrowth in search of food. There are five species of tragopan; the western tragopan, Blyth's tragopan, Cabot's tragopan, satyr tragopan and Temminck's tragopan. In captivity only the last three are commonly kept. They are easy going pheasants to care for but require a large aviary to flourish.

Studbook Holders

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

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 & Convention - Cotswold Wildlife Park	10 September 2022
European Conservation Breeding Group Meeting - Leipzig	4 September 2022
Conservation Breeding Advisory Group meeting - Sudeley Castle	4 February 2023
Beacon Hill Charity Clay Shoot - Amesbury	12 May 2023
Dunkeld Charity Clay Shoot - Scotland	27 May 2023
Red Rice Simulated Clay Day - Andover	14 June 2023
8th International Galliformes Symposium - Taman Safari, Prigen, Java	10 - 14 October 2023

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

Copy Dates

The next issue of WPA News will be produced in December 2022. Articles, stories, letters and adverts for consideration for publication should be with the Office or sent to the editor (editor@pheasant.org.uk) by the end of October 2022.

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

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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR



I am very happy to report that the Rutland Bird Fair, now called the Global Birdfair, which took place 15, 16, & 17 July 2022, in Rutland Showground, Oakham, UK, has survived Covid and is making a strong comeback. This type of venue is, and has always been, a one of a kind gathering that attracts many bird enthusiasts from all over the world. The fair hosts the best in wildlife holidays, noteworthy artwork for sale, popular binocular and telescope companies and specialist clothing. They also offer chances to sponsor and support conservation. We are considering the possibilities of having a WPA stand in 2024.

The next ECBG meeting will be held this September in Leipzig, which should attract many European members. Leipzig is a lovely city and home to a progressive zoo. The weekend following is the WPA Council Meeting, AGM and Convention. It is to be held at the Cotswold Wildlife Park, one of the leading UK collections with very well-kept gardens. I look forward to meeting many of you there.

After weeks of edits, we finally have a new leaflet that is hot from the printers and will be available at fairs and conventions. We hope it will capture the attention of potential new members. You will see we have also started our new Young Conservationist section in WPA news, to attract and provide enjoyment for our young audience. Please

feel free to send in stories you would like to share.

We held a successful two-day collection plan meeting in June with EAZA, AZA and other Galliformes experts from around the world. A lot of information was gathered, which will be put into one file thanks to the hard work of EAZA representatives. We look forward to seeing the finished document. It will be used to make informed decisions about the Galliformes that we choose to keep in the future and to begin to reassess our Long-Term Management Plans collectively.

As the cooler months come closer, we will begin to make plans to send two pairs of Vietnam pheasants to the Saigon Zoo to increase the backup population. We recently formed a MOU between WPA and the Saigon Zoo to link them more closely to the Vietnam pheasant recovery project.

As always please help us by keeping your records up to date and be sure to ring your 2022 young birds. This is becoming more important as we try to strengthen the bloodlines of our ex-situ birds.

Thank you for all your interest and continued enthusiasm.

Jo Gregson - July 2022

UPDATE: CHEER PHEASANT

Rab Nawaz

Through a chance encounter with a hunter a population of cheer pheasant (*Catreus wallichii*) was discovered in the Oghi/Torgah mountain range in District Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) in a place called Panja Gali (which translates to 'five ravines'). The cheer pheasant was considered locally extinct in Pakistan with the last of the birds being observed in the late 1970s. A quick recce was conducted in September 2021 and several cheer pheasants were recorded using the playback methods as well as early morning counts. Subsequently WWF Pakistan submitted a proposal to WPA to conduct a detailed survey to determine a population density, engage with the local community and explore the possibility of declaring the habitat as a protected area. The project was approved, and the team was deployed in March 2022.

A more detailed recce was conducted between 29 to 30 March 2022 to start a dialogue with the local community about the general distribution of the pheasant and based on their knowledge, select the locations for the call-points. From 16 to 21 May 2022 the spring survey commenced with a training of the KPK Wildlife staff on pheasant surveys. A total of six points were covered and a good number of calling cheer pheasants were recorded, approximately 4-5 calling males per point. Photographic evidence was also obtained of the species along with other prominent wildlife species such as grey langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*) and peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). In the coming months WWF and KPK Wildlife team will hold consultative sessions with the local communities' and tribal heads to discuss how this species and the habitat can be protected through an inclusive and participatory conservation approach.



Cheer pheasant
Photo: Rab Nawaz

KHARUNGLA - PHEASANT MOUNTAIN OF BHUTAN

Part 2

Sonam Dorj

From there began a period of me stalking the bird which always kept its distance. I tripped and fell over the wet ground several times but was never put off, here was the Blyth's tragopan! I managed some acceptable shots and even video. Ata Thinley also saw it and was mostly amazed at the colours; it was altogether a different experience for him as well. This was to become the most satisfying encounter of the Blyth's tragopan, its majestic colour juxtaposed against the backdrop of forest greenery was a sight to behold. We stayed in the area for about two hours, ate our packed lunch and kept looking for the bird as the bird did not leave but instead kept on circling the place within the radius of 10-20 metres below and above the trail. I looked for a female and possibility of a nest but with no luck.

Heavy fog began to fall, and Ata Thinley thought it better to leave. His suggestion stemmed from fear of a possible encounter with a Yeti. Legend has it that locals have encountered Yeti here and that it is quite common to see enormous footprints on the trails. I had heard of Yeti stories during my trips there and some of them are quite fascinating. It is believed that old female Yeti used to roam these mountains. There have been no recent sightings, but such stories live on to create fear and mysticism. I noted the location of this Blyth's encounter and we then slowly descended through the thickening fog. As we reached the road point, darkness had set in, and we drove back to our lodging with a great sense of achievement.

Over the stay of two months on my first trip looking for the Blyth's, I had made lots of friends from government workers, foresters, field staff, hoteliers, villagers and of course the nomads who lived in the area. I had shared my intent to search for Blyth's tragopan in that area and had requested them to inform me in case of any sightings. After a few days of my encounters with the Blyth's tragopan, I received a video from one of my contacts in my WhatsApp. A nomad girl had recorded a video on her mobile of a Temminck's and satyr tragopan just two hours hike from the other side to Lobzang's shed. I was excited and while the video was not that clear, I could make out that it was definitely the two species. This was an extraordinary circumstance in which all the three species of tragopans found in Bhutan could be seen in one mountain area. I immediately contacted Dr.



Above- A nomad women

Below left- Silhouette of the nomad's cows.

Photos: Sonam Dorj

Sherub, ornithologist from UWICER (Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation, Education and Research) and the Bhutanese author of "Birds of Eastern Himalayas". Upon seeing the videos and my earlier information, he encouraged me to check further and confirm the sighting. If the mountain did indeed have all the three species, he suggested that we could probably call it the "Pheasant Mountain of Bhutan" to promote it for conservation purposes. From there on, we started to call it "Kharungla- Pheasant Mountain of Bhutan".

I immediately set out for the area. The route could either be taken from Lobzang Norbu's shed or a shorter one via a feeder road and from there a one and half hour hike. I took the latter.

The nomad girl lived with her parents and teenage brother. I reached their home in the early morning and after a good tea with them, the father and brother set out with me. They had another smallholding further ahead and that was where the nomad girl was heading when she saw the birds. The path was deeply waterlogged, the weather foggy and wet and the going hard. After an hour's hike, they showed me the sighting area and continued on to their smallholding. Left alone, I scoured the whole area for the next three hours. I fell, tripped, and slipped over the muddy slopes, some areas were rocky, and a slight error could have been fatal. Midway into my search, I saw the back of a pheasant sat on the branch of a tree below. It was not clear which species but definitely a tragopan. Eagerly, I descended the slope but by then the tragopan had moved and was heading towards the forest below. It quickly focused my camera and before the bird disappeared took some head shots, the prominent turquoise-blue face was unmistakable, it was clear this was a Temminck's tragopan.

I continued my search but found no more pheasants. I was relieved to have photographed and thus confirmed Temminck's tragopan, but did not see satyr tragopan.

I had decided to stay with the nomad family for a few days but looking at the weather report and small space of their shed, I decided to return home. I was satisfied. Two "lifers" in one trip and all I wanted.

Personally, what was important was to see Blyth's and Temminck's tragopan which had not been recorded so far from western Bhutan. I left the place, leaving the search for satyr tragopan for another day.

Over the next few days, I would look for tragopans in different areas of the Kharungla Mountain. In one later encounter, I did see a satyr tragopan dashing into the forest but too fast for my camera. It was important for me to confirm the existence of satyr on the mountain and justify it as a Pheasant Mountain of Bhutan as named by Dr. Sherub.

Over several trips I slept in the homes of the nomads and on different mountains. My exploration made me realise that Kharungla is not only the place where we can see all three species together, but in fact, there are other mountains surrounding Kharungla where all three species could also be found. As of now, I have identified three specific locations and refer to them collectively as the Pheasant Mountains of Bhutan. Many families of the nomads have become friends; I know their stories, their hardships and most importantly their significance to the tragopans which share the same mountains. From them, I also gained an insight into the possible diets of the tragopan. One experience, in which a young nomad accompanied me to a fruit-growing area, led me onto a spectacular sight. On a sorbus bush three male satyr tragopans were feeding. So intent on the fruit that they were oblivious to my presence, they were having a great time! I went later to check on the plant and I was pretty sure there would have been more of them below on the ground as well.

