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Front cover photo:
**Grey Peacock-Pheasant (*Polyplectron bicalcaratum*)**
Alex Levitskiy, Cortland, New York
2014 APWS Photo Contest 2nd Place Winner
Dear fellow APWS members,

Thanks to all those who have answered the call for articles and photographs. We’re off to a great start! I really enjoyed the diversity of articles in this edition and I hope you do too. Please keep them coming.

If you haven’t already, take a moment to complete the membership directory form that was sent with the last edition of the magazine and mail it back to me. If it’s easier you are welcome to scan the form and e-mail it to me at ian.gereg@gmail.com. Please also keep in mind that all membership renewals and inquiries should be mailed to the APWS Treasurer, ET Trader. If you mail them to me I need to forward them to ET which can slow down the process. ET’s address is listed inside the front cover of the magazine.

You’ll find an announcement on the 2015 APWS convention in Belgium in this issue. Having been there once before I can attest to the beauty of the country and the phenomenal bird collections there. I am particularly excited to return to Pairi Daiza, the most impressive and unique zoo I have ever visited. Please consider joining us in Belgium, you won’t be disappointed!

Take care,

Ian Gereg
APWS Magazine editor

President’s message:
The first issue of the magazine for 2015 was mailed about the 6th of February. I hope everyone got their copy by now. You also received a membership directory form. Don’t wait until the last minute to fill it out. If you raise birds and want to sell them people need to know what you have!

If you haven’t yet, look on the APWS website under the Bird Exchange tab. Put your ad in the magazine and it will also be on the website. This gives you lots more exposure for your sales.

Until next time,

Jim Bleuer
Jim Bleuer, APWS President
The Grey Peacock pheasant is a small pheasant species in the genus Polyplectron. The genus name Polyplectron loosely translates to “cock with many spurs” referring to the multiple spurs male peacock pheasants can exhibit. The species epithet bicalcaratum refers to the two spurs found on the Grey Peacock pheasant. It is the national bird of Myanmar (Burma). Peacock pheasants are only distantly related to other pheasant species, including peafowl. Genetic analysis has shown that they are closer related to the Asiatic partridge and spurfowl species.

Male and female Grey Peacock pheasants are similar in appearance, but adult males are larger, lighter colored and display larger and brighter feather oculi. There are multiple subspecies of Grey Peacock pheasant found within a large range that includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Grey Peacock pheasants in captivity, at least in North America, are likely a mixture of several different subspecies.

Of the eight species of peacock pheasant, the Grey Peacock Pheasant is the most common in captivity. They do not require a particularly large aviary, though being a tropical forest bird they do prefer enclosures that are well planted where they can hide when they feel threatened. Despite their tropical roots they are surprisingly winter hardy once they reach adulthood. Some breeders keep their peacock pheasants indoors during the coldest months of the year while others successfully keep them outdoors with only a sheltered area with a heat lamp. As with other species, young Grey Peacock Pheasants are not as hardy as older birds and require more protection from the cold during their first winter.

In the wild Grey Peacock Pheasants feed on a variety of seeds, fruits and invertebrates collected while foraging on the ground. In captivity they will accept standard gamebird rations supplemented with fresh fruits and vegetables. Insects
like mealworms and crickets are a readily accepted addition to their diet. Grey Peacock Pheasants are peaceful by nature and some breeders keep them in songbird and dove aviaries where the pheasants help clean up dropped seeds. They are generally quiet birds. Males make a whistling call and both sexes can produce a unique chattering, especially when alarmed.

Grey Peacock Pheasants are typically kept in pairs but some breeders have had success keeping them in trios of one male and two females. They are generally easy to pair, readily accepting new mates. Males are usually non-aggressive and will not harass females. Males have a beautiful display that includes spreading the wing and tail feathers fully to display their colorful feathers and an extension of the forehead crest. Most Grey Peacock Pheasants are not sexually mature until at least two years of age. Females produce small clutches of two eggs, but will lay additional clutches if the eggs are removed. Incubation lasts about 21 days.

Like other peacock pheasant chicks, young Grey Peacock Pheasants are fragile and require some extra TLC to get started. A good starter diet includes gamebird chick starter, finely chopped hard-boiled egg and small mealworms. Leaving chicks with the adults is a reliable means of rearing, though you won’t see much of the chicks as they spend much of their time hiding underneath the tails of their parents! Males assist with chick rearing. When being hand raised they do well when placed with a docile, similar sized teacher chick to help show them to the food and water. Offering small pieces of mealworms or other invertebrates using tweezers to get the chicks started also helps. Being fond of live food, placing small mealworms in the food dish with their prepared diet also helps encourage them to eat. They should not be reared among a large group of other chicks as the peacock pheasant chicks are so docile they can easily be bullied.

