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Summer 2023

WPA News 121 (2023)

World Pheasant Association

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World Pheasant Association, "WPA News 121 (2023)" (2023). *Galliformes Specialist Group and Affiliated Societies: Newsletters*. 146.

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WPA

news

The International Newsletter of the World Pheasant Association

Number 121 Summer 2023



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Registered Charity No 1181022

WPA Chapters

Austria	Franz Prisching
Benelux	Ludo Pinceel
China	Prof Zheng Guangmei
Czech Republic and Slovakia	Jakub Janosch
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:

A male (front) and female (back) great curassow. The photo was taken by Andy Morffew via Flickr on 31 January 2015 (CC BY-NC 2.0).

Great Curassow (*Crax rubra*) are found in neotropical rainforests and range from eastern Mexico, through central

Studbook Holders

Cabot's tragopan	(ESB) Veronika Zahradníčková
Vietnam 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

America to western Colombia and northwestern Ecuador. The males are black with curly crests and yellow beaks, whilst the females have three colour morphs; barred, rufous and black. They form small groups to forage and are monogamous. They are threatened by habitat loss and hunting and are listed as vulnerable by the IUCN.

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

AGM & Convention at RZSS Edinburgh and Fenton Barns	9 - 10 September 2023
ECBG Meeting, Czech Republic	16 - 17 September 2023
WPA Music Festival - Manor Farm Broughton	23 September 2023
8th International Galliformes Symposium - Taman Safari, Prigen, Java	9 - 13 October 2023
CBAG Meeting, venue TBC	3 February 2024
Beacon Hill Charity Clay Shoot	10 May 2024
Dunkeld Charity Clay Shoot	25 May 2024
Red Rice Simulated Clay Shoot	19 June 2024

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 2023. 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 2023.

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

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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR



This has been a very productive year for us with a few things moving along nicely. During May, in Perth, we had a very interesting meeting regarding the numbers of UK Grouse. In particular, it highlighted the plight of our Capercaillie, where numbers have fallen dramatically. I hope more action will come from this gathering to help protect our largest UK Galliformes.

We have been working to improve and expand our footprint in the world of public media. Marie Henderson has taken over our social media presence. Modern media platforms are very fast moving, they don't give much time for people to find us. Marie will post fresh items every week on Facebook, Twitter, Tik Tok and other platforms to keep us on the front page longer. We will also be looking at using You Tube in the future. Rosey Northcote-Smith has taken on the organising of our published articles. Rosey has been very successfully fundraising with the WPA for many years. She has a lot of knowledge from within the WPA and is perfectly placed for this role.

Charlotte Chilcott who heads our fundraising team has been organising the initial set up of a new website. The existing site is too old to upgrade effectively so we will be building a completely new site, while still salvaging some important sections for updating. We will have a new t-shirt design from Jon Pointer by the end of the year. Jon plays a key part of this team. He is not only a first class artist but is also a brilliant photographer. Hannah Ahern is writing articles concerning her volunteer placement at Taman Safari, Prigen. We may see her work in the Cage and Aviary Birds magazine as well as in WPA news.

We were sent a lovely photograph (below) from the swamp francolin survey team run by Laxman Poudyal in Nepal. It shows a tiger walking along the same path as a swamp francolin. WPA are part funding the survey of this small Galliform. This is a good reminder of how dangerous survey work can be and how important it is to involve local people who have expert understanding of their environment.

I attended the BIAZA Avian Influenza conference held at Slimbridge wetland centre in July. There were speakers from collections with first-hand experience of working with A1 as well as representation from APHA. They highlighted the importance of record keeping with an accurate inventory that includes the wild status of your birds or any other conservation relevance. This should not be something that is written on the day that the inspectors arrive. Also, if you have a large collection, include a map of your aviaries. With a list of who has access to each part of that area. And of course, bio security is number one. You must ring your birds. Some speakers told of the problems that arose because they did not have anywhere to isolate birds while they were being tested.

Our annual general meeting and convention will be held in Edinburgh Zoo on Saturday the 9th September. There is an interesting agenda including a couple of presentations on the British galliformes, notably the capercaillie and one of my favourites the grey partridge. Following that on Sunday there is an open day at the Fenton Barns Breeding Centre. Please contact Barbara if you would like to attend. As always, many thanks to Barbara and the team for all the enthusiasm they bring to the World Pheasant Association.

Jo Gregson, July 2023

*Below- Tiger following swamp francolin
Photo: Laxman Poudyal*



OFFICE NOTES

Barbara Ingman

The 8th International Galliformes Symposium at Taman Safari Prigen, Java, Indonesia from 9th to 13th October is approaching very quickly and if you are fortunate enough to be going you will be getting excited at the prospect. For me it is another learning experience, i.e. finding out where places are such as Bhutan and how easy it is to travel to Surabaya in Java. Learning about customs in other countries and languages and I'm looking forward to meeting friends from all over the world, people who I have met at other Symposiums. I balance this event along with other WPA meetings and hope that if you can't make it to Indonesia you might venture north of the border into Scotland for our annual convention. No passport requirements yet! The agenda for the meeting at Edinburgh Zoo is finalised now and Fenton Barns will be bursting with birds, as always! I'm working full time until the end of the year so give me a ring or an email if you would like details of any of the events or if you need information about any aspect of WPA.

Barbara- office@pheasant.org.uk, 07935383992

NOTES OF CAUTION SOUNDED AT SCOTLAND'S GROUSE SYMPOSIUM

Dick Playfair

Media information from Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust Scotland on 10th May 2023.

A one-day symposium, Practical conservation for Scotland's Grouse, organised by the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust and the World Pheasant Association and sponsored by Hampden & Co took place at Balhousie Castle, Perth, on Friday 5th May.

The event was staged to bring land managers up to date with the latest research and advice relevant to the conservation of Scotland's four grouse species - black grouse, red grouse, ptarmigan and capercaillie - and to promote good practice in game and wildlife management.

A wide-ranging programme highlighted the pressures on Scotland's grouse species, not least climate change, disease, disturbance, failure to agree on the way forward among 'stakeholders', emerging land management regimes such as 'green washing' and carbon offsetting, extensive afforestation, and political change and its unintended consequences impacting on conservation effort.

The opening address was given by Finlay Carson MSP and Convener of the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee. He was followed by Patrick Laurie speaking about black grouse; Dr Kathy Fletcher of GWCT on ptarmigan; Matthew Colston of Elanco Animal Health on tackling tick; Dr Beth Wells of the Moredun Research Institute on vaccine development for louping ill; Ross Ewing, Director of Moorland, Scottish Land and Estates on threats emanating from the Wildlife Management and Muirburn Bill; and former GWCT Chairman Ian Coghill urging all to listen to the science.

The afternoon programme included Bruce Cooper, a specialist land management consultant; Dr Nick Hesford of GWCT on gathering evidence; Professor Neil Metcalfe of Glasgow University and Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee on capercaillie; and Rory Kennedy, GWCT Director Scotland calling for collective action to save Scotland's capercaillie from extinction.

Patrick Laurie said that he had witnessed "the devastating collapse of black grouse in Galloway, their decline mirrored by other birds like the curlew, driven to a level below which they cannot survive by the massive expansion of commercial forestry" and that we were "shepherding birds into non-existence."

Kathy Fletcher said that the grouse of the high tops, the ptarmigan, was being challenged by climate change, by range contraction, by changes in food abundance, by parasites and disease, and by predator pressure particularly with snow cover receding. She said that "positive conservation must aim to minimise negative pressures."

Bruce Cooper, who prior to its sale was head keeper and stalker on Glen Prosen Estate, said that the estate under private ownership and when managed for both habitat and game delivered a range of important benefits, with an "endless list of companies and businesses supported by this form of land use," but that change of ownership and sale of the estate to Forestry and Land Scotland in November 2022 had brought "worrying times for those with an interest in biodiversity," and that "many species, along with the gamekeepers that work so hard to protect them, will become extinct on the estate."

Speaking on the subject of capercaillie, Rory Kennedy said that an adaptive management approach was needed and that this species, which has been saved from extinction in the UK once already, required especial effort with all options in play including access exclusion around lek and nest sites, fence marking, heightened predator control and the trialling of other possible solutions such as diversionary feeding for predators over limited time periods, and control of pine marten numbers through contraception.

Hugo Straker of GWCT, co-organiser of the conference, said: "This was a highly thought-provoking event, and important for those with the knowledge and a broad range of opinions to come together to look at the status of our four grouse species. What emerged was certainly a significant note of caution that, whether through legislation or consequences on habitat and species in our bid to combat climate change, or as a result of many other factors that we can control, we do not in fact damage the important objective of biodiversity recovery – including the conservation status of our four grouse species. Evidence and common sense must not become casualties alongside biodiversity loss."

UPDATE: ECBG MEETING 2023

Barbara Ingman

The European Conservation Breeding Group (ECBG) meeting will take place during the weekend of 15th – 17th September in Prague.

This will be held in Prague Zoo and visits to private collections are also planned.

