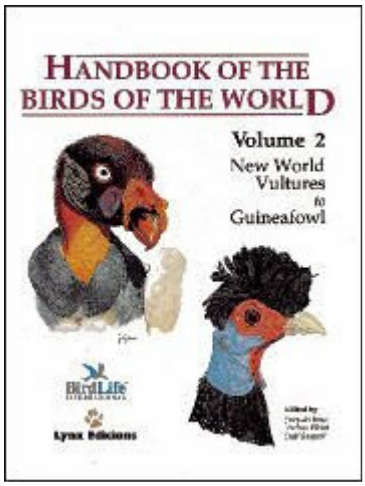
PHEASANT

Species Account

Genera of pheasants of the world

Blood Pheasants	Genus Ithaginis
Tragopan Pheasants	Genus Tragopan
Koklass Pheasants	Genus Pucrasia
Monal Pheasants	Genus Lophophorus
Junglefowls	Genus Gallus
Eared Pheasants	Genus Crossoptilon
Gallopheasants	Genus Lophura
Cheer Pheasants	Genus Catreus
Long-tailed Pheasants	Genus Syrmaticus
True Pheasants	Genus Phasianus
Ruffed Pheasants	Genus Chrysolophus
Peacock Pheasants	Genus Polyplectron
Crested Argus	Genus Rheinartia
Great Argus	Genus Argusianus
Peafowls	Genus Pavo
Congo Peacock	Genus Afropavo



Adapted from Johnsgard (1999) Pheasant of the World
Also consult Handbook of the Birds of the World - volume 2" del Hoyo, J., J., Elliott, A. Sargatal, J. eds. (1994) Lynx Edicions, Barcelona, Spain

1. Blood Pheasants

This is the most alpine of the genera, usually inhabiting a region close to the snowline, ranging from above 4575 meters in the summer to about 2750 meters in the winter. Their range covers the Himalayas from western Nepal, east to the mountains of south-central China. An isolated group exists in north-central China. They are usually found above the timber line and use thickets of brush cover.

Blood pheasants are monogamous and not easy to raise in captivity. Several breeders in Western Europe have had considerable success raising them in captivity using natural mating methods, artificial nutrition, and artificial incubators. Most of the pictures being presented in this site are from photographs taken at private captive breeding facilities in the Benelux and in Germany.

They have not been listed by the IUCN on any endangered species list. Blood pheasants are on appendix B of the CITES for the EC.

Bloadpheasant (Ithaginis cruentus) is a great partridge-liked bird living in the alpine altitudes of the Himalayas in India, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Burma and China, where it is still plentiful and tame, when not harassed by man.

Bloadpheasant are gregarious, ground-dwelling birds, found in conveys, anything from 5 up to 30 strong, on steep hillsides with pine, rhododendron, ringtail bamboo, etc..at 3000-4300 m. elevation.

Nests in the wilds are made on the ground, but in captivity they also may lay eggs in baskets, 1-2 m above the ground.

Breeding season in Europe is from April till May. A good hen may lay 5-12 eggs, with incubation period of 29 days. During courtship cock puffs out feathers and with crest erect struts in front of hen. In captivity these birds become very tame.

Bloadpheasants have only been imported very occasionally and most of them died soon after importation (if not, already underway). Most bloadpheasants that reached the west were shipped from Nepal to UK, Switzerland and to the USA in the course of the last 25 years. In all these countries, aviculturists lost the species due to wrong captive management.

Luckily, some offspring reached several capable breeders in the Benelux and in Germany where the species, is being propagated with reasonable success. Young's are being bred in captivity year after year, proving the fact that it is possible to keep and breed this species in captivity. They are prone to a few endo-parasite infections, which must be kept under control, if one wants to breed from the species.

McGowan and Garson (1995) report that the subspecies clarkei/kuseri/rocki/hoptilus and marionae are now considered as vulnerable. In China, bloadpheasants get national protection status (2nd Class) whereas in India they are on Schedule 1. Some men believe that the total number is more than 10000, but they are probably declining everywhere except in Bhutan. In some areas in their native habitat they are still hunted for food.
The above mentioned subspecies of the bloadpheasant are now classified as a vulnerable by the IUCN. The EC has listed the whole species on appendix B.

The Game Bird and Waterfowl Pages © 1997 – 2000

2. Tragopan Pheasants

There are five distinct species of the tragopans. They are among the most colorful of pheasants and are found along the Himalayas from Kashmir through Myanmar to central and southeastern China at elevations from 925 to 3650 meters. Tragopans are forest birds and are among the few pheasants that nest above the ground (arboreal). All the males have a colorful bib, which expands during display, and two fleshly expandable horns on its head. The birds of this genus are sometimes referred to as the horned pheasants. Tragopans do a great deal of nest building using twigs and leaves. The hens lays three to four eggs which have an incubation time of twenty-eight to twenty-nine days.
Cabot's, Blyth's and western have been listed on the endangered species list by the IUCN and 4 species have been listed by CITES.

western tragopan	Tragopan melanocephalus
satyr tragopan	Tragopan satyra
Temminck's tragopan	Tragopan temmincki

Blyth's tragopan (2 subspecies) Tragopan blythi
Cabot's tragopan (2 subspecies) Tragopan caboti

Frontal view of 3 males tragopan
left Cabot's
middle cross breed Temminck's x Cabot's
right Temminck's

Dorsal view of 3 males tragopan
left Cabot's
middle cross breed Temminck's x Cabot's
right Temminck's

Headstudy of 3 juvenile males tragopan
under Temminck's
middle cross-breed Temminck's x Cabot's
upper Cabot's pheasant

Some pictures of the natural surroundings of Tragopans in China:

2.1 Western Tragopan

One male Western Tragopan

This endangered species occurs is Pakistan and in several states in North Western India. Efforts are continuing through support of the World Wildlife Fund in both Pakistan (Pakistan Nations Wildlife Council) and in India (Himachal Pradesh) for the propagation and eventual

replanting of this endangered species. It is understood that there are still no breeding birds in Europe or North America at the present time.

Hand painting of one male western tragopan
by Dr. Suresh Singh, Lucknow, India

2.2 Tragopan satyra

Dr. Suresh Singh with hand-painting of
one male satyr tragopan in Lucknow, India

Satyr Tragopans have been reported to be shy and wary in the wild. Some birds, found singly, or in pairs, sometimes in larger family groups in oak and rhododendron forests on steep hillsides in India (Garhwal) Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh at elevations of 2450-4250 m. There are also good reports of satyr tragopan in adjacent areas in China. Young males tragopans one year old develop red color on neck and breast. Satyr tragopan is a good breeder in captivity when it becomes tame. We have bred many young satyr tragopans in the course of the last 15 years using artificial insemination to get the highest possible fertility rates. All young's have been sent to other private collections and zoos in Europe, South Africa and Latin America.

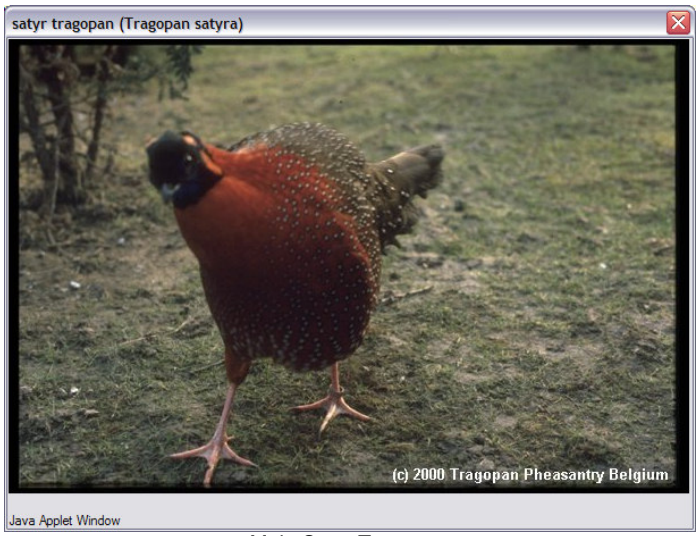
McGowan and Garson (1995) report that satyr tragopans are common in Bhutan but are thought to be declining elsewhere. The species is now considered as "near-threatened". More field surveys in the natural distributional areas of this species should be undertaken and more efforts should be undertaken in its native country to more effectively protect the species. The species is still being hunted in Nepal and the species should be more used as flagship in forest conservation and education campaigns in appropriate parts of Nepal and India.

The present captive population has been derived from imports of wild-taken birds, being imported in the late seventies in the US and in the Benelux. Attention should be paid to carefully mange the present captive stocks to maintain the current genetic diversity and to prevent hybridization with other tragopan species, such as Temminck's and Blyth's"s.

Satyr tragopan are on the 1st Class national protection status both in China as India as well. The IUCN has classified this species as vulnerable. Satyr tragopan is on appendix III of CITES.

Wattle engorgement in one male Satyr Tragopan
at the collection of Francy Hermans

Lateral displaying male Satyr Tragopan
at the collection of Francy Hermans



Male Satyr Tragopan
at the collection of Francy Hermans

Adult pair Satyr Tragopan
at the collection of Francy Hermans

Male Satyr Tragopan

Pair Satyr Tragopan

2.3 Temminck's Tragopan

Headstudy of on adult male Temminck's Tragopan
at the colection of Francy Hermans

Temminck's tragopan (Tragopan temminckii), has the widest natural distributional area from all of the 5 representatives of the genus Tragopan. It occurs in China and India where it has been seen in thick evergreen forests in North-East Assam and Arunuchal Pradesh, further North Eastward into China., and like Blyth's this pheasant is very arboreal, living, usually single or in a party of 2-3 only. The species is now a prolific breeder in captivity and many rate it the most beautiful of all tragopans. New stock birds were imported into the west mainly efforts being undertaken by the San Diego Zoo, which received new stock birds from various Chinese zoos in the early eighties. Simultaneously, more such birds became exported from China to Japan, from where offspring were shipped to continental Europe. Since then, this tragopan has become the most prolific breeder of all tragopans in western captivity.

They readily hybridize with Satyr and Cabot's. It is said that more then half of s'world's present captive population is now in the USA.. Rimlinger of the San Diego Zoo, USA has described in detail the nature of various displays in Temminck's tragopan. It is believed that essentially all five species of tragopans have a similar display which is both frontal and lateral.

Slightly smaller than the Satyr, which it resembles superficially. It is bright crimson, both above and below, but differing in having pearl-grey ocelli on the upper-parts and not white as in Satyr. Both face and throat patch are bright blue, and the under-part has large, triangular, pearl-grey spots.

We have bred many Temminck's tragopans using artificial mating methods. Temminck's chicks are more easy to rear than any other tragopan in captivity. We have sent lots of Temminck's all over Europe and Latin America.

Temminck's tragopan has not been classified by the IUCN and is not threatened with extinction in the wild. The EC has listed Temminck's on list D, which means that the import of specimens into its territory must be notified to the competent authorities within the EC.

Displaying male Temminck's Tragopan
at the colection of Francy Hermans

Male Temminck's Tragopan

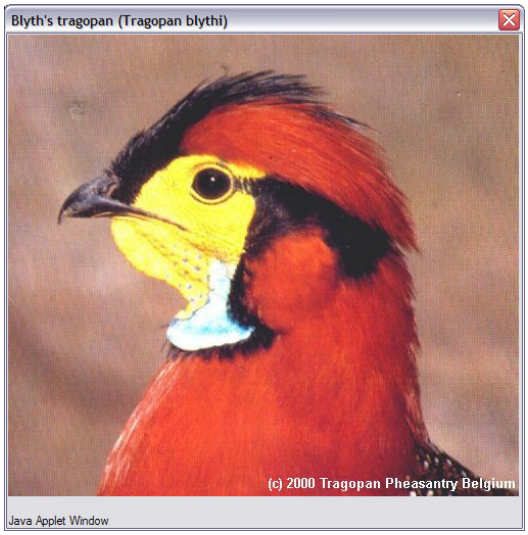
Male Temminck's Tragopan

Male Temminck's Tragopan

Male Temminck's Tragopan

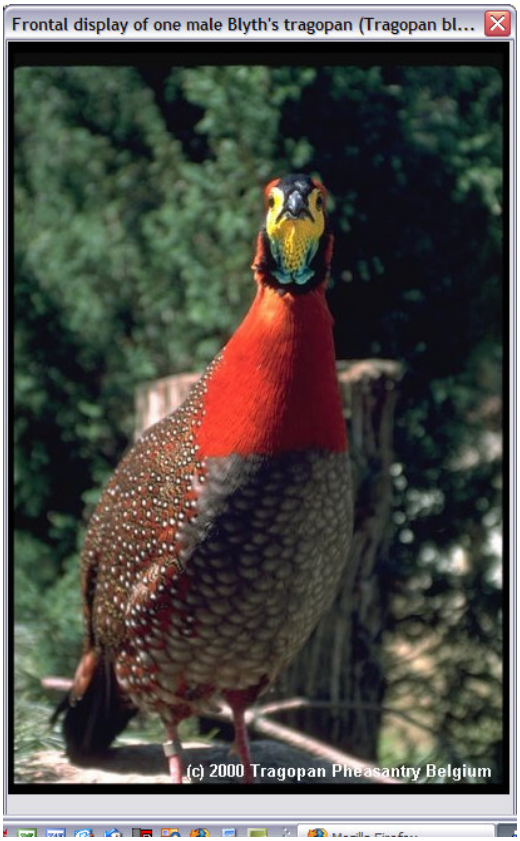

Temminck's Tragopan headstudy

2.4 Blyth's Tragopan

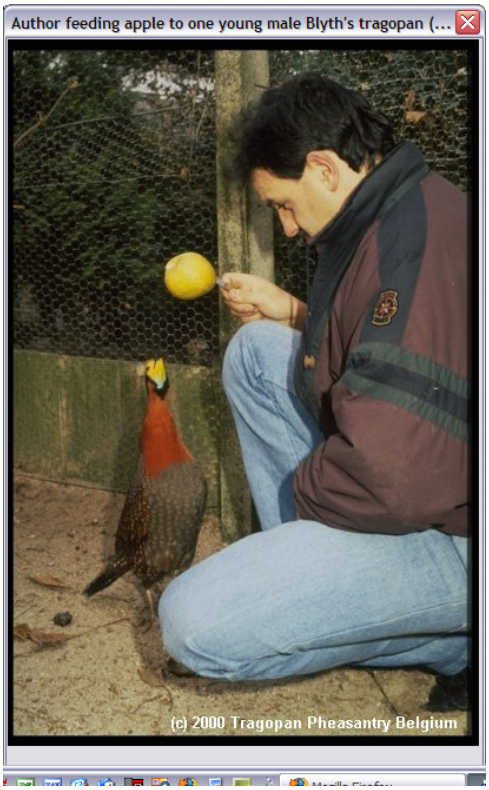


This species is now considered endangered at least in the case of its nominate Indian race. The status of the perhaps even rarer other race molesworthy is unknown, but the latter is effectively protected in Bhutan and Tibet by religious tradition. there are less than 100 captive birds worldwide, most or all of which are descended from a few birds being shipped from India during the last two decades. We have bred Blyth's Tragopans in Belgium using artificial insemination. We believe that if no new birds from India, China or Burma will be shipped in the course of the next coming years that the present captive population will inevitably die out due to lack of genetic diversity in the present captive stock.

