

T h e Pheasant Pen

WASHINGTON ORNAMENTAL & GAME BIRD BREEDERS



Larry Clark
15016 269th Ave SE
Issaquah, Wa 98027

www.wogbb.com

March 2013

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

This is your last Pheasant Pen if dues are not paid by April 1st 2013. Please get your dues in as soon as possible. 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!

From my Raptor report from last month, my visitor was a Sharp-shinned Hawk, believed to be a juvenile. It has not returned to my knowledge since that day – I hope that helping it from my flight pen has discouraged from feeding on my birds.

This month meeting is a chance for you to pick up some bamboo plantings free of charge; all you will need to do is help out with the bamboo harvest. Shovels and pots will be provided for your use. Bob Dawson has many varieties of bamboo at his place and will give us an education on the different types and varieties of bamboo available. This should be an excellent opportunity to add some bamboo to your estate's landscape.

Larry Clark

In memoriam

We learn that a founding member of our club passed away last August 22.

Ward Whitney was 91 years old. A look back at his life and contributions to the club will be in next month Pheasant Pen.

Treasurer's Report

Checking

Balance	2/1/13	\$3121.59
Deposits for dues		\$ 25.00
Transfer to savings		\$<150.00>
Checks Written (0)		\$ 0.00
Balance	2/28/13	\$2996.59

Savings

Balance	2/1/13	\$850.18
Transfer from savings		\$150.00
Interest		\$.06
Balance	2/28/13	\$1000.24

Classified

For Sale: 2012 Male Silver Pheasants & 2012 Yellow Golden males and 2011 Yellow Golden females. My offer of a free par of birds for new members is still open. Any new member who pay's their dues can have a pair free, just for joining. Larry Clark, President

March Meeting

Sunday, March 17st, 12:00 PM

Bob & Carol Dawson's
aka: Macaw Rescue & Sanctuary
34032 NE Lake Joy Road
Carnation, WA 98014

Phone: 425-788-4721

Schedule:

12:00 – 2:00 Educate & Harvest Bamboo

2:00PM - Potluck lunch followed by business meeting

Additional harvesting following the meeting if necessary

Directions:

From the City of Carnation, Heading North

- Continue on WA-203 N/ Carnation Duvall Rd/Fall City Duvall Rd 2.6 miles
- Turn right onto NE Stillwater Rd 0.6 miles
- Continue onto Kelly Rd NE 1.5 miles
- Slight right onto NE Lake Joy Rd 1.0 miles
- Destination is on left



Bar-tailed Pheasant

(*Syrnaticus humiae*)

By Brian Shamblin, Cleveland, TN

The Bar-tailed Pheasant is similar to, but easily distinguished from, the Elliot's. Like the Elliot's, the Bar-tailed has bare red facial wattles that he can swell slightly when excited. His head is gray with a very faint white "eyebrow" over the wattle. His neck and breast are blue each feather with a dark center and a glossier blue fringe. The mantle and abdomen are deep vermillion. The male's wings are coppery chestnut with a blue bar at the shoulder, a white bar at the bow, and a gray bar at the tips of the secondaries. The back and rump are dark blue-black with a thin white lacing. His tail is gray with dark barring. The female is pale gray-brown and is very similar to the Elliot's female. The Bar-tailed's throat should be plain rufous brown. The breast can, and usually does, have a light black mottling, but never to the degree of the Elliot's. Her belly is a mixture of brown and white, but never completely white as in the Elliot's.

There are two similar subspecies, the nominate Hume's Bar-tail (*humiae*) and the Burmese Bar-tail (*burmanicus*). Only the Hume's is known in aviculture collections. The Hume's was discovered and described by Hume in 1888. They were bred in India by 1944, but it wasn't until 1961 that the first Bar-tailed Pheasants made it to Europe. They were bred the following spring by F.E.B. Johnson (Delacour 1977). Hume's are bred in reasonable numbers today, and they are only slightly less common than Elliot's while being better established than the Mikado.

The former ranges of both subspecies have been greatly reduced. Today, the Hume's is believed to be confined to a small area in the state of Mizoram in India. Both Bar-tailed subspecies have suffered greatly at the hands of humans in their native habitats. At present, the entire species is listed as CITES Appendix 1. Deforestation is credited as the primary threat. Hunting is also a problem in China.

