

T h e Pheasant Pen

WASHINGTON ORNAMENTAL & GAME BIRD BREEDERS



Larry Clark
15016 269th Ave SE
Issaquah, Wa 98027

www.wogbb.com

January 2013

"Utah Pheasant Society" C/O Joyce Bouck

947 West 10400 South

South Jordan, Utah 84095 |||||

Club Exchange

Washington Ornamental and Game Bird Breeders

Our mission and goals

1. To promote the welfare and encourage the breeding of pheasants, waterfowl, and other species of fowl, quail, partridge, and related birds to the generally accepted representative standards and pure of the wild species.
2. To share breeding and propagation methods.
3. To introduce new species of birds into private and public aviaries; to improve present captive breeding stock and to catalog present captive bird species and aviculture in the Pacific Northwest.
4. To interest more individuals and groups in aviculture.
5. To promote programs and other goals as may be deemed to be in the best interest of Pacific Northwest Aviculture.

Web site: www.wogbb.com

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Honorary Members

• Jim Abernathy	• George Allen Jr.
• Westley Batterson	• Edna Goldstone
• JoAnne Elbert	• Phil and Bobby Krueger
• Jim Harvey	• Bruce Morgan
• Joe & Marge Longo	

WOGBB President's message

It's time to plan the 2013 events and activates. That will be the main subject of the January meeting. We have tentative plans for February, March, April and September. (See December minutes) That leaves several months to plan for and this is your opportunity to volunteer of suggest a location or farm to visit. These farm visits is what makes this Club fun and interesting and is the heart of the club. So why not get involved and suggest or volunteer a place for a meeting. If you have any suggestions and can't make the meeting, email, call or send me a note.

Its dues time again! 2013 Dues are due the first of the year. An application is accompany the Pheasant Pen so take the time now to fill it out and send it in. There is a lag time between sending in dues and me receiving word so if you have send them in, thanks. I have included an application for all so if you don't need it; use it to sign up a new member!

Larry Clark

Treasurer's Report

Checking

Balance	12/1/12	\$3364.74
Deposits for dues		\$ 100.00
Transfer to savings		\$<150.00>
Balance	12/31/12	\$3314.74

Savings

Balance	12/1/12	\$550.07
Transfer from savings		\$150.00
Interest		\$.05
Balance	12/31/12	\$700.12

WOGBB Meeting minutes—December 16, 2012

The meeting for December, 2012 was held at the home of members Bob and Carol Dawson, at their lovely home just outside the town of Carnation, near Lake Joy, in eastern King County, and themed as the club's annual Christmas Party. Folks assembled at the Dawson's' home by about the scheduled 2:00 pm start time. All the officers were present but the start of the business meeting was delayed by mutual assent of those present so that any lost souls delayed in transit to the meeting could be rescued and brought within the flock so they would not miss any of the important goings on of the day. In other words, we took the breather to socialize, to eat of the scrumptious food and beverage provided by our hosts and by pot-luck providers, and perhaps most importantly, to tour the Dawson's Macaw Rescue and Sanctuary---including the more than 500 live parrot family birds in residence on their 20 acre oasis. Dawson's continue to make remarkable progress in their ongoing efforts to provide ever more functional and more spacious facilities for their expanding flocks of feathered friends. Dawson's have long passed the point where the Sanctuary can be considered merely a glorified hobby effort or simply a product of their love and passion for birds.....And the great news is that the greater aviculture

WOGBB Meeting minutes (cont)

community has truly begun to demonstrate a committed support for the Sanctuary by its increasingly generous financial the Sanctuary. Personally I have taken great pride in the contributions which my wife support and expanding volunteer labor commitment assisting the Dawson's in their construction projects and other elements essential to operation of and I have been moved to make primarily in the form of construction materials critically needed to help keep the Sanctuary on track in its essential capital expansion plans. I only wish we could do more to support their great work.

So, having eaten our fill, toured till we would like to have frozen to death, and just generally caught up on bird chit-chat, Larry called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm. The minutes of the November meeting were approved as published in the December Pen. Treasurer Steve Dazey reported that the balance in the club's account at Wells Fargo had not changed from his November report of \$3,914.86. Dues should now be coming in and Craig Holmes is holding for deposit the \$500 paid for the club's participation in the Animals of the World display at the Puyallup Fair in September so the club's financial condition ending 2012 appears healthy and secure. Craig also reported that he has been troubleshooting the cause of the website being "down". A suggestion was made that members be encouraged to try to help identify for Craig a tech savvy volunteer to assist Craig in truly creating a useful web presence for the club, potentially with social media interface, such as Facebook linkage, etc. Bob Dawson recounted how the Sanctuary had already been the beneficiary of a High School "Senior Project" and that the Website/Social media interface project for the club could well be addressed in the same fashion without requiring the club to send Craig back to college to be reeducated in the computer arts. (Our kids and grandchildren are all so much more creative and tech savvy than I will ever be in this arena that it sounded like a good idea to me.....If you have a candidate (perhaps one of your own children or grandchildren) for "Helper" to Craig, please get in touch with Craig and let's see if together they can move the Club into the tech age.....)