Lateral view of one adult male Blyth's Tragopan
at the collection of Francy Hermans



Frontal display of one male Blyth's tragopan
at the collection of Francy Hermans



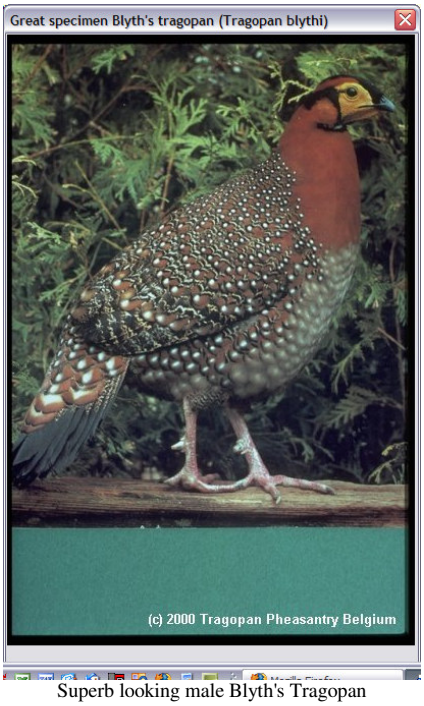
Francy Hermans feeding apple
to one of his adult males Blyth's Tragopan

Juvenile male Blyth's Tragopan
bred by using artificial insemination
at the collection of Francy Hermans

Lateral displaying male Blyth's Tragopan
at the collection of Francy Hermans

Juvenile captive-bred male Blyth's tragopan

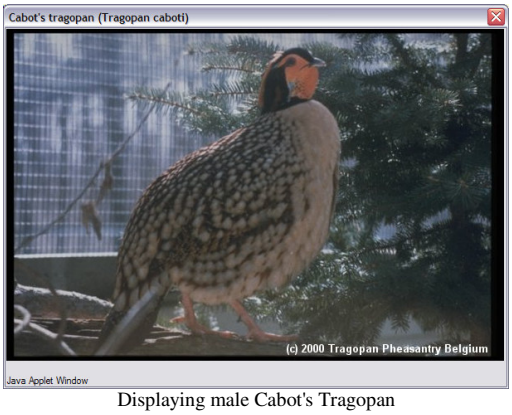
Juvenile pair Blyth's tragopan



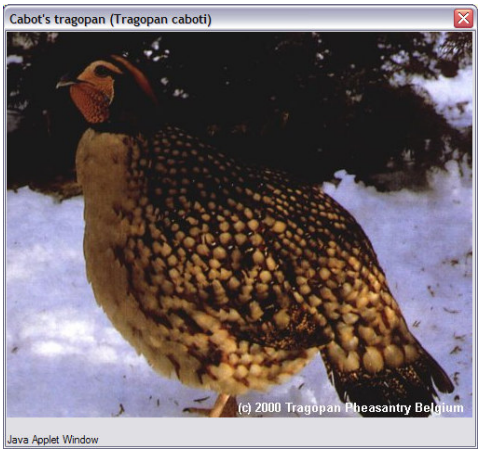
Superb looking male Blyth's Tragopan

Male Blyth's tragopan

2.5 Cabot's Tragopan

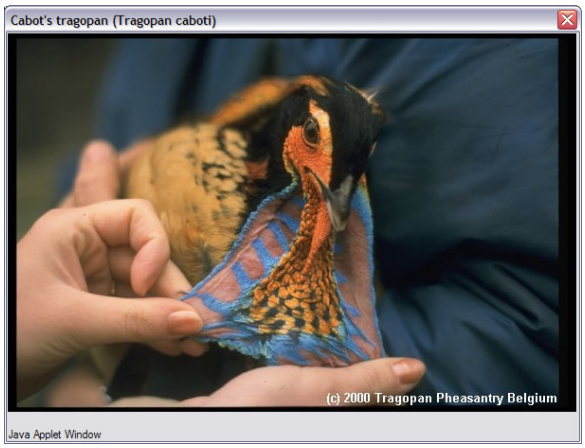


Displaying male Cabot's Tragopan
during a winter afternoon



This species is now considered vulnerable rather than endangered, and its known overall range has been somewhat expanded. As of 1995 there were an estimated 125 captive individuals worldwide (McGowan and Garson, 1995). Probably the largest captive breeding population in the world is currently at the Beijing Breeding Center for Endangered Species. Almost all individuals of the western captive population have been derived from stock birds which were imported in the early 1960's via the former Pheasant Trust in U.K.. Since the early 1980's several hundred young's were bred in North America using artificial insemination, producing genetic unhealthy offspring, which was distributed worldwide. Happily new stock birds from China have been imported into the West. It it is now hoped that these new Chinese birds will revitalize the current inbred western stock.

Wild female Cabot's tragopan
incubating her eggs in China



Headstudy of one adult male Cabot's Tragopan
at the collection of FRancy Hermans

Juvenile male Cabot's Tragopan
bred by artificial insemination
at the collection of Francy Hermans

Displaying male Cabot's Tragopan
at the collection of Francy Hermans

Lateral view of one adult male
Cabot's Tragopan

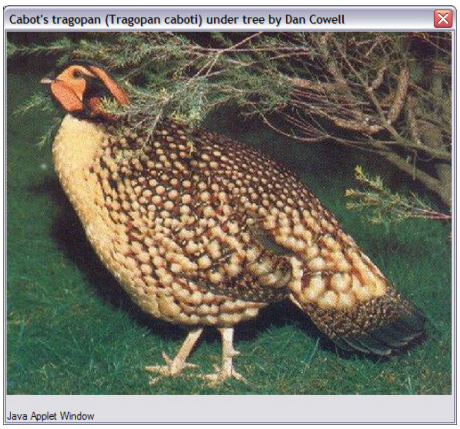
Lateral view of displaying male Cabot's Tragopan
at the collection of Francy Hermans

Dorsal view of displaying male
Cabot's Tragopan

Young Cabot's tragopan
at Tagopan Pheasantry Belgium

Lateral view of juvenile captive-bred male Cabot's tragopan.
The orbital skin in species is becoming orange at this age.

Young pair Cabot's tragopan
at Tagopan Pheasantry Belgium



Cabot's tragopan (Tragopan caboti) under tree
by Dan Cowell

3 Koklass pheasant

Koklass are a monogamous species found in the Himalayas from Afghanistan to central Nepal, and in the mountains of central and northern China. They prefer forests up to the timber line and may be found as high as 4575 meters. The further north they occur, the lower the elevation of their range. Their nests are slight hollows in the ground. the hens lay six to nine eggs which are incubated in twenty-five to twenty -six days. Koklass pheasants are perhaps the most vegetarian of all pheasants. After their introduction into western captivity they have become a prolific species.

Koklass Pheasants are not on the endangered species list by the IUCN and are not dealt with by CITES. the present captive stock in the West is believed to be self-supporting.

Koklass pheasants (Pucrasia macrolopha) are as big as a domestic fowl (51-61 cm.) with a medium sized tail. The species mainly occurs in the Western Himalayas (Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, some parts in China). Singh (1995) reports that in some parts of the Indian Himalayas the species is still plentiful. McGowan and Garson (1995) write that several subspecies of the koklass pheasant (P. m. meyeri/ruficollis/xanthospila) and also of the ssp. joretiana/darwini in China are vulnerable now.

Koklass pheasants have been taken to the west for several times, though the present captive population has been derived from the previous captive population of the Pheasant Trust in UK in the late seventies. Koklass was being kept and bred here, and was distributed to various private collections in continental Europe and North America, where it became a well-established species. In captivity, they are susceptible to several endo-parasite infections, which should be well kept under control.

The breeding season in the West is from march till the end of May. they make a hollow nest on the ground. Clutch of 5-7 or more eggs per hen. the Incubation period is 25-26 days. The cock is monogamous. They should be offered plenty of greens and vegetables, and not too much of grains.We have bred the species very well in Belgium and sent to various parts in the world.

Koklass pheasants are still being hunted for food in some parts in their native habitat. Deforestation and encroachment for agriculture appear have considerable bearing on their conservation status in the wild. The above mentioned ssp. of the koklass pheasant are being considered as vulnerable in the wild now by the IUCN. The species is not listed by CITES.


koklass pheasant (Pucrasia macrolopha)
(c) 2000 Tragopan Pheasantry Belgium
Java Applet Window


koklass pheasant (Pucrasia macrolopha)
(c) 2000 Tragopan Pheasantry Belgium
Java Applet Window


Koklass pheasant (Pucrasia macrolopha) by Dan Cowell
Java Applet Window


koklass pheasant (Pucrasia macrolopha)
(c) 2000 Tragopan Pheasantry Belgium
Java Applet Window


koklass pheasant (Pucrasia macrolopha)
(c) 2000 Tragopan Pheasantry Belgium
Java Applet Window

4 Monal Pheasant

Monals range from eastern Afghanistan along the high mountains to China, from northeastern Yannan to Koko Nor, and an isolated species lives in west-central China. They usually range from 1825 to 4575 meters elevation, close to the tree line. The Himalayan Monal is the national bird of Nepal. Monals are monogamous birds, being large and chunky, one the heaviest of all pheasants. they are well-known for their scratching and digging with their powerful bills, never with their feet. their long bills are used to uncover grubs, roots, and bulbs. Monals build their nests on the ground and the hens lay four to eight eggs, which hatch after 28 days of incubation.

Sclateri and lhuysi have been listed on the endangered species list. CITES has listed all monal species on appendix I of the CITES. The good news is that all 3 species are now being represented in captivity. It is believed that himlayensis is the most represented species in western captivity.

Himalayan monal	Lophophorus impeyanus
Sclater's monal (2 subspecies)	Lophophorus sclateri
Chinese monal	Lophophorus lhuysi

4.1 Himalayan Monal

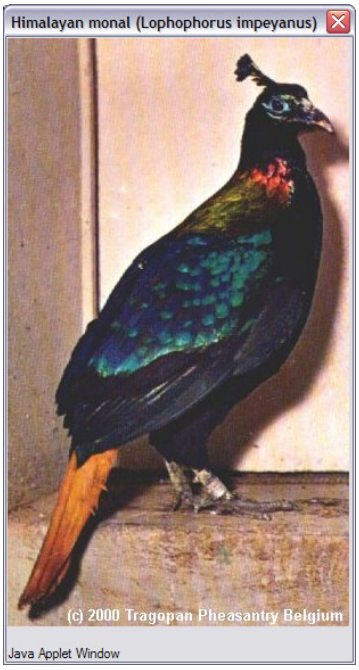
Himalayan Monal Pheasant (Lophophurus impeianus) is much larger (72 cm) than a domestic hen, stout and brilliantly colored. In the male, the upper parts are a metallic bronze-green and purple; neck appears crimson and yellow; shoulder of wing and edges of wing feathers are green; rump white; tail bright cinnamon rufous, short, broad and cut square; eye surrounded by blue skin, crest consists of 7-8 metallic spatulate feathers. Under parts black. Female is brown; short tuft on head, throat white. Himalayan Monals are sometimes also called "the bird of nine colors" because of its spectacular phenotype.

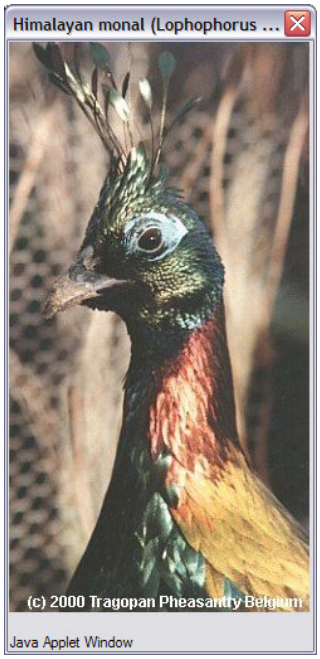
Very wary, flushing at a great distance. Found singly, or a male with 2-3 hens, in oak or rhododendron forests on steep hillsides and open glades in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan at 2600-5000 meters elevation.

In Europe this monal pheasant breeds from April till June. The hen makes a hollow nest on the ground, usually well hidden. Monal hens in captivity may well lay 10 up to 15 eggs per season. Incubation period is between 27-28 days. Cock displays both on the ground and in the air. During display flight, the white rump and the cinnamon tail become very striking. The beak and legs are sturdy and are very efficient in digging up underground roots, tubers, bulbs, small invertebrates, etc...

This monal is still found in good numbers in all areas which are suitable habitat and which are not too close to human habitations.

Himalayan monals do breed very well in captivity in the West but are poorly represented in collections in Asia. Most controversially, this species is on appendix I of CITES though the species is well available in the wild and not threatened by trade in anyway.

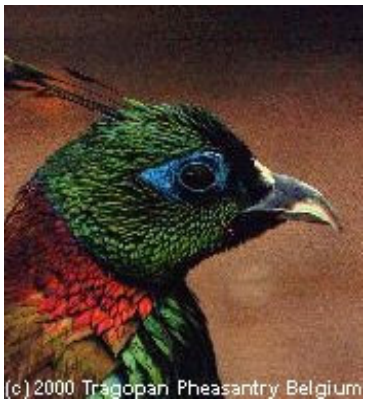

Himalayan monal (Lophophorus impeyanus)
(c) 2000 Tragopan Pheasantry Belgium
Java Applet Window


Himalayan monal (Lophophorus ...
(c) 2000 Tragopan Pheasantry Belgium
Java Applet Window


Himalayan monal (Lophophorus impeyanus)
(c) 2000 Tragopan Pheasantry Belgium
Java Applet Window


Himalayan monal (Lophophorus impeyanus)
(c) 2000 Tragopan Pheasantry Belgium
Java Applet Window


(c) 2000 Tragopan Pheasantry Belgium

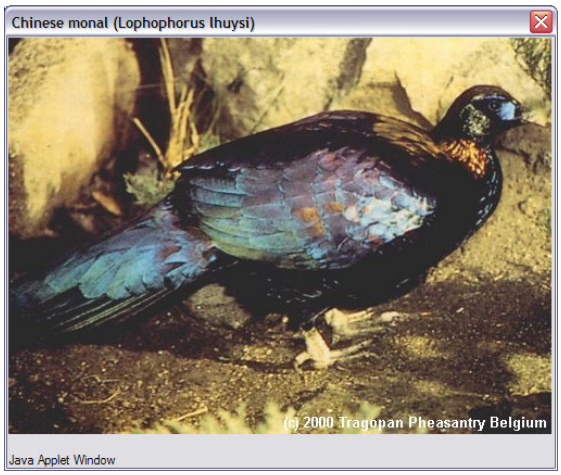

(c) 2000 Tragopan Pheasantry Belgium

4.2 Sclater's monal

This little known and endangered Chinese endemic has almost not been kept in captivity by aviculturists outside of China. However, efforts are underway in China to breed this species at the Beijing's Breeding Center for Breeding Endangered Animals, where about six were present in 1998 (David Rimlinger San Diego Zoo, U.S.A. pers. communication). We believe that the captive breeding of this unique pheasant might not pose any major problem and will breed as prolific as its con-specific the Himalayan Monal (Lophophorus himlayensis) provided enough genetic founders, the right management and sufficient financial means are made available to breed from this species in captivity

.

4.3 Chines Monal



The only location outside China where it has been possible to see this endangered species is the San Diego Zoo, where successful breeding (David Rimlinger, pers. comm.. comm.) has taken place. At the present only one individual is surviving and new importation's of Chinese birds must be organized to re-introduce this fantastic pheasant into western captivity. As of early 1999 there were perhaps 30 individuals in captivity worldwide, nearly all of which were at the Beijing Center for Breeding Endangered Animals.

5 Junglefowls

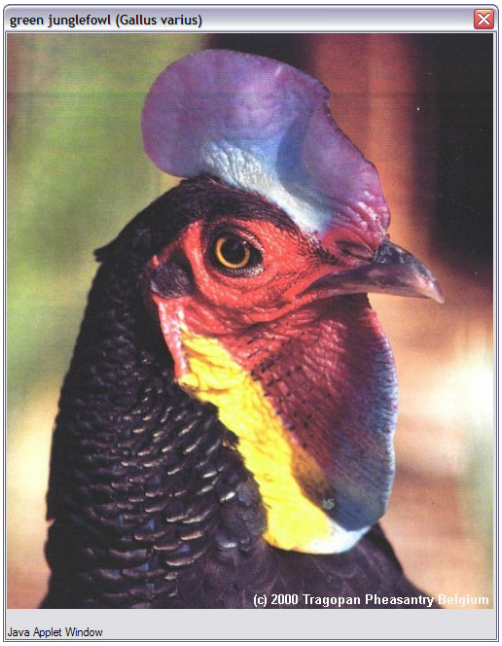
Junglefowls are the ancestors of the modern poultry and have been domesticated for more than 4000 years. There are four species in this genus. The grey ranges in India; the Ceylon in Sri Lanka; reds are found in the low elevations from Pakistan through Nepal, eastern India, Myanmar and Indochina and its adjoining islands; and the green is found on the island of Java and the Lesser Sunda Islands.

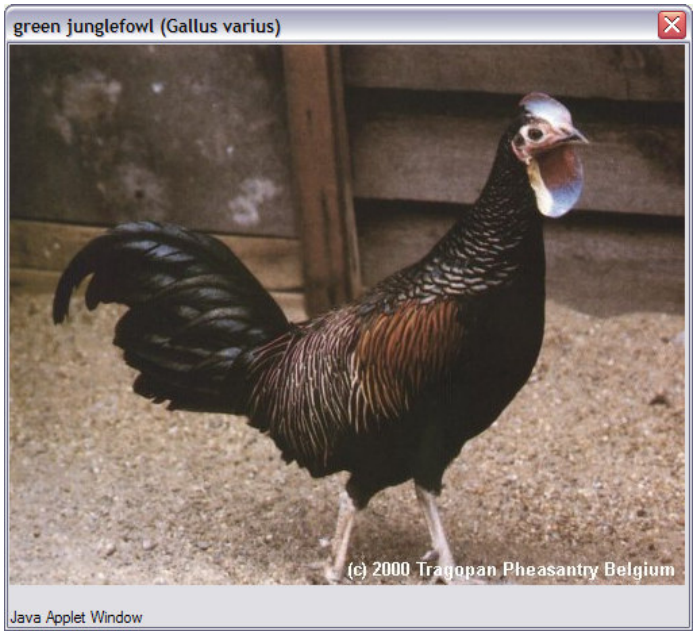
The red junglefowl was carried by the Polynesian peoples during their migration east through the Pacific islands, and can be found on the island of Kauai in the Hawaiian group. They are polygamous. nests are on the ground and the number of eggs in the clutch varies from two to as many as six or more, depending upon the species. They incubate in eighteen to twenty-one days. Junglefowls thrive on a simple diet of grains, greens, weed seeds and insects.