Contact Barbara: office@pheasant.org.uk or 07935383992 for more information

OBSERVATION OF A GYNANDROMORPH

Stephen Elliott

Following the article in the spring newsletter on intersex plumage in pheasants I felt compelled to share my own experience of gynandromorphism.

The bird in question is a colchicus type hen of undetermined age which came to me in the spring some three years ago having been caught up from the wild on a local sporting estate as a potential breeding bird. Visually she was an ordinary-coloured ringneck apart from two or three russet feathers on one flank as might be seen on the sub-species turcestanicus. However, the summer moult produced more of these russet-coloured feathers on the body along with an infusion of green on the head. Subsequent moults over the next two years brought about a complete transformation to the point where her plumage mimicked that of a male completely, even displaying white neck ring, lengthened tail feathers and enlargement of the red wattle area around the eye.

Behaviour wise she continues to act like a female and just goes about her daily business keeping herself to herself with no suggestion at all of male tendencies. Other birds in the pen just accept her as she is, and the male has not been observed to show any interest in her what so ever. As previously stated, the age of this bird is not known nor is her history or life experiences before being caught so it cannot be known if her metamorphosis is due to old age or perhaps a damaged ovary, possibly from a stray shotgun pellet.

Although she doesn't lay eggs or show any inclination to sit on a nest, a point of interest is that when other birds in the same aviary hatch chicks this gynandromorph becomes inherently protective and assists with caring for and brooding the youngsters from day one as a concerned aunt, the maternal instincts still very much in place.



*Gynandromorph pheasant
Photo: Stephen Elliott*

UPDATE: MALEO

Alliance for Tompotika Conservation, July 2023

Although maleos nest year-round, there is a high season for maleo nesting in Tompotika, eastern Central Sulawesi: generally September through March, coinciding with the dry season. And, as we come out of the low season and look ahead to the 2023-24 high season, there are both celebrations and concerns for lovers of the critically-endangered maleo.

During this most recent high season, the Taima-Libuun nesting ground, which is protected by a partnership of local villagers and the Alliance for Tompotika Conservation (ALTO), marked a new world record! The ALTO-villager team counted a thrilling 199 birds at one time on the nesting ground on November 1, 2022. This is more birds than have been seen anywhere for decades, and at least three to four times more birds than can be seen anywhere else today.

Although the Taima-Libuun nesting ground is only of small to medium size, and sometimes the nesting ground gets downright crowded, maleo numbers continue to grow: the maleo population there has increased seven-fold since the ALTO-villager partnership ended poaching of maleo eggs in 2006. However, despite the spectacular and heartening news about maleo numbers, a grave threat looms. Driven by the huge spike in worldwide demand for nickel to produce batteries for electric vehicles, nickel mining is booming in Sulawesi, and rapidly destroying huge swaths of native forest, devastating biodiversity and the lives of local people.



*Small scale deforestation in Tompotika
Photo: Kevin Schafer*

At least 18 new nickel mines are being proposed for the Tompotika area—right in our maleos' essential non-breeding habitat. ALTO has recently hired a new staff member to work exclusively on outreach to encourage government, local communities, and mining companies themselves to make wise and informed decisions about mining permits and operations. And in addition, ALTO is re-doubling efforts to establish new protected forest areas to protect maleos and the myriad other species whose existence is entirely dependent on vast, healthy forests in Sulawesi.

WPA FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE SUMMARY - JULY 2023

Charlotte Chilcott

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I can report WPA's three main fundraising events being the charity clay shoots at Beacon Hill, Dunkeld and Red Rice have all been successfully completed.

Black-necked Pheasant Charity Shoot, Beacon Hill

27 teams of four at £960 per team. The weather was perfect for the day, the guns had a challenging layout thanks to Des Sturgess and the auction had a variety of twenty three auction prizes including fishing, accommodation, fabulous Givenchy scarves and purses, a day at the cricket, overflowing hampers, original works of art both painted and crafted and the day saw in excess of £22,000 raised for WPA. A write up and photos can be found on pages 16-17.

Black Grouse Charity Shoot, Dunkeld in conjunction with Countryside Learning Scotland

29 teams of 4 at £720 per team. The Saturday of the shoot saw perfect weather for the Dunkeld Charity Shoot which is run jointly by WPA and Countryside Learning Scotland. With a record number of teams and twenty-two auction prizes generously given by many donors consisting of fishing, shooting, accommodation and agriculture machine hire. Just over £11,000 was raised for each charity.

Red Rice Charity Clay Shoot, Wednesday 14th June 2023

Nine teams of two guns at £720 per team. Generously donated to WPA by Jill Salvage and Jay Lister, the shoot at Red Rice was thankfully blessed with ideal weather for a simulated day (this hasn't always been the case!). With a very generously supported raffle by the guns on the day and a hefty donation towards the cartridges, just over £5,000 was raised on the day.

WPA MARKETING & MEDIA

Charlotte Chilcott

As agreed at the Council Meeting in June 2023, it was agreed that a more structured approach to marketing and social media was needed to raise the profile of WPA and, hopefully, lead to an increase in membership. As always, any marketing machine needs content whether that be photographs, project updates or personal stories so please forward anything you may have, or have time to write, it will be very gratefully received. It doesn't need to be long, or scientific or even recent – the more articles we have access to, the more likely we are to be able to place an article and being able to do so is key. Jon Pointer and Rosey Northcote-Smith will be working together to increase our media profile with the press and with magazines. If you have any contacts or suggestions on publications or websites that they could contact, please do let them know.

Rosey Northcote-Smith – rosey@pheasant.org.uk

Jon Pointer – press@pheasant.org.uk

On the social media front, we will be concentrating on Facebook and Instagram and while Jon Pointer and Stewart Henderson will continue to contribute as they have done in the past, they simply don't have the time to be able to engage consistently with the content hungry beast that is social media. Marie Henderson has stepped in to get the WPA social media input to a more regular format – if you have any film reels, photographs or short stories, please send them on to Marie as she will be most grateful for the additional content.

Marie Henderson – marie@pheasant.org.uk

We are all very mindful of the fact that we don't necessarily want to advertise what our collections consist of so unless we are asked to include acknowledgments of photographer/location/collection we will not do so.

FUNDRAISING DATES 2023-2024

Charlotte Chilcott

Please contact us if you would like more information on the days.

If you would like to get involved in any of our fundraising activities or have a fundraising idea then please do get in touch, we always love to have new helpers and hear new ideas to raise funds.

Music Festival

Saturday 23rd September 2023

To be held at the Manor Farm in Broughton, Hampshire. The farm has a herd of water buffalo and is very used to hosting events; there will be food, music and good time to be had by all. All profits will go to WPA.

Beacon Hill Charity Clay Shoot

Acorn Shooting School, Beacon Hill Farm, Amesbury

Friday 10th May 2023

Contact Rosey Northcote-Smith – rosey@pheasant.org.uk

Dunkeld Charity Clay Shoot

County Clays, Dunkeld

Saturday 25th May 2023

Contact Ian Robertson – ian@countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk

Red Rice Simulated Clay Shoot

Red Rice Farm, Andover

Wednesday 19th June 2023

Contact Rosey Northcote-Smith – rosey@pheasant.org.uk

HELP WPA

There are ways you can help WPA to raise much needed funds when you shop online at no extra cost to you.

Give as you Live Online: giveasyoulive.com/join/wpa, where companies donate a varying percentage of the cost of the goods purchased.

A HISTORY OF BLACK CURASSOW AT THE COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK

Christopher Green



The black curassow (*Crax alector*), also known as the smooth-billed curassow and the crested curassow, is a species of bird in the family Cracidae. In the wild it is found in humid forests in South America in Colombia, Venezuela, the Guianas and the far north of Brazil.

In look, the black curassow is a large bird reaching about 90cms (35 in) in length. The male has black upper parts layered with a purplish sheen and a black crest. The skin at the base of the grey beak is yellow or orange. The underparts are white. The female is similar in appearance, but the crest is barred with white, and the juvenile is black, barred and mottled with reddish-brown.



Black curassow
Photo: Christopher Green

The black curassow is a largely ground-dwelling bird, living in the undergrowth in lowland forests plantations and riverside thickets. Habitat loss and hunting are factors in the decline of this species.

In the wild, breeding behaviour will often see the male construct a small simple nest from twigs and leaves in the fork of a tree. He will then display to the female in an attempt to win her affection.

Alternatively, once the birds have paired off, they will construct a nest together into which the female lays two white eggs. The female alone incubates the eggs for up to thirty-three days.

The Cotswold Wildlife Park has the only breeding pair in a zoo in Europe. The female is the grand old

age of 26 and the male is 20 years old, so both are well over the average life expectancy of those found in the wild, with the average age being ten to fifteen years. The female came from the collection of the late Michel Klat, of Hare Hatch and the male from Keith Chalmers-Watson, former chairman of the World Pheasant Association.

We have been fortunate to breed from our pair regularly and have bred over 20 chicks from the pair in their time at the park. Due to them being relocated into a new enclosure, their breeding over the last eighteen months has been a little haphazard with eggs being smashed and laid off the perch. Despite this, in 2022 we managed to rescue one viable egg, which went on to hatch and has now gone to Stewart and Keith to form a new unrelated pair to hopefully help safeguard this species in aviculture.