In captivity, Hume's Bar-tailed are fairly well-established. Numbers could be higher, though. Hens lay on average six to twelve eggs per clutch; the incubation period is 27 to 28 days. For the most part, the Long-tailed Pheasants are a good choice for the beginning breeder and the expert alike. The males color out the first year. Most birds will mature and reproduce in their first season.

Reprinted from the APWS Magazine, July/August, 1998.



It's spring fair time, from April 18th thru the 21st at the Puyallup Fairgrounds. It's an opportunity to show the public what are hobby is about and what pleasures our birds bring to us. This Fair is small enough that we can easily interact with the public and educate them on why we are so into our birds. We are always looking for more birds to exhibit and display.

If you are coming down to visit our display the Fairgrounds are open Thursday 2 -10 PM, Friday and Saturday 10 am to 10pm and Sunday 10am to 8 pm. Parking is free and if you exhibit and/or work the exhibit admittance is free. Please contact Craig in advance, if not it's \$10.00 for the day.

More info to follow in next month's Pheasant Pen.

Contact Craig Holmes for more info at 206-300-0167.



Feather Facts

By Dr. Tom W. Smith

Game Bird Dept, Mississippi State University

Feather condition in game birds is very important to both the producer of commercial birds and the ornamental breeder. Also if stock is raised for release on shooting preserves, it is most important to the preserve operator. Poor feathering not only reduces the attractive appearance of a bird, but it interferes with flight and reduces the quality of a dressed carcass.

Poor feather condition can be due to a variety of vices including feather pulling, feather eating and cannibalism or improper growth and development of the feathers. These events can occur in birds of any age. Many factors are involved with or influence feathers. The factors most commonly considered are genetics, nutrition, environment, management and disease.

Feathers become noticeable in quail on about the 9th day of Incubation and on the 12th day for pheasants, ducks and most other game birds. They are grouped in different areas of the body and are called feather tracts. Feather tracts are separated by completely non-feathered areas called "apteria".

The feathering procedure from newly hatched chick down to adult plumages or feather coat - down, chick, juvenile and adult. Gradual feather changes develop as one continuous growth. When complete the plumage makes up about 7 - 9% of the total body weight.

The genetic effect on feathering has been well documented. There is evidence that links rapid feather development with rapid body growth. The degree of feathering also varies among strains of birds.

Other factors affecting feather quality Include:

- 1 - Properly debeaked birds are consistently superior to non-debeaked birds. If properly conducted, debeaking will not affect birds released to the wild.
- 2 - Restrictions of floor, water, or feed space will result in reduced feather quality.
- 3 - Feather picking and cannibalism are significantly reduced when red lights are used.
- 4 - Poor ventilation promotes poor feathering.
- 5 - Birds fed pelleted rations tend to have more feather picking than birds fed mash rations. Increasing protein ration in diets also result in poorer feathering.
- 6 - Several amino acids have been shown to affect feathering. They include methionine, lysine, glycine, cystine and arginine.
- 7 - A reduced salt level will promote increased feather picking and cannibalism.
- 8 - A zinc deficiency results in ragged and brittle feathers. Embryo will have feathers called "clubbed down"
- 9 - Deficiencies of iron and copper results in depigmented or pale feathers.
- 10 - Deficiencies of vitamin E, panthothenic acid, folic acid, niacin and pyridoxine produce poor feather development or decreased pigmentation.
- 11 - Most disease conditions result in poor feather condition. Poor feathering is produced by impaired nutrient usage from the disease or initial environmental conditions that may have originally initiated the disease.

In summary, it is evident that there is no simple salutation to poor feathering.

One or all the mentioned factors, plus many that we are not familiar with can cause poor feathering.

Washington Ornamental & Game Bird Breeders (WOGBB) Membership Application

This organization has been established to encourage everyone interested in any type of Ornamental and Game Bird to expand their knowledge and exchange their ideas with other bird breeders. Membership dues are \$25.00 per calendar year (US Funds) for both single and family membership and are not prorated. New membership accepted after October 1st will be for the remainder of the current and the following calendar year.

Date:

Type of Application: New Renewal

NAME:

CO-MEMBER(s):

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP

PHONES:

EMAIL:

OCCUPATION:

BIRTHDAYS: (MEMBER & CO-MEMBERS)

Please, Enclose a list the birds that you have!

Send application to:
Steve Dazey, Treasurer
P.O. Box 576
Monroe, Wa 98272