None of the Junglefowls are considered as being threatened in the wild. The species sonnerathi has been listed on appendix II by the CITES, most probably because of the trade in feathers. The Red, Grey and Green are well represented in captivity nowadays, whereas the Ceylon is still very rare. Good bloodlines of all Junglefowls are well-maintained in West Europe, except for the Ceylon.

green junglefowl	Gallus varius
red junglefowl (5 subspecies)	Gallus gallus
grey junglefowl	Gallus sonnerati
Ceylon junglefowl	Gallus lafayettei

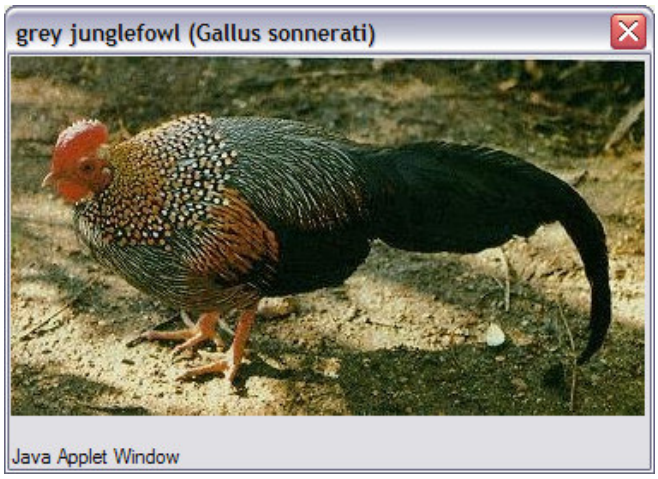
5.1 Green Junglefowl



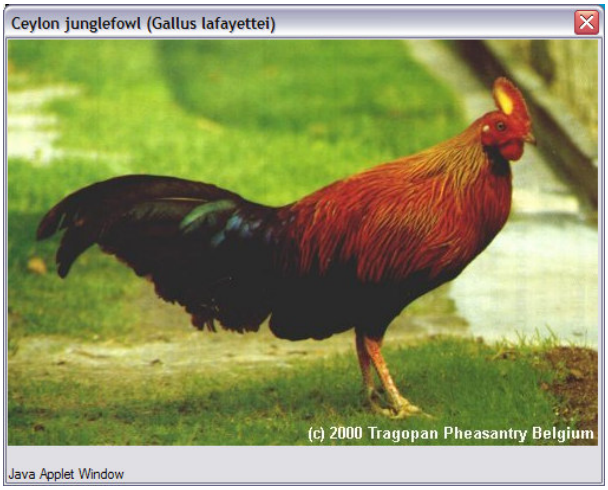


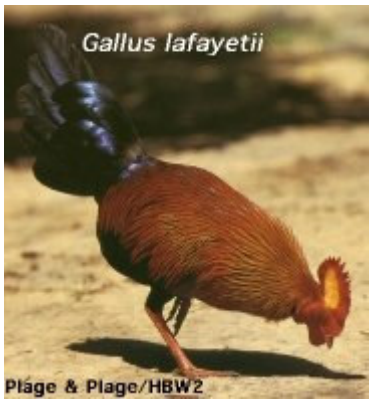
5.2 Red Junglefowl

5.3 Grey Junglefowl



5.4 Celyon Junglefowl.





6 Eared Pheasants

Two species of eared pheasants occupy adjacent ranges, while the third species'range is totally isolated. The white eared occur in western Sichuan, northwestern Yunnan, and southeastern Xizang Autonomous Region (Tibet). The blue Eared occur in extreme eastern Xizan, northern Sichuan, and Gansu. The brown eared occur in northeastern China in the area west and southwest of Beijing. The facial feathers in the blue and brown species extend above the head, and they extend to the top of the head in the whites: their common name comes from these earlike feather tufts. Eared pheasants are gregarious and noisy. Both sexes have similar plumage. In captivity they seem to be monogamous and require larger aviaries. The hens often lay several clutches of eggs that are incubated in twenty-four to twenty-eight days.

Both the brown and the white eareds have been listed by the IUCN on the endangered species list. Both species are on the appendix I of the CITES. All 3 species are believed to be self-sustainable in western captivity, with the blues being the most prolific and the whites the less productive.

white eared pheasant (5 subspecies)	Crossoptilon crossoptilon
blue eared pheasant	Crossoptilon auritum
brown eared pheasant	Crossoptilon mantchuricum

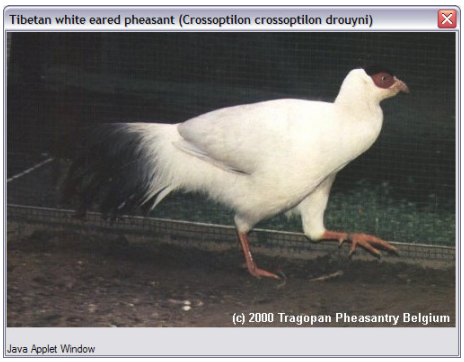
6.1 White eared pheasant

The endangered harmani taxon of this pheasant (sometimes considered a full species) is not currently known to be represented in captivity, but there were perhaps 1000 individuals of the other taxa (that are collectively are considered vulnerable) in captivity worldwide in 1995 (McGowan and Garson, 1995). At the present we are breeding the Tibetan race drouyni, of which we received new material via a private breeder in the U.S (Kurt Landig, U.S.A.pers. comm.) . It was most surprising when we managed to breed offspring already from these new birds in their first year using natural mating, whereas we were almost not able to breed from the other taxa using artificial insemination. All this most probably due to the strong inbreeding and degeneration of the present captive populations.

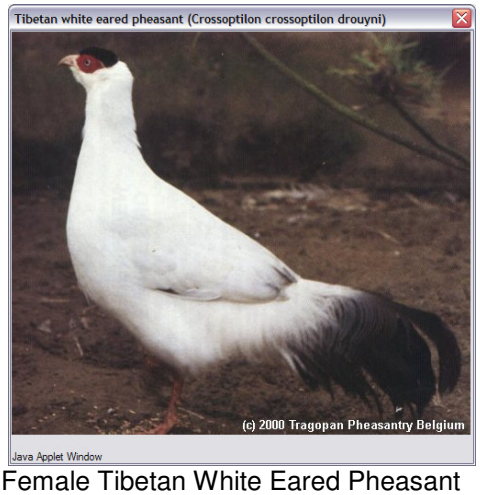
Szechuan white eared pheasant (*Crossoptilon crossoptilon crossoptilon*)

Giant male Szechwan White Eared Pheasant

Tibetan white eared pheasant (*Crossoptilon crossoptilon drouyni*)

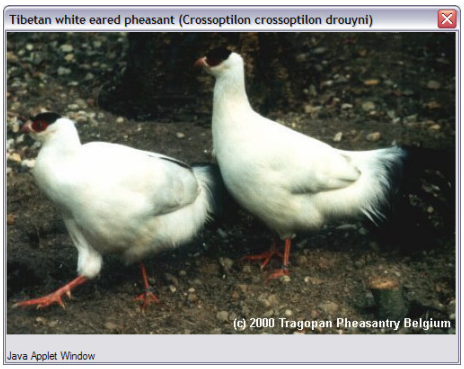


Male Tibetan White Eared Pheasant



Female Tibetan White Eared Pheasant

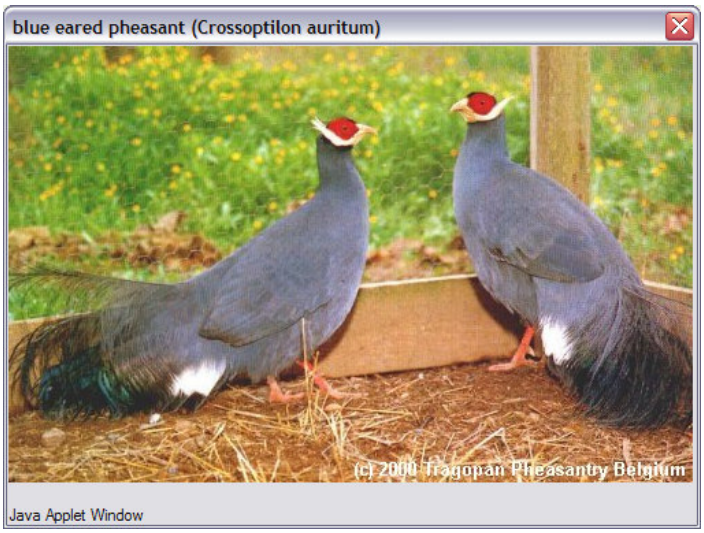
Freshly imported Tibetan white eared pheasant pair



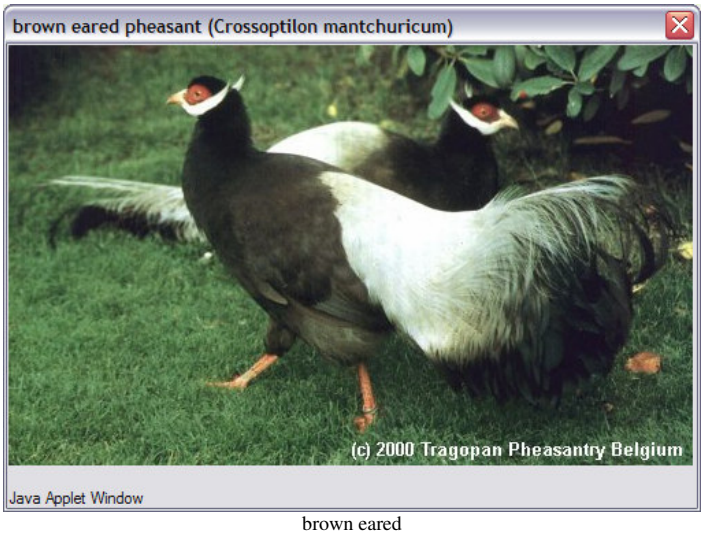
One pair Tibetan White Eared Pheasant

Freshly imported Tibetan white eared phea

6.2 Blue Eared Pheasant



6.3 Brown Eared Pheasant



brown eared pheasant

Hand-feeding a group of brown eared pheasants at the collection of Francy Hermans

This endangered species is fairly well represented in captivity, with about 1000 captive birds worldwide as of 1995 (McGowan & Garson, 1995). In the wild, however, it is only known from only three Chinese provinces, and the wild population probably numbers in the low thousands. We have bred many genetic healthy young's after receiving F3 stock birds from San Diego Zoo, U.S.A. These new bloodlines have been distributed to other private collections and zoos in western and southern Europe, Latin America, and South Africa.

7 Gallopheasants

This is a larger genus containing 11 species and thirthy-two subspecies. They cover approximately the same range as the red junglefowl.

Three main groups occupy different sections of the overall range. the kalij pheasants occupy the area from the Indus River through the lower elevations to Yunnan province in South China, south through all of Myanmar. The silver pheasants occupy eastern Myanmar and all of Indochina. the Fireback are found in central Indochina, Malaysia, Sumatra and Borneo. Individual species are located in Taiwan (Swinhoe's pheasant), central Laos and Vietnam (Edward's, Vo Qu's and Imperial) and central Borneo (Bulwer's wattled pheasant).

Gallopheasants are forest birds. Some species are monogamous and others are polygamous. They normally lay large clutches of eggs in a nest on the ground, but roost in trees at night. their eggs take from twenty-one to twenty-five days to incubate, depending on the species.

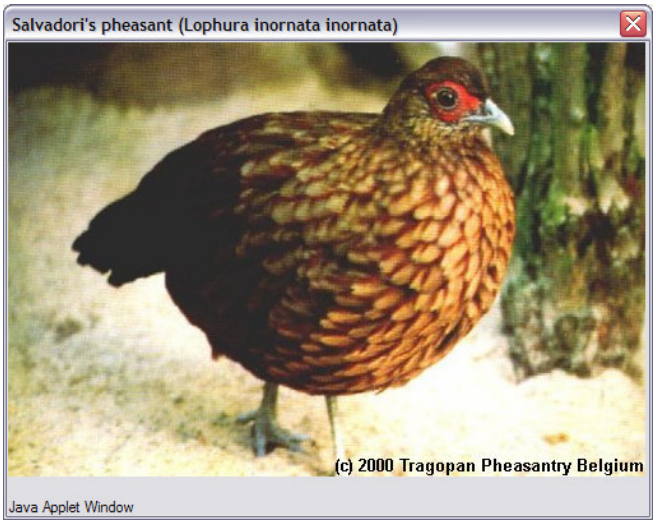
Only 4 species have been classified by the IUCN as vulnerable in their habitats, whereas the CITES in the EC has listed all species, except for the silver pheasant, on annex A or B.

Salvadori's pheasant (2 subspecies)	Lophura inornata
imperial pheasant	Lophura imperialis
Edward's pheasant	Lophura edwardsi
Vietnamese pheasant	Lophura hatinhensis
kalij pheasant (9 subspecies)	Lophura leucomelana
silver pheasant (15 subspecies)	Lophura nycthemera
Swinhoe's pheasant	Lophura swinhoei
siamese fireback	Lophura diardi
crestless fireback (2 subspecies)	Lophura erythropthalma
crested fireback (4 subspecies)	Lophura ignita
wattled pheasant	Lophura bulweri

7.1 Salvadori’s pheasant

The Salvadori's Pheasant is endemic to the montane forests of Sumatra. There are two subspecies, the nominate race L. i. inornata from southern Sumatra and L. i. hoogerwerfi. Some authors may class the Hoogerwerf's as a separate species.

The overall coloration of the adult male's plumage is black with a metallic blue sheen in both subspecies; the facial wattles are bright red with a yellow-green ring around the eyes. The tail is short and dark. The female is bright chestnut brown mottled with buff. there is a remarkable difference in the hens of inornata and hoogerwerfi. Inornata being more colorful and having more pronounced vermiculated designs in her overall feather pattern. Salvadories are very tame and calm pheasants, though not so spectacular in phenotype as the other representatives of the genus Lophura. They are a separate species, similar in shape and size to Crestless Firebacks (Lophura erythropthalma).



The birds in the first two pictures belong to L. inornata inornata, whereas the 2 last pictures belong to L. inornata hoogerwerfi. It is believed all Salvadories being kept and bred in the West belong to the inornata taxon whereas those being kept in captivity in Indonesia belong to hoogerwerfi taxon (pers. comm. Mr. Resit Sozer, Java, Indonesia).

Lophura inornata is a rare species in captivity. This species was last imported in the late seventies when we purchased our first three breeding pairs. Our original stock was wild-taken and /or F1 captive-bred. They all belonged to the ssp. inornata, according to the phenotype of the hens. They did breed well and were easy to keep alive in captivity. In a time span of 4 years we were able to breed not less than 32 youngsters. These were sent to various private collections and zoos in Western Europe and Northern America in the early eighties. These formed the nucleus of the present captive stock in the West, not being numerous at all anymore due to the lack of avicultural interest for this species.

Little is known of their reproductive habits in the wild. IUCN classifies them as vulnerable (McGowan and Garson 1995). They are not protected by Indonesian law and have not yet been listed by CITES.

7.2 Imperial Pheasants

This critically endangered species is believed to be present in captivity. Earlier captives that were present in collection until as late as the 1980s were probably of hybrid origin (with other closely related lophura taxa) and this stock has virtually died out. The taxonomic status of this species is still very much in doubt, and it ha recently been suggested that the Imperial Pheasant is not a valid species, but is derived from hybrids of the Edwards' Pheasant and the anamnesis race of the Silver Pheasant (Lophura nycthemera). We have bred the last offspring Imperial Pheasant in Belgium and the picture in this site is taken from one of our adult males. Unfortunately at the time we were working with this unique species, we were not able to perform A.I. and as a result we lost the species due to inbreeding.