Young birds from the pair have been passed to other collections in Europe and the UK, and include Blackpool Zoo, Walsrode, Crax Belgium and Lakeland Wildlife Oasis. Chicks have been the result of artificially incubating the eggs, with eggs set in an incubator at 37.5 degrees and 50% relative humidity. When chicks hatched, we encourage the chicks to eat by holding small morsels of food in tweezers held in front of them at ground level. Mini mealworms, wax moth larvae and cricket bodies (not the legs), chick crumb and finely chopped lettuce, dandelion and fruit are all offered. After a few days they will eat independently. A heat lamp set at about 36 degrees initially is used to ensure they stay warm. They are slow growing, and their food is dusted with calcium supplement to help with bone strength and growth. It is important that they are not overfed.

Prior to egg laying, both of the pair become what can be best described as "stropky". The male especially, although assisted by the female, will chase the keepers around when they enter the enclosure. Although they don't seem to mind me entering their enclosure, thankfully.

The adult bird diet is a pheasant pellet fed alongside chopped greens: chicory, lettuce and dandelion, fruit: apple, pear, tomato plus grated carrot. Live food is scatter fed in the enclosure to keep them active as they forage.

The pair are currently housed in a large enclosure aviary with grass floor and attached heated shelter. The roosting perches are sturdy to accommodate their size and large feet. They are shut in the shelter if the temperature drops below 5°C. Although usually ground dwelling they will take off in vertical flight if startled so a soft netted roof is a sensible choice. Their large size and bouts of aggression mean they are not suitable in mixed aviaries or those that allow the public to walk through.



Black curassow chicks
Photo: Christopher Green

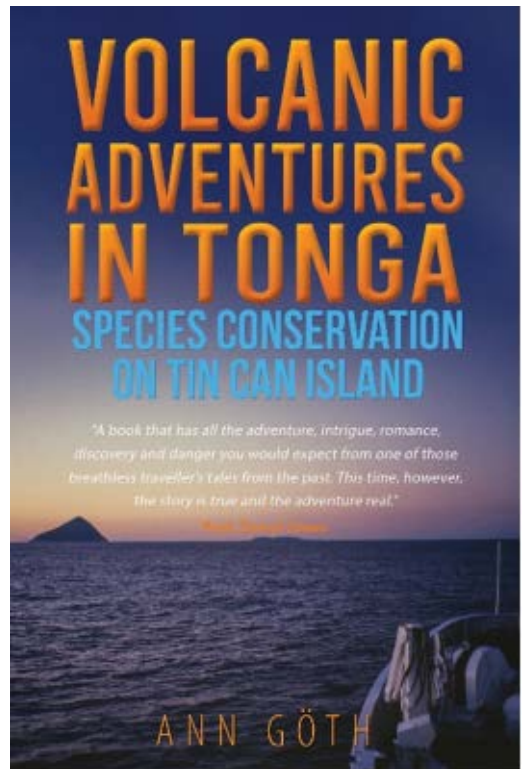
VOLCANIC ADVENTURES IN TONGA - SPECIES CONSERVATION ON TIN CAN ISLAND

Dr Ann Göth

In this travel memoir, Ann takes you on a rollicking adventure to experience authentic Polynesian culture and the unique adaptations of a volcano-breeding bird on one of the most remote Pacific islands imaginable. She quenches the thirst of bird and nature lovers as well as travellers with a wanderlust for faraway islands, while taking you to volcanoes overdue to erupt and coral cays rarely visited by tourists.

It took some spare time during lockdown for Ann to write down her experiences studying the endangered Polynesian megapode in Tonga, more than 30 years ago. This project was partly funded by WPA in 1991-1993 and had two aims. First, to study the population status, ecology and breeding biology of this endemic megapode on its home island Niuafó'u, also named Tin Can Island. Second, to find another volcanic island in Tonga for the establishment of a second safeguard population where no one would dig up its eggs for consumption.

The Polynesian megapode, locally known as the Malau is related to the mound-building Australian brush-turkey, malleefowl and orange-footed scrubfowl, but is different as it uses a volcano to incubate its eggs. Its unique adaptations to such underground nesting habits involve Ann and her partner in risky expeditions to uninhabited volcanic islands, some still smoking. Finally, the couple reveals many new details about the life of this so-far largely unknown species, and they find one island suitable to establish a second population of the birds as a safeguard for the future.



Top: Tonga islands
Bottom: Hatching megapode
Photos: Ann Göth

The book highlights the difficulties of field work in exotic locations. To work on the birds, the couple need to live with the Tongan people, as the only white Europeans among them. The locals' perception of the world and time is vastly different from that in the West, and Ann must learn cultural practices beyond her imagination while letting go of most modern comforts. Towards the end of her long stay, she is accepted according to Tongan values, even if it means she has to share all she owns and is allowed only limited freedom as a woman.

This narrative reveals what it can be like to live a simple existence on a remote island. It also demonstrates the good and bad sides of 'Tongan Time', that is, in a nutshell, the idea of enjoying the present rather than worrying about the future, and a disregard for concepts such as punctuality and planning ahead. It leads you to be fascinated by birds that use a volcano as an incubator and to be pondering the resilience needed when confronted with cyclones, paucity of fresh food, deteriorating equipment, stinging bugs, oppressing humidity, illness and the threat of being stuck on an island for much longer than expected. The story is underpinned by letters Ann wrote during this 17-month conservation project in Tonga, 30 years ago. Coloured photographs, originally taken as slides, bring the story to life.

The book has three purposes. First, to act as an advocate for megapodes in particular, and the natural world on Pacific islands in general, at a time when the plight of endangered species and the threat of climate change in the South Pacific is repeatedly being reported in mainstream media. Ann's

knowledge of the Pacific and her advocacy for the natural world provide valuable insight into practical measures taken to preserve wildlife. Second, to provide first-hand insights into an authentic Polynesian culture on remote islands where Western influence is limited. Third, the book encourages readers to ponder the concepts of mental stamina and resilience, especially now that a pandemic and other events challenge many people's mental health. Several readers mentioned to Ann that after reading her book, they really appreciated simple comforts of Western civilisation more again, such as showers, electricity, and a soft bed to sleep in.

The combination of the above three aims makes this book distinctive, and the adventurous story, part-travel and part-conservation narrative is likely to attract readers who may otherwise not read non-fiction books on such topics. Also, Ann's lifelong training in both biology and psychology enables her to provide deep, truthful, and humorous insights into Tonga's natural history and culture, combined with illustrations from her archive of original photos of the landscape and people.

Ann is now an international authority on megapodes, with an impressive resume of scientific publications, including the book *Mound-builders* (co-authored with Darryl Jones). Long before PhDs and careful laboratory experiments under strictly controlled conditions, however, there was Ann's remarkable and highly personal origin story, covered in this book.

Book details: Author Dr. Ann Göth, Publisher AustinMacauley, Published March 31st, 2023. ISBN 9781035809516. Available as paperback from the WPA Office for £20 (including P&P)



Photo: Ann Goth

Registered Charity No. 1181022

Notice of the 48th Annual General Meeting of THE WORLD PHEASANT ASSOCIATION

**Saturday 9th September 2023 at 13:00 to be held in the
Education Lecture Theatre, Edinburgh Zoo**

AGENDA

- 1. Agreement of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 10th September 2022**
- 2. Receive and consider the trustees' annual report**
- 3. Receive and consider the annual statement of accounts for the year 2022-23**
- 4. Election of Trustees:**

David Field has agreed to stand for re-election.

David White has resigned as a Trustee and James Pfarr's term as a Trustee has ended.

Jan Dams, Stewart Henderson and Louise Peat agreed to stand for election as Trustees for a three-year period.

At every AGM, one-third of the elected charity trustees shall retire from office (or the number nearest to one-third). The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. Max trustees: 20

Resign: Laura Gardner, Jonathan Pointer, Sarah Patterson, Simon Bruslund, Susie Walker-Munro

Re-elect: Laura Gardner, Jonathan Pointer, Sarah Patterson, Simon Bruslund, Susie Walker-Munro

5. Vice-Presidents:

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

Mark Baker Richard Carden John Corder Tim Lovel Robin Marston
Roger Wheeler Franz Prisching Professor Zhang Zhengwang

6. Independent Examiner:

Richard Alsept has agreed to continue as independent examiner.

7. Any other business

48th WPA Annual General Meeting and Convention

Saturday 9th – Sunday 10th September 2023

Edinburgh Zoo and Fenton Barns

The programme for this year's Convention is now complete and has a Scottish grouse theme which seems appropriate for a meeting held in Edinburgh. On Sunday 10th September, you are invited to visit the outstanding collection of Galliformes at Fenton Barns. Keith Chalmers-Watson and Stewart Henderson are opening their doors for WPA members to enable them to see these magnificent birds.

Apart from the visit to the Zoo we are basing the event close to Fenton Barns. Please let me know if you would like me to book some local accommodation close to Fenton Barns. We have hired a coach to transport delegates from Dirleton to Edinburgh Zoo and back on Saturday 9th September.