Another insight: the nomads gather cow dung into dung-heaps as cow dung left all over the place would not let the grass grow. This has encouraged many insects to come to the dung-heaps to scavenge and it is in these places where the tragopans come to feast on the insects. I have not seen this myself but from my talks with the nomads feel it is plausible. Generally, the tragopans reside in the forest thickets, here bamboo clumps would not let me enter and photograph the birds but they are often seen on the nearby open slopes feeding, especially Blyth's. Another benefit to the pheasants feeding in the open are the stacks of branches collected for fuel by the nomads which give the pheasants perfect nearby



Top - A nomad shed. Most are made of bamboo with a tarpaulin roof, some are made of wood but they are just temporary shelters.

Bottom - Blyth's tragopan

Photos: Sonam Dorj

cover, this gives them a perfect hideout to run to whenever there is threat looming and I have been a victim of their tactics many times!

The nomads in these mountains have largely benefitted the tragopan, however, the illegal cutting down of trees and vegetation by nomads may possibly be a greater threat in the future. Often small parts of forest are cleared to create open spaces to allow grass to flourish. The nomads mainly use firewood for cooking and heating which are collected from the nearby forests. Another possible threat is illegal hunting of wildlife for protein. Whilst I have not encountered this personally it cannot be ruled out and there is strong need to create awareness about the importance of the birds and other mountain wildlife.

Part three of Kharungla-Pheasant Mountain of Bhutan in the next issue.

UPDATE: TELEMETRY ATTACHMENT TRIALS FOR VIETNAM PHEASANT

Gary Ward, Curator of Birds, Zoological Society London

In partnership with the Vietnam Pheasant Recovery Team, the Zoological Society of London is conducting trials into the suitability of attachment methods used for attaching telemetry devices to Vietnam pheasants *Lophura edwardsi*. Building on a trial conducted in Germany by Max Lehmann using neck collars as an attachment method for transmitters on Vietnam pheasants held on the collection of WPA member Heiner Jacken (Lehmann, 2021), ZSL has initiated a pilot study to test tail mounted devices on birds held at London Zoo.

A single male living in the zoo's large Bird Safari walkthrough aviary was selected for the initial trial and a small telemetry device weighing 4g was attached to the feather shaft of the central tail feather in April. The welfare of the bird has been monitored closely with behavioural surveys conducted before and after the device was attached. The birds' weight, body condition and general health was examined on the day the device was attached and this will be carried out again once the tail feather, with the device attached, moults out.

At ZSL we use radio trackers extensively on our trained birds of prey when flying in our daily bird demonstrations. It was one of these devices that was attached to the pheasant by one of our bird trainers experienced in fitting these transmitters. The device was attached to the feather shaft by using an aluminium "tail mount crimp" commonly used for falconry. These are squeezed onto the feather shaft with specially designed pliers and glued. The telemetry device is then attached to the tail mount. At the time of writing the device has been attached to the bird for three months and there is no evidence of any negative impact, and the bird has never tried to remove it or excessively preened the area.

Following the success of this pilot study we are now planning the next phase of the trial where we will attach tail mounted devices to a larger number of birds including females and repeat the study with a larger data set. Due to the dense forest habitat the species will be eventually released into in Vietnam, it is thought that GPS devices will not be appropriate as the signal will not penetrate the canopy, and we would need to use the more traditional VHF



Top: Attaching the tail mount

Bottom: Close up of telemetry device attached via tail mount

Photo: ZSL London Zoo

trackers. The information we are hoping to gain from the radio tracking of released pheasants is to inform the appropriateness of the developed release strategy. In which case we will only need to track the birds for the first few months post release to ensure they are able to find food and avoid predators. With this in mind, we will be trialling VHF trackers that weigh 6g and have a battery life of 250 days. We hope to get some dummy devices made up of the same weight and size to use in further trials with captive birds.

References: Lehmann M (2021) Effects of Dummy Necklace Transmitters on Captive Vietnam Pheasants (Lophura edwardsi), Thesis submission. University of Bonn.



YOUNG CONSERVATIONISTS

Young Conservationists' is WPA's new feature to celebrate the young conservationists in our membership and inspire other young people to get involved in conservation and aviculture. Please send any content to editor@pheasant.org.uk, we would love to hear your stories!



Lady Amherst's Pheasant – Violet Carden

Violet (just turned seven) is a frequent visitor to our home in Norfolk and, following in her grandfather's footsteps, takes a keen interest in birds and their habits. She amazed teachers at her nursery school once when, out on a walk with her class she scanned the sky and pointed out – and correctly identified – a red kite flying over them. On a recent walk she and I saw a barn owl flying down the field. Quick as a flash she snatched my phone and caught the bird on camera, nicely positioned in the centre of the picture. Common pheasants are ever-present around our house. However, she clearly has an eye for the exotic species. Her drawing of the Lady Amherst's (left) was done entirely unprompted. Grandparents were both otherwise occupied while she turned the pages of a field guide, selected this bird for herself and produced her version, showing a touch more mobility than the picture in the book.

Stewart Henderson and his son Jacob

Having children helping out with some of the jobs helps them learn about aviculture, Jacob loves helping me when I'm ringing the birds. Here he is putting a ring on a Sonnerat's (I've yet to trust him to hold the birds for me to put the rings on).

I also try and encourage as much as I can with the primary school children, Jacobs teacher asked if I could send anything into school that I didn't need back. So I sent him in with some empty egg shells from a previous hatch and with us being in Scotland I felt some native species would be a great starter for them.

(capercaillie, black grouse, red grouse and ptarmigan).

I also find all children love chicks and there's no better place than the hatchery in springtime, here Jacob is helping moving a Malay peacock pheasant to the brooding room (not many five year olds can say they have helped and handled one of the rarest galliformes).



FUN FACTS:

- ★ Galliformes (game birds) don't generally build nests in trees. Instead, they lay their eggs in grassy nests on the ground.
- ★ Chickens are a galliforme and can lay up to 300 eggs each year!
- ★ Galliformes usually have four toes - three long ones at the front to dig and scratch and one short toe behind.
- ★ They are mainly terrestrial birds, preferring to walk or run rather than fly. They have short rounded wings for short-distance flight.

Dot to dot



FIRST CAPTIVE BREEDING IN CHINA OF SCLATER'S MONAL

Zhang Jing and John Corder

Very little is known about Sclater's monal, a species which has very rarely been seen in captive collections. There are three recognised sub-species; the nominate form *Lophophorus sclateri sclateri* is found in Tibet, Myanmar and Arunachal Pradesh in India, *L. s. orientalis* is located in Myanmar & China and *L. s. arunachalensis* occurs in Arunachal Pradesh State in N. E. India. The species is sometimes known as the crestless monal.

At around 68cm in length, it is about halfway in size between the Chinese monal and the Himalayan monal. It is usually located at altitudes between 2,500 and 4,000m where there are dense rhododendron and bamboo forests. The most distinctive feature of the male is his metallic green body plumage, which distinguishes him from the blue Himalayan & Chinese monals.

IUCN has categorised the species as

"Vulnerable" and its population is believed to be declining throughout its range. It is believed to feed on roots, tubers, bulbs, insects, seeds and flowers. Clutch sizes are usually between three and five eggs.

UPDATE: TRAGOPANS

Hannah Frances Ahern

The tragopan purity testing programme has been ongoing since 2011 and to date has received samples from 726 birds – of which, only one sample failed due to lack of useable DNA. Both mitochondrial DNA and nuclear DNA are used in the testing. It is intended for all captive tragopans, regardless of where they are held. My current role is assisting the programme in getting the captive zoo stock to get their birds tested to ensure purity of the population for future conservation purposes.

Of the birds tested, 147 birds have been found to be hybrids, or roughly 20%. Thankfully, we can now work to eliminate their hybrid genes from the captive stock. The relatedness of birds is also tracked, meaning the programme can try to pair up unrelated birds to keep genetic variation in our captive population. This helps with the longevity of these beautiful birds in the long-term in public and private collections. Pure birds are given certificates, and unique closed rings can be bought for each offspring, which will stay with them for life, proving their lack of hybrid genes.

Round 18 containing samples from 33 birds has just been sent to the testing laboratory, and collection for round 19 has started. It costs just €85 per bird, so €170 for a pair, well worth it to keep our birds thriving for the future. If you are fond of tragopans and would like to take part in this vital work by getting your own birds tested, please email me on hannahfrancesahern@gmail.com for further information.



Sclater's Monal male at Beijing Endangered Animals Breeding Centre
Photo: John Corder

In 1997, four pairs of wild-caught birds were taken from Yunnan Province in China to the Beijing Endangered Animals Breeding Centre in an attempt to establish a captive breeding programme for the species. At that time, the species had never been bred in captivity and Chinese Law has placed it on the first grade of nationally protected animals.

A paper discussing the first breeding success of Sclater's monal was originally published in the Chinese Journal of Zoology in 2002 but, since the paper was only published in the Chinese language, it has only recently been translated by Zhang Jing so that we can present the key findings for WPA News. The original authors were Tao Yu-jing, Xu Yang, Zhang Chun-ying and Chen Hui. We are very grateful to Mrs Tao who kindly allowed us to observe the two remaining male Sclater's in 2008.