7.3 Ewards Pheasants

With the discovery of an allopatric northern population (the Vietnamese or Vo Quy's Pheasant), the known range of this species (as here recognized, which assumes that the Vietnamese Pheasant is

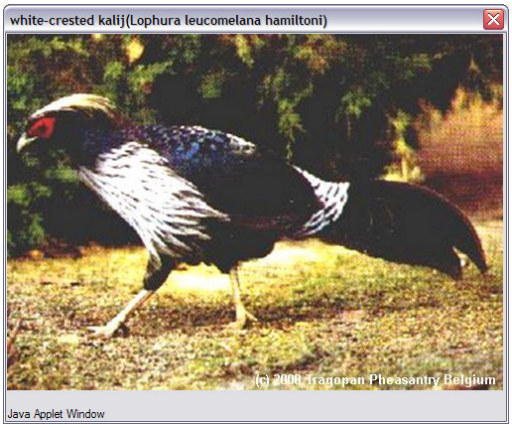
not a totally separate and new species) is slightly expanded, but both taxa are believed to be critically endangered (McGowan and Garson, 1995). A few Vietnamese Pheasants were present in the Hanoi Zoo as of 1997. This group originated from two pairs captured in 1990, and numbered about 20 birds in 1995. Four of these birds were sent to private collections in Europe and the first successful breeding of these birds in Britain, France and Germany occurred in the late 1990's. Surveys held from the early 1980's till now indicate that about 418 birds of the nominate Edwards' taxon were present in captivity in 1991, which represent a substantial decline from earlier surveys. the only location where Edward's Pheasants were still known to be surviving in the wild as of 1997 is Bach Ma National Park near Hue in Vietnam. We have bred many individuals from the Edward's Pheasant using natural mating methods. Most of these birds staid in European private collections. A few individuals were sent to private collections in Brazil. Fresh hatching eggs of this species were also sent to a private collection in India in the late eighties.

7.4 Vietnamese Pheasant

With the discovery of an allopatric northern population (the Vietnamese or Vo Quy's Pheasant), the known range of this species (as here recognized, which assumes that the Vietnamese Pheasant is not a totally separate and new species) is slightly expanded, but both taxa are believed to be critically endangered (McGowan and Garson, 1995). A few Vietnamese Pheasants were present in the Hanoi Zoo as of 1997. This group originated from two pairs captured in 1990, and numbered about 20 birds in 1995. Four of these birds were sent to private collections in Europe and the first successful breeding of these birds in Britain, France and Germany occurred in the late 1990's. Surveys held from the early 1980's till now indicate that about 418 birds of the nominate Edwards' taxon were present in captivity in 1991, which represent a substantial decline from earlier surveys. the only location where Edward's Pheasants were still known to be surviving in the wild as of 1997 is Bach Ma National Park near Hue in Vietnam. We have bred many individuals from the Edward's Pheasant using natural mating methods. Most of these birds staid in European private collections. A few individuals were sent to private collections in Brazil. Fresh hatching eggs of this species were also sent to a private collection in India in the late eighties.

7.5 Kalij Pheasant

*white-crested kalij (*Lophura leucomelana hamiltoni*)*

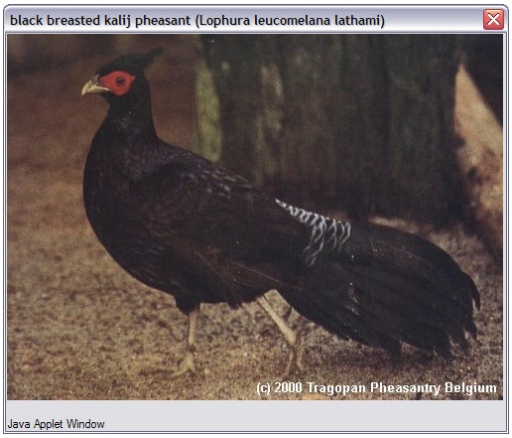


Nepal kalij (*Lophura leucomelana leucomelana*)

Adult female Nepal kalij pheasant

Black kalij (*Lophura leucomelana moffitti*)

black breasted kalij (*Lophura leucomelana lathami*)

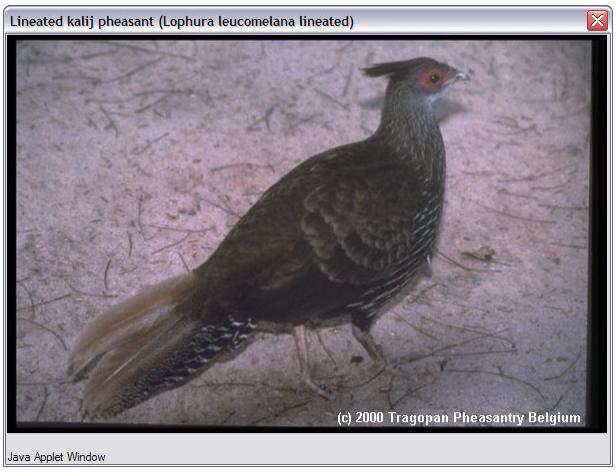


One pair of Horsfield kalij pheasant
at one private collection in Germany

One hen of Horsfield kalij pheasant
at one private collection in Germany

*lineated kalij (*Lophura leucomelana lineata*)*

Male Lineated kalij Pheasant
of the collection of Francy Hermans



Female Lineated kalij Pheasant

Frontal view of one hen of Lineated kalij pheasant at one private collection in Germany

Frontal view of one male of Lineated kalij pheasant at one private collection in Germany

Crawfurd's kalij (*Lophura leucomelana crawfurdi*)

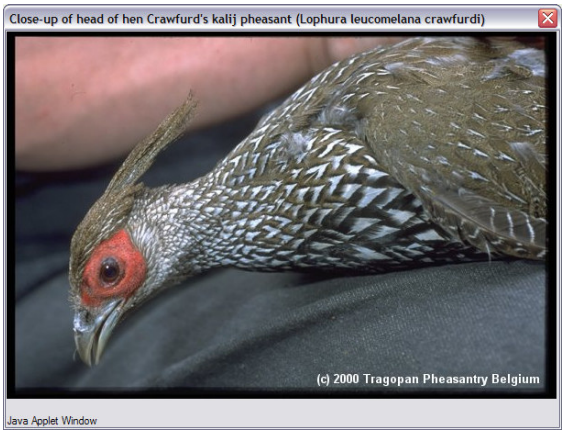
Lateral view of one male Crawfurd's Kalij Pheasant

Crawfurd's kalij pheasant

Dorsal view of hen Crawfurd's kalij pheasant

Frontal view of hen Crawfurd's kalij pheasant

Lateral view of hen Crawfurd's kalij pheasant



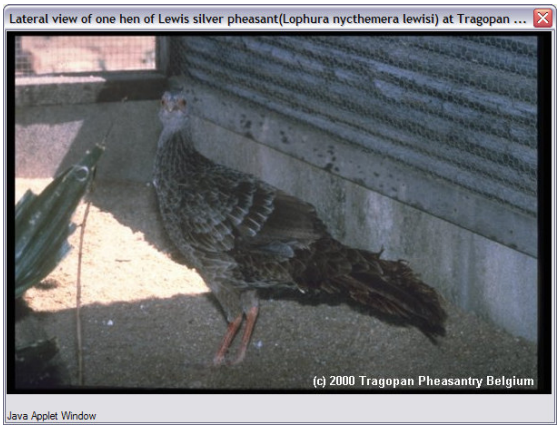
Close-up of head of hen Crawfurd's kalij pheasant

2 imported and captive-bred Crawfurd's kalij pheasant

2 young captive-bred kalij pheasant
(left lineata (grey tarsus) and right crawfurdi (red tarsus)

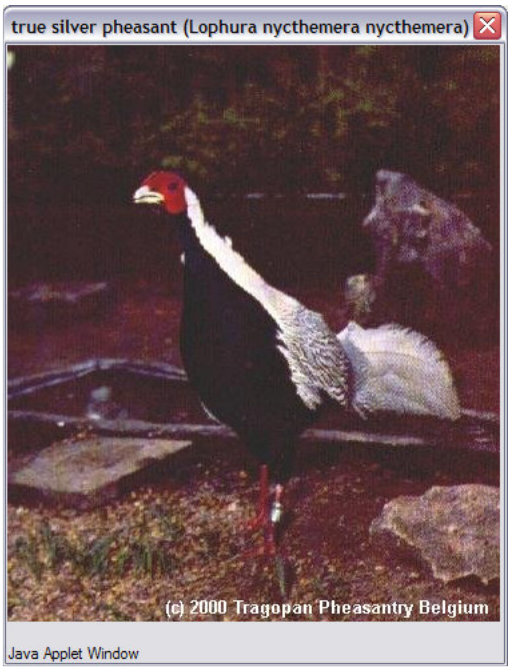
7.6 Silver Pheasant

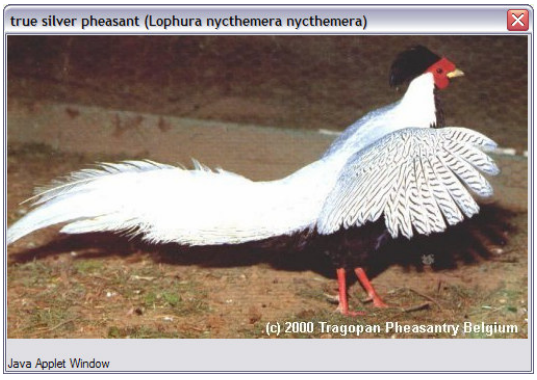
Lewis silver pheasant (*Lophura nycthemera lewisi*)

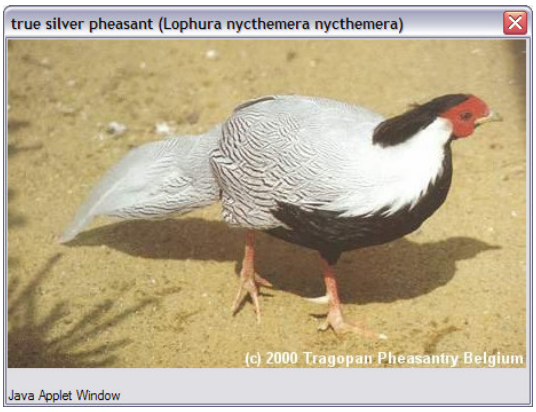


Lateral view of one hen of Lewis Silver Pheasant

true silver pheasant (*Lophura nycthemera nycthemera*)



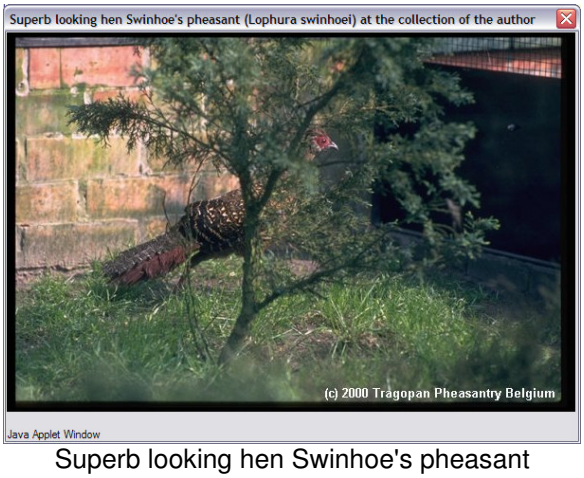




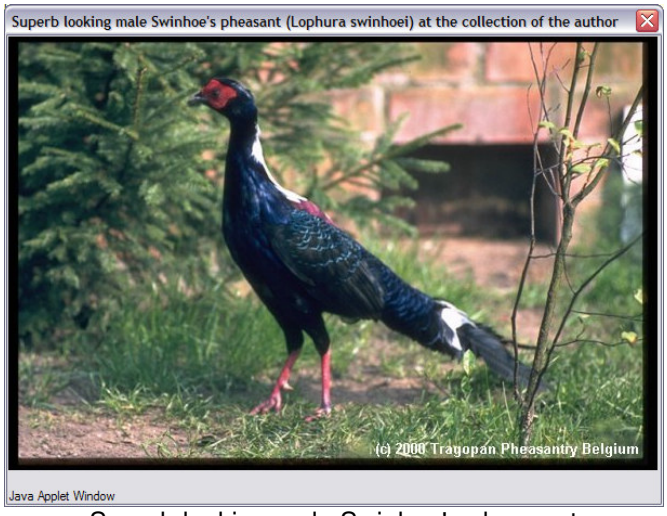
Jone's silver pheasant (*Lophura nycthemera jonesi*)

One beautiful pair of Jone's silver pheasant
at a provate collection in Germany

7.7 Swinhoe's Pheasant



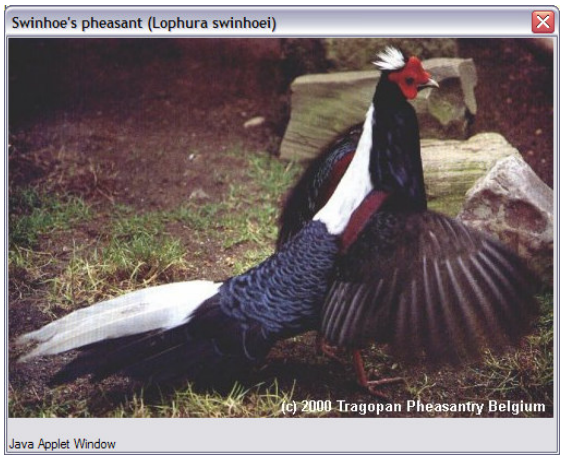
Superb looking hen Swinhoe's pheasant
at the collection of the author

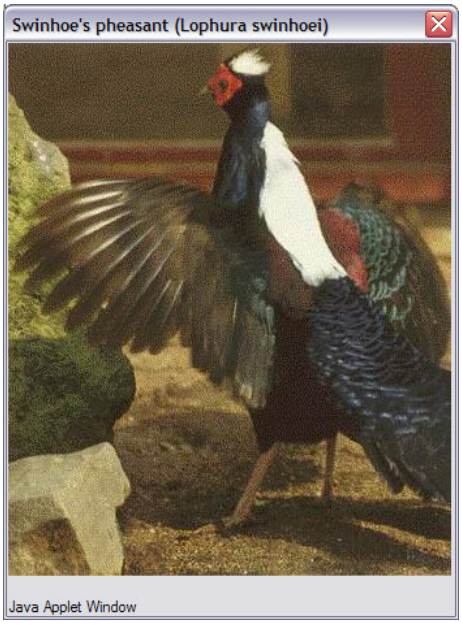


Superb looking male Swinhoe's pheasant
at the collection of the author

Apparently no new blood has been introduced into the captive stock of this species for many decades, and its status in the ecologically degraded island of Taiwan is certainly not

encouraging. Nonetheless, it is still the most common captive-maintained species of the forms described here. We have bred many individuals of this beautiful pheasant only using natural mating during the last 2 decades and shipped almost all of them to various places in the world, such as Brazil, southern Europe, South Africa, India, etc...





7.8 Siamese Fireback

Female siamese fireback

male siamese fireback

male siamese fireback

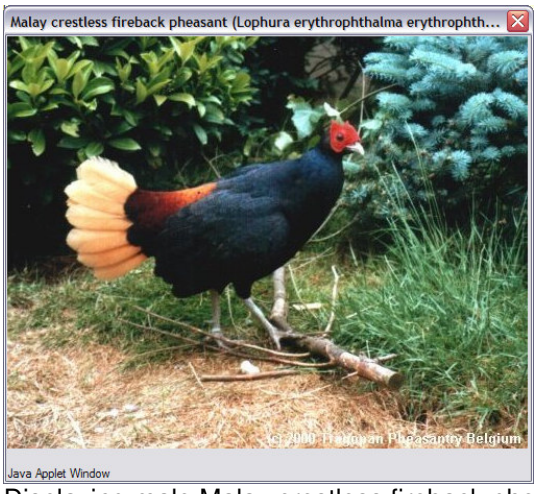
male siamese fireback

Dorsal view of one freshly imported male siamese fireback

7.9 Crestless Fireback

The Bornean race pyronota of this species now considered endangered, whereas the nominate Malayan race is classified as vulnerable. As of 1995 there were about 50 individuals of the Bornean race in captivity and about 250 of the Malayan taxon. About half those totals were present during a 1991 census, and only a few dozen were present during surveys of the 1970s, which was due to the various new exports of the this species via wild-life dealers in Singapore and Malaysia in the late seventies and early eighties. We have bred both the Bornean and Malayan race with variable success. Bornean being quite inbred for the moment, has been reproduced using A.I. whereas erythropthalma being bred using natural mating. Many individuals of the last race have been shipped to other private collections in Spain, Italy, U.K., Germany, France and Italy. Most of our pyronota have shipped to a private American breeder to outcross our birds with birds from his collection (pers. comm. Richard Olsen, U.S.A.).