If you are using public transport to travel to Edinburgh and would like transport from Edinburgh to accommodation close to Fenton Barns, please contact me and we can arrange to collect you from the station or airport.

Programme:

Friday 8 September

19:00 Dinner at the Castle Inn Dirleton (let Barbara know if you would like to join us)

Saturday 9 September

09:15 Coach Departs Dirleton (let Barbara know if you would like ticket(s))

10:00 Coffee in the education lecture theatre

10:15 Introduction from David Field Zoo CEO at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland

10:45 Alex Ball from RZSS WildGenes – Capercaillie Genetics

11:15 Zoo Tour

12:00 Lunch in the education lecture theatre

13:00 AGM

13:10 Roger Wheeler OBE, retired CEO of RZSS

13:40 Questions

13:45 Stuart Wilson – video footage of Galliformes in the wild

14:15 Questions

14:20 Susie Walker-Munro – Robin Marston and the Pipar Project in Nepal

14:50 Questions

14:55 Fiona Torrance, GWCT – Scottish Grey Partridge Project

15:20 WPA Projects – an update from Jo Gregson, WPA Chair

15:45 Questions

16:00 Coach departs Edinburgh Zoo

19:00 Convention Dinner at the Open Arms, Dirleton (let Barbara know if you would like to book)

Sunday 10 September

10:00 Open Day at Fenton Barns

13:00 Lunch

Booking:

Cost per person:

(a) £40 which includes entry to the Zoo, use of the Lecture Theatre, morning and afternoon tea/coffee and lunch

(b) £32.50 for a three course Dinner at the Open Arms, Dirleton.

(c) £12 return travel to Edinburgh Zoo from Dirleton in a minicoach

(d) £10 lunch at Fenton Barns

Pay by:

BACS: Sort Code 60-83-01, Account Number 20407667

Phone 07935383992 to pay by card

Cheque payable to WPA, post to 62 Beach Road, North Shields, NE30 2QT

Please let Barbara know

(office@pheasant.org.uk), or phone

07935383992 if you would like to reserve a place or if you need additional information.

WPA VOLUNTEERS AT THE SCOTTISH GAME FAIR 2023

Hazel Bell

My Name is Hazel Bell, and I am an Animal care professional. I have had various roles within the industry. I have been working in a small collection as a keeper for over 10 years with domestic and farm animal stock in the city centre of Newcastle upon Tyne. I also do voluntary work at a local zoo collection in Northumberland, and I have applied to do a City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in the Management of Zoo and Aquarium Animals for Volunteers which I will do whilst working full time in my main collection.

Previously I have worked within the industry whilst studying. I have attended both Northumberland college (Kirkley Hall) and East Durham college (Houghall College) completing various Animal care qualifications and courses throughout my career to add to my experience and knowledge.

I started with my current collection in 2013 and over that time they have had surplus Galliformes which have included golden pheasants, Lady Amherst pheasant, Himalayan monal, cheer pheasant, Japanese quail, Chinese quail, peafowl, guineafowl, California quail and turkeys. This was my first experience of working with Galliformes, sadly their welfare needs in my opinion at the time were not as good as they could have been, and I wanted to change that. I wanted to increase both my knowledge to care for them better and the public's perception of pheasants.

Thank you to Steven Sykes- Zoo Manager at Northumberland College who first introduced me to WPA. Sadly, as a city kid, I had not heard of them before as there are not too many pheasants hanging around in Newcastle's West End!

I was invited to attend an event a course for people wishing to increase their knowledge of pheasant keeping which unfortunately was cancelled. However, I was attending the Scottish Game fair in Perth and approached the WPA tent and was welcomed by members Barbara Ingman and Ian Clark. I kept in touch with them, and Ian organised a 'young' pheasant keepers tour of WPA members' collections in Scotland. Ian Clark has always been a keen supporter of new members, opening the world of pheasants to the next generation and I was grateful for this opportunity. I met Zoe Hunter at Allandoo, Keith Chalmers-Watson and Stewart Henderson at Fenton Barns as well as seeing Ian's own collection. Along the way I met other members and asked many questions, I experienced different set ups and different birds, some of which I had only ever seen in books. I made friends with new members and was invited to attend the AGM at the Cotswolds and the rest of it is history.

I wanted to help with fund raising and reaching out to the public about WPA work at the Scottish Game Fair in Perth and help the organisation where I could. I was keen to help support a great charity that preserves these birds for future generations and work with communities in these countries



*Hazel Bell with young visitors making the most of the educational material.
Photo: Paul North*

to work together to achieve this. I found an overwhelming amount of combined experience and knowledge in the members I have met, and every day is a school day for me!

In my non- animal related work, I have many years' experience working with hard-to-reach young people and have worked in deprived areas across Newcastle as a young, play and detached worker. I have learned from this experience to work with limited resources in a child friendly way to reach a younger audience. I am keen to support younger people develop and take an interest in these wonderful birds before it's too late and I have been able to support WPA with children's arts & crafts and look at egg education in order to create an interest in Galliformes across all generations opening them up to a wider range of people.

Dylan McKenzie

Hello, my name is Dylan McKenzie and I am a relatively new WPA member. I recently graduated from Edinburgh Napier University having studied Animal and Conservation Biology, focusing my thesis on the effect of social deprivation on urban bird populations. Since 2016, I have volunteered or worked in several collections through high school and university. This has allowed me to work with more than 160 species of birds, including 20 Galliformes ranging from Spix's guan to ocellated turkey. Last summer I worked at WWT Slimbridge with their spoon-billed sandpipers, allowing me first-hand experience of working with this critically endangered and little-known species. Whilst most of my work has been with wildfowl and waders, I have become increasingly interested in Galliformes and their various threats around the world. Last September, I attended the European conservation breeding group in Leipzig and enjoyed meeting many interesting people there. After the WPA symposium in Indonesia, I am moving to the Philippine Island of Negros to work with the Talarak Foundation on their Negros Big Five project. This includes the captive breeding of endemic deer, hornbills and doves and the monitoring of reintroduced individuals.



YOUNG CONSERVATIONISTS

WPA's page 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 and see your makes!

We would love to see your colouring of the golden pheasant featured in the last issue. Here is a magnificent golden pheasant by Beatrix aged 5.



HANDPRINT PEACOCK

For this craft we are going to make a handprint peacock using paint.

You will need the following items:

Three of four different paint colours

Black pen

Googly eyes or stickers

White paper

Step 1- Paint your hand with one of the paint colours and do four or five hand prints in a fan shape to make the peacocks tail

Step 2- Paint your thumb and part of your palm under you thumb a different colour and make a print in the middle of the fan to make the peacocks body and head

Step 3- Use the other paint colours to make dots on the peacocks tail using you finger

Step 4- Once dry use the pen to draw legs and a beak

Step 5- Add googly eyes, sticker eyes or use a pen to draw eyes

QUAIL UPDATE - Emma Zeale

Last year we incubated and hatched our first quail chicks. Our quail have recently had a house update and now live in what we call the quail palace! They regularly get treated to fresh potted herbs (which last no time at all!) and chopped up fruit and vegetables. The children enjoy collecting the eggs and giving the quails treats. We have a cock called 'FlipFlop' who we can hear crowing throughout the day much to toddler Rory's delight. He still loves the quail and likes to stroke and feed them. He also insists on carrying an egg or two back to the house, resulting in lots of breakages!



RARE ENDANGERED BIRD HATCHES AT HOUSTON ZOO

Kelly Pardy- Houston Zoo, Bird Supervisor

For the first time in 30 years, a wattled curassow hatchling is being raised by its parents at the Houston Zoo. Female wattled curassows typically lay two eggs per clutch. Once their clutch is complete, incubation lasts about 30 days before the chicks hatch out. At the Houston Zoo, the female incubated the eggs exclusively while the male sat guard, perched next to her nest tub. The wattled curassow chick hatched out on April 15, 2023. Wattled curassows are a rare and endangered species, and each hatch is significant. The current Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) population consists of only 25 birds across five organisations, and six of those birds live at Houston Zoo.

Wattled curassows are a very rare bird from the Amazon rainforest and can be found in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, and Peru. Their numbers in the wild are rapidly declining due to habitat loss, hunting, and predation. For the past 20 years, Houston Zoo has been one of the top zoos to successfully breed wattled curassow chicks and increase the numbers of the endangered species in human care. The males are black and have white feathers on the belly, thigh tufts and under-tail coverts and the iconic wattles and knobs, indicative of their name, while the females have a red, brown coloration in the same areas the males have white. Wattled curassows are distinct vocally and produce a whistling that can be easily identified.

The presence of wattled curassows within AZA dates back to almost 150 years ago when the first recorded individual bird arrived at the Philadelphia Zoo in 1874. Although history shows us wattled curassows were present early within AZA history, the most current population of the species dates back to the late 1960's. During this time Busch Gardens Tampa and Houston Zoo became prolific in what would become the founders of the modern population we see in zoos today. The current AZA population comes from a founder-base of five birds, but more than 280 birds have been recorded in AZA since they were first documented at the Philadelphia Zoo. The original Association of Zoos and Aquariums history research and studbook publication was compiled by Jerry Caravoitis, Tim Steinmetz, and Rochelle Plasse at the Houston Zoo in 1996. Since then, the wattled curassow populations within AZA have also been managed by Houston Zoo staff Charlona Ingram and most recently by Kelly Pardy.