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2015 APWS Convention - Belgium, August 24th - 31st

Tentative schedule for APWS 2015 convention in Belgium

August 23rd: Depart US for Brussels, Belgium. Arrive by August 24th (Belgian time)
August 24th: Arrive Brussels - stay in appointed hotel
August 25th: Tour of Brussels Parliament Gardens, etc. Tours of bird breeders en route to Ghent - check in to Hotel Ghent
August 26th—28th: Tours
August 29th: AM Board meeting. Day on own for attendees in city. Evening banquet
August 30th: Return to Brussels hotel
August 31st: Flights home to US

***************************************************

Tentative tours to be finalized:
Fantastic and elite bird breeder aviaries
Pairi Daiza Zoo (voted best zoo in Belgium 2014)
Belgian chocolate factory, flower greenhouses, brewery
Canal cruise, a short walk in the city center and lace production in Bruges
Knight’s Castle ‘Gravensteen’ and sight seeing in Ghent and Brussels
Red Star Line Museum in Antwerp: Mass Migration to America
Ipers: Every Day Memorial Ceremony (First World War)
Waregem: American Graveyard of First World War Soldiers in Belgium

If you have any questions about the convention, please contact:
Janet Trader, APWS Convention Chair
jan.trader@cmtravelonline.com or jantrader62@gmail.com
Bird keepers in any way, shape or form usually want to keep an incubator on hand in the event that their birds are at least one step of the way to successful reproduction in producing eggs. Here are some tips to consider if you are in the market to seek an incubator:

- **Ask questions!** The sales rep should be able to answer your questions about capacity, operation, power requirements, and general hatching requirements. Remember, each species is different in their requirements, so the person you are speaking to may not be familiar with your individual species.

- **Evaluate the size of the machine to fit your operation.** The size of the incubator you need will depend on the species of birds you rear, the number of eggs you may expect at any given time, the number of eggs a female will produce, and the space you have available for storage.

- **Confirm that the rating (the number of eggs the manufacturer estimates for capacity) is close to the actual incubation, hatching, or combined capacity of the machine.** The sales rep and other consumer reviews should support this.

- **Understand what you are getting with your incubator.** Many manufacturers offer various options and models of incubators. Be sure the one you select will fit your needs and the requirements of your species. If you are unsure of what is included with your purchase, ask the sales representative to clarify for you.

- **Buy your incubator early!** Waiting until you have eggs that need to be set is not a realistic idea for purchasing an incubator. Buying a machine in the spring, at peak season, is likely when costs will be highest, and you run the risk of suppliers having low inventory, causing further delays on top of premium prices. Always pad the shipping time of a purchase with an addition week, to account for problems or delays.

- **Open, inspect and start your incubator on arrival.** Ensure all parts and pieces are complete and functioning normally. Do not wait to do this, even if you
aren’t using it right away. It is better to know sooner, rather than later if a machine is not working correctly or parts are missing.

- Be aware of warranty requirements. If registration is required, follow manufacturer instructions as soon as it arrives so it is not forgotten. It is important to realize that the sales rep is not a technician, and may not be able to diagnose problems or troubleshooting. Usually, warranty is handled by the manufacturer. Most of the time, a sales company is not the manufacturer.

- If a shipment receives with clear damage, note it to the delivery agent before signing for it. This important step will ensure that there was a flag raised for an insurance claim. Contact your sales rep if you suspect an incubator may have been damaged in shipping. They will be able to handle the claim and hopefully supply a replacement unit as fast as possible.

- If you are unhappy with a product, or the product was not what you wanted, contact your sales rep. Don’t jump to social media to complain. Lots of manufacturers monitor social media for product feedback. If they see that you have not contacted them before making accusations or insinuations, your response from them may be less than favourable.

- If you have used a product, and then are unhappy with it, don’t expect to be able to return it. Unfortunately, incubators must be considered contaminated once an egg has been placed in it. The return of a used incubator is highly unlikely as it could be potentially contaminated with disease. It is a severe risk to a facilities bio-security accepting this unit. To relate, you would not return a used hair brush to the store where you purchased it. Manufacturers will provide parts to repair a malfunctioning incubator, but their acceptance of its return is not likely. It is important to realize this before using an incubator and make sure it is the incubator that fits your needs.

- Beware of poorly manufactured products. Many incubators are now being manufactured overseas, at much lower prices than those from recognized brands. They are likely cheaper for a reason, which should cause you to be wary. Remember, these are units that operate at a relatively high temperature for extended periods of time. The plastics and components that make up an incubator must be of the highest quality to facilitate surfaces that are easy to clean and maintain safe operation. Lower quality components may not afford these traits.

- Only use the recommended cleaning agents by the manufacturer. Avoid corrosive materials and ensure you only clean the approved surfaces. If you have questions about cleaning, contact your sales rep or the manufacturer.
Alfred Cuming, age 96, died January 15, 2015, at Somerby of Mount Pleasant, SC. Al was born July 8, 1918, in New York City. He is the son of Alfred L. Kohn and Alice Gordon Cuming, all of New York. He was married to Mary Elizabeth Sterling of Ridgefield, Conn. and fathered Pete Cuming of Awendaw and Ehrhardt, SC, and Linda Cuming (Lin) Lewis of Mount Pleasant.

His second wife was Mary Beatrice Hunter Flanagan of Athens, Georgia, and Al is survived by her son James Flanagan, his grandchildren Jay (Heather) and Tia (Brian) Flanagan, and two great grandsons, Broc and Gage Flanagan. He is survived by his granddaughter Jill (Kurt) Kruger of James Island, SC, and Lindsay (Linda Elizabeth) (Chuck) Cuming of Ehrhardt, and his grandson Kenneth Cuming of Awendaw. He is also survived by his nephew, John (Pam) Cuming and his great niece Samantha, of Boston, Mass. and by Heather, Roberta and David (Marcia) Rumsey.

