

Mor

Newsletter of World Pheasant Association - India



Indian Peafowl
Pavo cristatus
National Bird
&
Odisha State Bird



Himalayan Monal
Lophophorus impejanus
Uttarakhand State Bird



Western Tragopan
Tragopan melanocephalus
Himachal Pradesh State Bird



Blood Pheasant
Ithaginis cruentus
Sikkim State Bird



Blyth's Tragopan
Tragopan blythii
Nagaland State Bird



Hume's Pheasant
Syrmaticus humiae
Manipur and Mizoram
State Bird

Pheasants as National & State Birds

Mor is the newsletter of WPA-India for private circulation. Its publication is being supported by the Duleep Matthai Nature Conservation Trust.

Editorial

Dear Readers,

Yet another issue of Mor is in your hands and we hope you will like the coverage of issues. Among other things, this time we have two features dealing with pheasants in the north-east. There is a fascinating account by H. Lalthanzara of the pheasants and their status in the little known region of Mizoram, and a short feature about Snow Partridges in Arunachal Pradesh. We are also reproducing an archival piece by M. Krishnan that throws light on the history of the selection of the peafowl as our National Bird and some interesting aspects of the bird. A Hindi write up by Arvind Saini reveals the ground scenario prevailing with respect to the State Bird of Haryana – the black partridge.

*Mor needs more support – from all of you! Please do send in your articles, images, travelogues and other interesting and informative write ups for the forthcoming issues. From all of us at WPA-India, wishing you a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year** in advance.*

Sharad Gaur
President, WPA-India

Long Term Conservation of Pheasants in Western Arunachal Pradesh

The good news is that the above-mentioned project submitted by WPA – India to the **Duleep Matthai Nature Conservation Trust** has been approved recently.

The project involves a field study in selected areas of West Kameng and Tawang Districts in Arunachal Pradesh essentially to assess the current status of the pheasant species, to determine the nature and extent of threats, and also to prepare a conservation strategy and action plan for these birds as indicator and flagship species. Further, the project aims at involving the local communities for promoting conservation oriented activities.

It is noteworthy that this is the first such initiative for this difficult, inaccessible and hitherto unexplored part of Arunachal Pradesh, which is very rich biologically and is certainly quite unique in respect of Pheasants. For instance, West Kameng is the only area in India and the world that has three out of five different species of the beautiful Tragopans found in the world. Arunachal Pradesh is undoubtedly the richest Indian State for Pheasants with around 65% of India's pheasant species and more than 20% of the world's total.

Pheasants of Mizoram: An overview

by: H. Lalthanzara, Assistant Professor (Zoology), Pachhunga University College, Aizawl, Mizoram.

Mizoram (area: 21087 sq. km - 21°58'N to 24°35'N latitude and 92°15 to 93°29'E longitude) is located in north-east India. It has a state boundary in the north with Manipur, Assam and Tripura and an international boundary with Bangladesh in the west and south (318 kms) and Myanmar in the east and south (404 kms). It lies within the Indo-Myanmar Biodiversity Hotspot area. Mizoram is rich in wild flora and fauna, both in variety and abundance. The dense natural forest covers 3158.57 sq. km (i.e. 14.98% of the total area), and is divided into tropical wet evergreen, tropical semi-evergreen and montane subtropical pine forests. The medium dense forest accounts for 2628.08 sq. km. and the bamboo forest accounts for a further 6707.37 sq. km.

Thick canopy forest with dense undergrowth and the high altitude, rugged and steep landscape covered by forest are home for many important ornamental plants and threatened animals. Among them are threatened species of ground birds including Pheasants. Six species of Pheasants are recorded from Mizoram, viz. (i) Red Jungle Fowl (*Gallus gallus*), (ii) Kalij Pheasant (*Lophura leucomelanos lathamii*), (iii) Grey Peacock Pheasant (*Polyplectron bicalcaratum*), (iv) Mrs Hume's Pheasant (*Syrnaticus humiae*), (v) Blyth's Tragopan (*Tragopan blythii*) and (vi) Green Peafowl (*Pavo muticus*).



