



from
the field....

The Western Tragopan

by Jack Clinton-Eitnrear, Field Editor
San Antonio, Texas

Of the five species of tragopans found in Asia, the Western Tragopan, *Tragopan melanocephalus*, has the westernmost distribution. In the past, Western Tragopans ranged from Swat in Pakistan to Garhwal in India but were generally considered rare and localized in distribution. Due to a decline within the last century, the species has been given endangered status. Reasons for this decline include destruction of habitat by humans and livestock, egg collecting, hunting for food, and trapping by local villagers. The total world population in 1982 has been estimated at 5,000 birds.

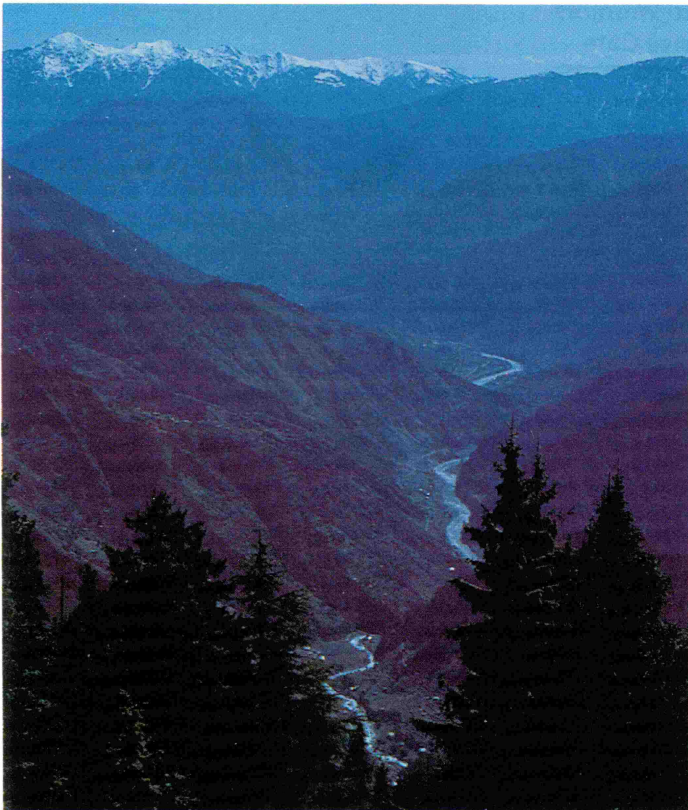


The endangered Western Tragopan (Tragopan melanocephala).

The most current data we have on the species' status in the wild was gathered by Kamal Islam, a graduate student at Oregon State University. Islam conducted field research from May 1 to September 7 and April 1 to October 7, 1983 in the Neelum Valley of Azad, Kashmir, northeastern Pakistan. Of the seven areas that were

censused, tragopans were found only at Salkhala, Kuttan, and Machiara between 2400m and 3000m in altitude. In all areas the species was discovered in small units with the bulk of the population in the Neelum Valley of Azad Kashmir, northeastern Pakistan and a larger population in the Suttlej Valley of northwestern

Photo compliments of Kamal Islam



View of the Neelum Valley, northeastern Pakistan where Kamal Islam conducted his field research on the Western Tragopan.

Photo compliments of Kamal Islam



Habitat preferred (short conifers and small shrubs) by the Western Tragopan in northeastern Pakistan.

Photo compliments of Christopher Savage

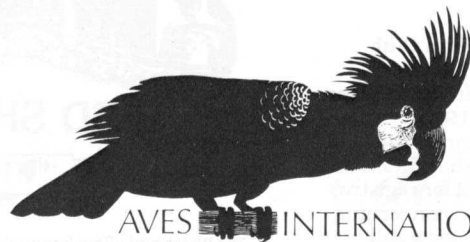


Known and reported distribution of the Western Tragopan in Pakistan.

India. Further observation of the tragopan population in the Neelum Valley documented that the species prefers short shrubs and trees and avoided the taller vegetation.

Kamal states that the major threats to the Western Tragopan include "hunting, trapping, grazing of livestock, wood gathering, and clearing of forests for human habitation." Birds are hunted not only for their food value but also for the skins of the colorful males.

While two national parks are proposed that would protect this magnificent pheasant, they are currently only in the planning stage. An effort, by the Government of Pakistan, to establish the species in captivity may be the pheasants' only real hope for long term survival. While the tragopan was maintained in several European collections from 1864 to around 1900, no specimens currently exist in captivity. ●



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Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club
sponsors its
4th Annual Exotic Bird Exhibition
August 27, 1989

(An exotic bird seminar will be held the day before the Bird Exhibition. Seating is limited, call for registration.) For information concerning seminar and bird show call:
(313) 483-BIRD

Birds of a Feather
Avicultural Society
3rd Annual Exotic Bird Show
September 16, 1989
Auburn Village School
Eaton Road (Exit 2 So. off Rte. 101)
For information:
Eileen Brouck
590 Main St., Danville, NH 03819
(603) 642-5084