Of the four original wild-origin pairs, three died from transport stress and two more died from intestinal inflammation. By 1999, two males and one female survived, and one breeding pair was established. The female began to lay eggs that year, suffered from enteritis in 2000 and then laid further eggs in 2001.

Their aviary measured 5m x 4m x 2.5m with a covered night shelter containing a nest box and perches. No heating was required and a sand

substrate was provided with a number of shrubs to offer cover for the female. A varied diet was given twice a day including corn, sorghum, wheat, peanuts, tomato, celery, cabbage, apple, garlic, mealworms and boiled egg.

The birds mated naturally, and the first two eggs were laid on 23rd and 26th April 1999. Both were fertile. In April 2001, four eggs were laid on 5th, 9th, 16th and 24th but only the first two were fertile. All the eggs were artificially incubated at 37.6° for 25 days with a relative humidity of between 60% and 70%. The eggs were turned manually every two hours. After 26 days, the eggs were moved to a hatcher with the same temperature & humidity. The hatching times varied from 27 days 3h 12 min to 27 days 4h 15 min. The weight loss of the eggs was 15.21%, 15.99%, 20.90% and 23.92%.

The temperature of the brooder box was 34-35° for the first week, and this was lowered by two degrees each week until they reached room temperature after two months. The chicks were not fed for their first 24 hours and were then fed six times a day with a similar diet to the adults but in much smaller pieces. The number of daily feeds reduced each week but increased in quantity until the poults were eating the same diet as the adults at two months. The chicks were weighed and measured every week and the results are recorded in the paper. As an example, one chick was 58.2g at hatch, 70.2g on day 8, 97.0g on day 15, 134.0g on day 22, 199.4g on day 29, 311.2g on day 36 and 340.3g on day 43. Growth measurements were also made of the tarsus, middle toe, tail, wing length and bill length. The chicks were vaccinated against Newcastle disease and hen pox after one month, which is a requirement for birds in China.

As with other monal species, male chicks do not moult into their adult plumage until their second year.

It should be noted that the incubation and rearing techniques were rather less advanced twenty years ago than we use nowadays. Obviously, the survival rate of the founder adult birds was disappointing at only 37.5% and the weather conditions in Beijing in summer are almost certainly too hot and humid for this species. Nevertheless, the dedication and enthusiasm of the staff at the Beijing Endangered Animals Breeding Centre resulted in a first captive breeding for this species and provided us with a lot of very useful data for the future conservation of Sclater's monal. WPA members who attended our Beijing Symposium in 1989 may remember this breeding centre propagating Chinese monals very successfully. Indeed, most of the importations of Chinese pheasants to Europe and the USA in the 1980s and 1990s were bred at this very successful centre.

Registered Charity No. 1181022

Notice of the 47th Annual General Meeting of THE WORLD PHEASANT ASSOCIATION

Saturday 10th September 2022 at 14:00 to be held at

Cotswold Wildlife Park, Bradwell Grove, Burford, Oxfordshire, OX18 4JJ

AGENDA

1. Agreement of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 11th September 2021.

2. Receive and consider the trustees' annual report

3. Receive and consider the annual statement of accounts for the year 2021-22

4. Election of Trustees:

The following have agreed to stand for re-election:

Paul North

Geoffrey Davison

Jan Dams, Stewart Henderson and Louise Peat have agreed to be co-opted to Council for a year.

5. Vice-Presidents:

The following have agreed to continue as Vice-Presidents for a further three years:

Mohd Khan Momin Khan

Dang Gia Tung

Brig Mukhtar Ahmed

6. Independent Examiner:

Richard Alsept has agreed to continue as independent examiner.

7. Any other business

BODY LANGUAGE

Ian Clark

Most people will be aware of the 'body language' of a dog wagging its tail because it's happy or a cat purring while being stroked. What is far less well known is that not only do we humans use this same subconscious body language, but that *other species can recognise and understand ours*, just as we understand theirs.

If you spend time with your birds and really watch, you will be able to see it. If you're going into an aviary to check a nest or fill a feeder, they are calm and relaxed. If you go in to catch one for some reason, they know, and will avoid you like the plague. That's because your intentions are predatory, and they can spot that a mile off by your body language.

It's useful to us as keepers – posture or movement can tell us if a bird is feeling good or bad, if a hen is due to lay, and a host of other clues to their welfare. As an example, if a bird is standing on one leg on a perch, there's nothing wrong – that's a comfort position. Standing on both legs with wings drooping is the opposite. If the tail is 'ticking' up and down in time with the bird's breathing, there's something seriously wrong.

It's complicated – one lifetime wouldn't be long enough to learn it all. For example, a bird that has sat in a quiet corner hardly moving for several days *could* be a good indicator that something is not right. However, it could simply be one of the harmless signs that a bird is moulting its flight and tail feathers. Each new feather is a sharp point of quill trying to force its way out, and it seems to make them uncomfortable – understandably.

Truthfully, it's a bit like being a GP in a surgery – having to take in visual clues, listen to the patient describe symptoms, try to guess what the patient is *not* saying, and so on. Time of day, time of year, stage of breeding, age – and a host of other factors can influence body language, and it pays to learn about these signs and to take them all into account. Possibly what I'm saying here in a roundabout way, is that each species, even each bird, will have 'normal' body language for that bird. If it is doing something different, I want to know why.

Also, different birds have different natures, even among members of the same species. I've kept pheasants for many years, and the great majority of them have been quiet creatures, happy to come and eat peanuts from my hand. There have been one or two cocks that got a bit defensive when the hens were laying, but the Reeves's pheasant shown in the photo here is a complete psychopath – he's as gentle as a lamb with his hens, but if anyone goes in the aviary, he is right in their face. Literally – he flies up and goes straight for the head.

That black bandit mask is perfect for him! The photo was taken using an ordinary camera phone, at a range of about six inches, his intentions are clear, and the wire netting is for my protection!



Reeves's pheasant
Photo: Ian Clark

It's not mating display, the hens are not even close to laying yet, so it's not breeding behaviour. I have no idea why he does this – he's just a year old and has been aggressive to people from when he first came into colour last year. He got my arm one night, (fortunately only my arm, which I managed to get up between him and my face).

In the few seconds before I managed to get him off, I had nine *serious* deep stab wounds (through clothes), four of which needed 'real' stitches, with steristrips on the rest – and the inevitable anti-tetanus shot. I've had so many anti-tetanus shots in my life with birds I'm sure if something bit me I would *get* tetanus! The A & E visit was amusing, though painful. The Consultant had difficulty understanding how a grown man could have been so mauled by a bird and he thought he was misunderstanding me – we ended up having to google Reeves's pheasant and cockfighting to see the culprit. What happened was bad enough, but if I had panicked, or stumbled and fallen, that cock would have got my head and face, and I could have easily been disfigured or blinded – he means business.

Some species seem to be more prone to aggression than others – I've had white eared and silver pheasants behave like that, and there are others, so be careful, and *never leave* a child or an adult with impaired responses alone in an aviary, even for a minute. My arm was shredded in five *seconds*, not a minute. My own fault – I should have been watching his body language and spotted that he was working up to a full attack. I will in future!

One of the points I want to know more about is if he will pass on this behaviour to his young. If he does, I then need to decide if this is a sign of vigour and vitality, which would improve our bloodlines, or a trait that we would not want to spread through our Reeves's pheasant population in captivity. My best guess is that the improved vitality would be a good thing, but it would need to be made clear as they spread that you need to treat them with extra caution. Time will tell.

THE CHEER PHEASANT REINTRODUCTION PROJECT 1978-2021

Hubert Fryca, Keith Howman, John Corder and Naeem Awan

In 1978 the World Pheasant Association began a ground-breaking project to re-introduce the cheer pheasant (*Catreus wallichii*) into Pakistan's Margalla Hills National Park, Islamabad.

The cheer pheasant was first described by the English general and naturalist Thomas Hardwicke in 1827. Found from Pakistan to central Nepal, the cheer pheasant is a mountain species that prefer south-facing, grassy mountain slopes and meadows with few trees close to human settlements; the trees that grow on these slopes are mainly the chir pine, which the pheasant uses to roost in at night; it is believed that the species gets its name from these trees.

The plumage of the cheer resembles the colour of dry grass which helps camouflage them from predators. Cheer are one of the loudest pheasants, sexual dimorphism in the species is not strongly marked, probably because the birds pair for life so males don't need to advertise themselves constantly. It has no subspecies.

