DEDICATED TO CONSERVATION OF BIRD WILDLIFE THROUGH ENCOURAGEMENT OF CAPTIVE BREEDING PROGRAMS, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

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Captive Breeding Offers Hope For Rare & Endangered Pheasants

by Dick Barrett

A recent article in the Smithsonian described a program of captive breeding of pheasant species threatened with extinction. The program is conducted by the Pheasant Trust in England and has as its goal the production of those birds in sufficient quantities so that their natural habitats can eventually be restored.

Such a breeding program is not confined to England. Mr. Jack Moore of Whittier, California has been actively breeding ornamental pheasants for a period of 15 years. Starting in the business as a commercial breeder of Ringneck pheasants for the dinner table, he became interested in ornamentals and now devotes his time to the breeding of ornamental species. His sales are to hobbyists and dealers in this country and in many foreign countries.

Edwards

Edwards

Blue Eared – "Mr. and Mrs." look very much alike. They also enjoy the reputation of being one of the noisiest of pheasants.

YOUTH BECOMES ACTIVE IN San Diego Finch Club

by Otton K. Watkins, D.C.

After much deliberation and discussion, it has been decided by the SAN DIEGO COUNTY FINCH SOCIETY’s members to install in our organization a Junior Vice President. This position includes participation in all executive board meetings, with full voting rights in all matters pertaining to and concerning the activities of our Club.

Along with the installation of a Junior Vice President, being elected by the junior members, there will also be a reduction of Annual Club Dues. The dues will be reduced from $4.00 to $2.00 per year for all junior members eighteen years or younger.

We as members of the San Diego County Finch Society feel it is high time we include our young people in our activities as a Club and this Hobby we love and enjoy, namely our Birds. In what better hands could we leave such a rewarding and satisfying Hobby than our YOUTH.

As President of the SAN DIEGO COUNTY FINCH SOCIETY, I personally hope that this will set a precedence for other clubs to follow... THINK ABOUT IT...
At the present time, Mr. Moore is working with these ornamentals: Malayan Fireback, Siamese Fireback, Edwards, Mikado, Lady Amherst, Swinhoe, Golden (red), Golden (yellow-Chigi), Silver, Blue Eared, Reeves, Ringneck, Gray Peacock Pheasant, and waterfowl: the Mandarin Duck and Wood Duck.

While all are interesting and colorful, Mr. Moore acknowledges that his first love is the Edwards. One bird, the Yellow Golden “Chigi” is the result of 30 years experimentation by an Italian breeder of the same name.

Breeding of ornamentals is more difficult than that of the common game Ringneck. The Ringneck, for example, lays 80 to 100 eggs per year in captivity. The average ornamental will lay 15 to 20. Some of the ornamentals are reluctant to sit their own eggs. In such cases Mr. Moore calls on his trusty Silkie Bantam hen. The Silkie being preferred to other bantam types because its kicking and scratching habits are less vigorous and spare the chicks the fate of being kicked across the enclosure to premature death or injury. The Moore’s raise over one hundred of the rare ornamentals each year.

Jack Moore is well known among ornamental pheasant breeders and was honored recently by a personal visit by Jean Delacour, a world expert on pheasants, who maintains his own fine collection at Cleres in Normandy, France. Mr. Delacour is the president of the Pheasant Trust.

Jack and Dorothy have also been visited by Mr. Harezo Shimizu of Tokyo, Japan. Jack corresponds (through an interpreter) and has some interesting photographs sent to him showing an unusual three tiered pheasant aviary.

It is a pleasure to know aviculturists like Jack Moore. His concern with these rare beauties is typified by the way he shares his vast warehouse of knowledge with all who ask.