Malay crestless fireback pheasant (*Lophura erythrophthalma erythrophthalma*)



Displaying male Malay crestless fireback pheasant at the collection of Francy Hermans

Displaying male Malay crestless fireback pheasant at the collection of Francy Hermans

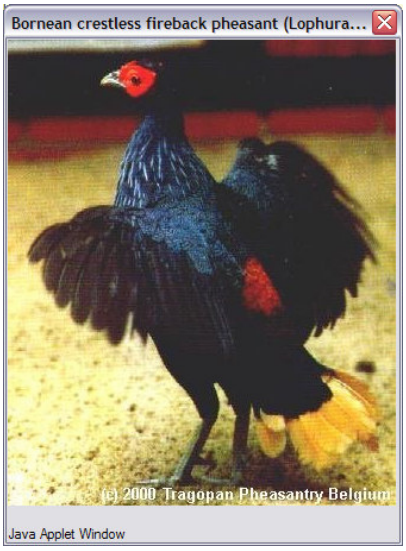
Malay crestless fireback pheasant hen lateral view

Beautiful male Malay crestless fireback pheasant at the collection of Francy Hermans

Bornean crestless pheasant (*Lophura erythrophthalma pyronota*)

Frontal view of displaying
male Bornean crestless fireback pheasant

Dorsal view of displaying
male Bornean crestless fireback pheasant

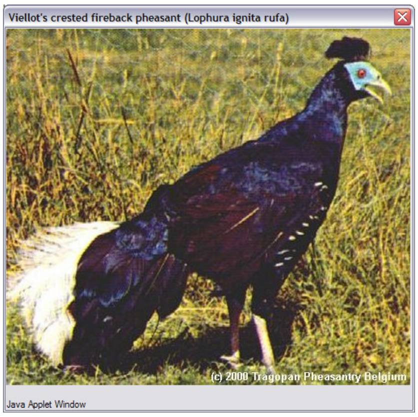


7.10 Crested fireback

Viellot's crested fireback (*Lophura ignita rufa*)

Latero-frontal displaying male
Viellot's crested fireback pheasant

Latero-frontal displaying male
Viellot's crested fireback pheasant



Viellot's crested fireback pheasant

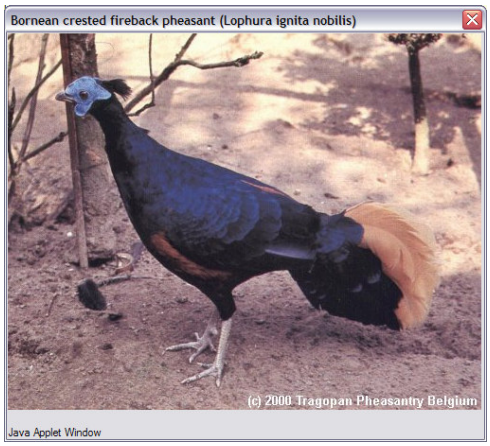
Viellot's crested fireback pheasant

Viellot's crested fireback pheasant

Bornean crested fireback (*Lophura ignita nobilis)*

Latero-frontal displaying male
Bornean crested fireback pheasant

Latero-frontal displaying male
Bornean crested fireback pheasant

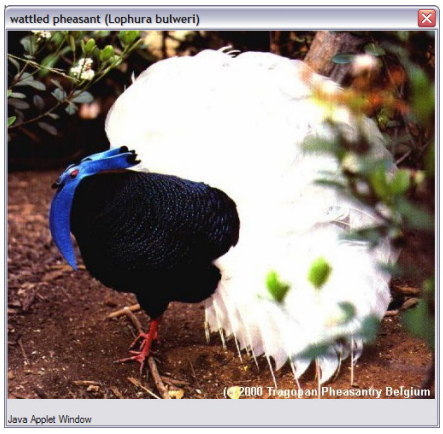


Bornean crested fireback pheasant

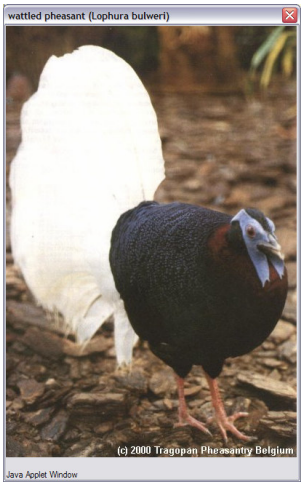
Bornean crested fireback pheasant female

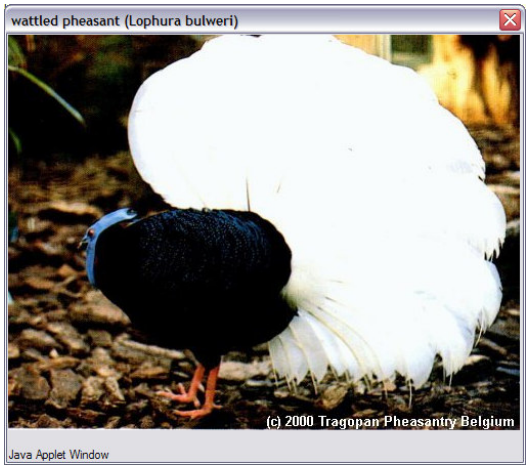
Lophura ignita delacour

7.11 Wattled Pheasant



Most present captive individuals are offspring from stock birds which were brought into the U.S.A. in 1971 (pers. comm. Charles Sivelle, U.S.A.). However, it has been estimated that as of 1999 there might be about 25 individuals left in captivity worldwide (David Rimlinger, pers.. comm.). Several new birds are being kept in zoos and private collections in the Malayan peninsula and in Indonesia at the present. The species' status in Borneo is hard to ascertain, as it is rarely seen and occupies very remote country (Resit Sozer, Indonesia, pers. comm.); A survey of native people in central Kalimantan during the mid 1990s and by Mr. Sozer suggests that the species may be more wide-spread than previously believed, mainly occurring in lowland undisturbed forests. However, more recent droughts and widespread fires in the island of Borneo have had devastating effects on its forest wildlife. Captive breeding of this species has been tried done for several times after World War II, but no-one has achieved serious results, most probably due to the lack of sufficient stock birds.





Hen wattled pheasant

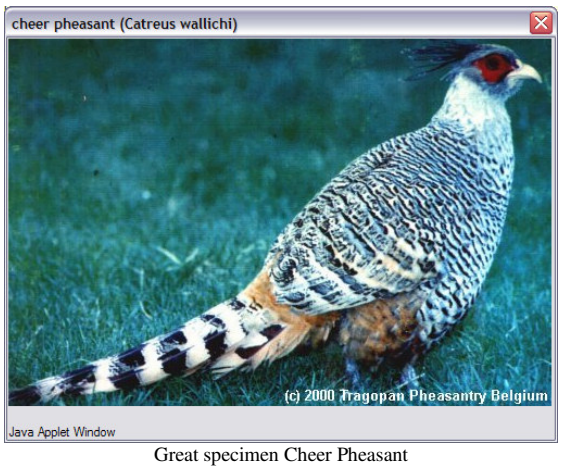
Facial engorgement in male Bulwer's wattled pheasant in Vogelpark Walsrode in Germany

8 cheer pheasant

This genus is represented only by one species. Cheer lives in the precipitous ravines and rocky hillsides of the western and central Himalayas, between 1225 and 300 meters. Cheers have disappeared from portions of its range due to the destruction of its habitat and the pressure of sustenance hunting. The Govt. of Pakistan has initiated a program for restocking this bird in northern Pakistan, starting from eggs being shipped from private facilities and zoos in western Europe.

Cheer pheasants are monogamous. the female lays seven to fourteen eggs that are incubated in about twenty-six or twenty-seven days in a slight depression in the ground. Cheer pheasants do well in captivity as long as adult stock remains unrelated.

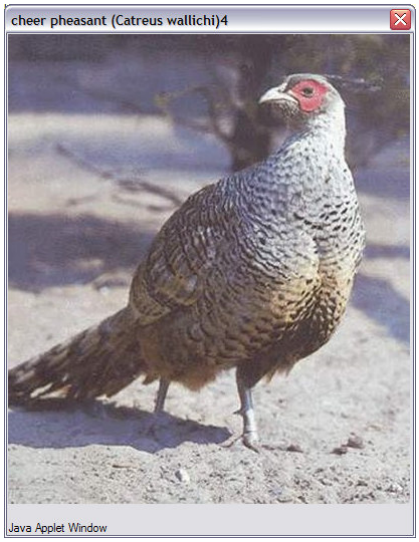
Cheers have been listed as endangered by the IUCN and are classified on appendix I by the CITES. They are self-sustainable in captivity.



Great specimen Cheer Pheasant
common in captivity but rare in wild

cheer pheasant (Catreus wallichi)

Continuing efforts are being made to reintroduce this vulnerable species back into the wild in the Margallah hills near Islamabad, in Pakistan, using captive-reared stock, but rather with low success. Mismanagement, lack of sufficient funds, hunting and habitat destruction are probably both to blame for the projects failings, although it the species is not considered endangered. It is most common in the Himalayan region in northern India, but is virtually extinct in Pakistan and been found in only a few Nepal localities. We have sent several hundreds Cheer eggs to India in the early eighties to support captive breeding and the conservation of this species in India.



cheer pheasant (Catreus wallichi)

9 Long-tailed Pheasants

The five representatives of this genus occupy widely separated areas. Copper pheasants range through the island of Japan; Mikado pheasants are found in Taiwan's central mountains above 1825 meters; Reeve's live in the mountains of central China; Elliot's in east China; and the bar-taileds occur in eastern Indian, Myanmar, Thailand and southwestern China.

The bar-tailed has been listed as rare, Mikado as vulnerable and , Elliot's as endangered by the IUCN. The Reeve's was thought to be safe in numbers only a few years ago, but is now under review as an endangered species.

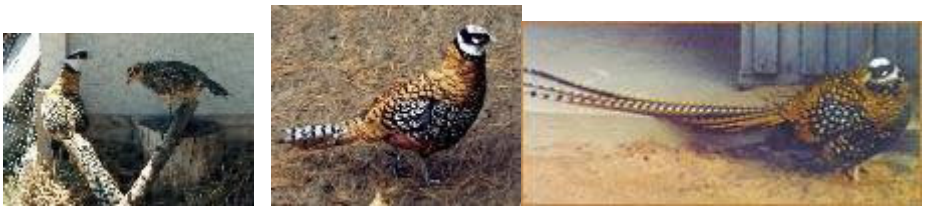
The clutch size for these pheasants is five to twenty, depending upon the species; eggs are incubated in twenty-six or twenty-seven days. Most long-tailed pheasants do well in captivity nowadays and strong bloodlines do exist of almost all of the various species in Western Europe.

All long-tailed pheasants have been listed on appendix I of the CITES, except for the Copper pheasants, which are being mass-produced as game in Japan, its native country.

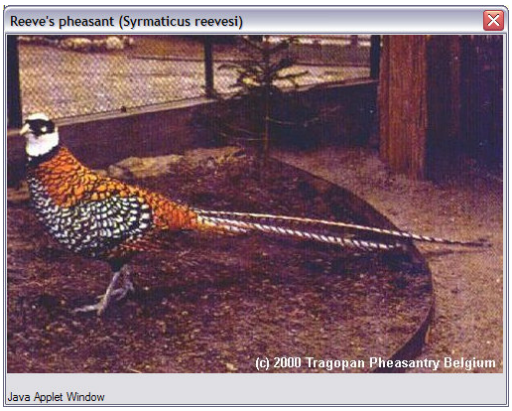
Reeve's pheasant	Syrmaticus reevesi
bar-tailed pheasant (2 subspecies)	Syrmaticus humiae
Elliot's pheasant	Syrmaticus ellioti
Mikado pheasant	Syrmaticus mikado
copper pheasant (5 subspecies)	Syrmaticus soemmerringi

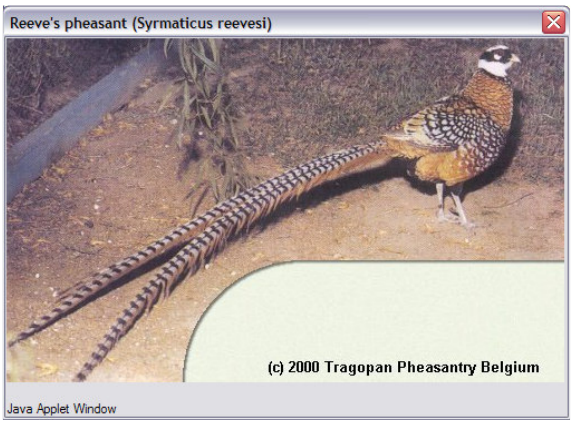
Picture of the 5 breeds of copper pheasant (Syrmaticus Soemmerringi) by Kuroda Japan from above to bellow : scintillans, intermedius, subrufus, soemmerringi, ijimae

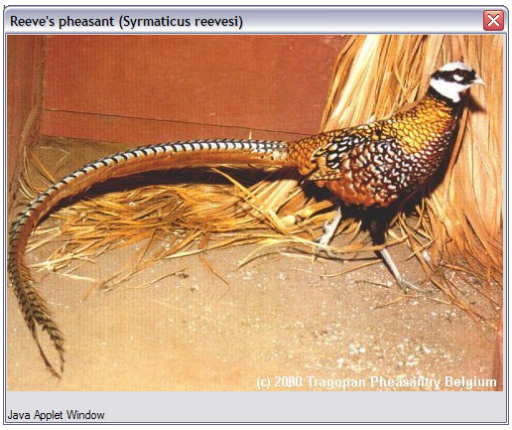
9.1 Reeve's pheasant



This endangered species probably has more individuals in captivity than any of the endangered pheasants. Feral populations also exist in Europe, these often are supplemented by releases from captivity. Surveys held during the last two decades and in the mid-1990's indicated that there were at least 3000 individuals in captivity throughout the world (McGowan and Garson, 1995). We have bred this species by the hundreds and distributed them to various collections in Europe, Latin America and South Africa.






Reeve's pheasant (Syrmaticus reevesi)
(c) 2000 Tragopan Pheasantry Belgium
Java Applet Window

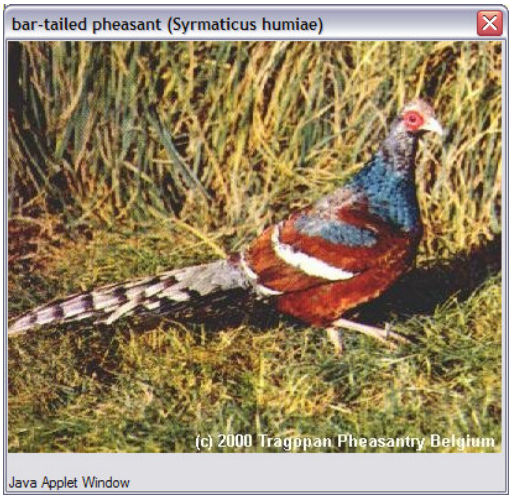

Lateral view of one adult male Reeve's pheasant (Syrmaticus reevesi)
(c) 2000 Tragopan Pheasantry Belgium
Java Applet Window

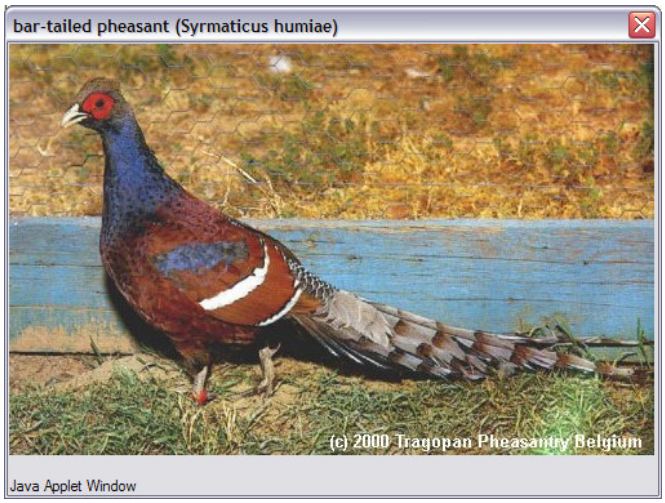

Frontal view of one adult male Reeve's pheasant (Syrmaticus reevesi)
(c) 2000 Tragopan Pheasantry Belgium
Java Applet Window


Dorsal view of one adult male Reeve's pheasant (Syrmaticus reevesi)
(c) 2000 Tragopan Pheasantry Belgium
Java Applet Window


Reeve's pheasant (Syrmaticus reevesi)
(c) 2000 Tragopan Pheasantry Belgium
Java Applet Window