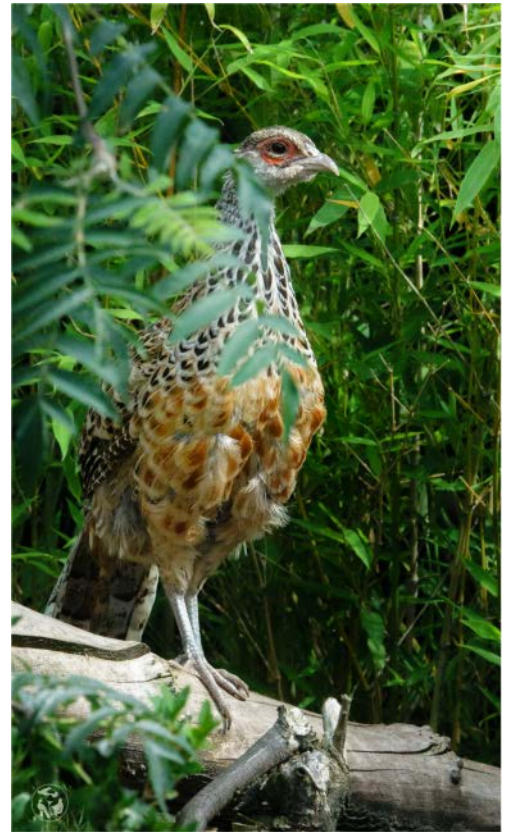
The first known import of these birds took place in 1857 to London Zoo. Perhaps due to the subtle colour of its feathers or the very loud call that can so often disturb neighbours, it was not a widely kept species. This changed when the species became protected and entered the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (the cheer pheasant has Vulnerable status). The wild population shows a downward trend due to the degradation of their natural environment (destruction of meadows - burning, cattle grazing, poaching). Cheer are strongly associated with successional grasslands and these factors have positive effects on their population.

In the 1970s, after much research in Pakistan, it was suggested that the species was extinct in that country.

During visits to Pakistan between 1975 and 1980 WPA learned that cheer pheasant had been present in the Margalla Hills close to Islamabad which became a National Park in 1980. Physical evidence in the form of the tail feathers of a male cheer pheasant were presented to the WPA, taken in the recent past from this area but no cheer had been recorded since. Most recently, habitat changed as vegetation cover had increased and cheer avoid thick vegetation.

With the creation of the new park, people and grazing animals were being removed and it seemed an ideal place to try and reintroduce cheer pheasant. Previously the area had been used by the military for their horses with grass being cut for fodder as well as being grazed - ideal cheer habitat (though not realised then as little work had been done on the species). Also not realised was the speed at which the habitat would revert to thick scrub which is not ideal for cheer but suitable for the white crested kalij pheasant.

The CDA (Capital Development Authority) responsible for the Park were keen to re-establish cheer in the Park and with WPA's help a plan was formed. The cost of rearing poults (from captive birds in Europe) and shipping them would have been a high risk and expensive exercise so it was suggested shipping fertile eggs and hatching them under broody domestic hens in Pakistan. This was achieved with the help of British Airways and the BAANC (British Airways Assisting Nature Conservation) who agreed to ship out a box of 100 eggs every week for six to eight weeks free of charge.



Young cheer pheasant
Photo: Levin Van Hoof



Cheer Pheasant reintroduction
project 1978-2021

UPDATE: ECBG MEETING 2022

The European Conservation Breeding Group (ECBG) meeting will take place on Sunday 4 September at Zoo Leipzig at 9am. WPA Germany are hosting their 2022 Annual Convention at Zoo Leipzig between 2-4 September 2022.

Full details and the programme of events are available on the News section of the WPA website or via the office.

No pheasant species other than "game pheasants" had ever at that time been a subject for release so game pheasant techniques of building a temporary pen and subsequent release methods were used. The donated eggs hatched and were reared by their domesticated hen mothers and things appeared to go reasonably well with the young birds being seen around the pen for some time after release. However, two problems emerged. The first was that the birds looked on people as suppliers of their food and the second that the increasing density of the new scrub made it impossible to see the birds once they moved away from the release pen. The first problem was solved by adding screens to the pen that stopped the chicks from seeing the person providing food and water and the second in part by using small radio transmitters (expensive at that time). Both solutions worked and the poults did become naturally shy and reacted to overhead predators. The radio transmitters worked too for the length of their battery life. One active bird was followed for a day before being found in the pocket of a small boy who had shot the bird with his catapult! Another lasted almost a year and showed that the released birds could survive and adapt.

As the project matured a new problem arose. The release of the cheer poults brought in various predators and, being a national park, no control of the predators was possible. It was decided to terminate the project with the CDA but in the meantime a captive flock of cheer had been built up at Dhodial.

In conclusion, whilst the live reintroduction of birds ended in 1990 the cheer pheasant reintroduction project, far from being a failure, was in fact a ground-breaking project from which a lot of very positive lessons were learnt that had a very significant influence on the WPA's conservation work going forward.

SCOTTISH GAME FAIR

Barbara Ingman and Susie Munro

The World Pheasant Association's annual stand at the Scottish Game Fair in Perth was a great success (although bird flu meant we were unable to have live exhibits as we usually do). We still enjoyed many visitors to the stand and the peacock and Lady Amherst feathers (from WPA's members captive birds) helped to make the marquee colourful along with the posters about the many conservation projects we are involved in and those we want to engage with further.



This is always a valued opportunity to meet the public and talk about what we do as our priority in attending this fair is to raise awareness of the plight of many of the world's most endangered Galliformes.

An area where children could colour in peacock prints gave parents a break and a chance to enjoy our stand and chat to the WPA volunteers.

Thank you to the public visiting our stand who kindly parted with spare change to contribute to the work we do

Photos: Laura Cullen, Susie Munro and Barbara Ingman

GOLDEN PHEASANT CLUB LUNCH 2022

Charlotte Chilcott

Bowood Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort was the setting for the Golden Pheasant Club's bi/tri annual lunch. Incredibly lucky with the weather, we lingered long in the sunshine, chatting and catching up with friends unseen for some time. Following two years where meeting up just wasn't possible, there was a lot of ground to cover. Lunch was followed by yet another very enjoyable speech by Brian Bertram (featured below) before we moved on, in a rather ragged convoy, to Bowood House for a private tour of the walled garden.

Truly a fabulous day and a worthwhile inducement for joining the Golden Pheasant Club if you haven't already done so. Simply commit to leaving the WPA something in your will. Simple. You don't ever have to divulge what you have left and joining costs you nothing (at least while you are alive). Whether a simple bequest or one to put the cat amongst the pheasants with your heirs, joining the Golden Pheasant Club is an extremely enjoyable way of knowing that you will

continue to help WPA carry on its research and conservation work for future generations. For details, please contact Barbara Ingman by email office@pheasant.org.uk or give her a call to find out more 07935 383992.

With huge thanks to Jean and Keith Howman, David and Diana White and John and Boo Milne for the research into the location and for arranging a very memorable day.

Words by Brian Bertram after Golden Pheasant Club lunch at Bowood on Friday 10th June 2022.

"I am sure we would all like to thank Keith as well for setting up the Golden Pheasant Club 17 years ago.

It is a kind of extended credit scheme --- eat now, pay much later when you won't be around to miss it. And you know you will be supporting a very good cause.

For the Club, Keith has laid on some superb venues, of which this is the seventh.

Our meeting places have been:

2005 Syon House;

2007/8 Fishmongers Hall in London;

2010 The magnificent Blenheim Palace;

2013 Fawley Hill near Henley, Bill McAlpine's extraordinary collection of wildlife and railway memorabilia;

2016 Simon Gudgeon's lovely Sculpture by the Lakes

2019 Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery and Ashe Warren Farm, both fascinating.

Who of you has been to all of them? We are the hungry/greedy ones.

WPA is thriving at 47 years old. But it is still not well known.

If you Google 'WPA', you get the Western Provident Association, or Welsh Pale Ale; you don't find our proper World Pheasant Association until the bottom of page three.



Golden pheasant club members at Bowood House
Photo: David White

As we all know, WPA is working to conserve the most threatened of the world's 290 species of Galliformes --- pheasants, partridges, peafowl, junglefowl, guineafowl etc. They are some of the most striking and beautiful birds on the planet, but more than a quarter of them are under threat.

In our work, there are two huge ironies that we are very well aware of:

1. There is no good name for them. Scarcely anybody out there knows what a 'Galliform' is. Might it be something shaped like an ancient ship, a galley? 'Game bird' suggests 'a bird it is fun to shoot'. That is like calling elephants 'ivory providers', or cowslips 'strimmer fodder'.

2. Numbers. One of the Galliformes is by far the most abundant bird on the planet - there are 30-50 billion chickens worldwide, whilst nearly 8 billion humans. The remarkably successful species has even trained the human species to feed them and to do most of their childcare for them. And >30 million young pheasants are released in Britain each year, to commit suicide on the roads or to be shot. By contrast, the total world populations of the 70 most threatened Galliform species worldwide come to less than one million. Has society got its priorities right?

How WPA works. Key features of the organisation are:

1. Knowledgeable and determined people
2. Collaborative with overseas chapters, zoos, other conservation groups, IUCN's GSG, private individuals. WPA

helps to unite them.

3. Integrates field conservation and captive conservation.

4. We are in it for the long term.

5. Emphasis on education, with symposia (eg the planned grouse Symposium), and school involvement. For future generations. We do not agree with Groucho Marx who said: "Why should I care about future generations? What have they ever done for us?"

I shall give a very few examples of WPA's work.

1. Pipar, Nepal. WPA involved for 40 years, funded by WPA's Jimmy Roberts memorial Fund, and the Howman Family Trust.

Built, and developed and supported nine village schools, fostering awareness of the need for conservation generally; carried out surveys to monitor the populations of the five species of pheasants there; employed forest guards. And financially supported poor villagers who have had to endure floods, earthquakes and covid in recent years.

