

Gamebird Conservation

by Jack Clinton-Eitniear
San Antonio, Texas

During the first half of the nineteenth century, had you ventured into a meat market in New York or Baltimore, you might well have encountered a rather "fishy" tasting duck offered for sale. That duck, often said to have rotted as few desired to eat them, was that of a Labrador Duck (*Camptorhynchus labradorius*), a now extinct species. While discovered inhabiting the northeast seaboard in 1789, the duck, for reasons unknown, had disappeared by 1878.

While at least four species of waterfowl have passed into extinction, I know of only one Gallinaceous bird, the Himalayan Mountain Quail (*Ophrysia superciliosa*) that can be added to that list. This is not to say that many additional species are not heading in this direction. Habitat modification and hunting seem to be reducing gamebird numbers everywhere at a rapid rate. While efforts by the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) and the World Pheasant Association have made some substantial progress in aiding some of these species, as you can see

from the list at the end of this article, they have a rather formidable challenge ahead of them.

While it is encouraging to note that a number of species facing troubles in the wild are well represented in captivity, it is equally saddening that most are not. Having had the pleasure of working with tragopans, as well as brown-, blue- and white-eared pheasants in the late sixties, I know well of their awe-inspiring beauty. Anyone who is tempted to associate bright colors of enchanting combinations with only small birds needs to visit a pheasant collection. We can only hope that the next ICBP list contains no more, perhaps fewer, species of gamebirds. In order to help and/or learn more about pheasant conservation, write to:

World Pheasant Association,
P.O. Box 5, Child Beale Wildlife Trust,
Lower Basildon, Readings RG8 9PF,
England.

Threatened Gamebirds taken from "Birds to Watch", ICBP Technical Publication No. 8, Smithsonian Institution Press, Collar and Andrews, editors, 1988.

Threatened Ducks and Geese

West Indian Whistling Duck
Hawaiian Goose
Freckled Duck
Crested Shelduck
Baykal Teal
New Zealand Brown Teal
Laysan Duck
Pink-headed Duck
Madagascar Pochard
Scaly-sided Merganser
Lesser White-fronted Goose
Red-breasted Goose
Ruddy-headed Goose
White-winged Duck
Madagascar Teal
Hawaiian Duck
Marbled Teal
Baer's Pochard
Brazilian Merganser
White-headed Duck

Threatened Pheasants, Francolins, Quail & Peafowl

Bearded Wood-partridge
Gorgeted Wood-quail
Mount Cameroon Francolin
Nahan's Francolin
Manipur Bush Quail
Rickett's Hill-partridge
Chestnut-headed Partridge
Chestnut-necklaced Partridge
Western Tragopan
Cabot's Tragopan
Chinese Monal
Vo Quy's Pheasant
Swinhoe's Pheasant
Crested Fireback
Bulwer's Pheasant
Brown-eared Pheasant
Hume's Pheasant
Reeve's Pheasant
Malaysian Peacock-pheasant
Crested Argus
Congo Peacock
Chestnut Wood-quail
Djibouti Francolin
Swierstra's Francolin
Swamp Partridge
Sichuan Hill-partridge
Orange-necked Partridge
White-eared Hill-partridge
Himalayan Quail
Blyth's Tragopan
Sclater's Monal
Imperial Pheasant
Edwards' Pheasant
Salvadori's Pheasant
Siamese Fireback
White-eared Pheasant
Cheer Pheasant
Mikado Pheasant
Germain's Peacock-pheasant
Palawan Peacock-pheasant
Green Peafowl ●



The stately Edward's is listed among the threatened pheasants.

Photo by George A. Allen III, Salt Lake City, Utah

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