Green Peafowl



Mrs Hume's Pheasant
State Bird



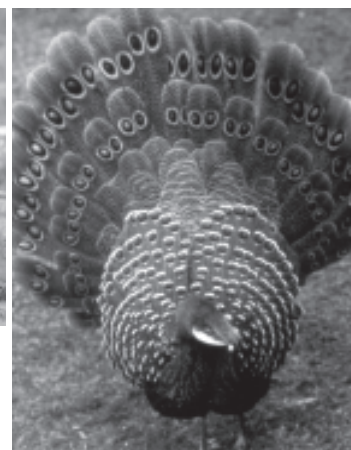
Red Jungle Fowl



Blyth's Tragopan



Kalij Pheasant



Grey Peacock Pheasant

Information is scanty about these birds and the little literature available is confined to specific location for one or two species. Thus, general information on pheasants is not available. So to add information about these enchanting birds, a survey was taken up. The survey was conducted during September 2012 - March 2013 covering all the 8 districts of Mizoram. A total of 235 villages were covered. Information was collated by interview with local people, particularly hunters, village elders, staff of the Environment & Forest Dept. and by screening concerned government departmental records. Opportunistic encounters were also taken into consideration. The survey shows that among the six species of Pheasants, Red Jungle Fowl (Mizo name- *Ramar*) and Kalij Pheasant (Mizo name- *Vahrit*) are the most versatile in distribution and were recorded from all the surveyed sites irrespective of altitude and vegetation type. Grey Peacock Pheasant (Mizo name- *Varihaw*) was recorded from 103 sites, but are usually confined to the virgin forest and adjacent secondary forest. There are local reports that the Grey Peacock Pheasant's population has decreased due to habitat loss. The population status of the above mentioned species is considered to be stable, but if the present condition of habitat destruction by various anthropogenic activity and hunting and snaring continues, the population can dwindle rapidly in the near future.



Figure 1: Map showing location of study site

During the survey, a rare albino Kalij pheasant was sighted at N.E. Khawdungsei forest in the north eastern part of the state. The bird was first detected by local residents in the year 2006 among a flock of 5. Since then the bird was occasionally sighted every year. The foraging lone bird was watched stealthily during day time and it was finally photographed on 30th April 2011 at its roosting place at around 2130 hrs. Local residents are very much concerned about this peculiar Kalij Pheasant; their efforts in protecting the bird are commendable.

Mizoram State Government declared Mrs Hume's Pheasant as the State Bird and it is locally called 'Vavu'. This bird was reported previously from seven sites in the state by A. Choudhury. Our preliminary survey records the bird from ten sites - 5 sites in Champhai district, 3 in Lawngtlai district, one site in Serchhip district and another one site in Saiha district. Mrs Hume's Pheasant is categorised as 'Near-Threatened' by IUCN

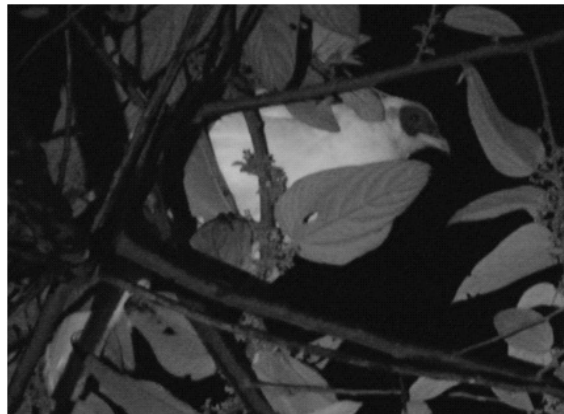


Figure 2: Albino Kalij Pheasant

2013. The birds are dispersed in high altitude forests, which are highly fragmented and are vulnerable to human activities. Proper conservation management is urgently needed in the state.