2. Megapodes in East Indies

Remarkable birds that don't incubate, they rely on nature. Eggs develop in burrows in warm sand, or in heaps of rotting vegetation. Super-precocial, can fly on the day they hatch. Nests vulnerable to predators, including humans. Collaborative Maleo programmes in Sulawesi, providing nest protection, paying nest guardians, safe hatching and release places. Thousands of chicks survive that

WANTED BOOK

Barbara Ingman

Wanted: The Atlas of Rare Pheasants, Volume 2

By: Keith Howman and Timothy Greenwood

248 pages, 25 paintings, 24 hand painted maps with overlays

Publisher: Palawan Press

About this book:

In the tradition of the great Victorian monographs, this sumptuous atlas is the first dedicated to pheasants and is a unique collection of hand-painted maps and illustrations. This volume covers the remaining members of the pheasant family (24 species) and includes the gorgeous variety of iridescent peacocks, the Lady Amherst pheasant, and the Golden Pheasant. It contains original paintings by one of Britain's leading wildlife painters of each species of pheasant, set against a background of their local habitat. Additionally it contains hand painted maps of each area in Asia and Africa where pheasants are endemic. The Atlas is presented in a limited edition format of 202 copies.

I had an enquiry from someone who is looking for this book which is out of print but if you have a copy you would be interested in selling please let me know (office@pheasant.org.uk). He already has Volume 1 but has been unable to find a copy of Volume 2.

otherwise wouldn't have done.

3. Black-necked pheasant

In the Nestos Delta in NE Greece; the last population (c200 birds) in Europe of the pure native pheasant. WPA has been working since 2016, with GWCT and the Greek Hunting Federation (KOMATH), on habitat improvement, especially opening up clearings, population monitoring, and gathering evidence on nest predation.

WPA is in good hands.

Jo Gregson, our Chair, is strengthening links with the zoo world, pushing for good captive breeding facilities in SE Asia, for local school education programmes, and for bringing more young people into WPA.

The two Keiths, and others such as John, provide continuity and expert guidance.

The fundraising people Charlotte and Rosey are magnificently raising the funds required; they are nearly as good as Keith and Jean Howman at twisting people's arms and making them enjoy the arm-twisting. They, along with Susie, have brought in a superb £33,500 so far this year.

Emma continues with the editing of the fine WPA News.

And of course Barbara, our secretary, wonderfully continues to keep the whole show on the road. We are all extremely grateful to them all."

GREY PEACOCK PHEASANT

Jonathan Pointer

Peacock-pheasants lay two large eggs and make excellent parents.

The grey peacock-pheasant (*Polyplectron bicalcaratum bakeri*) is much smaller than a true peacock and inhabits lowland forest across much of Asia.

Grey peacock-pheasants are the largest bird in the peacock-pheasant genus and the males produce a wonderful display to the smaller female who will lay two eggs.



Grey peacock pheasant chick
Photo: Hubert Fryca

FUNDRAISING ROUNDUP 2022

Charlotte Chilcott

Beacon Hill clay pigeon shoot, Friday 13 May 2022

We returned to Desmond Sturgess's Acorn Shooting School at Beacon Hill Farm in Amesbury, Wiltshire for another hugely successful black-necked pheasant shoot. We had, once again, perfect weather for a mornings shooting. Clear, dry and with a gentle breeze, it couldn't have been better. Located in a wood surrounded by farmland, each stand is different and hidden from the next. The shoot has been laid out to challenge both rough and driven game guns; the High Tower adding a challenge to both accuracy and the flexibility of the guns backs. We were delighted to have 24 teams of four guns, all of whom proved adept at providing excuses when the cards were handed in. When all were accounted for, it's fair to say that there were a healthy number of clays that flew on unscathed so the pressure is on for the guns to hit a higher number in 2023. Tom Edgerton, our Top Gun for the day, raised the bar once again. Not to be outdone and against the odds, we had three Top Lady Guns; Louisa Stevens, Victoria Rolph and Suzanna Anslow.

The black-necked pheasant shoot is a very convivial affair and once the arrival bacon butties and coffee had been consumed, the stands shot and the cards handed in, all retired to the marquee for lunch of local roast lamb provided by the Godwin family, enormous desserts and a fabulous selection of cheese. Mike Vesey once again conducted a very successful auction in his usual light-hearted, wallet-opening style. It was a day thoroughly enjoyed by all participants, successfully raising £20k for WPA projects both in the UK and abroad. Huge thanks must also go to the very generous crowd who, having come along to support WPA, very generously emptied their wallets for an impromptu collection for Ukraine, all of which was donated via the Red Cross. We aim to be back at Acorn Shooting School at Beacon Hill on Friday 12 May 2023 and further details can be obtained from Rosey Northcote-Smith on rosey@hapana.co.uk.



Beacon Hill 2022
Photo: David White

Black Grouse Charity Shoot, Saturday 28 May 2022

The 2022 Black Grouse Charity Shoot at Dunkeld, thanks to our regular and new supporters, raised a record £18k split between Countryside Learning Scotland and the World Pheasant Association. These funds will enable both charities to deliver an even better programme in the forthcoming year. Thankfully it doesn't always rain in Scotland, a glorious day helped the competitors enjoy a fun and relaxed environment with Findrack sporting once again cleaning up the prizes including a fantastic flush score of 148 from a possible 150. Congratulations to Mike Guild and his 'Bertha Bad Boys' team for successfully defending the Crockarts side by side flush trophy with a score of 126, we would love to see more teams entering with their side by sides next year. Our thanks also go to our auctioneer who managed to squeeze £11,250 out of our generous audience from an auction list valued at £7,400 and to County Clays for laying on a well organised programme for the days shooting. We look forward to seeing everyone back at next year's shoot on Saturday 27 May 2023 at County Clays Dunkeld. For more details, please contact Ian Robertson on ian@countysidelearningscotland.org.uk.

Red Rice Simulated Clay Day, Wednesday 15 June 2022



Red Rice 2022
Photo: Charlotte Chilcott

You may recall that the simulated day at Red Rice in 2021 was an incredibly wet day – hugely enjoyable but very, very wet. Our day this year couldn't have been more different – clear skies, a cooling breeze it really couldn't have been any better. As ever, Jay Lister's layout for the day provided drives that were challenging for the guns whilst still being hugely enjoyable to shoot. We broke the day with elevenses, kindly provided by Vicky Lister before carrying on and then breaking for lunch.

Winners of the Red Rice top team trophies were Ben Olds & Philip Wolstonholme. Our thanks as always to the

generosity of Jill Crook, Jay & Vicky Lister for hosting the WPA and enabling every penny of the £5k raised to go towards our continued conservation and research efforts. To the teams of guns and the very generous donators of the raffle prizes (Mark Kemp, Susan Hewetson-Brown and Harry Larcombe) "thank you"; we raised a fabulous amount for WPA and are already looking forward to 2023. Jill Crook and Jay Lister have generously offered to do the same in 2023 with a provisional date set aside of Wednesday 14 June 2023. Further details can be obtained from Rosey Northcote-Smith on rosey@hapana.co.uk.



Registered Charity No. 1181022
Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting of
THE WORLD PHEASANT ASSOCIATION
Saturday 11th September 2021 held at
Chandos Hall, Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, GL54 5LP

1. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 12th September 2020 were agreed.

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

2. Chairman's report:

WPA meetings have continued throughout the covid pandemic using video teleconferencing software (zoom) but we were delighted to be able to meet in person again and still accommodate our overseas members via a zoom link.

It was a relief that Covid restrictions were eventually lifted to allow the Fundraising Committee to hold two very successful events. Although these clay-pigeon shooting events had to be moved from their usual slots in May to July they still raised over £15k. The equivalent event in Scotland also took place and raised £5k. The Scottish Game Fair was held at Scone Palace in Perth in September and gave us a chance to promote WPA and its vital conservation work.

The European Conservation Breeding Group met via zoom in the spring, and we shared information from focus groups and heard updates from Studbook holders. We are anticipating that by 2022 travel to Europe will become safe again and will enable us to meet our European colleagues in Hungary.

New members have been welcomed to WPA from many countries including Chile, Latvia and Singapore. We have strengthened our links with the US by having occasional 'Zoom' meetings and expect this trend to continue. Jonathan Pointer, a wildlife artist and supporter of WPA took on the job of Press Officer. Through his work on social media WPA is being promoted across the globe and he has a strong network of supporters, many of whom have become WPA members.

The 2021 Census was led by Stewart Henderson and birdkeepers were strongly urged to send in returns. 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. 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.

We had excellent news about a quarantine station which was passed on to WPA by RZSS and is located at Fenton Barns. In years gone by, this unit successfully quarantined Bornean Peacock-pheasants and can now be used for future imports of birds. The unit remains the property of WPA.

The Vietnam Pheasant Species Recovery Team met regularly throughout the year and has members from Viet Nature, Birdlife International, the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Wildlife Reserves Singapore, the European Conservation Breeding Group and of course WPA. The group are extremely thorough which is important to ensure all aspects of legislation are covered. The long-term aim of this group is to release the Vietnamese Pheasant into the wild.

It was expected that the 8th International Symposium on Galliformes would be held at Taman Safari, Prigen, Java, Indonesia from 12-14 October 2022. The organising committee was making plans for this event although covid restrictions hadn't eased yet in Java. (Subsequently this was postponed until October 2023 because covid restrictions in China were still in place which would have prevented Chinese delegates from attending.)