The current population of wattled curassows in organisations within the Association of Zoos and Aquariums currently faces an uphill battle to re-build its numbers primarily because of its ageing population of the species and limited space for holders. Despite those challenges in AZA, parent-rearing has increased significantly in the past three to five years for several curassow species including helmeted, blue-billed, and wattled curassows. We are hopeful that parent-rearing these birds will continue to create more opportunity for housing offspring in previously unsuitable enclosures, due to lessened interest



Wattled curassow family
Photo: Jackelin Reyna/Houston Zoo



Wattled curassow chick
Photo: Jackelin Reyna/Houston Zoo

or aggression towards keepers and guests. The Houston Zoo has also successfully parent-reared, blue-billed curassow chicks within the last several years and continues to increase its efforts to help grow all three of these curassow species in the AZA.

Houston Zoo is helping to save wild birds, like the curassows in South America. A portion of each Zoo membership and ticket helps the Zoo provide support for replanting trees in South America. The Zoo is also helping birds by serving Bird Friendly® coffee. Bird Friendly coffees are grown in a way that provides shelter and a variety of foods for birds and other wildlife. Bird Friendly® coffee farms rank just beneath virgin rainforest in terms of their importance as habitat for wild birds.

8th INTERNATIONAL GALLIFORMES SYMPOSIUM

Taman Safari, Prigen, East Java, Indonesia

9 - 13 October 2023

**LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER****Geoffrey Davison**

A keynote address (Dr Jon Paul Rodriguez, IUCN), followed by Indonesian presentations and presentations arranged by themes: ecology; genomics; conservation planning. We have over 120 participants and as usual with such symposia, we have quite a range of participants from professional scientists to interested amateurs, and government and non-government

representatives. Currently we have 32 abstracts for oral presentations, and a number of posters, from 12 countries: Australia, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, United Kingdom, United States, and Vietnam.

The World Pheasant Association has managed to finance or partly finance more than 70 participants, including a large number of early career professionals from developing countries. Some are members of the Galliformes Specialist Group. This has been possible through the generosity of donors, many in an individual/personal capacity.

We are particularly glad to have Dr John Carroll (University of Nebraska) and Dr Rahul Kaul (CEO Wildlife Trust of India), who are the co-chairs of the Galliformes Specialist Group (GSG), and Prof. Darryl Jones (Griffith University) who has been a long-term leader on megapode research. Indonesia is well represented, including exciting field research on the forest-living wattled brushturkey *Aepyodius arfakianus* from Papua, and the Moluccan megapode *Eulipoa wallacei* from Maluku. We hope that such broad participation will encourage continuing activity of the Galliformes Specialist Group. The current symposium is a great example of collaboration between WPA and GSG.

To register, contact the WPA Office

CURASSOWS**Emma Zeale**

Curassows are part of the *Cracidae* family. Four genera are restricted to tropical South America, one species of *Crax* ranges north to Mexico. They are large Galliformes and depending on the species have forward-curling feathers, crests, wattles or knobs on their heads. Males tend to be mostly black with areas of white or other coloured feathers. The females have more variation in their colouration. Curassows have distinctive calls with trills, whistles and booms.

Curassows spend most of their time on the forest floor foraging for fruits, seeds and insects. They may be found in trees to roost at night or calling to advertise their territory. As they spend much of their time on the ground they are often easy prey for other wildlife or hunted for meat. They are also susceptible to habitat destruction. Most species are monogamous and travel in pairs or small groups.

Of the 16 species; one is listed as Extinct in the Wild (*Alagoas curassow*), four are listed as Critically Endangered, two are listed as Endangered, two are listed as Vulnerable, two are listed as Near Threatened, and five are listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List.

WPA Music Festival

LIVE MUSIC - BAR
FOOD - CAMPING

PERFORMANCES BY

**UNCLE MAVIS
THE POTENTIAL
MUDHONEY BLUES**

BROUGHTON BUFFALO FARM
STOCKBRIDGE, SO20 8AN | 1PM - 11PM

TICKETS
GENERAL ADMISSION + DRINK £20
GENERAL ADMISSION + CAMPING £25
UNDER 16S £5

23 SEPTEMBER 2023



Registered Charity No. 1181022

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

**held on Saturday 10th September 2022 at 14:00 at
Cotswold Wildlife Park, Bradwell Grove, Burford, Oxfordshire, OX18 4JJ**

Present: Jo Gregson (Chair) and 20 Members of the Association

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

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

2. WPA Chair, Jo Gregson's Annual Report

My first year as your chair has been a busy and constructive one that I have enjoyed very much. I have strived to expand on our capacity by building our relationships with like-minded organisations. This can only help with survival of the birds we all support. We have collectively worked with EAZA and other Galliformes experts to build a new **collection plan** which will help us make informed decisions regarding the birds we keep and the projects we fund. This will also give us a collective direction. The new document should be available by the end of this year.

Three new **trustees** have been co-opted this year, Jan Dams EAZA Galliformes TAG chair, Stewart Henderson Curator of birds at Fenton Barns, and Louise Peat ex Cotswold Wildlife Park. Each of them brings something new and useful to our table. Mohd Khan Momin will continue as Vice President. Tim Bray resigned earlier in the year; he has left council owing to his private workload.

Promoting the WPA more widely is hot on our agenda. We paid a visit to **Global Birdfair** this year and we are considering plans to have a stall next year or 2024. We could be seen more often at this kind of event and give presentations when there is opportunity.

The **magazine** now includes updates on our projects so members can see how they are progressing, we have also added a children's section for our younger audience.

The WPA **fundraising** team are our mainstay, and they work tirelessly to fund our projects as well as raising interest to encourage new members. Big thank you to you all!

Our projects are picking up again after the covid plague. Work is now continuing on the Vietnam pheasant breeding centre. Water and electricity services have been connected. A perimeter fence is up, and work is beginning on the office and staff accommodation. The advertisement for a curator/manager has gone out, with a view to start someone later this year when the accommodation is ready.

Our **Pipar project** continues at great pace with an excellent survey produced by Laxman Poudyal, it will be published in due course. The survey covers the Pipar and Santel areas, it includes sightings of mammals and other bird species as well as a good account of the habitat.

An aviary is being built at ACCB (Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity, in Cambodia) for the purpose of breeding from **green peafowl** that have been confiscated at customs. The young birds that prove to be suitable birds are to be released. Friedrich Esser of WPA Germany has kindly worked with Christel Griffioen director of ACCB on the design for this aviary.

The **Black-necked pheasant project** has finished the first phase this year. The project has gone very well and created a lot of interest. The habitat for these birds is much improved and we are already having talks to plan the next steps for this project.

There are two **cheer pheasant** projects. Mohammad Naeem Awan manages the protecting safe breeding areas project in Makhaira National Park Pakistan. Rab Nawaz is call counting cheer pheasants in Districts Torghar and Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. The long-term goal is to form one plan for all cheer pheasant projects across the region under the guidance of the IUCN.

Our **maleo project** ended this year. We are looking into the possibility of supporting the ALTO Maleo Project (Alliance for Tompotika Conservation) of Taima, managed by Marcy Summers. This project was set up in 2006 since then the number of birds has quadrupled. They also run a conservation awareness program for local schools.

We continued with our **ex-situ work**. Keith Chalmers-Watson of Fenton Barns and Gavin Harrison of Waddesdon manor have been working hard to set up a move for **Malay peacock pheasants** from Singapore Zoo. There is now a quarantine station at Fenton barns, which is Balai registered. Hopefully birds will come in later this year and will be in the skilled hands of Stewart Henderson through quarantine. Following this, some European birds will be sent to Singapore. These kinds of

moves are incredibly hard to do, but it is so important for us to maintain strong genetic populations while these birds are in our care.

Crestless fireback pheasant has been upgraded to Critically Endangered status. In view of this we are planning to fund some purpose-built breeding aviaries at Prigon Indonesia. Confiscated birds will be kept in these aviaries. WPA will be working with EAZA on a Long Term Management Plan for this species and we plan to send some captive birds to support the new initiative.

The new **Working Groups** are slowly building momentum. The **Tragopan Group** led by Jan Dams, EAZA, and Hannah Ahern, WPA, are researching the DNA of our captive birds. This will lead to hybrids being phased out of our collections. The **Peacock pheasant Group** is led by Luis Carlos Neves of Singapore zoos, with John Corder WPA, and Gavin Harrison WPA, EAZA. The focus is husbandry guidelines and building our ex-situ collections. The **Cracid Group** led by Rik Dams WPA and Ben Phalan Parque das Aves Brazil, are gathering information on cracid collections and field projects. There is also a **Research Group** led by me, with Laura Gardner WPA, Sara Patterson WPA, AZA and Louise Peat who take on the organising of any research that is required. At present that is mostly for the Vietnam pheasant project. As you can see, this is a group of people from varied backgrounds with much experience between them. It is never easy to find people to take on extra roles, I really am grateful for the time they give up for our birds.