Blyth's Tragopan, (Mizo name- *Vangâ*) is a 'vulnerable' species (IUCN 2013) and was previously reported from Phawngpui National Park (2157m), of south eastern Mizoram. Recently we recorded the bird by call count technique on the second highest peak of the state, i.e. Lengteng peak (2141 m). However, the present survey recorded Blyth's Tragopan from 4 villages- 3 in Lawngtlai district and 1 in Champhai district. These villages are all adjacent to Phawngpui National Park and Lengteng Wildlife Sanctuary having the highest and second highest peaks of Mizoram respectively. The places where Blyth's Tragopan was recorded lie in the eastern side (Champhai and Lawngtlai districts) of Mizoram bordering Myanmar. Blyth's Tragopan restrict themselves to higher altitudinal region covered by thick virgin forest with steep or cliff areas free from human disturbance.

The lone report of the endangered Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus* (Mizo name- *Âr-awn*) in the wild is from Tarpho village of Lunglei district. In the year 2008, a farmer unknowingly shot a female from his rice field. Green Peafowl has not been sighted in Mizoram since that time. This may be due to unavailability of the preferred habitat as well as anthropogenic pressure inside Mizoram. Green Peafowl are very shy and hardly emerge on forest clearings and forest edges, so they are very difficult to detect. A male Green Peafowl was kept captive at Aizawl Zoological Park.

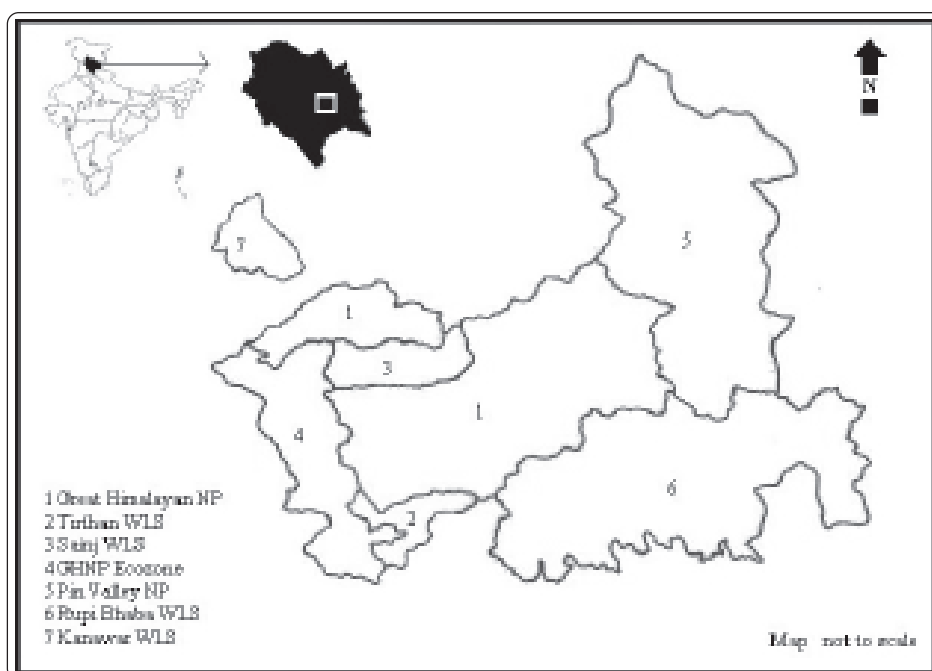
Habitat destruction by means of 'jhum' and encroachment by humans, habitat fragmentation, logging, and fire-wood collection and over hunting (poaching and snaring) are the main conservation issues in Mizoram. Despite a high literacy percentage, people are still ignoring the importance of ecological balance, consequences of ecological imbalance and the need for conservation. The State Government is enforcing the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, but success is not satisfactory and better conservation management is needed. Further, it is necessary to create general awareness among the people, specially in the villages and areas which are the habitat of the threatened pheasants of Mizoram.