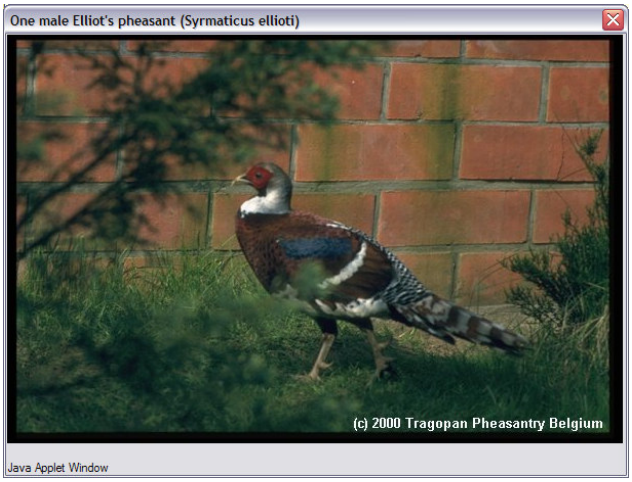
9.2 Bar-tailed Pheasant



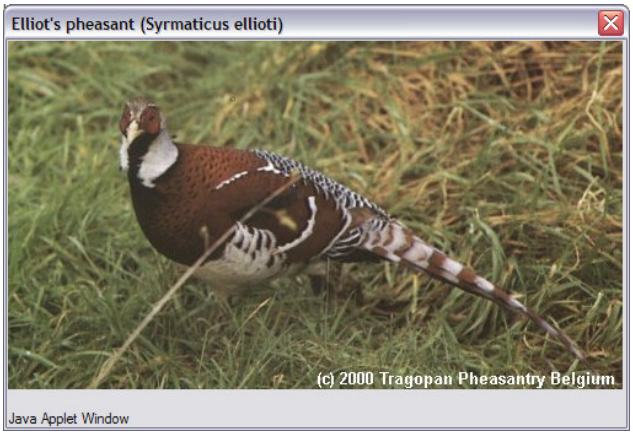


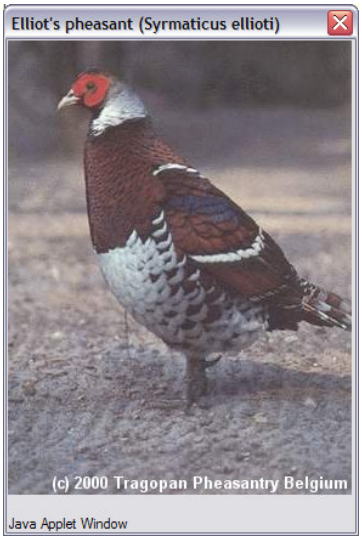
The western race humiae of this species is now considered endangered, and the eastern race burmanicus as vulnerable. Mc Gowan and Garson (1995) indicate that in 1991 something like 340 individuals of humiae were present in captivity but none of the eastern race. Earlier surveys indicate that there is a progressive decline taking place in captive stocks during recent decades. All told, there may have been about 1000 individuals in captivity worldwide as of 1995, these presumably all representing the western race. It is believed that the eastern race has never been maintained in captivity outside China. We have bred Syrmaticus humia humiae in great numbers using natural mating methods and shipped their offspring to private collections in various countries in Latin America, South Africa, Spain, Italy, Greece, France and to other West European countries.

9.3 Elliots Pheasant



This species is currently considered to be vulnerable, and its population and range in China appears to be rapidly declining. As of 1995 there were probably about 1000 birds in captivity worldwide, and the wild population was perhaps in the tens of thousands (Mc Gowan & Garson, 1995) We have bred this species quite successfully using natural mating in Belgium. Many young birds have been shipped to other private collections in South Africa, Brazil, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, and many other European countries.





9.4 Mikdao Pheasant

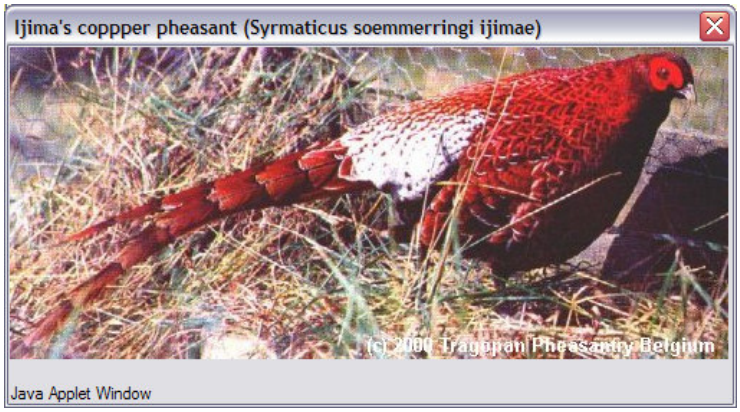
Like the Swinhoe's (Lophura swinhoei), there is no good recent information on the wild status of this Taiwanese species. It has been studied in the wild by Cara Lin Bridgman, and she found it widespread between 1800 and 3200 meters, surviving well and breeding in second-growth (logged-over forests, and in other wooded habitats, too. We have bred Mikado pheasants for many years in Belgium using both natural mating and artificial insemination. The genetic diversity in our stock is high. We received birds from private collections in U.K., Germany and France in the course of the last 15 years. Offspring from our stock birds has been shipped to private collections and zoos in Latin America, Southern Europe and South Africa and India as well.

9.5 Copper Pheasants

copper pheasants

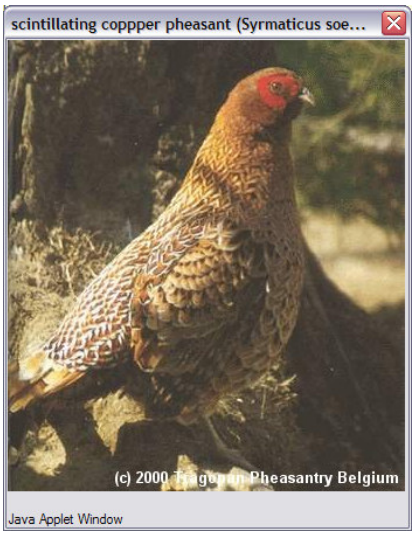
Ijima's copper pheasant (Syrmaticus soemmerringi ijimae)

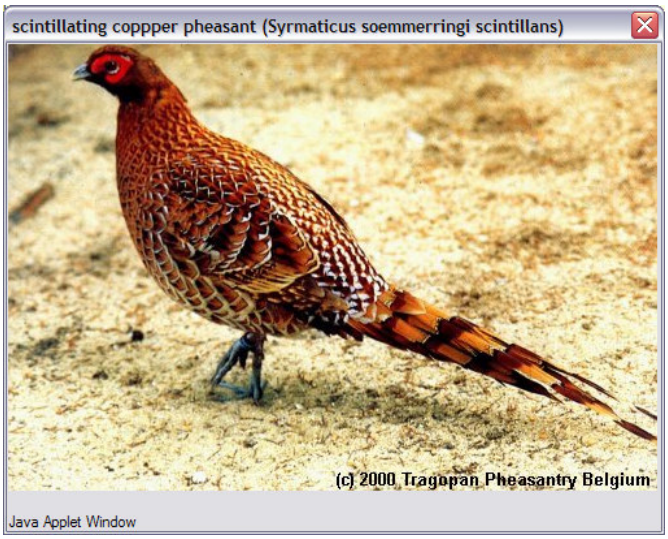
Superb displaying male ijimae coppper pheasant
at the collection of the author in Belgium

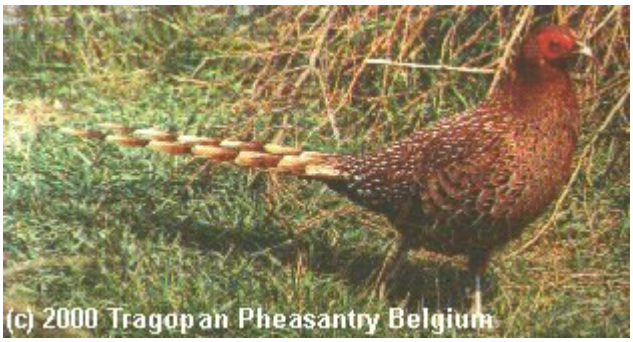


Soemmerring's copper pheasant (Syrmaticus soemmerringi soemmerringi)

cintillating copper pheasant (Syrmaticus soemmerringi scintillans)







10 True Pheasants

There is a single species in this genus with twenty-nine subspecies on the Asian mainland, one on Taiwan, and three on the Japanese islands, although some authorities consider the Japanese birds to be a separate species with three geographical races.

The true pheasants are the most numerous of all pheasants and have the widest geographical distribution, ranging from as far west as the southern foothills of the Caucasus Mountains eastward through Manchuria, China, Korea and Japan. Thus, this genus occupies a band across the entire continent of Asia, between 20 and 48 degrees north latitude, from approximately 40 to 145 degrees east longitude.

Various subspecies and hybrids between subspecies have become acclimatized in parts of Europe, North America, and a few other areas.

The thirthy-three subspecies of the true pheasant (Phasianus colchicus) are broken into six main groups and we refer to Johnsgard 1986 for further details. the same also goes any phenotypic descriptions dealing with the various subspecies of this pheasant.

The true pheasant's average clutch size is about eleven to twelve eggs, which are laid in nests constructed on the ground in thick vegetation. Incubation is performed by the female only and requires twenty-three-four days.

Phasianus colchicus is not endangered in the wild and has not been listed on any of the annexes of the CITES. This is one species that conservationists need not worry about; the

total world population of pheasants may number in excess of 50 million, with annual harvests in North America alone sometimes approaching 20 million birds, and with over seven million hand-raised birds released every year in Great Britain for sporting purposes. The pheasant population and yearly harvest in Russia and China cannot be known with any certainty.The green pheasant is a major game bird in Japan and probably represents the most popular game bird in that country. Annual harvests of more than half a million birds a year are now typical, and 100.000 captive-raised birds are released per year.

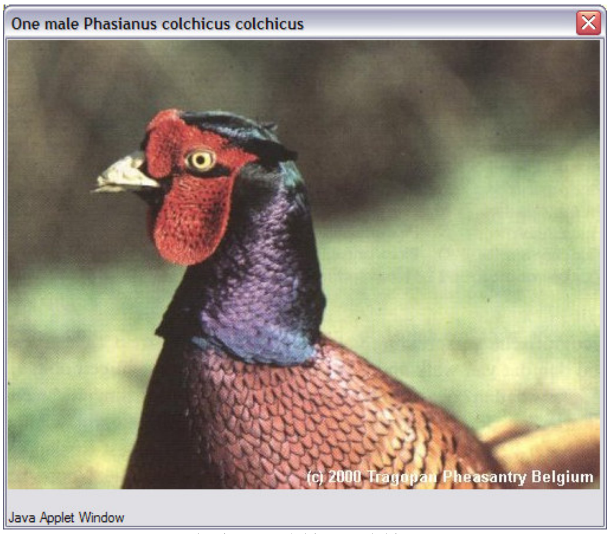
Several pure-bred subspecies are being kept and bred in western Europe and in north America.

common pheasant (30 subspecies)	Phasianus colchicus
green pheasant (3 subspecies)	Phasianus versicolor