We also moved office this year to Beach Roads in North Shields. How that happened without us noticing any bumps is a complete mystery to us all. Well done Barbara and thank you for all the running around you do for us.

3. Receive and consider the trustees' annual report

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

4. Election of Trustees:

Tim Bray and Carla How resigned from Council.

The following were re-elected for a three-year term:

Paul North Geoffrey Davison

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

5. Vice-Presidents:

Mohd Khan Momin Khan Dang Gia Tung Brig Mukhtar Ahmed

agreed to continue as Vice-Presidents for three years.

6. Independent Examiner:

Richard Alsept agreed to continue as independent examiner.

7. Honorary Life Membership

It was unanimously agreed that Paul North and John Corder be awarded Honorary Life Membership in recognition of their valued services to WPA.

8. Any other business

No matters were raised as any other business.



BLACK-NECKED PHEASANT CHARITY SHOOT RAISES OVER £22,000

John Walker

More than 130 friends of the World Pheasant Association travelled to Amesbury in Wiltshire in early May to take part in, organise, or just watch the fun, at the annual south of England charity clay shoot, in support of the Black-Necked pheasant conservation programme in Greece's Nestos Delta.

Acorn Shooting Ground was surrounded by fields of vibrant yellow oilseed rape and with old friendships renewed and new ones made over bacon rolls and coffee, the 108 Guns shooting in 27 teams were briefed by shoot co-ordinator, Des Sturgess, before venturing forth to shoot nine stands of varying degrees of difficulty, none helped by a tricky breeze.



Photo: David White



Top- Enjoying a drink break

Bottom- Rosey Northcote-Smith, Keith Howman and Charlotte Chillcot
Photos: David White

Pairs of incomers, outgoers, loopers, springers and just plain awkward targets thrown from a high tower were supplemented by rabbit and pigeon flushes, each shot in pairs and a more challenging 100-bird four-man flush. John Milne could be found out in the wilds dispensing life-supporting fluids and the noisy business complete, lunch was taken. Matt provided the roast hog, fresh berries came from W B Chambers, Jean Howman provided the groaning cheese board, Alex Halswell and Rosey Northcote-Smith created the salads and Jonti Dampney was on hand extolling the virtues of his remarkable drinks, all overseen by the avuncular President Emeritus, Keith Howman.

After introductory words from WPA Chairman, Jo Gregson, prizes presented after lunch included Top Gun, Alex Drake, the man who missed fewest, and his name will be inscribed on the Simon Gudgeon bronze of a black-necked pheasant while a second bronze of a black grouse for the top team went to the members of the No Hoppers, Mark & Tom Egerton, Robert Smallman and Ray Shepherd. Top Lady Gun went to Victoria Rolph, best on the High Tower was Mark Hann and Greg & Harry Larcombe, Ed White and Mark Mutch of the Grey Wulffs were best on the 4-man flush.

From a combination of sweepstake, raffle, donations and auction, the generosity of many realised a total of over £22,000, a great result for a good cause.

RAIN QUAIL

Paul North

The rain quail (*Coturnix coromandelica*) is one of six species of ground dwelling quail in the genus *Coturnix* that was introduced in 1764 by the French naturalist François Alexandre Pierre de Garsault. The second part of its latin name refers to that area of India, Eastwards from its southern point, known as the coromandel coast.

As with other members of this genus it is widely spread being found in Pakistan East to Myanmar and North & Central Thailand and South through India. A recent report of at least ten rain quail being seen at Prek Ta Sek in Cambodia with an incubating bird and a further four found at Koh Touch extends its range considerably.



A rain quail looking for a mate

Photo: Hari K Patibanda via Flickr 22 July 2020 (CC BY 2.0)

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 APRIL 2023

Richard Alsept

Total income for the year increased slightly to £160,190 (2022: £147,135).

Income from trading activities and events totalled £85,068 (2022: £94,745), which included from membership subscriptions of £8,696. Income in the year relating to the Symposium was £34,930.

Expenditure for the year was £145,018 (2022: £115,735). The main reason for this increase in expenditure was the increase in project and conservation related expenditure, including Symposium costs of £24,243 and conservation project expenditure of £16,806.

Overall, there was a small surplus for the year on activities of £11,451 (2022: £35,186). This meant that at the end of the year, total charitable reserves were £224,865. Of this amount, £79,910 was allocated to specific restricted projects, leaving £144,955 in the general reserve.

The charity continued to invest with the M&G Charifund, and 30th April 2023 reserves of £167,104 were invested with that fund.

Achievements and performance

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

Pipar Project, Nepal

The Himalayas are home to WPA's longest running project, a community-based conservation program in the Annapurna region of Nepal. Since 1979, WPA has been monitoring Pipar's forests and Galliformes, and providing support for villages and schools in the surrounding area.

Countrywide Survey of swamp francolin *Ortygornis gularis* in Nepal

Swamp francolin was once thought to be present throughout the Nepal lowlands, but now it is restricted to Shuklaphanta National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, where it is a local resident. The project aims to estimate the population status of swamp francolin, to lay out the distribution map of swamp francolin and to identify the existing threats to Swamp Francolin conservation in Nepal.

Recovering the maleo in the field and in the community

The overall objectives of this project are to continue existing efforts of the Alliance for Tompotika Conservation, Sulawesi (ALTO). ALTO aims to facilitate increases in maleo populations in the wild, and to continue outreach that builds popular understanding and support for maleo conservation. They aim to protect maleo nesting grounds and assess potential for new maleo conservation projects as well as arranging school programs, field trips, festivals and world maleo day.

Vietnamese Pheasant Reintroduction Program

WPA is represented on the Vietnam Pheasant Species

Recovery Team 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

An action plan to conserve the last remaining population of pure-bred wild pheasants in Europe. WPA is working 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 Torgar and Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

The project will determine the population status and distribution of cheer pheasant in Oghi and Torgar 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.

Breeding aviaries for Malay crestless fireback at Prigen Conservation Breeding Ark, Java

The long-term objective of the project is to set up a viable captive population of Malay crestless fireback pheasants (*Lophura erythrophthalma*). 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.

Grouse Conference

A conference in May 2023 aimed to encourage projects to try and reverse the current rapid decline in capercaillie,

ptarmigan, black and red grouse and present the latest research and advice relevant to their conservation. A wide-ranging programme highlighted the pressures on Scotland's grouse species, not least climate change, disease, disturbance, failure to agree on the way forward among 'stakeholders', emerging land management regimes such as 'green washing' and carbon offsetting, extensive afforestation, and political change and its unintended consequences impacting on conservation effort.

8th International Galliformes Symposium

Eminent research scientists will present papers at 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 9 -13 October 2023. 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.

RAFFLE TICKETS

UK registered charity 1181022

We are delighted to be able to offer a unique opportunity to win this beautiful original painting of Malay crestless fireback pheasants (*Lophura erythrophthalma*) in the wild, by Jonathan Pointer, valued at £5,000.

The framed original painting measures approx. 47cm by 34cm.

The photo below shows Jonathan working on the painting.

Raffle tickets can be purchased from office@pheasant.org.uk or telephone Barbara Ingman on 07935383992 and at WPA events.

Ticket price £5 – the tickets are limited to 1000. Raffle tickets will be posted to you on receipt of payment.

Details of Jonathan's work can be seen at: <http://www.pointer-wildlife-art.co.uk/>

We hope you will support this fundraising raffle. All proceeds will be used for our vital conservation work. The winner will be drawn on Saturday 3 February 2024 at the CBAG meeting. Participants will be informed of the name of the winner by email or phone shortly after the draw.

The species has recently been assessed as critically endangered by IUCN Redlist and is at imminent risk of extinction in the wild. Being distributed not only on the Malay Peninsula but also on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, the species falls right into our focus on highly threatened Indonesian species.



MONITORING TICKS ON GROUSE ARE THEY ON THE INCREASE?

Kathy Fletcher, GWCT



This article was originally published on the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust blog <https://www.gwct.org.uk/blogs/uplands-blog/2023/july/monitoring-ticks-on-grouse-are-they-on-the-increase/>

The late May bank holiday is never much of a holiday for our Scottish uplands research team. This date often marks the start of our grouse chick-catching period. There is a window of just a few weeks to get around all the study areas to record the tick burdens – before the chicks are large enough to fly away from us.



*Adult grouse watching over brood we caught
Photo: GWCT*

The effect of mountain hare abundance on tick burdens

Reducing tick levels is an important component of grouse moor management, particularly in areas where the tick-borne diseases such as louping ill virus can cause high mortality for grouse chicks. Sheep are often treated with acaricides to act as tick mops and management also aims to reduce or exclude wild hosts e.g. deer and mountain hares to break the tick life cycle. The mountain hare has been fully protected in Scotland since 2021, making killing of mountain hares illegal unless a licence is granted to prevent damage to forestry, or for habitat restoration.

There is concern among some stakeholders that without management of hare populations their numbers will increase, which in turn may lead to higher tick burdens for ground-nesting birds (particularly grouse and wader species), even on moorland where sheep are regularly treated with acaricides.