Al’s career began as a farm manager in St. Albans, Vermont, where he milked the largest herd of purebred Guernsey cows in the state of Vermont at the time. He eventually moved into creameries and distribution of milk, then sanitation chemicals for milk production. He retired as a sales manager for BioLab after a very successful career there. Immediately after retiring, he bought a beef herd and started farming again.

Al was very active in the pheasant and waterfowl breeding program and was sought after as a speaker all over the world. He lectured in Canada, Scotland, and other countries, and negotiated for a time with the Chinese government about releasing pheasants back into the wild. He had an extraordinarily high hatch rate and was very knowledgeable about avian health, hatch, and disease states. He was a past president of the American Pheasant and Waterfowl Society and of the Georgia Game Bird Breeders. He enjoyed this hobby for many years.

Al’s passion for the Elder Mill covered bridge and Rose Creek are legendary; Jimmy Carter, as governor of Georgia, once wrote Al a check on the spot when Al asked him for highway funding to repair the bridge. His community service in Watkinsville, Georgia, his adopted home for 45 years, was well known and if something needed to be done, and Al was on the committee, you could be sure it would be done.

Al lived an exemplary life for 96 years and will be sorely missed by his legion of friends and his relatives.

Submitted by Bernie Jager
Edward C. Shymanski age 84 of the Old Bridge Section of Sayreville passed away peacefully on Tuesday October 21, 2014 at his home with his family at his side. Born in Sayreville he was a life long borough resident. Mr. Shymanski was a U.S. Navy veteran of the Korean War serving in Guantanamo, Cuba. He was and active member of the Sayreville American Legion Post 211. Before his retirement he was employed at Phelps Dodge foundry and later as a union laborer and grade foreman for Heavy and General Construction Local 472, Newark, NJ for 32 years. He was recently issued his 60 year service pin from the local.

Edward was also a lifelong member of the American Pheasant & Waterfowl Society and American Game Breeders Association where he was pivotal in introducing and sustaining some of the country’s only breeding stock of endangered ornamental partridge and pheasants of which some were transplanted to the San Diego, Washington, DC and Dusseldorf Zoos. Raising birds was in his blood and Ed raised them until just weeks before his passing.

He is predeceased by his wife Mary E. O'Halloran Shymanski of Bayonne in 2001, his parents Stanley and Marianne Silkowski Shymanski and his siblings Nancy Boyler, Aloysius Shymanski, Joseph Zohlo, Anne Biernacki and Eugenia Chunco. Surviving are his 6 children Edward C. Shymanski Jr., Mary Ellen Berdel, Kathleen Wakefield, Michael Shymanski, Diane Markus and Janet Shymanski, 11 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and his sister Helen Morrow.

Submitted by Scott Mas
Mark B. Wright, age 76, of Cambridge City, passed away Saturday, January 24, 2015. He was born February 7, 1938, in Richmond, IN to Emmett J. and Roberta J. Wright.

Soon after graduating from Centerville High School in 1956, Mark entered the Marines and was stationed in Okinawa and Puerto Rico. Following an honorable discharge from the service, he worked for his father in the excavating business for several years and built many of the farm ponds in and around Wayne County. He also worked for Eaton Gear Works and Farm Bureau. In 2001 he retired from the Wayne County Highway Department after 27 years as a heavy equipment operator. Plowing the roads during the blizzard of ’78 was one of his most challenging jobs.

He always had a fascination and love of animals. As a boy there was often a critter or two in his pocket; as an adult he raised an assortment of exotic animals. In 1974 he realized his boyhood dream of an African safari and later enjoyed two more African hunting adventures.

He was on the boards of the Soil and Water Conservation District and the Society for Preservation and Use of Resources, a lifetime member of the North American Hunting Club, and a longtime member of American Pheasant and Waterfowl Society, NRA, Safari Club, Centerville's Hiram No. 417 Masonic Lodge (53 years) and a member of the Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren.

He leaves behind his wife Carolyn (Goar), whom he married on July 8, 1962; a daughter, Aleesa (Greg) Drennen of Cambridge City; a sister, Anne (Maurice) Baker of Lincoln, NE; a brother-in-law, Bill Taylor of Richmond; 2 nieces; 3 nephews; and many great nieces, great nephews and cousins; some special coffee-drinking buddies and a fantastic family of neighbors.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Marcia Taylor; aunts and uncles; a nephew; several coffee buddies and a close friend, Mark Carpenter.

Submitted by Don Steurer
Torrent ducks are fast moving river specialist found along the Andean range of south America. Basic information on the species can be found in various waterfowl books by Paul Johnsgard and Frank Todd. In this article I would like to highlight some recent research on the species.

For many years the only significant paper on Torrent ducks was G.M. Moffett (1970) “A study of nesting Torrent Ducks in the Andes” published in Living Birds—the journal of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Although both Johnsgard and Todd added personal observations to their account of the species little detailed research was conducted. Recently several students have conducted graduate studies on the species. They include:

- During 2010 Gerardo Ceron and Claudia Boy conducted research on the prey selection and energy values of main food items in northwestern Patagonia, Argentina.

- From 2002-2006 Claire A. Pernollet and coworkers conducted habitat selection studies of Torrent Ducks in Chile. Their interest was the impact several proposed hydroelectric projects might have on the species.