The next item of old business to be addressed was the election of officers for 2013. Craig reported as elections committee chair on the slate of officers and votes received by email prior to the meeting. The single contested position of club secretary was decided by vote of members present together with email votes received.....with Craig declaring that Bruce Morgan had received the majority of cast votes for secretary. A motion was duly made, seconded and approved confirming the club officers for 2013 to be:

President---- Larry Clark

Vice President--- Craig Holmes

Secretary--- - Bruce Morgan

Treasurer-- - Steve Dazey

Larry confirmed that Diana Clark had agreed to serve another year as membership chairman and that Craig Holmes would continue to serve as show and program chairman in 2013.

By motion made, seconded and approved Bruce Morgan was authorized to refile club Articles of Incorporation as a Washington nonprofit corporation, with reimbursement for out of pocket cost expended, in form so as to try to qualify as a registered exempt charity, with no paid officers or directors, with perpetual existence, provided that, in the event of future dissolution or winding up of the Club, the assets of the Club are to be remitted to the American Pheasant and Waterfowl Society or comparable national or regional aviculture nonprofit.

The first item of new business was a discussion of 2013 activities/agenda for the Club. It was agreed that the January meeting would be held the third Sunday in January at the Poodle Dog Restaurant in Fife, Craig to call and reserve the room and fix the time so the meeting can be confirmed in the January Pheasant Pen. The primary focus for this meeting will be to further the planning for 2013 activities. This location was chosen again this year to be convenient on the I-5 corridor and central to the membership to minimize difficulty of attendance in the event of inclement weather conditions. All members are reminded that they are welcome to attend or to send along their suggestions for the year by email or phone contact with any of the club officers in advance of the meeting.

The February meeting is being planned by Craig to include a veterinarian as a guest speaker.....location to be announced but until further notice, mark it on your calendar for the 17th---the third Sunday in February.

The March meeting was offered to be hosted by Bob and Carol Dawson and to feature a program devoted to bamboo propagation.

April is again penciled in for the Puyallup Spring Fair in mid-April. Hopefully Craig will have firm dates by the January meeting. September will again be penciled in for the main Puyallup Fair with participation by the Club both in the Poultry barn and in the Animals of the World. Craig reminded us that the club did win the Trophy in the 2012 Fair for the Best Educational/Creative Display, quite an honor and achievement since 2012 was the first year that the Club had participated in the Animals of the World barn.

Larry announced that he was excited by the overall increase in membership and interest in the Club through this past year and he wanted to get the word out to all members, former members, and potential members inviting them to offer to sponsor/host a club meeting in 2013 or to otherwise make suggestions for activities/programs of interest to them. Other than the partial itinerary listed above for specific months, the year is open to all offers or suggestions. The club exists to meet the educational/social needs of aviculture in the Pacific Northwest. As such it is a social and service club.....with member support growing our best days will surely be ahead of us. Come join in.....and further on that note, Larry noted that 2013 will kick off another membership drive. Hopefully your officers and committee chairs will be able to better message regarding the relevance and importance of membership in the Club as a vital part of the experience of Aviculture in the coming year.

The meeting adjourned and moved into the Dawson's living room for a fun and lively gift exchange.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce Morgan, secretary

January Meeting

Sunday, January 20th, 2:00 PM

Poodle Dog Restaurant

In the "BOARDROOM"

1522 54th Ave E Fife, WA 98424

253-922-6161

I-5 in Fife, take Exit 137, head North, on corner of first intersection

Order food if desired off the menu

Time: 2:00 PM

Take in a meeting and help us plan the year's activities!!

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Zoo

By Carlos Torrez, Aviary Keeper Disney's
Animal Kingdom®, Lake Buena Vista, FL



Male rhea sitting on a nest.

One hot, steamy morning in New Orleans, I received a call from the Audubon Zoo where I worked. The zoo is located in a section of Audubon Park in Uptown New Orleans along the Mississippi River. They called me to ask if I was willing to make a trip to the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington D.C. for an animal pick up. Without hesitation I readily agreed. I was told that I would be transporting a few rhea (*Rhea americana*) eggs back to New Orleans. It sounded like a fun and easy trip, but a funny thing happened on the return trip.