Great Himalayan National Park: Dealing with People's Rights

by: Anita Chauhan

[Anita is presently preparing a book titled 'Conserving Asia's Wildlife Treasure: The Pheasants'. She blogs at www.pheasantsoftheworld.blogspot.com and can be contacted at Dragonflyseason@gmail.com].

The Great Himalayan National Park, abode of the western tragopan and the snow leopard, is in the news because it has been nominated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO's World Heritage Commission. The commission has a set of criteria on the basis of which it ascribes the 'World Heritage Site' status to a cultural or natural heritage site that it considers to have outstanding universal value. The IUCN is one of the advisory bodies helping to evaluate natural heritage sites for WHC. The decision regarding Great Himalayan NP's status will be taken at the 38th session of the WHC in 2014. The evaluation report has made recommendations for bettering the Park's chances of selection by the WHC, including the addressing of villagers' rights issues. [The evaluation document can be viewed at: <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2013/whc13-37com-8B2inf-en.pdf>].



Map - Location of Great Himalayan National Park and neighboring Protected Areas

From the time of its inception in the 1980s, the Great Himalayan NP has been the focus of attention for the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department. The Park administration has implemented several schemes to reduce the dependence of people who live in the areas fringing the Park, on the park resources. An eco-development zone was set aside at one of the boundaries of the Park so that the villagers could utilize the forest resources in a planned way, without disturbing the core area of the Park. Thousands of families inhabit the villages and hamlets present in the eco-development zone. The villagers have depended on the forests for the following resources – a) Fodder, and grazing of herds of sheep and goats. b) Edible and medicinal plants collection for local and commercial use. c) Morel mushroom collection for commercial use. d) Bamboo for mat- and basket-weaving for local and commercial use e) Fuel wood, and timber for the construction of houses.

The eco-development zone is able to supply the villagers' needs of fuel wood, fodder and timber. The Park administration has provided help to the villagers to grow medicinal plants and other cash crops, so that they do not collect these from the wild. Collection of the highly prized medicinal plants and morel mushroom still remains attractive for the poorer households. The Park administration has started several schemes, such as - Biodiversity Conservation Society (BiodCS for Park management), Eco-Development, Eco-Tourism, Women's Small Credit

Groups, Alternate Income Generation, etc. – and their persistent efforts have effectively reduced the villagers' dependence on the forest. Several NGOs are active in the area, such as 'Biodiversity Tourism and Community Advancement' (BTCA), 'Friends of GHNP', and 'My Himachal', that provide help to the villagers in various forms.

In and around many protected areas in India, villagers maintain traditional community-based systems for controlling and monitoring access to resources. Community leaders and people discuss the availability and quality of natural resources. Also, in the Panchayat System of governance in Indian villages, an elected group headed by a 'Sarpanch' controls the use of Community Forest resources; and in the state of Himachal Pradesh, India, the 'Sarpanch' now has the same powers as a Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of the Forest Department, in deciding Community Forest resource-use by the villagers. Villagers had traditional rights to exploit forest trees for building/repairing houses and temples. In Kullu and Mandi districts, these rights are still in place (except in the protected areas), thanks to the Anderson Settlement Report of 1886 and the Wright's Settlement Report of 1917 respectively, which are prevailing. Each village household can exploit a certain number of live standing trees (usually Deodar *Cedrus deodara* and kail *Pinus excelsa* are used for house- building) after seeking permission from the designated officials. A traditional stone-and-wood village house requires about 10 trees for construction, and a large percentage of the districts' population is rural. The *de facto* user rights do not ensure the local community the ability to protect and use forest resources sustainably. The high altitude forests in these districts are over-exploited, with the effects spilling over into the protected areas. How much of this exploitation is due to overpopulation, a poor Panchayat system, bad resource management, and the very active timber mafia, remains to be quantified. Even so, in the year 2009, the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department has raised a 'green' task force (Forest Police and forest police stations or 'van thanas') to prevent illegal felling and smuggling of timber worth several lakh rupees every year. The districts of Shimla, Sirmaur, Chamba, Mandi and Kullu in the state have reported the maximum number of cases of timber smuggling.