- A third study of interest was recently conducted in Colombia by William Cardona and Gustavo Kattan. These researchers investigated territorial behavior and reproduction.
So what did we learn from these three interesting studies?

Survey work...Pernollet and coworkers surveyed Torrent Ducks along the Cachapoal river watershed in central Chile from 2007-2010. A description of the population includes adults (18%) which was skewed toward males (1.43 : 1.0). Throughout the year the population contained single birds (52%), pairs (19%), families (6%) and small groups of 2-7 (19%). Ducks formed territories and hence pairs in June/July. They cared for ducklings from September to October and juveniles until January. During February and March the juveniles wandered forming subadult groups in April. These groups are tolerated up to about 250 meters of pairs with territories. This description is consistent with that of Cardona who found 7 territories along 2.7 kilometers of the Otun river in Colombia. Several non-territorial “floating” populations were also observed. Likely subadults from the previous season.

Diet....Gerardo Ceron and Claudia Boy recently investigated Torrent Duck diet at Nahuel Muapi National Park in northwest Argentina. They surveyed the species and number of aquatic invertebrates in the river and compared it to their observations and fecal sample analysis. Their results indicated that Torrent Ducks consume over 23 species of invertebrates but the most commonly fed on group were the Simulids (a member of this group familiar to most of us is the Black Fly). These insects were important in the diet as they often grouped on the rocks creating high density feeding patches. Their conclusion was that the best habitat could only be determined based on food availability not physical structure.

Variation in Torrent Ducks.......In 1965, with financial support from a National Science Foundation grant, Paul Johnsgard travelled to South America to resolve the question of how many species of Torrent Ducks exist. Writing in his book “Earth, Water & Sky” Paul discovered differences in the coloration of several of the races. This was 1965. To this day we have retained 6 races of Torrent Ducks (see insert). I suspect it will take DNA studies to finally resolve the issue. To add to the mystery recently Natallia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Torrent Duck Merganetta armata subspecies</th>
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<tr>
<td>\textit{M. a. colombiana}.............Andes Mountains of western Venezuela, Colombia to central Ecuador</td>
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<tr>
<td>\textit{M. a. leucogenis}..............Andes of northern Peru</td>
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<td>\textit{M. a. turneri}................Andes of southern Peru</td>
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<td>\textit{M. a. belepschi}.............Andes of s. Bolivia, northwest Argentina</td>
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<tr>
<td>\textit{M. a. armata}............Andes of central Chile and western Argentina</td>
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Gutierres-Pinto and coworkers looked that Torrent Ducks throughout their long range. According to Bergmann’s rule colder habitats should result in larger birds with smaller limbs. After crunching the numbers they found that Torrent Ducks followed the rule. High elevation (colder habitat) ducks were larger than those at lower (warmer) elevations.

Captivity…
Over the years efforts have been made to hatch and rear Torrent Ducks in captivity. According to Frank Todd Torrent Ducks were first bred in captivity in Germany in 2009 by Ludger Bremebr in Verl, Germany. Recently Dallas World Aquarium maintained the species but was not successful in keeping them alive. Imports of captive bred birds seems more probable than collecting additional eggs in the wild. While field biologist have developed techniques to mist net the species it is not likely that export permits could be obtained or that adults would adjust and breed in captivity. With the breeding successes in Germany the prospects look brighter of getting the species established in captivity. In the meantime viewing them will require a trip to the Andean range of South America. Sounds like a good excuse for a vacation to me!

This brief article would not be possible without information and insight provided by Ian Gereg, Frank Todd and the various biologists working with Torrent Ducks in the field. I especially thank Diego Calderon Franco, Frank Todd and Ian Gereg for sharing their photos.

First breeding of the Chilean Torrent Duck in captivity. Photo by Frank Todd
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Linda Wilkins was nominated for the award by Nat Mizzoni who presented Linda with her award at the November meeting of the Northeastern Avicultural Society.

She was nominated because of her very active membership in the society. She has been a member of that organization for over thirty years, along with her husband Alan. Her position as Treasurer began in 1997, under President Mary Meisner and continued for the next eight years under three other presidents. Having had twenty-five years of previous banking experience, she had confidence that she could do the job. She did it so well that no one wanted her to leave. However, she took a six year break and let another individual take over the responsibilities. Then in 2011, she again took the helm of Treasurer which is where she is today.

Linda wrote, “It has been a rewarding experience for me to know that members trust me with the club’s finances and also that I have never been questioned on any report and have had many successful audits of my work. I take great pride in those factors. Now I find myself in the same situation, having to find someone to take over this important position, so I’ve started to scope out the possibilities now with the hopes of a successful transition.

Alan & I have been members of APWS for many years. We’ve enjoyed quite a few of APWS conventions and also hosted one of your conventions at our home in Middleton, MA in 2008.

I thank you and truly appreciate this Outstanding Service Award since it is the only award I have ever received. I’m still deciding where to display this plaque, but rest assured it will be where everyone can see it.”

Submitted by Terry Smith.

Thank you Linda for your service!
How long have you been a member of APWS?
I’ve been a member of APWS since 2009 when I became Curator at Pinola Conservancy. Prior to that I occasionally read second hand copies loaned to me by local members.

When did you get started in raising birds?
When I was four years old my parents gave me my first ducks, a Mallard and a pekin. Ducks have been a big part of my life ever since.