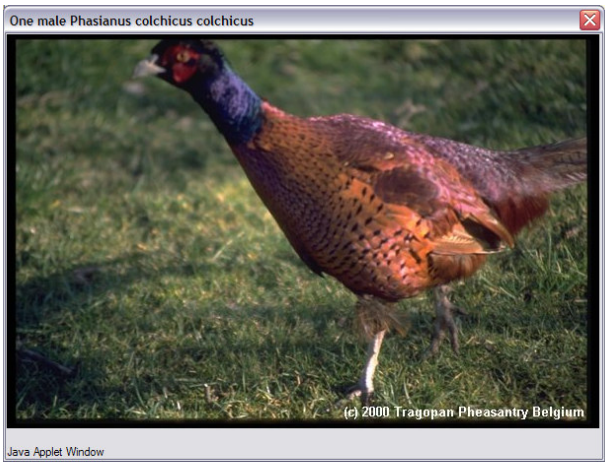
10.1 Common Pheasant

Phasianus colchicus colchicus

Phasianus colchicus colchicus



Phasianus colchicus colchicus



Phasianus colchicus colchicus

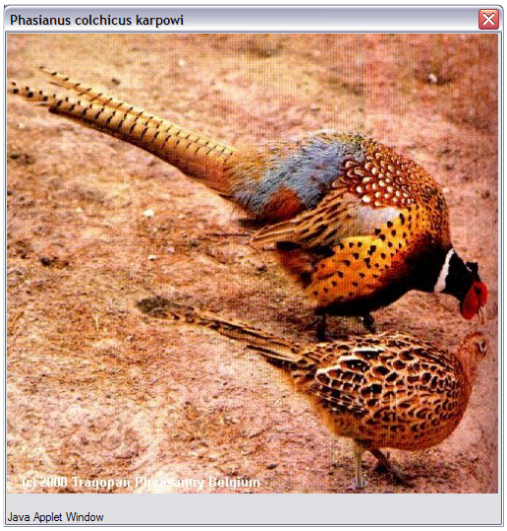
Phasianus colchicus colchicus

Phasianus colchicus formosanus

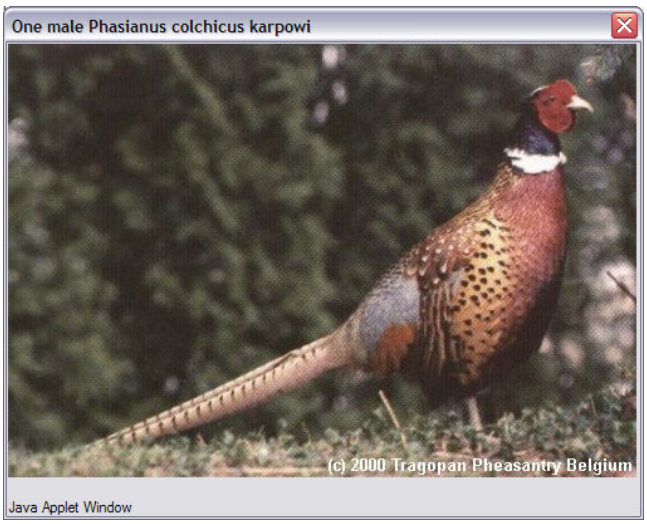
Phasianus colchicus formosanus

Phasianus colchicus formosanus

Phasianus colchicus karpowi

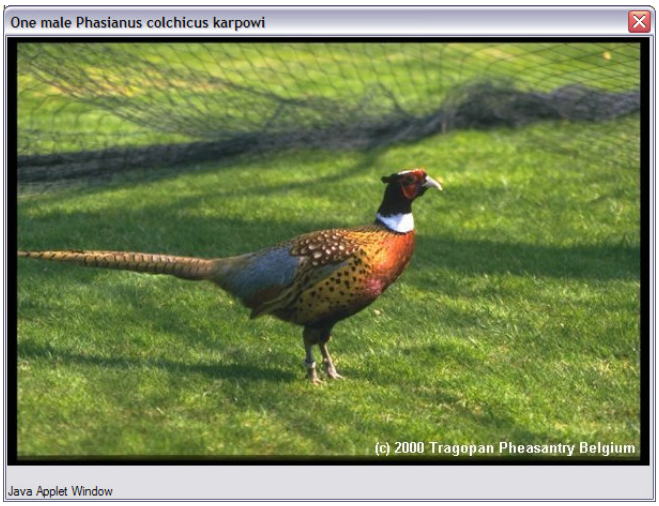


Phasianus colchicus karpowi



Phasianus colchicus karpowi

Phasianus colchicus karpowi



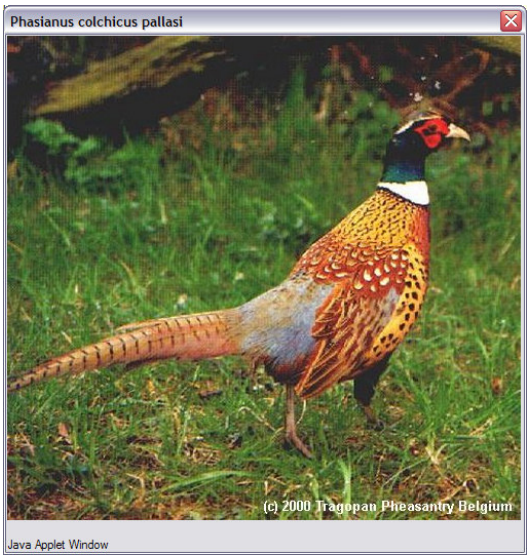
Phasianus colchicus karpowi

Phasianus colchicus mongolicus

Phasianus colchicus mongolicus

Phasianus colchicus mongolicus

Phasianus colchicus pallasi

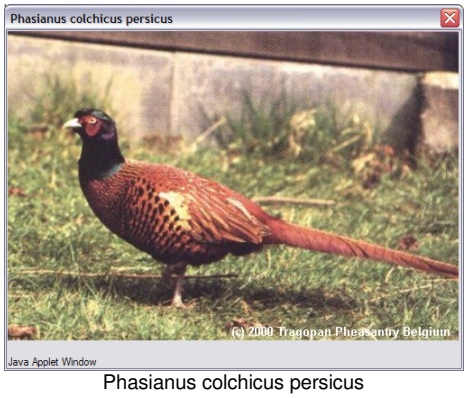


Phasianus colchicus pallasi

Phasianus colchicus pallasi

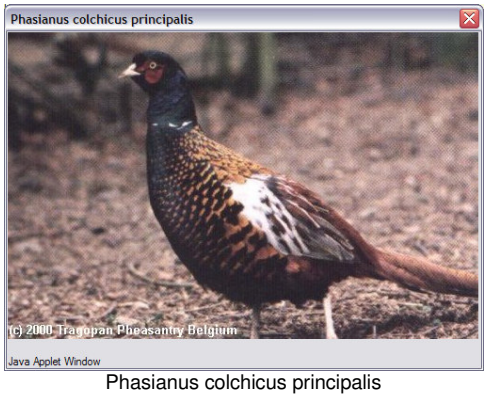
Phasianus colchicus pallasi

Phasianus colchicus persicus



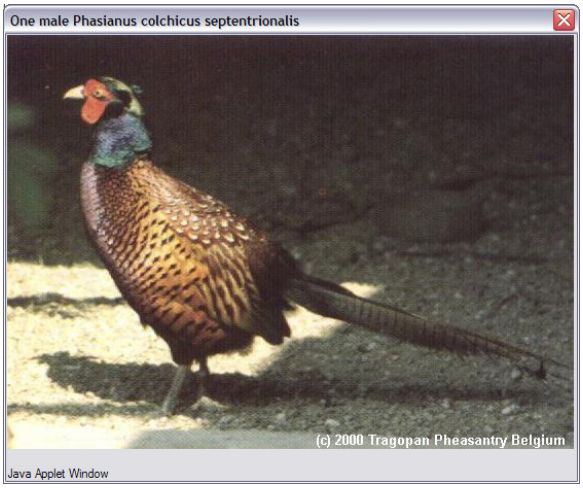
Phasianus colchicus persicus

Phasianus colchicus principalis



Phasianus colchicus principalis

Phasianus colchicus septentrionalis



Phasianus colchicus septemtrionalis

Phasianus colchicus septemtrionalis

Phasianus colchicus zarudnyi

Phasianus colchicus zarudnyi

Phasianus colchicus zerafschanicus

Phasianus colchicus zerafschanicus

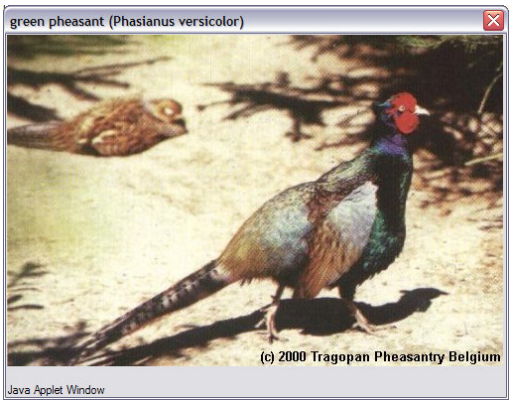
Phasianus colchicus crysomelas

Phasianus colchicus crysomelas

Phasianus colchicus torquatus

Phasianus colchicus torquatus

10.2 Green Pheasant



11 Ruffed Pheasants

The two species of ruffed pheasants, the golden and Lady Amherst's, are of major importance. Both occupy a large area in central China: the Lady Amherst's occur in the western and southern portion of this area and the goldens in the eastern and northern portion. As well, the goldens typically occur at higher elevations and colder climates. Though their ranges are very close, it seems the two species do not overlap.

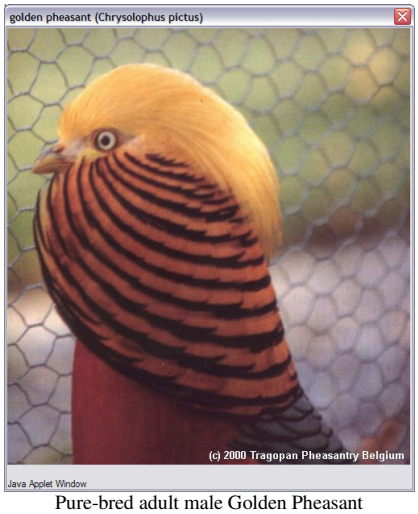
In captivity, the two species are completely cross-fertile and hybridize at random if given the opportunity. Cross-breeding, however, should be avoided and discouraged. Most private breeders and zoos in the West have taken an effort to eliminate cross-breeding and to focus on only pure-bred birds.

Ruffed Pheasants are one of the most colorful of all pheasants and do very well in captivity. Females lay six to twelve eggs in a depression in the ground and incubate their eggs for twenty-three to twenty-four days. Ruffed pheasants do well on a mixture of seeds, leaves, shoots and insects.

Lady Amherst's and goldens have not been classified by the IUCN. They are both on annex D for the CITES within the EC.

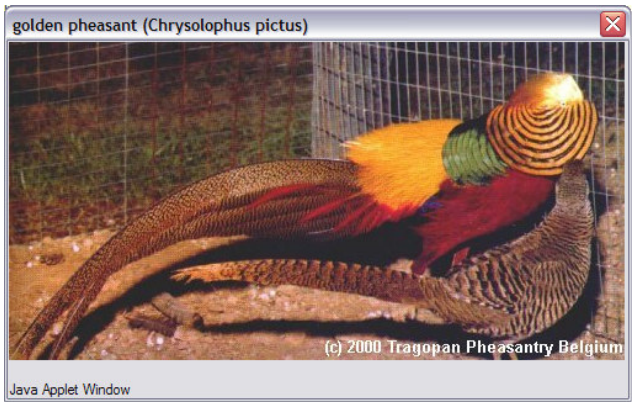
golden pheasant	Chrysolophus pictus
Lady Amherst's pheasant	Chrysolophus amherstiae

11.1 Golden Pheasant

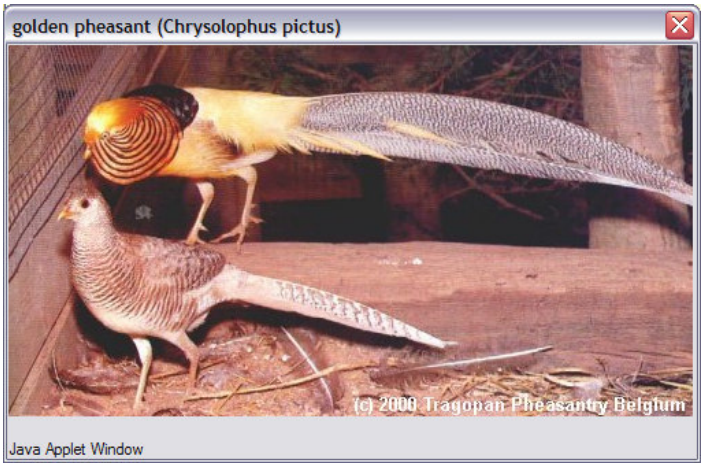


Pure-bred adult male Golden Pheasant

Pure-bred adult male Golden Pheasant

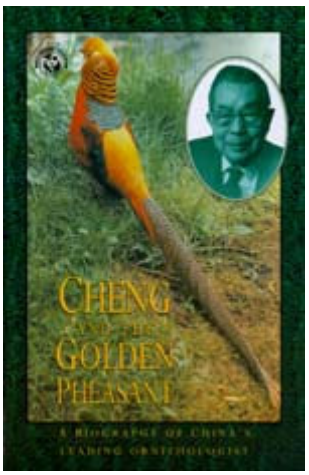


Red Golden Pheasant



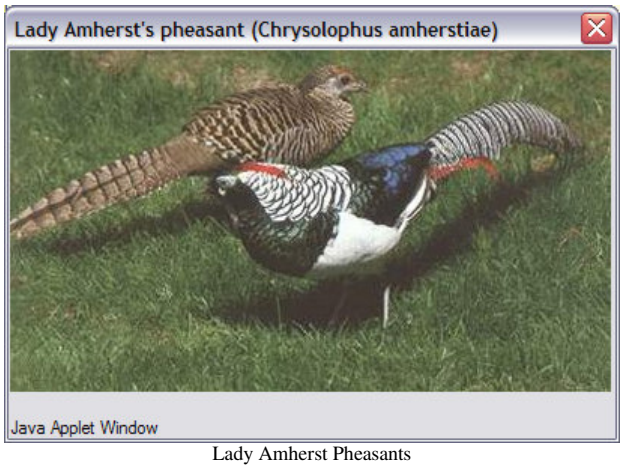
Yellow Golden Pheasant

male yellow golden pheasant



11.2 Lady Amherst's pheasant

Pure Bred adult male Lady Amherst Pheasant



Lady Amherst Pheasants

12 Peacock Pheasants

The peacock pheasants range from sea level to as high as 1525 meters. They are shy, forest-loving birds and are usually found alone or in pairs. Grey peacock pheasants have the largest range, extending from the lower foothills of southeastern Nepal across southern China and central Indochina to the island of Hainan, and south through Myanmar to the northern border of Malaysia. The German'"s range is Vietnam, while the bronze-tailed, Malayan and Rothschild's occuupy ranges in the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra. the Bornean peacock pheasant exists only in the extreme lowlands of Borneo and the Palawan only in the island of Palawan, in the Philippines.

The peacock pheasants have ocelli, usually on both the body and tail, which resemble the train of the male peafowl; hence the name peacock. Peacock Pheasants are very small, dainty birds. They are related to argus pheasants and share their characteristics, such as laying two eggs per clutch. Most peacock pheasants nest

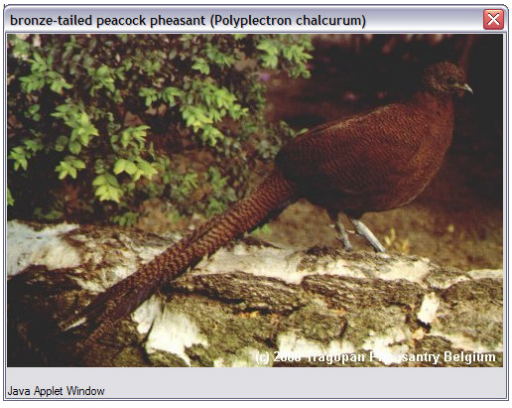
on the ground. Some hens might lay their eggs in baskets or in trees, but that is rather exemptional. Incubation of eggs varies from eighteen to twenty-two days.

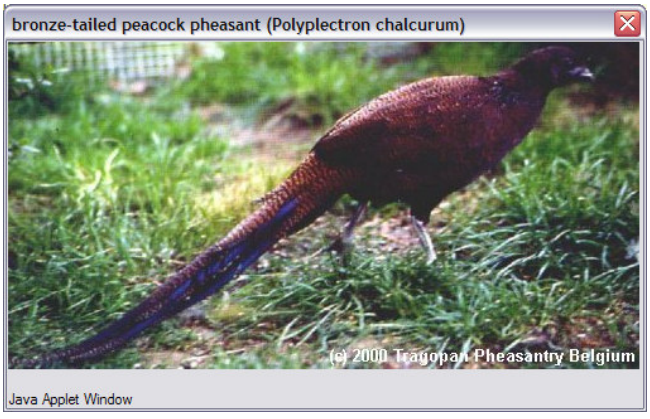
Only the Palawan has been classified as vulnerable in its native habitat by the IUCN. CITES has listed all peacock pheasants; Palawans on I, greys, Germain's, Borneans and Malays on II and Rothschild's on III. Only the Bronzetaileds have not been listed yet .

bronze-tailed peacock pheasant (2 subspecies)	Polyplectron chalcurum
Rothschild's peacock pheasant	Polyplectron inopinatum
grey peacock pheasant	Polyplectron bicalcaratum
Germain's peacock pheasant	Polyplectron germaini
Malayan peacock pheasant	Polyplectron malacense
Bornean peacock pheasant	Polyplectron schleiermacheri
Palawan peacock pheasant	Polyplectron emphanum

The successful introduction of two new types of Peacock Pheasants into West European collections

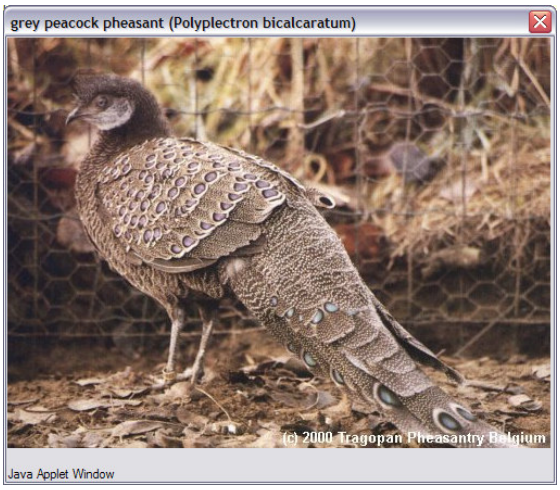
12.1 Bronze-tailed peacock pheasant

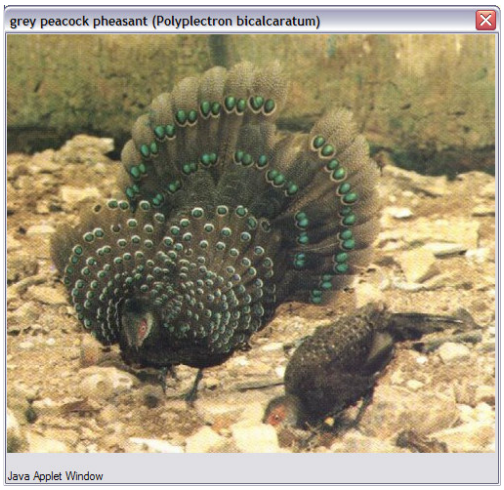


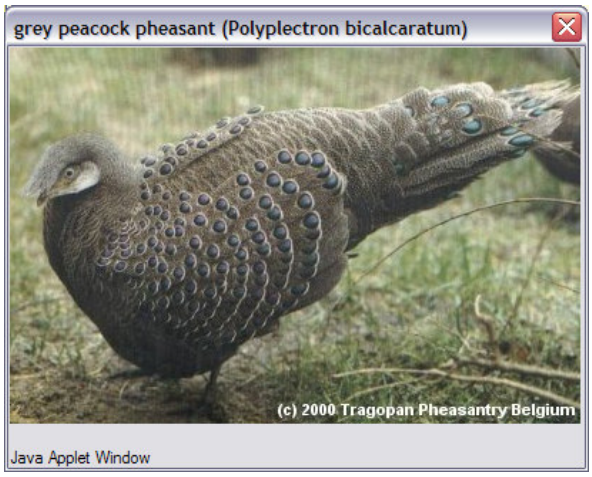


12.2 Rothschild's peacock pheasant

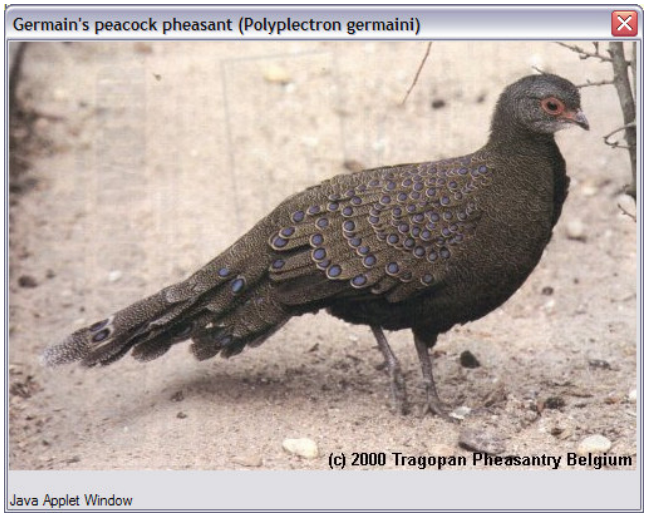
12.3 Grey peacock pheasant



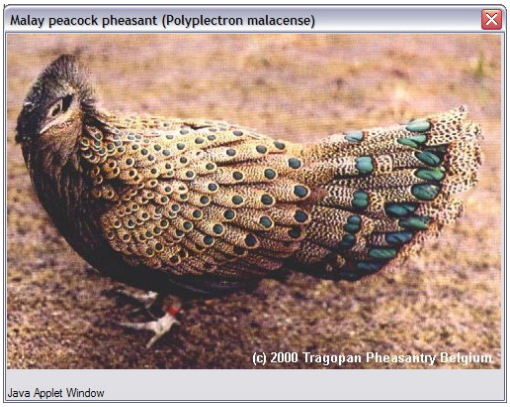




12.4 Germain's peacock pheasant



12.5 Malayan-peacock pheasant



This vulnerable taxon Polyplectron malacence, has only infrequently been kept in captivity. The Malayan subspecies is now making progress in captivity in western Europe, in Thailand, Singapore, where it is being kept and bred with reasonable success since the early nineties. This taxon is often considered as the nominate species of *Polyplectron malacense* or the Malay peacock pheasant. New founders from Asia have been imported into Europe quite recently, from both Thailand (pers.comm. Vogelpark Walsrode, West Germany) and from private breeding facilities in Singapore, from where we got our new imports in 1996. Both the Bornean (Polyplectron m. schleiermacheri) and the Malaysian counterpart do only lay one egg per clutch in captivity. We have been quite successful breeding the Malaysian subspecies since 1997 after receiving new material from abroad.