For the coming year we will welcome members regardless of their interests in either conservation, aviculture, or both at next year's meetings, starting with the Conservation Breeding and Advisory Group (CBAG) meeting for 2022 which will be held on Saturday 6 February 2022 at Waddesdon Manor.

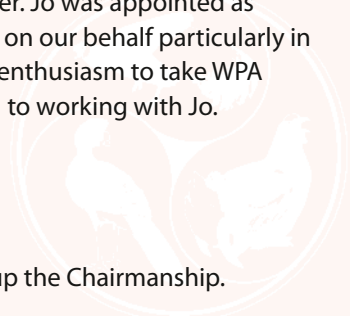
Finally, you may have read in WPA News about my retiral as Chairman of WPA. Many of you will know that I have been in the chair for eight years now, on a three-year appointment! I am delighted to inform the membership that Jo Gregson, formerly Bird Curator at Paignton Zoo, has taken the chair with effect from the AGM on 11th September. Jo was appointed as Conservation 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. I will still be very much involved with WPA, promoting aviculture and I look forward to working with Jo.

3. Trustees' annual report and statement of accounts.

It was carried unanimously that the Accounts for the year ended 30 April 2022 be adopted.

4. Succession:

Keith Chalmers-Watson stood down as Chair and Jo Gregson accepted an invitation to take up the Chairmanship.



5. The following were elected:

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

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

Jonathan Pointer, Simon Bruslund, Sarah Patterson, Clayton Botkin and Rik Dams, 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.

Subsequently, Rick van Dams also agreed to stand for election as a Trustee.

6. Accountant:

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

7. Any other business

No matters were raised as any other business.

WPA CENSUS 2022

Stewart Henderson

I hope everyone is having a great breeding season, but the time has come for this year's census.

The information you sent us last year was extremely helpful as it continues to add to records about 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. We would really like your help again this year to record the birds that were in your collection on 31 August 2022.

For example, the Malay crestless fireback is now thought to be highly endangered as none have been seen in the wild and local markets for quite some time now which is an absolute tragedy, this is where the census really does play its part in providing vital information on the numbers of captive stock and how they are breeding.

Could I also please ask that breeders tick the box on whether or not they are ringing their birds. Without trying to sound like I'm preaching at people, the ringing of birds is going to become a necessity in the very near future due to all the new legislation coming into effect, especially if you are exporting birds into Europe. If anyone would like any advice on how to ring your birds, where to buy them, which sizes for different species, which day to put them on etc. please do get in touch with me and I'll help as best I can.

This information will then be anonymously combined with results from other breeders, and we will be able to determine the trends of different species in collections in the UK and across Europe. Without this information the European Conservation Breeding Group cannot properly measure the status of captive birds and provide advice for their conservation.

To assist with the conservation of captive Galliformes please fill out the form on the WPA website and return it to the WPA office or to myself, details on the forms, as soon as possible. It is also very helpful to let us know if you do not or no longer keep any birds and we stress that all census returns are handled confidentially. Please do get in touch with Stewart Henderson or the WPA office if you have any questions or problems completing the form.

UPDATE: OFFICE

Barbara Ingman

A hot busy summer and the WPA office is now at the seaside in Tynemouth and working well, the new address, 62 Beach Road, gives a strong hint about the new location. Alan (my husband) and I attended our first Golden Pheasant Day event at Bowood Gardens and met up with many WPA members and helped at all the fundraising events and the Scottish Game Fair in Perth. Raffle tickets for the superb black-necked pheasant painting by Jonathan Pointer can be speedily dispatched and sales are picking up as the draw date approaches. Which reminds me that the draw is at the lovely Cotswold Wildlife Park on Saturday 10 September during our annual Convention. I realise travel isn't as easy as it used to be but if you can come, I can promise an excellent day. Part of the rest of the year is mapped out to help with the planning for the Symposium in Indonesia and WPA Christmas cards will be on sale again in the autumn. In the meantime, I'm looking forward to a trip to WPA Germany's Convention in Leipzig and meeting with the European Conservation Breeding Group members. My contact number is 07935383992, email address office@pheasant.org.uk, and I'm always happy to help with anything related to WPA.

OH RATS!

Ian Clark

It doesn't matter what livestock you keep – the smell of feeding will draw rats and mice. They can smell food up to a mile upwind, follow the scent, and move in, bringing their aunts and cousins.

Mice are a pest, as they urinate over the food, and they can carry fleas and all sorts of interesting diseases. In most cases, commercially available mouse poison, available from DIY stores and garden centres at safe concentrations for amateur use will solve the problem – and of course keeping your feeding in vermin-proof containers.

The traditional 'Little Nipper' mousetraps are excellent – I run a dozen all year round in all of the buildings where I store feeding. They rely on bait to get the mouse to spring the trap – despite the old tradition of using cheese as bait, in fact they have a real sweet tooth. They have a particular fondness for peanut butter but depending on the version of the trap you are using, it can be difficult to get the bait to stay on the trigger. Spreading a little on a bit of stale bread helps – the bread holds to the spike better than just the pure peanut butter. If your 'Nipper' is the type which has a small spike to hold the bait, I've never found anything to beat chocolate raisins! The smell of chocolate is like a magnet, and the consistency of the raisin inside holds it well on the spike.

Like rats, mice prefer to run near a wall or in narrow spaces, so set your Nippers tight against a wall.

One tip which may save you a lot of frustration (and very possibly sore fingers) – when you buy a new 'Nipper' all of the metal parts are smooth and shiny chrome, and they are very hard to set as the mechanism slides too easily. Just roughen the surface of the setting pin with a file or rub it on a wall to make it rough enough to catch in the little hoop. Like all mammal traps, when not in use they should be hung up somewhere outside. They work just as well with a bit of rust, and there is no man-smell to make the mice wary.

However troublesome your mice are, apart from spreading disease and bursting bags, they are unlikely to be much danger to phasianids. Rats are a different kettle of fish!

Firstly, adult rats are quite big enough to kill young chicks,



*Traditional 'Little Nipper' mousetrap - with Chocolate raisin as bait!
Photo: Ian Clark*



*Top: Ideal location for a trap box. Rats can't resist exploring holes
Bottom: Trap set in box - the middle panel of the box lifts off to allow you to check the trap without putting your scent on the main box.*

Photos: Ian Clark

or even a hen sitting on eggs. Secondly, given enough time they will dig or eat through anything up to and including concrete to get access to a food supply. They will steal eggs, rolling them back to where they can eat them safely down a hole. They are competent swimmers, and can jump four to six feet clear, run up a brick wall – the perfect scavenger/predator. Moreover, they are intelligent – and learn from one another as well as from their own experience. One often overlooked fact is that they will use mole runs. Sinking wire or metal sheeting will slow them down, but moles will dig under or round anything at any depth, and rats are perfectly happy to use mole runs to gain access.

They also learn from experience and from their peers. At the WPA AGM this year, John Corder showed a fascinating video of an indoor aviary with an electric fence wire at rat height, and the rats had learned to jump 18 inches to clear this wire before running up and down the wire netting, making the electric wire pointless. I run TWO live wires, around 8 inches apart, about four feet above ground level. Fenn traps in tunnels at ground level account for the rest.

Old established rat colonies, such as you would find at an old farm, will have hundreds, if not thousands of yards of tunnels. There's an old farm like that around 200 yards from



Top left: Fenn type traps come in two sizes. The smaller Mark IV is fine for rats and weasels, but would struggle to kill an adult Mink. If there are mink in your area, the Mark VI would be safer. Bottom left: Fenn Mark IV set - notice that the safety catch beside the brass bar has been moved back to allow the trap to close.
Photos: Ian Clark



where I live. On the odd occasions I have to use poison, I'll often get the usual dry farmer comment 'Rats again, I see?'. They are being poisoned here and he finds them dead 200 yards away – that's what we're up against.

They are intelligent in a specialised way, but not as intelligent as we are, so that's our first advantage. They are very much creatures of habit – they will leave their nest at the same time each day, follow the same path that generations of them have used to get a drink, then head for dinner. They hate being exposed in open spaces, and if they do have to cross one, they do it at lightning speed, bolting from cover to cover. They will always run along the foot of a wall rather than cross an open floor, and they use pipes and gullies where available. Their sense of smell is incredible, and they positively hate change of any kind. All excellent qualities from their point of view, and they begin to breed at eight weeks old, producing six or eight young each time.

If we assume six, so as not to over-estimate – a pair of rats moves into your collection on 1st January. By the end of February, they will have young, so you have eight rats. Eight weeks later, the bitch will have another six, but the first six will mate and produce six each. That's four breeding pairs, which will each have six young in eight weeks, so by the end of April you will have 32 rats. That's 16 pairs. Eight weeks later, the oldest bitch will produce another six, her first litter will produce six each, as will the second, so by the end of June you will then have..... I would need a calculator to continue, but if you don't act, you will have literally hundreds of rats in one year.

What can we do? The first thing to consider is not the rats you kill, but the rats you would have had if you had not

killed substantial numbers. You will always have rats if you have birds, and it's a question of keeping them down to a level you can live with (until you kill them, of course!).