The Boston Cockatiel Society
presents its
4th Annual Exotic Bird Show
Saturday, September 23, 1989
Framingham Civic League
214 Concord Street (Rte. 126)
Framingham, Massachusetts
For information please call:
(508) 481-7850
Show Director Bob Broxton
154 West Main Street
Marlboro, MA 01752

Long Island Parrot Society
3rd Annual Parrot Show
Saturday, September 23, 1989
Registration 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
All species of parrots
(all birds must be caged)
Judging starts promptly at 10:30 a.m.
Plattduetsche Park Restaurant
1132 Hempstead Turnpike
Franklin Square, New York
Judge: Dr. A.E. Decoteau
Standard Class, Specialty Awards,
Children's Division & Judge's Award
For additional information contact:
Debra Eagle, president
(516) 242-5855
Bob Dietrich, show coordinator
(516) 563-8978

Jacksonville Cage Bird Association
presents its
1st Annual Cage Bird Show
September 30, 1989
(Sept. 29, social and show prep activities; Sept. 30, judging and banquet; Oct. 1, auction)
Jacksonville Airport Hilton
Jacksonville International Airport
14000 Dixie Clipper Road
Jacksonville, Florida 32229
For hotel reservations:
(904) 757-1741
For information contact:
Show chair Clark Page (904) 764-4230
7611 North Shore Drive,
Jacksonville, FL 32208



The Watchbird offers free publicity for member club bird shows by announcing the dates and locations of the shows. To have your show listed it is necessary to get the data to the Watchbird four to five months before the show date. For example, if your show takes place the first week of October, it should be listed in the August/September issue. The deadline for that issue is June 1st. (Copy/article deadline is two months preceding publication date.)

Fort Worth Bird Club
announces their
36th Annual Open Show
October 6 & 7, 1989
Comfort Inn, 1601 E. Division,
Arlington, Texas 76010
For information call/contact:
Nelda Harris (817) 295-1472
128 S.E. Newton Dr.,
Burleson, Texas 76028

The Greater Rochester
Hookbill Association
Sixth Annual Parrot Exhibition
Saturday, October 7, 1989
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Rochester Museum and Science
Center's Eisenhart Auditorium
Six classes and novelty classes
(best talker, best trick,
and most popular)
Contact:
Paul Lewis (315) 926-7661
Mark Hennekey (716) 235-5933
Linda Matteson (315) 597-4836
GRHA
4159 Dean Road, Marion, NY 14450

Mid America Cage Bird Society
Annual All Bird Show
October 7, 1989
Airport Inn, Des Moines, Iowa
Hosting American Cockatiel Society
For information contact:
Flo Horrell
3941 29th St., Des Moines, IA 50310
(515) 277-1956

Colorado Cage Bird Association
presents its
4th Annual Show
October 14, 1989
Colorado Springs City Auditorium
221 E. Kiowa, Colorado Springs, CO
For information call or write:
Terry Putzstuck
2520 N. Weber
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
(719) 632-2142

New Hampshire Aviculture Society
is holding its
Annual Cage Bird Show
October 14, 1989
For information contact:
Lorna Donovan, (508) 879-3240
42 Freeman Street,
Farmingham, Massachusetts 01701

Wisconsin Cage Bird Club, Inc.
announces its
12th Annual All Bird Show
October 20 & 21, 1989
Holiday Inn / Holidome
Oshkosh, Wisconsin
For information contact:
Jane Brickham
505 McKinley Ave., Omro, WI 54963
(414) 685-2242

Massachusetts Cage Bird Assn. Inc.
announces its
73rd Annual Show
October 21, 1989
Assabet Valley Regional
Vocational High School
Fitchburg Street, Marlboro, MA
Registration begins at 8 a.m.
Judging at 10 a.m.
For information contact:
Dianna Smith, club secretary
P.O. Box 141, Falmouth, MA 02541

Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club
is hosting its
Fall Bird Show and Fair
October 21 & 22, 1989
Judged show on Sat., Fair on Sunday
Rodeway Inn
I-40 at Briley Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee
For show information contact:
Ed Dittmar, Rt. 3, Box 469
Lovers Lane, Lebanon, Tenn. 37087
For fair information contact:
Jean Michael, Rt. 2, Box 33C
Cedar Hill, Tenn. 37032
(615) 696-2786

Capitol City Bird Society
welcomes you to our
Annual Bird Show
October 21, 22, 23, 1989
La Sierra Community Center
(Sacramento)
5325 Engle Road
Carmichael, CA 95608
For information contact:
Linda Davidson (916) 652-5235
Donna Trondeault (916) 334-4740

Rocky Mountain Society
of Aviculture
is presenting its
27th Annual Bird Show
October 28 & 29, 1989
Oasis Club at El Jebel Temple
4625 W. 58th, Denver, Colorado
Saturday:
competition judging and banquet
Sunday:
pet contest, bird care class,
hand-feeding class, taming class
Both days:
commercial exhibits, raffle, bird sale,
educational exhibits
For information contact:
Mary Kaye Buchtel, show manager
P.O. Box 3663
Englewood, CO 80155
(303) 369-4804