



## Description

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The *International Journal of Galliformes Conservation* is an open access journal that is published online by the World Pheasant Association. The World Pheasant Association is an international non-governmental organization that is dedicated to ensuring the survival of those species of the Galliformes that are threatened with extinction and to the maintenance of viable populations of all of these birds and their natural habitats.

## Editorial board

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## **Introduction to the International Journal of Galliformes Conservation**

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The World Pheasant Association (WPA) published the *Journal of the World Pheasant Association* between 1976 and 1993. In 2010 we re-launched this publication as an online journal dedicated to the research and management of Galliformes with an internationally recognised board of editors. The name of the Journal also reflects our commitment to the global diversity of research and management directed towards the Galliformes.

### **Aim and objectives**

The *International Journal of Galliformes Conservation* will publish original papers on any aspect relevant to the conservation of Galliformes. The Journal encourages material that enhances understanding of conservation needs and has the potential to improve conservation management of Galliformes species. Its overriding aim is to improve the quality of knowledge that is available for the conservation of all species of Galliformes and their habitats. In order to achieve this, it has the following objectives.

1. To encourage those who are new to the field, especially in countries where Galliformes occur and where the availability of support and advice is in short supply, to communicate their findings to the international community. Working with Galliformes conservationists who have not published in an international journal before is a high priority for the editorial board. This will involve providing advice on layout, analysis and presentation of results, as well as assistance with revising manuscripts and improving written English.
2. To facilitate the publication of high quality and conservation-relevant information on this highly threatened Order of birds. There is a great deal of research and conservation work being undertaken around the world and, given that 25% of the species are listed as threatened, it is vital that as much as possible is in the public domain. Many generalist zoological, ecological and even ornithological journals have to reject up to 75% of papers owing to a lack of space. This occasionally means that the more specialised work on Galliformes (often from outside Europe and North America), which is of high quality but may not be considered to have sufficient novel academic merit, will not be published and therefore remains largely unknown.
3. To make available information on emerging issues and opinions, approaches to conservation and research techniques that may enhance the quality of research undertaken on Galliformes. The Journal is targeted towards conservation professionals, academics, government departments, non-governmental organizations, students, those engaged in management of captive birds for conservation purposes and interested members of the public. With ever increasing amounts of information available in many different forms, it is challenging to keep abreast of new ideas and developments that may have profound effects on the way that research and management is conducted. The Journal will, therefore, act as a forum for the dissemination of this information.

### **Online and open access**

In the last few years, there has been a considerable increase in the number of journals that are freely available online. The spread of the internet has substantially reduced the cost of access to such journals so that the information contained within them reaches much larger audiences. At the same time, however, it is also realised that there is a moral reason why access to information should not be restricted to those who can afford to pay. WPA has readily embraced this, given its commitment to supporting individuals engaged in Galliformes conservation. However, this open access does not mean that papers of an unacceptable standard will be published. The great success of the journals published by the Public Library of Science (PLoS: see [www.plos.org](http://www.plos.org)) shows that this balance can be achieved. For example, *PLoS Biology* which is now in its seventh volume is already ranked in the top tier of life science journals by the Institute for Scientific Information. The ambitions of the *International Journal of Galliformes Conservation* are more modest, but there will be an emphasis on maintaining an internationally acceptable scientific standard in each volume.

***Symposia on Galliformes***

Symposia organised by WPA and partners and the resulting proceedings have recently been the main vehicle for delivering the scientific and experience-based outputs of WPA and WPA associated workers, to a wider audience. This has been supplemented by occasional papers in scientific journals. Today, however, the appeal of submitting papers to proceedings has diminished and they are no longer seen as an appropriate means of publishing findings. The same pattern can be seen across science and many scientific conferences no longer produce proceedings. This is partly because of the huge effort involved in producing 'stand alone' proceedings and partly because many people prefer to publish in scientific journals that are already well-known and widely read. These journals also offer a degree of access that proceedings and other 'grey literature' can never hope to match. This does, however, mean that some of the important information generated by those working on Galliformes has not been getting in to print. The Journal will, therefore, publish special issues after appropriate symposia and conferences whether organised by WPA or not. This first volume contains papers from two such meetings.