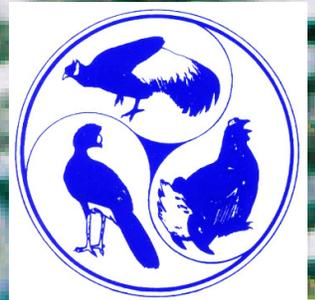


# International Journal of Galliformes Conservation

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The *International Journal of Galliformes Conservation* is an open access journal that will be 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.

Cover photo: (green peafowl © Jeremy Holden) Green peafowl were once widespread across much of Southeast Asia. In China they are now only found in a few isolated pockets in Yunnan Province, Southwest China. Two papers (pages 29–31 and 32–35) review the status and distribution of the species in that area.

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

The World Pheasant Association (WPA) published the *Journal of the World Pheasant Association* between 1976 and 1993. It is now thought timely to re-launch such a publication that is dedicated to the research and management of Galliformes, but as an online journal (available at [www.pheasant.org.uk](http://www.pheasant.org.uk)), 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.

### **Dr Stephen J. Browne & Dr Philip McGowan**

Editors-in-chief - *International Journal of Galliformes Conservation*

## **Editorial – Introduction to Volume 1 - The International Journal of Galliformes Conservation.**

### ***4<sup>th</sup> International Galliformes Symposium – 2007, Chengdu, China.***

In October 2007, a symposium was held on the conservation and sustainable management of all species of partridge, quail, francolin, guineafowl, grouse and pheasant, with a special emphasis on the threatened species and their habitats. This meeting, a successor to the 3<sup>rd</sup> *International Galliformes Symposium* held in India in 2004, was jointly organised by WPA, the then Pheasant Specialist Group, and the Partridge, Quail and Francolin Specialist Group in collaboration with WPA-China and the China Ornithological Society. The objective was to hold a major gathering of all those with an interest in Galliformes species and the conservation of these birds and their habitats. There was a series of invited and contributed oral presentations, posters with short talks, discussion seminars and technical workshops. Overall, almost 110 presentations, from 24 countries, were given as either talks or posters at the symposium. The first day of the symposium was dedicated to studies throughout China. The second day started with a special session that show-cased some of WPA's most important and successful projects, which in some cases had been running for over 25 years. Subsequent sessions over the second and third days covered a range of subjects from ecology, abundance, distribution and habitat use, country and regional overviews, to conservation research and strategy, methods and technology. There was a special session on conservation breeding and, as an indication of how advanced galliform research is today, a whole session on genetic and phylogenetic studies. Papers given at this symposium, and ultimately prepared as manuscripts, make up the majority of this first volume of the *International Journal of Galliformes Conservation*. All have been assessed by a member of the editorial panel, and in most cases reviewed by two independent referees. It is likely that a number of further papers from this symposium will feature in the next volume of the Journal.

### **Dr Stephen J. Browne**

*Chairman, Scientific Committee - 4<sup>th</sup> International Galliformes Symposium*

### ***2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on Neotropical Quail: status, conservation and research - 2006, Veracruz, Mexico.***

This volume contains three papers resulting from the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Workshop on Neotropical Quail: status, conservation and research* held in October 2006 as a post-conference workshop of the *IV North American Ornithological Congress* held in Veracruz, Mexico. The workshop was attended by a dozen participants from the USA, Mexico and Central America. Interest in neotropical quail has always been less than that for the larger gamebirds, which makes these periodic meetings of great importance. Additional papers from the workshop will appear in a forthcoming *Studies in Avian Biology* publication, of the Cooper Ornithological Society, on neotropical gamebirds. The workshop was a joint effort of the then Partridge, Quail, and Francolin Specialist Group and the Center for the Study of Tropical Birds, Inc. Special appreciation is due to the World Pheasant Association who provided funds to offset the cost of the workshop.

### **Jack Clinton Eitniear**

*Workshop Organiser - 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on Neotropical Quail: status, conservation and research*