What's in OUR favour? See above – creatures of habit, like to run in narrow spaces or tunnels. The most effective method will vary depending on the premises – in some cases traps will do the job. In others, you may have to resort to poison, or even gassing. You must factor in what kind of birds you have, the environment round you, neighbours etc.

There is a rat-sized version of the 'Little Nipper', but by far the most commonly used trap is known as the Fenn Trap – Fenn being the name of the company which first produced them. It's now a generic term and replicas of the original Fenn are widely available.

The legal position is a bit complicated. The bottom line is that it's illegal to use any spring trap unless it is DEFRA approved (rats are excluded from this) but the trap must be still set in a suitable tunnel to prevent access by things we don't want to catch, even if set inside a building. Gin traps are just plain illegal for anything.

Since rats love tunnels, setting a Fenn-type trap in a tunnel is sure to pay dividends – but always wear rubber gloves when setting or resetting the traps – a rat can 'smell a rat' and your trap won't work for ten days at least if you touch it with your hands.

These 'Fenn' type traps come in two sizes – the Mark 4 for rats, weasels, etc. and the Mark 6, which is man enough to deal with a full-grown mink. Due to a recent change in the law, it is now illegal to set a 'Fenn' trap for stoats – deliberately or recklessly, although they can be used legally for other forms of vermin. Deliberately is fairly obvious, but 'recklessly' needs further explanation. Put shortly, it means knowing that there is a likelihood of a stoat being caught. I run a line of 24 Fenn traps here, and in 35 years I have caught one stoat – we just don't have them here. We have few weasels, and my traps are set for rats. If you live in an area heaving with stoats, you could be accused of 'recklessly' setting the trap, knowing that there are lots of stoats and a strong chance of you catching one. There are now traps approved for stoats, which are very efficient but considerably more expensive than Fenn-type traps.

Right: Trap sprung using a twig the thickness of a finger - be VERY careful when setting these traps.
Photo: Ian Clark



The Technical Bit

Technical? Yes. Boring? Extremely.

Important? YES – this is the VITAL bit that will help keep you out of court for doing things you didn't even know were illegal.

The law on 'pest control' is very complicated in UK – it's a mixture of National law which applies right across the UK and NI, and separate local variations for each of the four legal jurisdictions – England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

To set out the full position would take more than a full WPA Newsletter, so what follows is a quick guide only. It is YOUR responsibility to stay within the law, even if it looks like a foreign language at times.

As a basic starting point, it is generally illegal to kill anything for any reason unless that is specifically allowed by a separate law. Rats and mice are usually, but not always, exempt from this, but what you can kill or attempt to kill, and how you do this is subject to a mass of technical regulations.

This article is mainly about rats and mice, but it's relevant for any species that might get caught in a trap.

Rule 1: Gin traps are illegal – there are NO exceptions. It's not illegal to have them, but it is illegal to use them for ANY species, including rats and mice.

Rule 2: All other spring-operated traps are illegal unless they are on the 'approved' list. Even if they are on the approved list, they must be used according to the instructions in the



Traditional gin trap. Now absolutely ILLEGAL in all circumstances, even indoors.

Photo: Ian Clark

list on how and where they can be set.

There is no easy way to explain the full position and all the possible permutations – if you have a particular problem or situation and the answer is not clear from reading the law and this article, contact the WPA office in whatever way is easiest for you and we will give you the detailed advice you need.

The best plain English (plain-ish) guide I have found can be found here: [SASA Guide to Approved Spring Traps - BSS072020.pdf](#) and I am grateful for the vast amount of work which has gone into this by Steve Campbell of SASA. Congratulations to Steve for producing such a helpful and comprehensive guide!

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 APRIL 2022

Richard Alsept

The year ended 30 April 2022 saw the charity emerge from some of the covid based restrictions, and begin once again to benefit from attending and fundraising at events and shows. Income from fundraising and donations at events recovered to £72,833 in the year, compared to just £4,784 in the previous pandemic affected year. Overall income nearly doubled in the year, and the charity is pleased to announce that it returned a surplus of £31,400 in the financial year.

The charity's net reserves at 30 April 2022 were £213,414 which had grown from £178,228 in the previous period. This healthy position will enable the charity to continue to deliver a wide range of conservation work and support projects in the future, as well as to meet day-to-day running costs for the foreseeable future. Of these reserves £213,277 is held in cash or investments. The charity's investment in the M&G Charifund paid income of £5,736 in the year which represents a return of just under 5%. The fund also slightly increased its market value in the year to £120,825, therefore continuing its recovery in value from the initial pandemic related hit.

Total income for the year was £147,135 (2021: £78,052). Trading activities were £94,745 (2021: £36,155). Income from membership increased to £13,342 (2021: £11,212) whilst income from fundraising activities was £72,833 (2020: £4,784). Expenditure for the year was £115,735 (2021: £89,274). Total spend on charitable activities was £85,835 (2021: £88,363). At the end of the year total reserves were £213,414 (2021: £178,228) and general (unrestricted) reserves were £150,028 (2021: £117,579).

Project summary - Achievements and performance

Through the year work continued on international conservation work and providing support and advice to members and Chapters.

Pipar, Nepal

WPA continues to fund teachers' salaries and ongoing maintenance and improvements around the schools in this area. The results of the spring survey of Galliformes in Pipar and Santel in the Annapurna Conservation Area, central Nepal were received in a comprehensive report which also compared call count figures from all surveys from 1979 to 2022

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 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 because 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 Prigen Ark for songbirds and parrots. The Prigen facility is the site chosen for the 8th International Galliformes Symposium in October 2023. WPA hopes to strengthen its links in Indonesia through this project.

Vietnam pheasant, Vietnam

WPA continues to liaise with the Vietnamese Edwards's Pheasant Committee, co-ordinated by VietNature in Vietnam. Some funding has now been sent to support the captive breeding and reintroduction programme. The birds will be bred and reared in captivity in Vietnam for several generations until they are suitable for reintroduction.

Black-necked pheasant in Nestos, Greece

This is the final 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. This project monitors changes in pheasant population densities, habitat use and levels of disturbance in the park area. It aims to find new monitoring sites and identify potential threats to the globally threatened pheasants in this Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA). Other aims include Conservation capacity building of the park staff, conservation education and awareness of pheasants in the surrounding communities. The outcomes include providing undisturbed protected land to the breeding pheasants which will increase their chances of surviving and provide a better picture of the population trends of pheasants necessary to measure impacts of conservation intervention.

Assessing cheer pheasants (*Catreus wallichii*) population, distribution, and habitat in Districts Torghar and Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

The project will determine the population status and distribution of Cheer Pheasant in Oghi and Torgah Districts, KPK 2 and assess the major threats associated to the species in the area. In additions it will enhance awareness amongst local communities regarding the ecological significance of pheasants and develop a long-term conservation action plan for cheer pheasants in this area.

Construction of a breeding enclosure for the endangered Indochinese green peafowl (*Pavo muticus imperator*) at the Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity (ACCB)

Funding was sent for the construction of a breeding enclosure for a breeding pair of Indochinese green peafowl at ACCB. The enclosure will improve the welfare of green peafowl and other species at the Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity. Furthermore, it will enhance the conservation breeding program for the species, with the goal of increasing the translocation of captive-bred Indochinese green peafowl to protected areas in Cambodia.

RED GROUSE

Jonathan Pointer

The red grouse (*Lagopus lagopus scotica*) is a medium-sized game bird endemic to the UK. It is a sub-species of willow ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*), a wide-ranging grouse found across North America, Europe and Asia. Its gingery-red plumage provides it its name and differentiates it from the willow ptarmigan which changes its own plumage (to white) in the winter. In the UK it is very much a bird associated with uplands, especially heather moorland (on which it likes to feed). Male red grouse are a delightful, confident bird with a carrying "go back go back go back" call. The bright orange eyebrows expand and retract depending on how excited the grouse is and unusually for grouse the red grouse is monogamous. Despite its high concentrations on managed grouse moors, the red grouse is in decline and is largely confined to the North of the UK and Ireland.

A photo of red grouse chicks is featured on the back page.

ADVERT: VIETNAM PHEASANT RECOVERY PROJECT

Position Title: Project Manager

Hiring Organisation: Viet Nature¹, Vietnam

Location of Job: Le Thuy District, Quang Binh Province, Vietnam

Duration of Contract: 2 years

Salary: Negotiable around \$25,000 per annum

Application Deadline: 31 August 2022

The Vietnam pheasant is a Critically Endangered bird endemic to Vietnam. It has not been seen outside captivity since 2000, and it is feared that it may already have become extinct in the wild. However an ex situ population of about 1500 birds globally provides an opportunity to recover the species via reintroduction.

We are looking for a highly motivated, energetic individual with bird husbandry and project management skills and experience to join our team in Vietnam as Project Manager on the Vietnam Pheasant Species Recovery Project. You will work to develop and deliver the species recovery plan that will bring this species back from the brink of extinction. A major part of this is the establishment and development of a conservation breeding centre for this species, situated in the Le Thuy district of Quang Binh province, close to one of the intended reintroduction sites at Khe Nuoc Trong nature reserve.