Apart from this, participatory monitoring schemes (for e.g. deployment of 'wildlife watchers' from the local community), will help in combating poaching of wildlife. And regulation of over-grazing by issuing of permit licenses to the graziers, limiting the size of herds, vaccinating the cattle, and rotational closure of pastures, is required to allow the regeneration of plants, and to prevent the transmission of diseases from cattle to the wildlife. It is also important that the government provides building material such as plywood and bamboo for the poor and inaccessible villages, to reduce their dependence on the slow-growing species of forest trees. Implementation of the FairWild Standard for the use of wild-collected medicinal plants (<http://www.fairwild.org/>) in association with TRAFFIC-India will ensure regulation in this sector.

The Park administration, headed by Mr. Ajay Srivastava, CCF, organizes capacity building programmes for the women and youth of the eco-development zone, to teach them aspects of eco-tourism and production of handicrafts. Production and marketing of wildlife-themed handicraft souvenirs that can be sold to tourists at the Park and at the state emporia, and setting up of community colleges that offer certificate level courses in tourism, ecology, photography, painting, foreign languages, etc., would also be useful in employing the village youth in the tourism sector.

With this, the Great Himalayan National Park is moving towards the goals of conservation while addressing the traditional rights of village communities, so that sustainable solutions may be found.

[Map source - 'Livelihood changes in response to restrictions on resource extraction from the Great Himalayan National Park' by Priyanka Mohan Pisharoti (2008), MS dissertation submitted to Manipal University, Bangalore, India.]

Snow Partridge hopes for a safe home in Arunachal Pradesh

by: Tanushree Srivastava and Pijush Kumar Dutta, WWF-India, Western Arunachal Field Office, Parvati, India.

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The Eastern Himalaya being an abode of mammoth biodiversity is known to house uncountable number of floral and faunal species. With a portion of the Eastern Himalaya extending into the western part of Arunachal Pradesh, the state contributes richly to the biodiversity of the country. Among a long list of enigmatic bird species is the family *Phasianidae*, which are indicators of habitat quality due to substantial dependence on understorey and ground layer vegetation. Unfortunately, these birds are hunted for meat and feathers. This group includes species like the Himalayan monal (*Lophophorus impejanus*), Blood Pheasant (*Ithaginis cruentus*), Satyr Tragopan (*Tragopan satyra*) and others. But, the species in focus here is the timorous Snow Partridge (*Lerwa lerwa*), a rare resident of the higher reaches of the Eastern Himalaya. Though listed in the 'least concern' category by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the species is struggling to secure a safe home in the Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

Habitat fragmentation, a common consequence of human development, is affecting the species survival. Tawang, positioned at the trijunction of India, Bhutan and China, attracts a large number of tourists all round the year. The road passing through the area connects the district to mainland India. Frequent sightings of Snow Partridge flocks are reported from the area surrounding the Sela Lake situated at 4100 m at the entrance of Tawang. The lake lies in the alpine zone and is surrounded by less vegetation and dominated by rocks and low shrubs which are considered as a good habitat for snow partridges. Movement of vehicles seems to be a significant threat to the snow partridge population and other wild faunal species thriving in the area. The flocks while crossing the road may fall victim to road accidents. Furthermore, the vegetation of the area, including the fascinating Rhododendrons, also seems to suffer from habitat degradation and fragmentation due to road widening and repairs by the Border Roads Organization (BRO). The partridges may fall prey to the labourers. Also, the accumulation of a significant amount of non-biodegradable waste in the form of plastic bags and bottles can act as a source of diseases to the flocks roaming around.