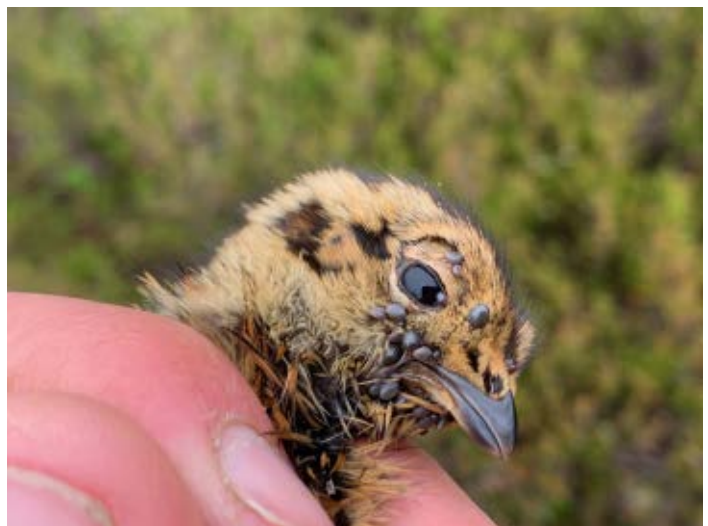
This summer was the second of a five-year project to investigate the relationship between tick burdens on chicks and mountain hare abundance in the Scottish Highlands. Using trained pointing dogs and thermal imaging binoculars, we searched for red grouse broods when chicks were between 5 and 20 days old. At this stage, chicks are foraging in vegetation for insects and are particularly prone to picking up ticks (mainly the larvae and nymph stages).

The thermal imaging binoculars, purchased with kind donations from the World Pheasant Association and Keith Howman, make our job much easier. Although they worked best in the early mornings when the air temperature was lower, we were still able to spot adult grouse from hill tracks later in the day. When we leave the vehicle to approach the adults, the binoculars were also useful to spot the chicks in clumps of vegetation. When the first chick is picked up it often calls, which can lead to the other chicks jumping from their hiding spots to run away in different directions. At that stage a low-tech pond-dipping net comes in handy!

On the study areas with no hill tracks, we use our trained pointing dogs to search for the grouse broods. Most of the work this year was done by nine-year-old Irish setter Mission. Once he “sets” he is a statue, even when the parent grouse try to distract him by fluttering around nearby.

Counting ticks

Once caught, we examined each chick’s head and counted the number of ticks we could see, then measured wing length and weight so we can look at body condition. This year the tick burdens were higher than we recorded across the same sites last year, with the worst case being a chick with 78 ticks attached. Overall, of the 217 broods examined, only 12% were free of tick in 2023, compared to 25% being free of tick in 2022. Hopefully, some of the grouse chicks we saw will make it to fledging, but for some the high tick burdens may result in death. Our time on the hill also highlights to us the importance of checking for ticks on ourselves (and our dogs) and watching out for the symptoms of Lyme disease should we get bitten.



*Heavily tick-infested grouse chick
Photo: GWCT*

DANIEL GIRAUD ELLIOT AND A MONOGRAPH OF THE PHASIANIDAE (1872)

John Grimshaw

Last year marked the 150th anniversary of the publication of a remarkable work on pheasants, D.G. Elliot's *A Monograph of the Genus Phasianidae*, which ranks amongst the most magnificent bird books of all time.

Daniel Giraud Elliott (1835-1915) was born in New York City, to wealthy parents, and rapidly became interested in birds: he went on to be an internationally respected ornithologist and later mammologist, with the credits of being the founder of the American Ornithologists' Union (1883), a scientific founder of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, and first Curator of Zoology at the Field Museum, Chicago. His independent wealth made it possible for him to travel extensively, and he lived largely in Europe 1869-1883.

The middle decades of the 19th Century, amid the prosperity and confidence of the Victorian era, saw a great desire to explore the exotica of a rapidly opening world. Natural history publications flourished and at their upper level they became magnificent multi-volume illustrated works of large size, a trend started by John James Audubon's *Birds of America* (1827-38) printed from copper plates onto double elephant folio sheets that measured 99 x 66 cm. While this epic work was in progress the artist-poet Edward Lear produced his ground-breaking *Illustrations of the Family Psittacidae, or Parrots* (1830-32), which reproduced life-like images (much more so than Audubon's) by lithography. In this process the artist draws directly onto a slab of highly polished limestone with wax pencil; when wetted, and then inked, the ink remains only on the waxed portion, enabling precision outlines to be printed direct from the artist's drawing. The British ornithologist John Gould saw the potential and commenced his series of huge folio, multi-volume works that continued into the 1880s. Botanists followed suit, with Joseph Hooker's *Rhododendrons of Sikkim-Himalaya* (1849-51) and H.J. Elwes's *Monograph of the Genus Lilium* (1877-1880) being notable examples.

It was in this tradition that Elliot published a series of large folio-sized ornithological monographs illustrated by his own lithographs: *A Monograph of the Tetraoninae or Family of the Grouse* (1865), *A Monograph of Pittidae* (1867), *Birds of North America* (1866-69). Although competent he was not a great bird artist – his subjects tend to look a bit tubby. His obituarist R.M. Chapman recorded that 'Recognising his own limitations as an artist...' he commissioned others to illustrate his later works, the first of which was the *Monograph of the Phasianidae*.



Pavo muticus plate from Elliot's *Monograph of the Phasianidae*

These 'others' were the German-born Joseph Wolf (1820-99), still accounted one of the greatest of all wildlife artists, and the Dutch John Gerrard Keulemans (1842-1919). Most of the 81 plates in '*Phasianidae*' were by Wolf, with one or two by Keulemans. They were assisted by Wolf's long-term collaborator Joseph Smit (1836-1929, also Dutch), who transferred the drawings to the lithographic stones. All were resident in London, as Elliot must have been at the time. Wolf made many drawings of pheasants in charcoal and watercolour before preparing the final paintings to be lithographed. Although the monograph was published in New York, it is evident that the plates were produced in England, as they are all attributed to M. & N. Hanhart, a company of lithographic printers in London noted for their natural history work.

The unsung heroes, though more likely heroines, of the production of these lavish works were the colourists responsible for precision colouring of the plates by hand in watercolour. Although printing in colour had been developed in Europe to a high degree of accuracy by the 1850s, the upper echelons of natural history publications

continued to use hand-colouring as it enabled the precise rendition of colours, and undoubtedly had a cachet that could be reflected in the prices charged. As a result, each plate was effectively an individual painting, completed by highly experienced though probably poorly paid women, copying from a model provided by the artist. This seems to have usually been done on a production-line basis, with one person doing say the green bits, another the red, and so on. The standard of work was incredibly high, and one has only to look at the plates to gain intense admiration for these anonymous people. Gradations of colour across single feathers are precisely rendered, and the vermiculation of the plumage of for example the Lineated Pheasant is miraculous. The 79 great plates illustrating the species, on sheets 60 × 46 cm, representing many of the birds at life size, are the glory of the work, and are much sought after. Two others were not coloured and show comparative anatomical details across a range of species.

Phasianidae was issued in six parts between 1870 and 1872, to form two volumes: the mostly gentlemen purchasers would have had their copies bound up to fit their libraries. A list of subscribers is given, accounting for 119 copies – only two of these were women! It seems that only 150 copies were produced. I can find no information about the original price, but it would have been high and affordable only to the very well-heeled. The aristocratic names in the subscribers list are evidence of this: numerous British peers, His Highness the Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Theodore Roosevelt and the wonderfully named Baldwin Bastard JP were among their number. It would be interesting to know how many of their descendants retain their copies.

Inevitably this is now an extremely rare and valuable book. As I write in January 2023, Arader Galleries of New York City is offering a magnificently bound complete copy for \$180,000. Over the years there have been various editions of the plates, including a current set available from Heritage Prints together or separately (\$189 each). A full set was

issued in 1988 as part of a luxury, limited publication by the Allen Publishing Company of Kingston-upon-Hull, that included reproductions of Wolf's original drawings, while the grandly named *Birds of Daniel Giraud Elliot* (Ariel Press, 1979) contains only twelve of the plates. Most usefully, in 2017 the German publishing house Fines Mundi GmbH issued a complete facsimile in two volumes, possibly the only one to contain all the text as well as the plates. Although the very well reproduced plates are reduced to 44 x 30 cm this is still a large, handsome pair of volumes, available from the publisher at the much more affordable price of €259.

Separate original plates are usually available through print sellers, though generally at prices ranging between four to five figures, depending on the desirability of the subject and the quality of the copy. Occasionally they appear on eBay, where the price may be lower: there are a couple listed as I write, a Pucheran's guineafowl for £400 and Soemmering's pheasant at £800. Bargains may occasionally be found: I acquired a green peacock plate for £90 a few years ago (currently listed at \$14,000 by an American dealer). To check authenticity there are two things to consider: plate size (some reproductions are smaller than the original, though originals may have been cut down for framing or binding), and the nature of the colouring. In a hand-coloured original the colour appears as a uniform wash (and would come off on the tip of a damp cotton-bud, for example), whereas in any printed version the colour will be laid down in tiny polygons, easily observed with a magnifying glass. Try it on this page.