What got you interested in raising birds?
My parents say I was intrigued by ducks from the start. I think it’s my blood; my great grandfather Jacob and grandfather Eddie were avid Louisiana waterfowlers and accomplished decoy carvers. At one or two years old I encountered the Mallard Ducks at Disney World and loved them. Ever since then I have had the urge to be around ducks and my parents encouraged it.

Starting at the age of 10, I worked for local swamp tour guide Roland Torres in my home town of Kraemer, Louisiana. Roland also kept ornamental waterfowl and pheasants on display for his tour groups. My job was to help care for the birds, a job I enjoyed very much. He also gave me my first wild ducks, which were two pairs of Mandarins. Whenever I come back to Kraemer I always make a point to visit him and his birds.

What is your favorite bird?
My favorite bird is the Hartlaub’s Duck. As a young boy I saw my first Hartlaub’s Duck at the Audubon Zoo and was amazed by it. They looked so beautiful and different from all the other ducks I had seen that I immediately latched on to that species and learned all I could about them. Since then I have been fortunate to keep and breed this beautiful duck which has been a great personal accomplishment.
What words of wisdom do you have for someone just getting started with birds?
Don’t let your eyes become bigger than what your aviaries can comfortably support. Spend your money on building the best and safest enclosures you can before bringing your first birds home. Along the same lines, investing in the right equipment goes a long way towards your future success. As an example, we’ve invested in wet brooders that have been a huge benefit to our success with challenging species.

Read all you can about the lives of your birds in the wild. The lack of understanding among new bird keepers (and some older ones too) about the biology and behavior of the birds they keep prevents many people from being more successful with their birds. I get a lot of phone calls and emails from other breeders asking how I raise so many Ruddy Ducks and Hooded Mergansers when they can’t raise any of their ducklings. Both these species are highly aquatic in the wild and thrive when given access to a wet brooder which stimulates natural foraging and swimming behaviors.

What do you see as the biggest obstacle or challenge to raising birds?
Inbreeding, poor bloodlines and a lack of recordkeeping are big issues. Many species in the United States suffer from poor productivity and limited access to new blood. That’s why Pinola Conservancy has invested so much effort in importing birds from Europe and others parts of the world. We hope that by bringing in new bloodlines and ensuring that they get out into the hands of other breeders we can ensure that many of the species we keep are around for future generations of aviculturists to enjoy.

Hartlaub’s Ducks at Sylvan Heights Bird Park. Photo: Ian Gereg
I first became interested in genetics because of my love for poultry. I loved reading about the different mutations found in birds. My favorite was always color genetics. I found learning about how all the different genes interact to form all the colors of the rainbow from only red and black pigments fascinating. I chose to follow that interest into the Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biotechnology major at Purdue University. I chose this because while I love my birds and enjoy eating Cornish Cross, I have little interest in being around commercial poultry on a daily basis. I love my exhibition birds, pets, and laying hens much more.

With this major, I will work on breeding and developing new varieties of grain crops such as corn, soybeans, wheat, and sorghum among others. This grain can be used for many different purposes including animal feed. While it all seems to look the same in a field, there are many differences found in corn around the world. For example, some corn has high levels of pro-vitamin A or protein while others have a lower lignin content for easier forage digestion.

My future career also focuses on breeding crops that are more resistant to stresses such as heat, drought, diseases, and insects. These allow more yield per acre. This will hopefully reduce the need for habitat destruction for new farmland and reduce the need for irrigation and use of chemicals. Having an adequate food and water supply are two of the greatest challenges of the near future. As the world population is expected to reach 9 billion by 2050, the world needs to produce more food than it has from the beginning of civilization to the present combined.

While some of my classes focus on plants, most of the genetics classes are applicable to both birds and plants. Even some of the breeding lectures can be applied to animal breeding. One of my favorite classes last semester was a population genetics course that was taught by an animal science professor who has worked with commercial layers. I learned a lot about effective breeding size, inbreeding coefficients, heritability, genetic drift, and selection among many other topics in that class. One of the things I learned that I found very interesting was about effective...
breeding population sizes. In many cases with poultry (in the species that allow it) we have a tendency to create breeding pens with one male and several females. I learned that even if there was an unlimited number of females, as long as there is only one male, there is an effective breeding population size of four. However, with the addition of only one more male the breeding population grows to eight.

The best (most efficient and sustainable) breeding populations are when the number of males and females are equal and random mating occurs. This can cause a bit of a challenge in real life, because some species mate for life and in others the males try to run off any competition. A possible solution to the second problem is to keep the females in pens and rotate the males that visit them. Maintenance of a diverse gene pool is critical for the survival of any species. This is much easier to achieve in species with large populations. However, with careful management, it can also be attained in smaller populations. When a large population is splintered into smaller populations the within group diversity is transformed over generations to between group diversity. If members of these smaller descendant populations were randomly mated together, the original level of diversity would be restored, at least in theory. This is one reason behind the need of many small populations for the preservation of rare species or varieties.

**SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

The American Pheasant and Waterfowl Society Scholarship Committee is inviting anyone who will be attending a college or university this fall and majoring in an aviculture related field to apply for a scholarship which is made available by APWS. The application can be obtained by contacting the scholarship committee chair listed below.

The application and supporting documents need to be in the hands of the committee by **September 1, 2015**. The committee will submit approved applications to the Board of Directors at the fall meeting.