Conservation of a species is not possible without the knowledge of its ecology. A detailed study of the snow partridges with proper documentation has to be conducted in the area. A database regarding the present population status and range of movement of the species should be generated, so that a regular check can be kept on fluctuations experienced by the population in the area over a period of time and necessary conservation measures for the same can be taken accordingly. Also, large scale awareness programmes among the local communities and visitors related to the conservation importance of the area along with its floral and faunal components should be extended before promoting further tourism in the area. Provisions for proper dumping of wastes should be made and littering should be strictly prohibited through sign boards, etc. It is advisable to work intently to endow this rare and amiable species of Himalaya with a safe home before the situation worsens.

The Snow Partridge is a resident species found at high altitudes from the Western to the Eastern Himalayas.

The National Bird

Source: Of Birds and Birdsong - M. Krishnan. Edited by Shanthi and Ashish Chandola.

"Years ago, when the National Bird was chosen and announced, there were dissenting voices. Some thought our largest bird, then feared on the verge of extinction, the Great Indian Bustard, should have been selected. Fortunately, this magnificent fowl is now conserved in some of its habitats in western and northwestern India, and a population of its has even been found recently in Andhra Pradesh. Others thought the Brahminy Kite, the Garuda that is the vahana of Vishnu in our mythology, should have been preferred; and then there were the habitual scoffers who remarked, cynically, that the common crow would have been the only correct choice.

However, the peacock – no less the vahana of a god (Subramanya), with a wider distribution over the country than the other contenders, typically Indian, and unquestionably one of the most arrestingly beautiful of all birds – was rightly chosen. In the past few years, I have had opportunities to observe wild peafowl in many different parts of the country, and to realize how remarkably versatile they are, and how popular notions about them can be mistaken.

Though it is among the largest of our birds, it is much higher than what most people think it is. The long, profuse and dazzlingly decorative train of the cock suggests a heaviness that feathers do not have. Actually, the train is not the tail but the elongated plumes above it, and is so light that the bird has no difficulty in carrying it well clear of the ground when on the move. It is the Great Indian Bustard that is our heaviest bird. Reliable records put the weight of the adult cock bustard at from 11 to 12 kilograms; the hen is smaller and lighter. A peacock will not turn the scales even at 5 kilograms, train and all.

While on this question of the weight of birds (which, size for size, are much lighter than other animals), I think that as a rule birds that live mainly on terra firma and do not undertake long flights are heavier than those of similar size that are aerial. Both the Great Bustard and Peafowl are not birds of the air but of the ground. It may be asked if the larger vultures, as big in the body as a peacock or bigger, are not at least as heavy, though given to soaring on high for such long periods. Other big birds are also fond of soaring – Adjutants and other Storks and Spoonbills, for instance – but since wingspan and thermal currents sustain their bulk and mass in the air, no active flight is actually involved. Moreover, I would not venture to assess the weight of a vulture. That would largely depend on whether or not it has gorged itself recently.



There are peafowl in the sub-Himalayan forests, as in Corbett Park, and in the sal-clad hills of Mayurbhanj (which gets its name from their presence); they are there in the mixed deciduous forests of the Western and Eastern Ghats, and also in the Deccan Plateau, as around Gajendragad. There are peafowl in the coastal scrub jungles and in the hill-dotted plains, in sandy Ramanathapuram and sandier Rajasthan, even in the Thar desert where there is some water source and some sparse vegetation. Few other birds favour such widely different settings.

The plumage patterning and colouring of peafowl is much more complex than observation of the live birds from not too near might suggest. Actually, in the wild even a peacock with a resplendent train does not stand out flagrantly against the ground cover. The train is compressed and dark, and noticeable more by its length than its brilliant colouration. Only when it is fanned out and erected does it display its many-eyed scintillating iridescence.