After learning that the National Zoo was willing to donate three eggs from their birds, the bird curator arranged for me to arrive two days before the eggs' expected hatch date. Nothing to worry about, right? All the arrangements were made and I was set to go in the next few days to retrieve our fragile cargo.

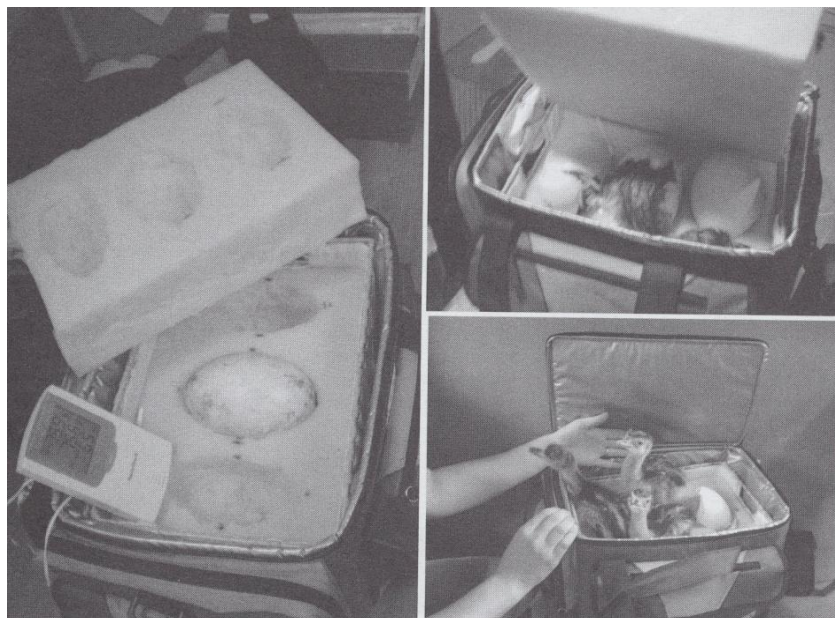
I arrived at Baltimore-Washington International Airport on a nice cool day, a welcome change from a typical hot New Orleans summer. I was greeted by Sara Hallager, one of the zoo's biologists, who took me to get a peek at the eggs. Early the next morning, I would return to New Orleans with our special cargo. So far so good!

The next morning everything was going according to plan. It was now time to get the eggs from under the male rhea and place them in our specially-designed carrier. Males are the ones that build the nest and sit on the eggs to incubate them. When we arrived at the stall where the male was sitting, we noticed that some of the eggs he was sitting on had already hatched. The eggs that were marked for Audubon had not yet hatched, and I was reassured that we still had time to get them back to New Orleans before they hatched.

I hurriedly collected my personal belongings and rushed over to find that one of the chicks had already hatched! As I looked into the foam-filled carrier, I saw that a damp brown rhea chick was staring back at me.

Arrangements had been made by the curators at the Audubon Zoo with the TSA at the airport to hand-check the container carrying the eggs, as they could not be sent through the airport X-ray machine. When I arrived at the TSA check point for carry-on items, the agent asked that I open the container carrying the three, four-inch-long, cream colored rhea eggs. I was asked to step aside and to get checked myself while the other agent

inspected the carrier. The agent inspecting the carrier asked how many eggs I was transporting. I responded, "I have three eggs." "No there are two," she answered back. Suddenly a group of TSA agents were intently huddled around the carrier. I hurriedly collected my personal belongings and rushed over to find that one of the chicks had already hatched! As I looked into the foam-filled carrier, I saw that a damp brown rhea chick was staring back at me. Not only are eggs easier to transport, but once hatched, they are not supposed to be carried on in the airplane cabin. All I could think was, "Noooo, I'm supposed to bring back eggs!"



(Left) The egg carrier used to transport the rhea eggs. (Top Right) The early arrival of a rhea chick at the airport. (Bottom Right) All three eggs hatching before the completion of the trip.

Luckily, the TSA agents were so excited to see the newly hatched bird that they let me continue with my journey. By the time I reached the gate for my return trip to New Orleans, the second egg had hatched. Now I had two chirping little birds in the carrier. I cracked open the carrier just enough to allow fresh air in and gently had to push back their little, inquisitive beaks. Egg number three hatched about an hour later while we were in mid flight back to the Big Easy. Luckily, the airplane's noise drowned out the peeping and whistling from the chicks and none of the other passengers had a clue of what I was transporting.

