

Regardless of how much flying this grossbeak now did, back and forth in the trees, if Mrs. Clark whistled to her in that whee-oo call she was back right away to perch on shoulder or outstretched arm or hand. Mrs. Clark now shared breakfast and lunch with her devoted friend, offering her portions of whatever she herself ate out there on the sun-drenched deck.

The two became inseparable. If Mrs. Clark walked to the neighbors, the grossbeak went with her, riding on her shoulder or taking short spins as they went. When the bird was three months old, its flights became longer and longer and absences increased in length to half a day or more. It seems likely she was becoming acquainted with other grossbeaks for, when

Photo by Ron Mackie



Fledgling evening grossbeak shares a snack with her benefactor, Mrs. Sam Clark of Oakhurst, California.

summer was past, she was gone, evidently migrating to a winter range.

Now I will tell you how the remarkable occurred. One pleasant day the following spring, Mrs. Clark happened to look out a front window and there stood her old friend perched on the porch railing as was her habit the previous summer. Beside her old friend, also perched on the railing, was a male grossbeak and another grossbeak, apparently a youngster. Mrs. Clark went out and sat at the deck table where she had so often fed her bird friend so fondly. Mrs. Clark whistled the old call, whee-oo.

Her grossbeak flew to the table. She stood there and she whistled back. She whistled as if to say, "I am busy and can only stay a few minutes. But I am back and here is my family for you to see." Then the grossbeak flew away, taking her family with her. ●



Male Bulwer's wattled pheasant

Photo by Lincoln Allen, Salt Lake City, Utah

Bulwer's Wattled Pheasant

(Lophura bulweri)
by Ed Lawrence
Woodland Hills, California

The Bulwer's wattled pheasant is a seldom seen rarity, even in the wild. It bears considerable resemblance to the Malayan crested fireback in size and structure and dominant coloration. What really distinguishes this species from its relatives is the outrageously bizarre showing of engorged facial wattles that it employs during its ritualistic mating display. The wattles, which are bright blue in color, become engorged with

blood during the mating rite and their sky blue protuberance is carried both over the head and down the front of the neck of the bird. The dazzling tail of the cock bird is a massive corona of white and vies with the wattle display in ornamentation and attractiveness.

The comparative rarity of these spectacular birds makes them a very desirable subject for the aviculturist who has a dedication to determining



Male Bulwer's wattled pheasant in display mood.

Photo by Francis Billie, Temple City, CA

their specific needs for propagation. They are expensive to obtain and difficult to propagate.

The range of the Bulwer's wattled pheasant seems to be limited to the island of Borneo which is divided between the nations of Indonesia and Malaysia. Dr. Jesus Estudillo Lopez of Mexico City, assisted by Dyak tribesmen, studied and trapped this species during 1973 along the Barito River in Sarawak, which is located on the north-western coast of Borneo. Only a handful of additional importations have been made by dedicated aviculturists who have gone to considerable expense and personal difficulty in introducing this species to aviculture for preservation and captive breeding programs. They have been successfully raised in captivity by only a few, the best results seeming to occur when the birds are maintained in aviaries that closely approximate their native environment, being heavily planted with bamboo and provided with the heat and humidity that would mimic their native surroundings.

The Bulwer's eggs and incubation are similar to those of the firebacks, however, they are normally only seen

in a few zoos and are still a great rarity in aviculture, although very desirable and much sought after. As with owning a Bugatti Royale or a Picasso original, the limited supply and the considerable demand is rationed by the market place, which imposes a very high price upon such items.

About a decade ago I was in Borneo, and I was naively anticipating an enormous island with an expansive, impenetrable forest of teeming wildlife, such as had been portrayed in the grainy black and white films brought back by Martin and Osa Johnson in their trusty Ford tri-motor aeroplane. The second half of the twentieth century, however, has landed with a real bang in Borneo and tribesmen, who a few generations before were interested in head hunting, are now concerned with capital gains. The pale flicker of television lights the most flimsy of bamboo huts, and tribal long houses have Mitsubishi giant screens. Towns of any size have Holiday Inns catering to tourists and lumbermen, where the menu displays such native delicacies as baked Alaska and Charlotte Rouse. Flying over the interior you see vast areas of land that have been deforested, and you'd think for a moment that you were looking down on areas of Oregon, Washington or British Columbia from the amount of logging that is going on. It is because of scenes like this that it is incumbent upon us all to make serious scientific efforts towards preserving the wildlife and avian species being displaced by the harvesting of the tropical forest.

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Game birds are seldom incubated by the laying bird in avicultural practice. There are two methods that most aviculturists employ to bring about appropriate incubation; bantam hens or incubators.

Mickey Olson, well-known friend to aviculture and successful practitioner of its many aspects, states the argument for foster hen incubation and brooding.

"I strongly recommend eggs be collected from the aviaries promptly and artificially incubated. Most pheasant hens, fireback hens included, are very temperamental setters and should not be trusted with rare eggs to incubate. Eggs of most species of pheasants can be stored for up to eight to ten days with little or no loss of hatchability. During the time interval from laying to being

incubated, the eggs should be kept at about 60 degrees, turned 160 degrees daily and humidity should approximate the natural environment of the species.

I have used both incubators and broody bantam hens for hatching fireback eggs. Both methods have their respective advantages, and skill and experience is necessary to be successful with either method. For the following reasons I use broody chicken hens in my operation almost exclusively:

1. Availability of good broody stock. Broodiness is both inherited and environmental, and my strain of setting hens has been reared and kept for setting exclusively for some 20 years.

2. My operation is located in an area of electrical power outages of from a few minutes to several hours. This is of great concern when using an electric incubator.

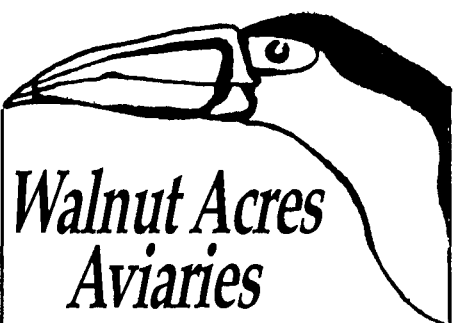
3. Broody hens with the proper environment and hereditary background prove to be good mothers as well as setters and provide chicks with valuable security during the first few weeks of life and encourage chicks to start eating.

4. Ease of chicks starting to feed with a brooding hen serving as teacher.

5. Ease of brooding, as hen is heat source, and we don't need to depend on artificial electrical heat.

6. General attitude of chicks is improved. A hen adds to stability. Youngsters are more gentle and less flighty as they mature, thus making better breeders and display birds.

It is important to match the size of the broody hen to the size of egg or adult pheasant so chicks are not hurt or killed by the broody hen being too large. When eggs are well pipped they are removed from the broody hen and placed in an incubator hatching area to complete hatching and to gain strength for the first 12 hours. At that time, they are placed with the broody hen still on the nest, and after two more hours placed with the broody hens in rearing boxes. These boxes are 36" by 24" by 18" high. They are equipped with mason jar type waterers and heat lamps if the weather is still cold. The brooding pens are placed on grass and feed is placed on burlap material in the back one half of the brooder." (Quotation from *Gazette*, Geo. Allen Jr., editor, 1155 E. 4780 So., Salt Lake City, Utah 84117.)●



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