The Project Manager will oversee the establishment, construction and running of a conservation breeding centre in Vietnam designed to breed a founder population of Vietnam Pheasant suitable for reintroduction at a designated location in central Vietnam. They will recruit, lead, train and support a team of bird keepers and maintenance staff who will be responsible for the captive husbandry of the Vietnam Pheasant. They will be responsible for the health and welfare of the birds at the breeding centre and for rearing the birds and preparing them for reintroduction back into the wild through minimising human contact and behavioural training.

UPDATE: HARE RAFFLE

Charlotte Chilcott

One of two raffles being run in 2022, Veronica Dance's stunning alabaster sculpture "Meadow Rest" was won by Jason Butcher. The draw took place at Bowood House during the Golden Pheasant Club lunch, but we managed to keep it a secret until the simulated day at Red Rice in order for Richard Dance to present it in person. Richard (brother to Veronica) had very kindly donated "Meadow Rest" to WPA. A Wildlife Foundation finalist, Veronica's work can be seen at www.veronicadance.co.uk. Jason was over the moon with his prize win and who knows, we may well see it featured in some of his future photographic compilations at www.jasonbutcher.com. Huge thanks to both Veronica and Richard Dance; the money raised will be used wisely.

The Project Manager will also liaise with field teams who are responsible for delivering project objectives in potential reintroduction sites and they will participate in project strategy and planning through working with Viet Nature management and the Vietnam Pheasant Species Recovery Team (VPSRT). They will oversee the monitoring and evaluation of the project and provide regular reports to the VPSRT.

This position will be based in Vietnam and the successful candidate will be required to live on the site of the new conservation breeding centre which is in Le Thuy District, Quang Binh Province, central Vietnam. Accommodation will be provided which will be rent free except for a small contribution towards utilities (electricity etc).

Salary is negotiable but will be in the region of \$25,000 per year. The Project Manager will work 5 days a week and will be entitled to 15 days paid holiday a year plus 10 days national holidays in Vietnam.

The ideal candidate will have a combination of the following qualifications, experience, skills and personal qualities:

- At least three years practical experience in a relevant role, including staff management duties
- Educated to degree level or equivalent
- Experience of captive bird husbandry management, including knowledge of aviary construction
- Experience of working on a multi-faceted project including writing reports and managing budgets
- Knowledge of wildlife conservation, including IUCN protocols concerning reintroductions and conservation planning
- An effective leader and team player, able to work under own initiative
- Excellent communication and IT skills
- Creative, adaptable and resourceful to meet the demands of a challenging environment
- Fluent in English
- Some knowledge of the Vietnamese language would be an advantage.

For further details, including a detailed job description, and instructions about how to apply please go to <https://vietnampheasant.org/vietnam-pheasant-recovery-project-project-manager.html>

For enquiries about this role please contact Jan Dams, jan.dams@kmda.org, Tuan Anh Pham tuananh.pham@thiennienviet.org.vn or Simon Dowell s.dowell@chesterzoo.org

¹*Viet Nature is a conservation NGO in Vietnam with the aim of protecting and preserving Vietnam's abundant biodiversity. Viet Nature is working closely with WPA, EAZA, Birdlife International and the IUCN/SSC Galliformes specialist group on a long term Recovery Plan to return the Vietnam Pheasant to the wild.*

WPA CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION 2022

We welcome entries from all members and non-members of WPA

- 15 years and under
- 16 years and over

Your designs can be a photo, painting or other media, can be in colour or black and white and must be in two dimensions. Entries must be digital images submitted as high-resolution JPEGs. WPA reserve the right to crop the image as required.

The entries should feature an appropriate subject Galliforme theme and Christmas/winter.

The winners of the 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 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 cards go to WPA.

Closing date: 31 August 2022

See our website for Terms and Conditions and Entry Form

FUNDRAISING DATES

Charlotte Chilcott

Looking ahead to 2023, planning for our three key fundraising events is already underway so please make a note in your diaries and contact us if you would like more information on the days.

We always need more teams and volunteers on the day are always very, very welcome.

Black-necked Pheasant Charity Clay Shoot

Acorn Shooting School, Beacon Hill Farm, Amesbury

Friday 12th May 2023

Contact Rosey Northcote-Smith –
rosey@hapana.co.uk

Black Grouse Charity Shoot

County Clays, Dunkeld

Saturday 27th May 2023

Contact Ian Robertson –
ian@countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk

Red Rice Simulated Clay Day

Red Rice Farm, Andover

Wednesday 14th June 2023

Contact Rosey Northcote-Smith –
rosey@hapana.co.uk

KOKLASS PHEASANT

Hubert Fryca

The koklass pheasant was first described by René Primevère Lesson in 1829. Monsieur Lesson was a French surgeon and pharmacist who served in the French Navy during the Napoleonic Wars and later contributed several important monographs on birds and natural history.

A medium-sized pheasant, koklass are found widely across Asia from Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal and China and are very much a bird of high-to-mid-altitude mountainous forest.

There are ten recognised subspecies of koklass pheasant which we can group by resemblance, for example, "Himalayan group" (*macrolopha, castanea, biddulphi, nipalensis*), "golden-necked group" (*xanthospila, meyeri and ruficollis*) and "eastern group" (*darwini, joretiana*).

The curious looking ears of this pheasant are in fact long feathers which the male can raise or lower at will. During the breeding season, like with all pheasants, the demeanour of the male changes and he becomes more upright, calling frequently and strutting about, ears held proudly for the sandy coloured female koklass.

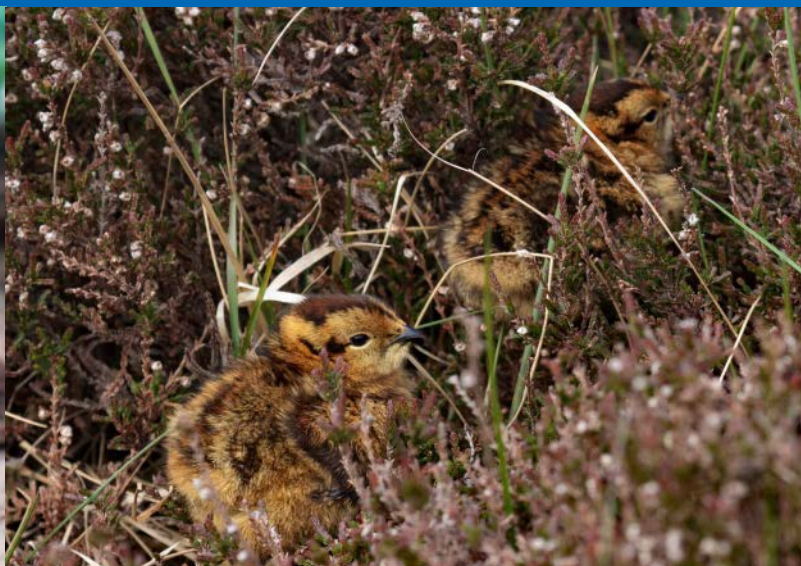
These birds are popular in private collections, but unfortunately only a small group of breeders keep the subspecies pure. They are largely vegetarian, in the wild consuming pine shoots, pine nuts and have been recorded as having a great liking for ants. Among some breeders their liking for green food is why they have been jokingly compared to cows!



Nepal koklass pheasant (*Pucrasia macrolopha nipalensis*)
Photo: Hubert Fryca



Grey peacock-pheasant and chicks
Photo: Hubert Fryca



Newly hatched red grouse chicks shelter in the warm heather on an upland moor in Northern England. Photo: Jonathan Pointer



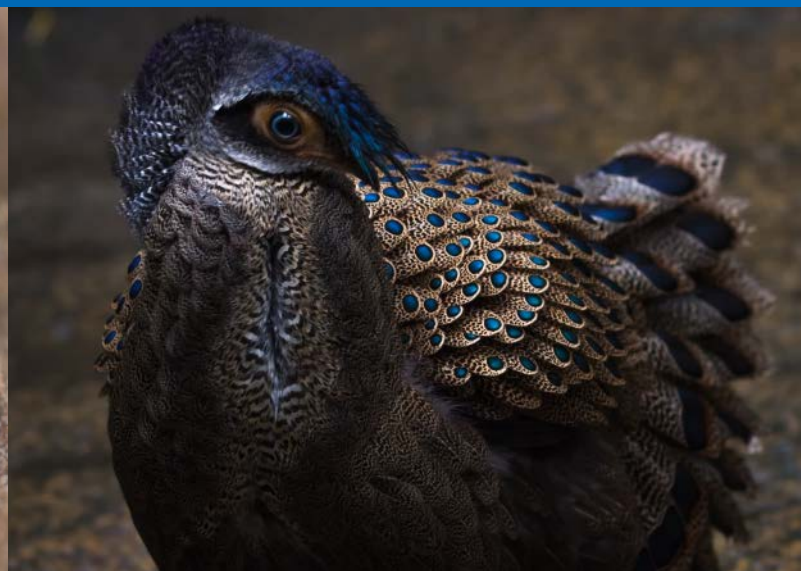
WPA stand at Scottish Game Fair
Photo: Susie Munro and Barbara Ingman



WPA stand at Scottish Game Fair
Photo: Susie Munro and Barbara Ingman



Red grouse - *Lagopus lagopus scoticus*
Photo: Caroline Legg via Flickr on 9 May 20122 (CC BY 2.0)



Malayan peacock pheasant, Singapore Zoo
Photo: _paVan_ via Flickr on 6 January 2018 (CC BY 2.0)