**Al Novosad**  
Scholarship committee chair  
979-836-8991  
alpat@apexotics.com
I have been involved with keeping and raising pheasants, and enjoying but not raising waterfowl, for nearly thirty years now. The more involved I become with these amazing animals, the more I learn about their status in the wild the more my level of concern for their long term survival increases. While there are very healthy populations of some species of pheasants (Ring-necks) and waterfowl (Mallards, Wood Ducks, several teal species etc.) many other species are in real trouble in the wild.

My focus in this article will be on pheasants. I have tried to learn as much as I can about the pheasant family and what I have learned is alarming. Of the more than fifty known species of pheasants about eighty percent of those species are considered rare, threatened or endangered.

There are various reasons why these birds are in trouble in the wild but a common theme is the loss of habitat due to human activity (clearing forests for other uses, clear cut logging without reforestation plantings, population growth, poaching etc). Some habitats like that of the Edwards pheasant from Vietnam has been decimated by war. The bombardment of their territory during the Vietnam War and the use of Agent Orange to defoliate the jungles wreaked havoc in the home range of the Edwards. The status of the Edwards has recently been officially elevated to critically endangered. Many people, including myself, believe it may already be extinct in the wild. Even if there are a few Edwards left in the wild it seems almost inevitable that they will disappear in their native range unless something changes.

As aviculturists, we may not be able to prevent a lot of bad things from happening in the native range of many of the pheasants right away but there is a lot we can do to focus on maintaining and growing the captive populations of rare pheasants. We may be the only thing standing between survival and extinction of certain species.
If we can maintain and increase the captive population of genetically pure rare pheasants at least we will have a foundation to build on and that will make it possible to think about the potential for long-term reintroduction. Reintroducing endangered animals back into their native ranges is a difficult challenge. This topic is far too complicated to go into here but one thing is clear, in order to have any chance of future reintroduction success we have to keep the species going in captivity.

One thing we can do to keep rare species from going away is to keep the species pure. There have been many articles written about the importance of maintaining genetic purity in captive bred pheasants. Unfortunately, some people have allowed different pheasant species to cross breed. Whether on purpose or by accident, when cross breeding occurs it renders their offspring irreversibly impure. Once this happens, these offspring will never be capable of producing pure progeny. Cross breeding species should never be condoned or encouraged. If you ever hear anyone talk about crossing species out of curiosity just to see what the results will look like please take the time to talk with them about the irreversible damage that it causes. If you see pheasants that are the product of cross breeding please have the conversation with their owner and ask them not to breed them. Better yet, buy the birds if you can so you can make sure they are not used for breeding.

Among the most important things we can do to help with the problem of diminishing numbers of rare pheasants, and all other threatened species for that matter, is to help raise awareness of the problem. Look for opportunities to talk with people about preserving our natural resources, not just at home but around the world. Become involved in the discussion about the paramount importance of helping to save endangered animals. Talk to children about your birds, invite school teachers to bring their classes to see and learn about your birds. Encourage young people to get involved with birds and to become members of the American Pheasant and Waterfowl Society or their state and regional bird clubs. If a young person shows interest in learning about your birds give them back copies of aviculture publications and tell them where they can find literature about the birds. I seize every opportunity to engage people about my love of birds and the passion I have for keeping and raising pheasants.
Grey Peacock-Pheasants, male in display
Photo: Elliotte Manning, www.enchantedbirds.com, Bahama, NC

Grey Peacock-Pheasant female with two chicks
Photo: Jan Harteman, www.harteman.nl
Male (above) and female Torrent Ducks, *M. a. colombiana* at the Otun Quimbaya Flora and Fauna Sanctuary, Department of Risaralda, Colombia.

Photos: Diego Calderon Franco, www.colombiabirding.com
Cabot’s Tragopan in Don Butler’s collection
Photos: Joel Sartore for the Photo Ark
www.photoark.com
Ruddy-headed Goose at Sylvan Heights Bird Park
White-backed Duck at Sylvan Heights Bird Park
Photos: Joel Sartore for the Photo Ark
www.photoark.com
Edward’s Pheasant in Don Butler’s collection
Recently, I had the privilege of meeting a person who is engaged in a global effort to raise awareness about the plight of endangered animals. Both my wife Ann and I are photographers and we are always interested in learning how to become better at the craft. Last year Ann gave me a wonderful instructional DVD course about photography. I had seen the course advertised in National Geographic Magazine, one of my all-time favorite publications. The course was one of The Great Courses series which is advertised in the magazine regularly. The Great Courses offered cover a broad range of subjects from science to history to art, astronomy, poetry, literature, philosophy and yes—photography. The Great Course DVD I got for Christmas was Fundamentals of Photography by Joel Sartore. Joel has been a National Geographic photographer for 25 years and has been all over the world taking pictures for this iconic magazine. If you pay any attention to great photography you know that it doesn’t get any better than the photos in National Geographic. Ann and I had been enjoying watching the new DVD and learning a lot. We both talked about what a great teacher Joel Sartore was and how he had a way of explaining complicated things in clear understandable terms. About this time, I learned that Joel was coming to North Carolina to photograph the marvelous collection of waterfowl at the world famous Sylvan Heights Bird Park. I have been a friend of Mike and Ali Lubbock for many years and have immense respect for what they have done at Sylvan Heights to conserve waterfowl and to educate people around the world about birds. I currently serve as the Chairman of the Board of Directors at Sylvan Heights.