But even a hen has an intricacy of plumage patterning that is evident only on close scrutiny. Some time ago, I came upon the remains of a peahen that a leopard had killed and consumed: the head, neck and legs, and a litter of assorted feathers on the bare, dark earth. Looking closely at the feathers, I was impressed by their diverse and detailed patterning. Each soft brown little forehead-feather was tipped bright green, the off-white ear-coverts were tipped dark brown, and the breast feathers, grey-brown in colour, were edged with white with a purple teardrop beneath the edging. The plumage of the back and wings was no less elaborate. White (albinotic) peafowl lack colour entirely, but still are as beautiful in their way as the normally coloured bird. The long, sinuous, graceful neck with its sleek cover of short feathers that can be fluffed out at will, the crest on top of the slim head and the magnificent train sustain the looks of such birds. Incidentally, this albinotic variety is not what horticulturists term a cultivar, but has also been recorded in the wild. Evidently, like the white tiger, it is a rare and local phenomenon and has been exploited in captivity to breed true. G.P. Sanderson reports a white peacock from the forests of Masinagudi (in the Mudumalai sanctuary), and almost a century later late in the 1970s I saw a very blonde peahen in this same forest, not quite white, but so pale as to be colourless, and describable only as ash-white."

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लुप्त होने के कगार पर हरियाणा का राज्य पक्षी

अरविंद सैनी, पत्रकार

दैनिक भास्कर, सितंबर 04, 2012 [IST]

गुडगांवा, हरियाणा, में काले तीतर को राज्य पक्षी बनाए 36 साल हो गए, लेकिन सरकार इनके संरक्षण को लेकर बेपरवाह है। हालात तो ये हैं कि अब इलाकों में तीतर के दर्शन भी दुर्लभ हो गए हैं। आशंका है कि शिकार, कम होती वन्य भूमि और कीटनाशक दवाओं के कारण कुछ सालों में यह पक्षी राज्य से लुप्त हो जाएगा।

1976 में काले तीतर को राज्य पक्षी घोषित किया गया था। अभी तक न तो इनके लिए एक ब्रीडिंग सेंटर खोला गया है और न ही इनकी गणना के लिए मापदंड तैयार किया गया है। राज्य पक्षी घोषित होने के बाद से इनकी संख्या तेजी से घटी है। प्रदेश भर में अब तक इनमें 60 प्रतिशत से भी अधिक की कमी देखी गई है। गुडगांव जिले में तो काले तीतर में कमी आने का अनुमानित आंकड़ा 75 प्रतिशत से भी अधिक है।

क्यों कम हो रहे हैं तीतर: शिकार और वन्य भूमि की कमी के अलावा किसानों द्वारा कीटनाशकों का जमकर प्रयोग किए जाने से भी काले तीतरों की संख्या कम होती जा रही है। वाइल्ड लाइफ इंस्पेक्टर कंवरपाल का कहना है कि काले तीतर अनाज, घास के बीज, कीड़े व चींटियों को खाते हैं। कीड़ों को मारने के लिए किसानों द्वारा डाले गए कीटनाशक उनकी जान के लिए खतरा बनते जा रहे हैं। किसान बिना किसी विशेषज्ञ की सलाह के ही कीटनाशकों का प्रयोग करते हैं, जिनका अत्यधिक प्रयोग तीतरों के लिए जानलेवा साबित होता है।

शिकार के लिए करते हैं तीतर का प्रयोग: काले तीतर की आवाज इतनी मधुर होती है कि उसकी आवाज सुनकर दूसरे तीतर भी उनके पास खींचे चले आते हैं। शिकारी जंगल में शिकार के लिए पिंजरे में बंद तीतर को इस्तेमाल करते हैं। उनकी मधुर आवाज से मादा तीतर खींची चली आती है, जिसे शिकारी आसानी से अपना शिकार बना लेते हैं।