12.6 Bornean peacock pheasant

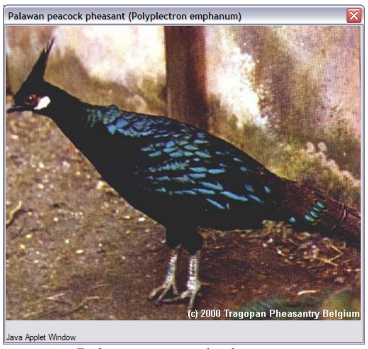
This critically endangered taxon has only infrequently been kept in captivity. Several individuals are surviving in captivity in Indonesia at the present. It is hoped that these birds will form the basis of a prolific captive population (under control of the Indonesian Govt..) to ascertain its future in captivity and in the wild as well. It is often considered as a subspecies of the Malaysian Peacock Pheasant (*Polyplectron malacense malacense*) which is only recently available in the West after new genetic founders were being shipped via the same route as the Crestless Fireback were shipped from South East Asia. Both the Bornean and the Malaysian Peacock Pheasant do only lay one egg per clutch in captivity. We have been quite successful breeding the Malaysian subspecies since 1997 after receiving new material from abroad.

The December 1998 issue of **Bird Conservation International**, vol. 8 no. 4, is devoted to papers from an International Galliformes Symposium held in Malaysia in September, 1997. Other contributions are being published elsewhere, and details may be obtained from the World Pheasant Association . Perhaps the most interesting article is a report on surveys of villagers in interior Central Kalimantan about the **BORNEAN PEACOCK-PHEASANT, *Polyplectron schleiermacheri***. (T.G. O'Brien et al., 8:373-385.) Surveys found that the distribution of the species is patchy, and that it is dependent upon lowland rainforest, most of which is contracted to logging concessions. If you want to look for this pheasant, which has never been seen in the wild by a living ornithologist, now may be your last chance. **UPDATE**: 6 birds, said to have been caught in Kalimantan, reportedly were routed through Singapore in 2000 en route to a private collector in Hong Kong. (Glenda Normaly).

12.7 Palawan peacock pheasant

Single-barred Palawan peacock pheasant

Although earlier captive surveys listed only 419 individuals in captivity. there were perhaps about 1000 captive individuals world-wide in 1995 (Mc Gowan and Garson, 1995). Deforestation of Palawan has had a terrible effect on the species, and there may be fewer than 10000 birds still surviving in the wild. We have bred this species quite successfully after receiving new material from wildlife shippers in Singapore in the late seventies and in the mid-eighties from the Sivelle-smith Aviaries, in the U.S.A. Since then, this species has bred quite successfully both in North America and in Western Europe. Many young birds have been shipped to private collections in France, Spain, Italy, Brazil, and other countries in Latin America. This Peacock Pheasant lays two eggs per clutch,as is done by almost all other taxa belonging to the genus Polyplectron except for P. malacense.



Palawan peacock pheasant

Palawan peacock pheasant

Palawan peacock pheasant

Palawan peacock pheasant female

Palawan peacock pheasant female

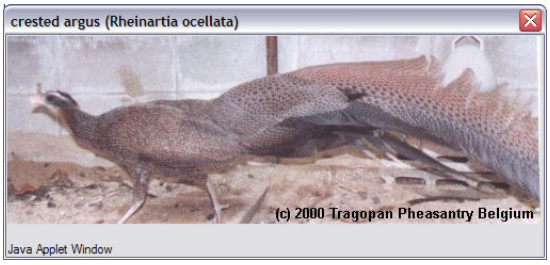
Palawan peacock pheasant

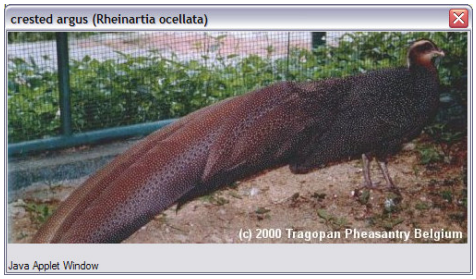
13 Crested Argus

There is one species with two subspecies in this genus. The Rheinard's range in Laos and Vietnam, and the Malay in Malaysia. Rheinard's were fairly plentiful in localized ranges in 1920 when Delacour was working in Indochina; however, they currently seem to have almost disappeared. The Malay subspecies was scarce even in 1925. A few specimen have recently been taken from the wild and kept in Negara Zoo in Malaysia. The Vietnamese subspecies is doing much better both in the wild as in captivity as well. Offspring of this latter subspecies is being raised in Saigon and Hanoi Zoo, and its status in the wilds in Vietnam is much promising.

The female lays two eggs in an elevated nest in the wild as in captivity as well, the same as the Great Argus and the Tragopans do.

Crested Argus has been classified as vulnerable by the IUCN and has been listed on appendix I by CITES.





Of the two races of Crested Argus, the Malayan form nigrescens is currently endangered, and the Indochinese race ocellata is regarded as vulnerable. As of 1994, four individuals of the Malayan race were in captivity in Malaysia. there was also a lone male of ocellata in Bangkok, and five birds were present in the Saigon Zoo (McGowan and Garson, 1995). In 1996 five wild-caught pairs were present at that zoo, and two chicks were hatched successfully. by the autumn of 1997 a total of 16 chicks had been raised and nearly tow dozen were present at the zoo (Phan Viet Lam). A few others were in captivity in Da Nang Botanic Gardens, the Hanoi Zoo, and at Bach Ma national Park, Vietnam, during 1997. Several pairs of Crested Argus have been shipped from Vietnam to Europe (France; Germany) but no successful breeding has been achieved from these since then. It is hoped that more such birds will be shipped from Vietnam to the West in order to establish a strong captive breeding nucleus, which will hopefully become self-sustainable in the long term.

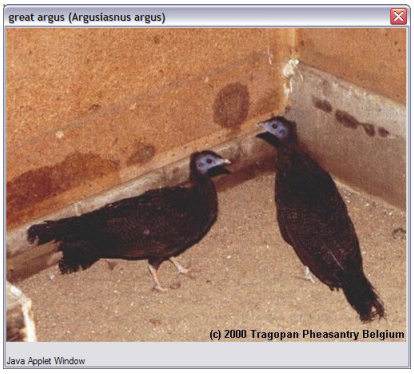
14 Great Argus

There is one species of great argus with two known subspecies. The Malay subspecies occupies the Malay Peninsula and the island of Sumatra, and the Bornean subspecies occupies the island of Borneo. They range from sealevel to about 1225 meters in heavy old forest. They are isolationists. The male and the female meet only to mate.

Their coloration is rather subdued reddish brown with black marking. The male has a row of ocelli on his primary and secondary wing feathers from which he derives his name (Argus of the 1000 eye). hens lay two eggs in a nest on the ground; sometimes they also lay their eggs in a hollow in a tree. the incubations time takes about twenty two up to twenty-five days.

Great Argus has not been classified yet by the IUCN. CITES in the EC has listed this species on appendix B. Its present captive population in western Europe is self-sustainable.

- Great argus (3 subspecies) — Argusianus argus

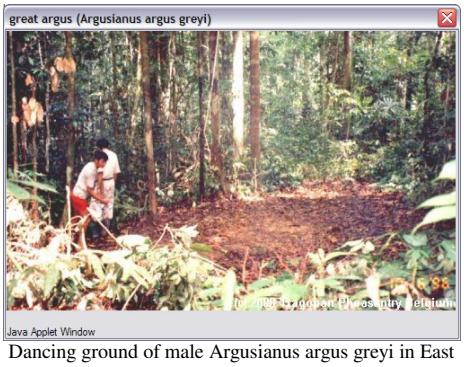


Adult pair Malay Great Argus

Adult male Malay Great Argus
at the collection of Francy Hermans

Adult male Malay Great Argus

Argusianus argus greyi female (freshly trapped)



Dancing ground of male Argusianus argus greyi in East Kalimantan

Favorite Dyak food (Argusianus argus) in Kalimantan

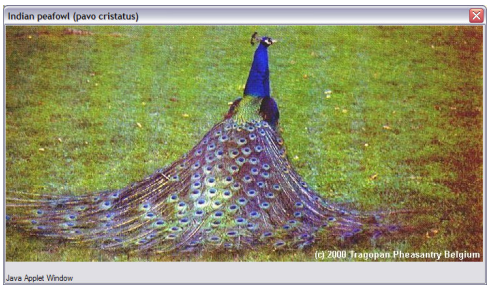
15 Peafowls

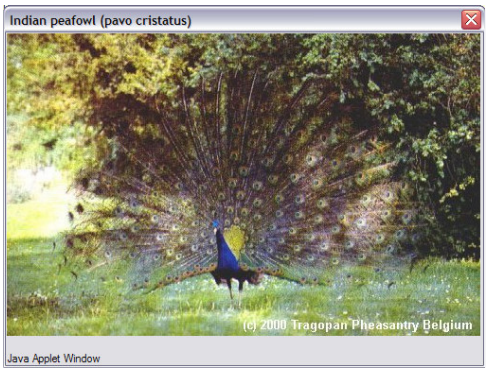
The male peafowl is among the most striking of all birds.
The Indian or blue peacock ranges through India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and extends north into southern Nepal.
The green species is found in the entire Indochina area and on the island of Java. There are three subspcies of the greens.
Hens nest on the ground and lay four to eight eggs which incubate in twenty-eight to thirty days. Peafowls are omnivorous and easy to maintain in captivity. The blue does not need any artificial heating in the winter in western Europe, whereas the greens must be heated to protect them from the cold.

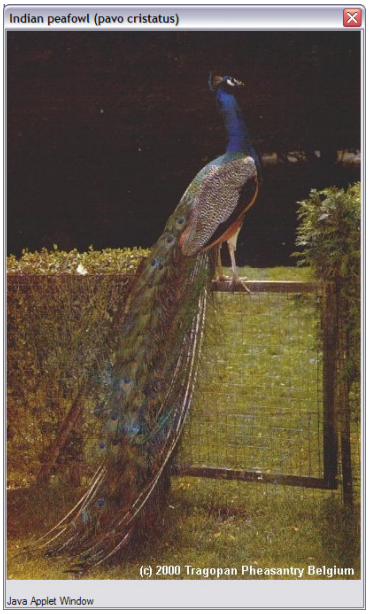
Green Peafowl has been classified as vulnerable by the IUCN and has been listed on appendix B of the CITES in the EC.

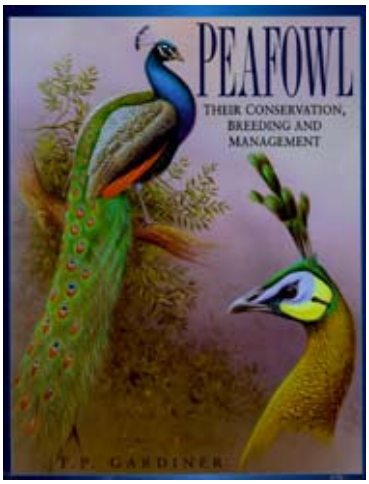
- Indian peafowl — Pavo cristatus
- green peafowl (3 subspecies) — Pavo muticus

Indian peafowl







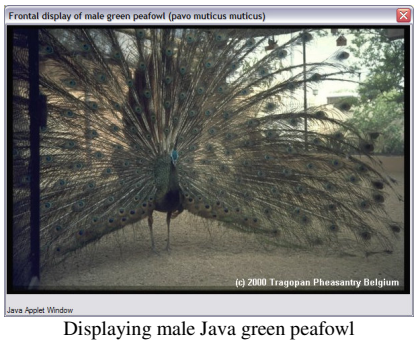


Green peafowl

Male Java green peafowl

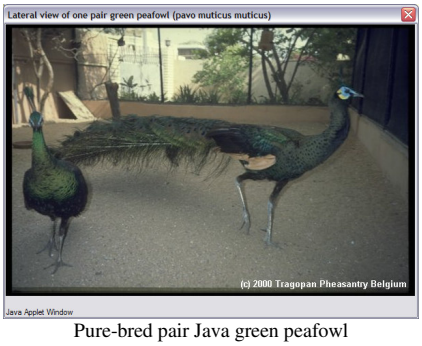
There were about 600 individuals of the Green Peacock in captivity in 1995, most of which represented the inadequately studied subspecies, spiicfer. rather than the two endangered races muticus and imperator (McGowan and Garson, 1995). Probable genetic mixing of these stocks in captivity makes their captive status hard to judge. We have been working

with the subspecies "muticus", which was brought into Europe in the late eighties via the same Singapore route as the Crestless, Crested and Peacock Pheasants were being shipped. Meanwhile several Pavo muticus muticus have been raised in Belgium and many left Belgium to new private collections in United Arab Emirates, France, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, etc..

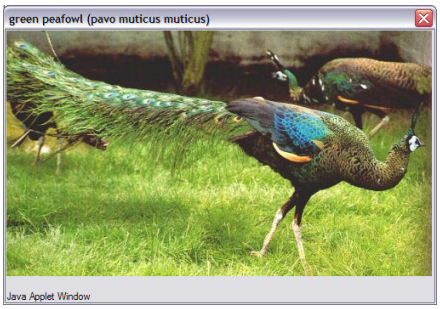


Displaying male Java green peafowl

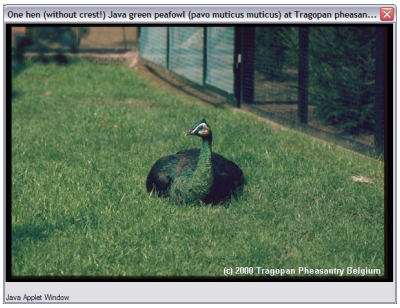
Male Java green peafowl



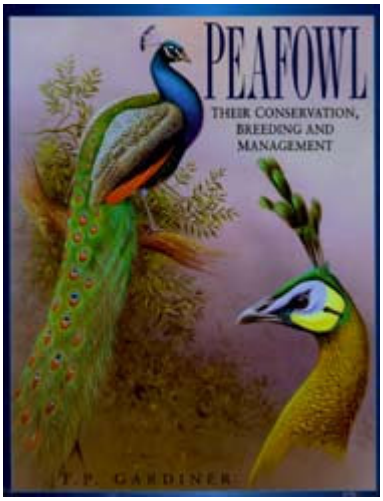
Pure-bred pair Java green peafowl



Male Java green peafowl



One hen (without crest!) Java green peafowl



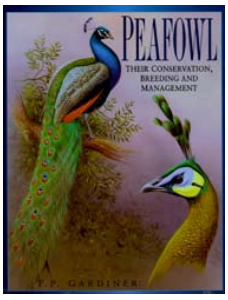
16 Congo Peacock

The male Congo Peacock is a crested and dark colored bird, very shy and seldom seen. It was discovered in 1936. It inhabits the Congo rain forest at altitureds between 375 and 1525 meters. The species is monogamous and the hen lays two or three eggs in an eleveated nest. The incubation period is from twenty-seven to twenty-eight days. Congo Peacocks are being kept and bred in captivity in various zoos and also in zome private collections. The species has been seen in the wild recently and prospects look good.

Congo Peacock is not on any list of the IUCN neither by the CITES yet. Its status in captivity is still rare.

Congo peacock — Afropavo congensis


Congo peacock (Afropavo congensis)
(c) 2000 Tragopan Pheasantry Belgium
Java Applet Window


PEAFOWL
THEIR CONSERVATION, BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT
T.P. GARDINER