Back to the story. When Joel went to Sylvan Heights he wound up there for three days photographing over 180 species of birds, to include many species of very rare waterfowl. While he was there Mike Lubbock told him about our collection of rare pheasants and my work with them. Suddenly, I was in direct contact with this larger than life figure from the Great Courses DVD. Joel was curious about the pheasant species in my collection and I gave him a complete inventory which includes eighteen species. I was flattered when he asked if he could come to Clinton, NC to photograph several of our birds. Of course I said yes and we settled on a date for the visit. I invited Joel and his wife and two kids to stay at our home until the photo shoot was completed and they took me up on the offer. We had a marvelous visit.
and got to know each other. We have stayed in touch ever since their visit and Ann and I are now proud to call the Sartore family our friends.

Joel spent a whole day photographing our pheasants and I took the day off from work to help him. It was an amazing experience and I learned a lot about what goes into creating world-class photographs. During our time together Joel told me about a major project he is working on called Photo Ark. To make a long story short, Photo Ark is Joel's effort to go all over the world photographing as many animals as he can find. He is using Photo Ark as an educational tool to raise awareness of the fact that animal species are in decline at an alarming rate and that many others will likely go extinct within our lifetimes unless something is done to intervene. His collection of photos of rare animals in Photo Ark is nothing short of astounding. Please take the time to go online and search for Photo Ark. In my opinion, this is the most stunning collection of world-class animal photography ever. I cannot tell you how much it means to Ann and me to know that our birds will be included in this important archive. I take this opportunity to make you aware of Joel’s work with Photo Ark and to ask you to help support this important undertaking. Joel knows that I am writing this article and he has been kind enough to allow me to include some of the pheasant photography he did recently at our place and on a recent trip to India.

Now you will hear directly from Joel...

Thank you, Don. I started the Photo Ark about nine years ago with the goal of photographing all 12,000 species held in captivity around the world in order to create a visual record of biodiversity. I hope to get the public to care about the extinction crisis and be moved to save species while there’s still time. To date I’ve gotten about 4,300 species on board the Ark. All animals are photographed on black and white backgrounds to give each equal weight and importance.

I work primarily in zoos, aquariums and wildlife rehabbers, photographing whatever I can, even those species that are considered common today. This is because we’re on track to lose half of all species by the turn of the century, and something that’s abundant now may not be a few years down the road.

In the past couple years, I’ve started going to private facilities that specialize in breeding rare species, and the work I’ve seen at the Butler’s and Sylvan Heights is
truly inspiring. As I worked along side Don this past summer, I remember several times he said “I'm so glad you’re here. There are no good photos of this species.” This was astounding to me because his pheasants were spectacular. It also made me realize that, if stunning birds like his haven’t been photographed well, there’s little hope that many of the less showy species like rodents, amphibians or invertebrates would ever have their moment in the sun. That’s where the Photo Ark comes in.

At its best, the Photo Ark will save some species by raising awareness and moving people to action. At a minimum, the Ark will serve as the world’s largest archive of studio-quality animal photography. Indeed, it already is. Please consider bringing your species on board the Photo Ark. Here’s a link to a two-minute video showing how the photos are created: http://vimeo.com/102564855.

For those of you private breeders who serve as today’s stewards of so many species, I’d ask that you consider allowing a few of your animals to be photographed for the Ark. In exchange for the access, I’m happy to share any photos I get with you, free of charge.

All images are being permanently archived by the National Geographic Society in Washington, DC. NGS also distributes the work to the world via the web, TV, exhibitions, books, and of course, National Geographic Magazine.

Here’s how you can help: If you have any species that you think I might be interested in, please get in touch with me directly at joel.d.sartore@gmail.com.

I’d be delighted to take a look at your inventory and let you know what’s still needed for the Ark. If I do a shoot at your facility, you’ll get free, high-resolution images to promote you and your organization as you see fit.

All of this work is quite expensive, as you can imagine, and is funded largely out of my pocket. So far, I’ve been able to continue shooting by working wherever I’ve booked speaking engagements, which I do quite a few of annually. This pays for the plane ticket and some hotel costs at least. However, if you’d like to increase the odds of me getting to your neck of the woods in a timely fashion, please consider...
investing in food, lodging, and/or transport for my assistant and I. We’re cheap dates at least, and can stay anywhere.

Finally, please tell everyone you know about the Photo Ark. We must grow our social media footprint considerably. Like us on Facebook, and join our mailing list by dropping me a line via either my email address above, or via www.joelsartore.com or www.photoark.com

Thank you for caring about saving species, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Joel Sartore
Photographer and Fellow,
National Geographic Society
Founder and Photographer, The Photo Ark

Joel Sartore
www.joelsartore.com

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Dear APWS Members,

As an aspiring zookeeper, I have completed multiple unpaid internships to gain the experience I will need to acquire my dream job. I volunteered as a docent at the Roger Williams Park Zoo my freshman year of college, learning about the animals and teaching the public. I then interned at Big Cat Rescue in Tampa, Florida, where I was able to work in a protected contact sanctuary to over 100 exotic cats. My dream has always been to work with animals, lions are especially my favorite. Whenever I travel, I visit the local zoos and my all time favorite zoo has been Lion Country Safari in Florida. I would love to work there one day.