After a very unusual and unforgettable trip, the rheas and I made it back safely to New Orleans and the Audubon Zoo. Some days our jobs can be routine, but every once in a while we get to have some wild adventures! I will always have a great story to tell about when "a funny thing happened on the way to the zoo."



Inbreeding and its potential long term effects

What does inbreeding do... well that's one loaded question, but we will address the most obvious and hindering for aviculture. The objective of this writing is to stop and make the breeder analyze, the road ahead, with his or her anticipated actions, and to seriously evaluate potential brood stock used in your program. We will not pretend to deliver a Genomics course (study of the entire DNA sequence, and special interest areas) instead from the perspective of ethical animal husbandry, that does not require a Ph.D. for the understanding.

"Inbreeding" intensifies the Genotype (The genetic constitution of an organism, can refer to all the genes or to a single pair), lessening the potential for expressed variation (phenotype), increasing and accelerating the matching of dominant or recessive traits, becoming (homozygous). This matching in many cases is not in our benefit or I should say the effected specimen.

When you inbreed "like" genotype, the resulting offspring are more apt to take after the parental stock, and with each consecutive inbred mating, the more "fused" the genetic code becomes. In the course of this breeding vortex, you begin to see all the ugly little things that crop up from homozygosis, with not having the genetic diversity (hybrid vigor) that keep things in perspective as in feral specimens.

This is a very crucial crossroad to understand! In the poultry world "strains" (an inbred, genetically engineered or mutated organism) are created via inbreeding and "line breeding" (a deliberately selected specimen, exhibiting specific and desired traits, adhering to a sought after outcome). A strain is considered True to type, or "Pure" between 30/32 & 31/32... We are not creating a strain, we are breeding species and subspecies, in all essence the natural occurring, and wild process, of the previously mention, but over the course of hundreds of years (phylogenetic), with a multitude of participants, when we inbreed among captive specimens, consisting of an already small breeding nucleus, the deterioration begins to show. Some of the earliest and obvious ones, loss of fertility, phenotype abnormalities, on to complete deformity, (scissor bills, excessive eye socket space, lazy eyes, bowed legs, loss of spur growth, color changes, exhibiting partial albinism, androgynous expression, ext.. you get the picture)... progressing to complete mutations.

I want to highlight on this area, Mutations and mutants.. "All" of the previous are mutants, but a complete "mutation" (A change of the DNA sequence within a gene or chromosome of an organism resulting in the creation of a new character or trait not found in the parental type) this usually occurs as an overwhelming, and consuming expression of color. The thing about mutations of this type it seems to yield individuals that are superior in their ability to thrive. Again this is not always a good thing. A prime example of a mutation being superior to the nominate would be the "Stellas Lorikeet", who in the wild now outnumber the normal coloration 3 to 4 times.

Once more these examples and the following are lime lighted to stress the importance of using unrelated stock (whatever that may consist of).

One of the most prevalent, and conspicuous signs of genetic restriction, is the occurrence of white feathering. Now this may come in the form of a single feather or show as 2, 3, or more inches in the tail, usually in the retrices. Now with that said, the next is “only a proposed” but possibility associated with this topic. When we look at the possible thread lines of isolated genotypes (autochthonous) there are a few “subspecies” who may be the result of isolation, limited gene pool, and outside interjection. This makes me think of the Vietnamese Pheasant, and Edwards. The Vo Quys, looks like and Edwards, but has center white retrices! It is indigenous, has a limited gene pool, especially when you consider how ravaged their habitat has been, and how lucky we are that “anything” survived the onslaught from the war and wars in this region. We will assume that the platform of breeding individuals was extremely limited after the described aftermaths. Is it not possible that inbreeding occurred, another specimen, Delacours crested fire back, again the same center white tail expression...? Its location, once more extremely isolated. We look next at Single and Double bar Palawan peacock pheasants. There are existing photos of Feral specimens exhibiting both of the mentioned. Is this due to inbreeding of a small population, and if not, why is it not deciphered as a Greater and Lesser as in others that have subtle, but “precise” differences? All of the previous show this expression with “White” or in the white areas. Just a thought when you think of isolation, and limited genetic diversity. If it happens in captivity why not elsewhere?

If you are looking to get familiar, or simply enhance your knowledge of genetics and its effects, here are a list of recommended material and sites.

- ABCs of Poultry Genetics (Dr.W.F. Hollander, Ph.D.)
- Genetics of the Fowl (F.B. Hutt)
- Poultry Breeding and Genetics (R.D. Crawford / Elsevier)
- Poultry Genetics, Breeding and Biotechnology (W.M. Muir and S.E.Aggrey)

*And the new superior genetics site of Krissy Bush-

www.aviangenetics.com