क्यों बनाया गया राज्य पक्षी: यह देखने में सुंदर तो है ही, इसकी आवाज भी काफी मधुर होती है। इसे राज्य पक्षी बनाए जाने की दूसरी वजह इस प्रजाति को संरक्षण प्रदान करना है। तीतरों की संख्या राज्य में तेजी से अन्य पक्षियों के मुकाबले कम होती जा रही है। राज्य पक्षी बनाए जाने के बाद उम्मीद की गई कि सरकार इनके संरक्षण के लिए कदम उठाएगी।

अब तक केवल एक को सजा: 2002 में पलवल के प्रिंस होटल के मैनेजर शिवदयाल को काले तीतर का शिकार कर उसे बनाते हुए पकड़ा गया था। यह केस लगभग दो साल बाद कोर्ट में डाला जा सका। इस केस में फरीदाबाद पर्यावरण कोर्ट ने तीतर के शिकार के लिए वर्ष 2008 में मैनेजर को एक साल की सजा सुनाई थी।

मनोरंजन का भी साधन रहा है तीतर: मुगल काल में नवाब काले तीतरों को लड़ा कर इस खेल का आनंद उठाते थे। इसके बाद चिड़ीमारों ने इस खेल को कमाई का जरिया बना लिया। इस खेल में दो तीतरों का तब तक लड़ाया जाता था, जब तक कि एक की मौत नहीं हो जाती थी। बावरियों में ये खेल अब भी प्रचलित है। हालांकि वाइल्ड लाइफ के अधिकारी फिलहाल इस तरह की घटनाओं से इनकार करते हैं।

यह है अंदाज तीतर का:

शर्मीला: झुंड के बजाय अकेला रहता है, ज्यादा ऊंचा नहीं उड़ता। हरियाली और बड़ी फसलों के बीच रहना पसंद करता है।

खाना: अनाज, घास के बीज, कीड़े, चींटियां।

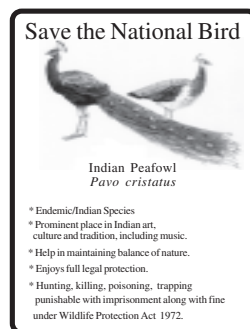
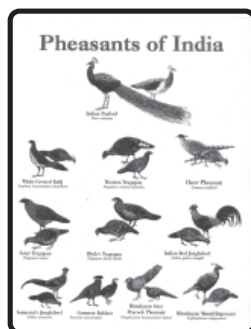
पहचान: आकार लगभग 34 सेमी, गर्दन पर लाल पट्टी, पंखों पर सफेद धब्बे।

शिकार पर: काला तीतर मारने पर तीन साल की सजा या 10 हजार रूपए तक का जुर्माना या दोनों। पहले चीफ वाइल्ड लाइफ वार्डन द्वारा जुर्माना देकर छोड़े जाने का प्रावधान समाप्त कर दिया। अब ऐसे मामलों में कोर्ट में केस डाला जाना अनिवार्य बना दिया गया है। हरियाणा में फरीदाबाद और कुरुक्षेत्र में ही पर्यावरण कोर्ट हैं।

Resource Material - available on request

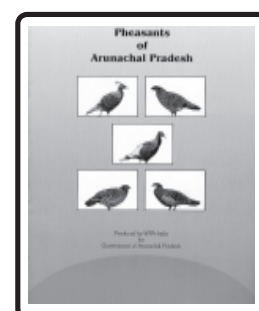
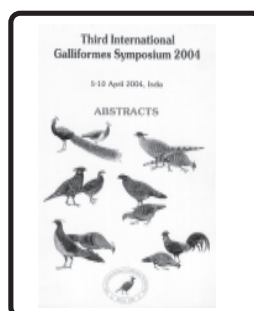
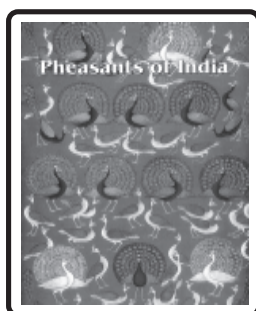
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