The American Pheasant and Waterfowl Society’s scholarship program has allowed me to continue to focus my energy on getting the much-needed experience within my chosen field of study without having the burden of making extra money.

My most recent internship was this past summer at Franklin Park Zoo in Boston, Massachusetts. I interned in the Tropical Forest section which is home to the gorillas, the pygmy hippos, the capybaras, the tapirs, and an anteater. The Tropical Forest is also home to some of the coolest birds. I was able to feed the pygmy falcons, the smallest bird of prey. At only 20 centimeters in length the pygmy falcons looked so cute, but watching them tear apart a pinky mouse I was able to see they had just as much power over their prey as a large raptor. Another great opportunity for me was when I was able to assist during a routine examination on a Siberian Crane chick; she was probably almost two feet tall by only a few months of age.

One of the weekly routines I assisted with included keeping records of the free flight birds that live throughout the Tropical Forest building. I learned a lot about the birds flight patterns, where they liked to sit, and what exhibits they would hide in and probably steal some food from. The free flight birds ranged from the bearded barbet, hadada ibis, scarlet ibis, saddle-billed stork, violet turaco, yellow-rumped cacique, and some North American ducks. I was able to prepare all the specific diets for each species. It was very interesting learning about the different diets and...
habits the different species of birds could have; from the meat eating birds that only liked the heads of the fish, or the ducks who only liked certain pieces of their lettuce and greens. I kept records of when, what, and how much the birds ate. I watched them so much I learned the order of which the birds would show up to eat.

My internship at Franklin Park Zoo allowed me to gain hands-on knowledge that I would not be able to get anywhere else. Franklin Park Zoo has always been one of my favorite zoos, and after working with the amazing staff and animals I love it even more. This internship was excellent because I learned practical and useful information from the experienced zookeepers listening to their stories and they really were encouraging me to follow my dream. The only down side to the internship, and most internships in this field, is that it was unpaid and full-time. Thanks to the American Pheasant and Waterfowl Society’s scholarship I was able to complete this unpaid internship and expand my resume.

I have been accepted to the internship program at Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, Rhode Island. I plan on working the 34 hours a week required at the zoo and also finishing up my Bachelor of Science of Animal Science at the University of Rhode Island. Once I graduate I will be actively looking to start my career.

Thank you,
Samantha Buccco
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The APWS has a Youth Program that offers assistance to young Beginners (18 years and younger) who are interested in getting started raising pheasants and/or waterfowl.

For more information contact:
Don Steurer
Youth Committee Chair
3519 Koressel Road
Evansville, IN 47720
Ph. 812-423-9040
email: lcsteurer@sbcglobal.net
# Incubation Time Periods

Compiled by Terry Smith

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The days listed on the hatching table are an approximate guide as to when you might expect an egg from a particular species to hatch. Eggs don’t always hatch in the given number of days because of a variety of factors including temperature, humidity, altitude, and the freshness of the hatching eggs.

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2) All photos must be submitted via e-mail as a JPEG image. Please include the photographer’s name and species name in the file name.

3) All photos will be judged on quality, clarity and composition. Make sure the birds are the main subject of your photo and in focus.

4) All entries become the property of APWS and may be used in future editions of APWS magazine.

5) All entries will be exhibited and judged at the 2015 APWS Convention. Winners will be announced at the awards banquet and will be featured on the cover of 2016 APWS magazines.

6) Photographers need not be members of APWS magazine to enter.

7) Limit five entries per photographer.

8) All entries must be sent to aviculturist@gmail.com. Put “APWS Photo Contest” in the subject line of your e-mail. NO MAILED ENTRIES.

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<td>Wisconsin Bird &amp; Game Breeders Association</td>
<td>17182 Cth T, Tomah, WI 54660-6755</td>
<td>Harold Don Smith, 17182 Cth T, Tomah, WI 54660-6755</td>
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<td>Washington Ornamental &amp; Game Bird Breeders</td>
<td>15016 269th SE, Issaquah, WA 98077</td>
<td>Larry Clark, c/o Larry Clark, 15016 269th SE, Issaquah, WA 98077</td>
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<td>E: <a href="mailto:lawrence.w.clark@boeing.com">lawrence.w.clark@boeing.com</a></td>
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<td>Oregon Pheasant Breeders</td>
<td>c/o Don Bowden, P.O. Box 553, Lapine, OR 97739</td>
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<td>Send Name, Address, Phone, Listing of Birds/Animals Raised for Membership Directory to: MBGBA, 9462 Clay Rd. Traverse City, MI 49864</td>
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<td>UTAH PHEASANT SOCIETY, INC.</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.utahpheasantsociety.webs.com">www.utahpheasantsociety.webs.com</a></td>
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- The corporation advocates and encourages public appreciation and understanding of wildlife conservation and promotes the breeding of endangered bird and waterfowl species in their pure forms. These topics are discussed in the magazine and at the annual convention.
- To promote and encourage cooperation between members, other aviculturists, governmental officials-agencies, and zoos throughout the world in regard to the propagation, management, and conservation of rare and endangered species.
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Joy Edwards - Jeanne Hawkins
Bernie Jager - Gene Leffelman
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Blake Rossow

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Blake Rossow

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ET Trader - Terry Smith
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~ Back Cover Bird ~
Grey Peacock-Pheasant feather detail
Photo by Alex Levitskiy