Having recently purchased the Fines Mundi reprint I have had a chance to read the text, usually missing from separately purchased plates or reproductions. It is of course a period piece, a review of all the knowledge about pheasants available at that time, which in many cases was not much. Observations of travellers and sportsmen make up much of the natural history, and most of the descriptions (and indeed the illustrations) are based on skins rather than living birds. Taxonomy has moved on a lot: many of the generic names used are now obsolete, and Elliot includes turkeys and guineafowl. This really is a window into the past: Père Armand David was still active as naturalist-missionary in mainland China, and Robert Swinhoe was still British Consul in Formosa, as Taiwan was then called. He was energetic in investigating the fauna of both Taiwan and the adjacent mainland China coast, and while the Monograph was appearing published two new species, which we now call Darwin's koklass pheasant, and Elliot's pheasant. The latter must have pleased Daniel greatly and he managed to get plates of both into his work: he could rightly be proud of the fact that every taxon of pheasant known at that date was included and illustrated by the best bird artists of the day.



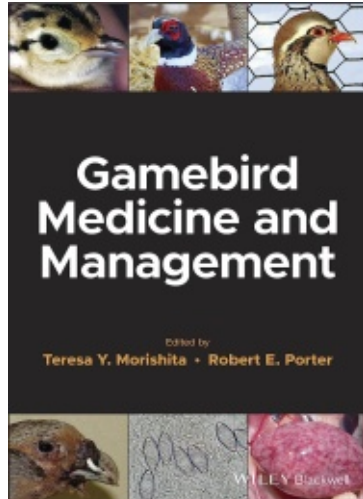
Euplocomus swinhoei plate from Elliot's *Monograph of the Phasianidae*

NEW BOOK

Teresa Y. Morishita & Robert E. Porter. 2022.

Gamebird Medicine and Management. A complete and authoritative reference covering the management of gamebirds and exhibition Galliformes in health and disease.

John Wiley & Sons, Inc.,
New York. Pp. xviii + 381.
ISBN:9781119712213 |
Online
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DOI:10.1002/9781119712244



This relatively new book is available either as a print version or an e-book, and can be ordered through the publisher's website (www.onlinelibrary.wiley.com). A team of authors discuss gamebirds for veterinary practitioners, gamebird producers, breeders and conservationists, as well as other avian health professionals. The book covers common diseases affecting gamebirds and offers management and production information. The authors combine relevant material from avian veterinarians, commercial production professionals, and experts from the conservation and captive breeding sectors, that enables veterinarians, gamebird producers, and conservationists to develop diagnostic and treatment plans for small or large gamebird flocks.

Twenty chapters consider anatomy, physiology, housing and handling, nutrition, biosecurity, diseases (respiratory, digestive, musculoskeletal and neurological, integumental, toxicology), and post-mortem study. Guineafowl, peafowl and "exhibition galliforms" are each treated in separate chapters, with a final chapter on conservation.

UPDATE: MALAY CRESTLESS FIREBACK

Stewart Henderson

The Malay crestless project has been setup with some likeminded people so as to help conserve this wonderful species, it is thought to be in serious danger of going extinct in the wild with very few birds being seen in their natural environment.

In 2022 when we formed this group from the information we have been sent from private breeders (this is why the census is so very important), there were 118 adult birds being held throughout Europe and the UK held across 30 breeders. In 2022 there was a total of 54 young reared which is a great result, however the 2023 season doesn't look so great at the moment with only one chick being reared in the UK and only maybe 30 in Europe, but we hope this is not showing the whole picture as we are still waiting on a few breeders so send in their information.

The group is currently contacting breeders to conduct a genetic test via feather sampling to determine relatedness throughout the captive species held within Europe and the UK. The samples are to be sent to Antwerp Zoo in Belgium, this will then hopefully provide us with enough information to pair up certain individuals to give us the best chance of breeding and increasing the species. However, this information probably won't be available until very late in the year or more than likely not until next year.

If anyone is holding these birds and is interested in joining the project and wishes to send samples of their own birds to us that hasn't already been contacted, please get in contact with either myself or Dirk Callbaut we can then advise on the best way to go forward.

UPDATE: CENSUS

Stewart Henderson

I hope everyone has a successful and enjoyable 2023 breeding season, ours has turned out to be a relatively busy one although most species were quite in late in starting due to the cold weather. Hopefully many of you see the results we have had at the open day which is being held in conjunction with the WPA AGM which is being held on the 9th and 10th September, this looks to be an informative and enjoyable weekend, I hope to see as many of you as possible.

The 2023 Census is due to be sent out to all our members in August, never has doing this documentation been so important to show the relevant authorities what Galliformes are kept by private breeders and the zoo industry. The laws and legislation towards keeping birds in captivity seem to be always changing, so for us to try and challenge these new issues we are facing it is paramount that we have as much information as possible.

Last year's census showed some quite worrying statistics regarding a few species i.e. the Malay crested fireback *Lophura rufa* (Vielliots fireback) only showing a couple of pairs being held in the UK, as well as the cheer pheasant (*Catreus wallichii*) and the koklass pheasant (*Pucrasia macrolopha*), although the cheer pheasant I can understand due to it being such a noisy bird breeders are unwilling to keep such birds due to neighbours complaining.

If anyone has any questions regarding the census, please don't hesitate to contact me at

Email: stewart_fbpheasants@yahoo.com tel: 07853959714



Bare-faced curassow

Photo: Dennis Jarvis via Flickr on 116 February 2020 (CC BY SA 2.0)



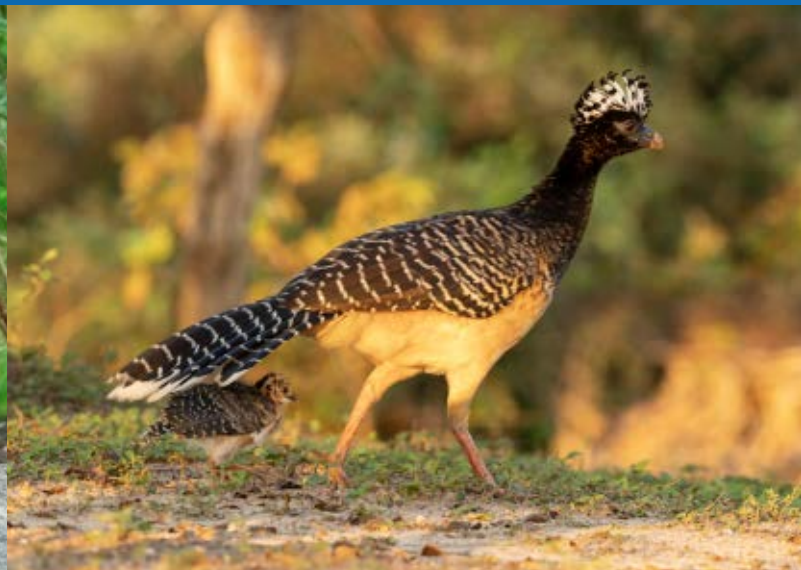
Wattled curassow

Photo: Jackelin Reyna/Houston Zoo



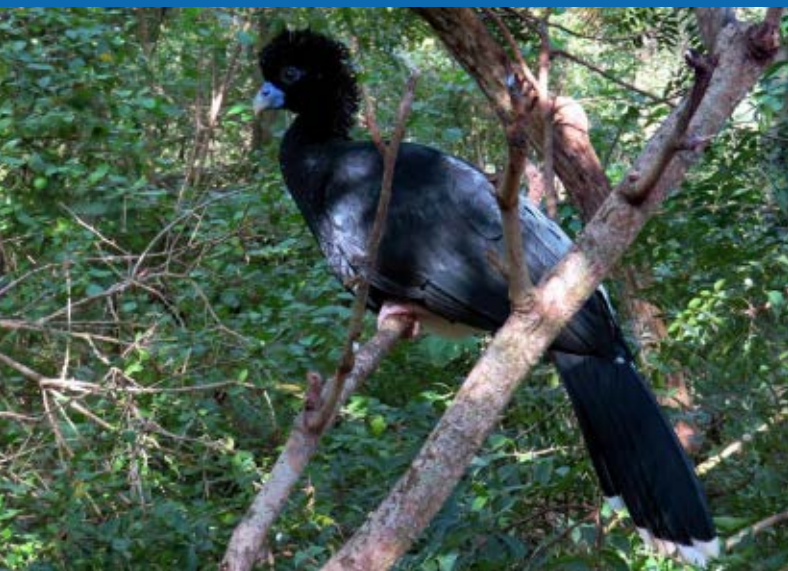
Wattled curassow

Photo: Jackelin Reyna/Houston Zoo



Bare-faced curassow mother and chick

Photo: Kandukuru Nagarjun via Flickr on 22 August 22 (CC BY 2.0)



Blue-billed curassow

Photo: David Stanley via Flickr on 30 March 2023 (CC BY 2.0)



Black curassow

Photo: Charles Patrick Ewing via Flickr on 4 May 2016 (CC BY 2.0)