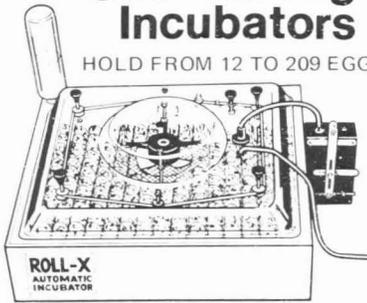


See-Through Incubators

HOLD FROM 12 TO 209 EGGS



Write for the 32 pg catalog today
check our prices on

BOOK HEADQUARTERS

for Birds, Small Stock, City Farming,
Pheasants, Chickens, Bantams, Quail,
Guineas, Turkeys, Grouse, Ducks,
Geese, Pigeons, Falcons and others.



MARSH FARMS

10015 13th St.
Garden Grove, CA. 92643

Magnolia Bird Farm



Owner
Frank Miser

We Buy Birds We Ship Birds

COMPLETE BIRD SUPPLIES
(714) 527-3387

Open 9 to 6 Closed Sun., Mon., Holidays
8990 Cerritos Ave.
Anaheim, Ca. 92804

Cheer Pheasant

(*Catreus wallichii*)

by Lincoln Allen,
Salt Lake City, Utah

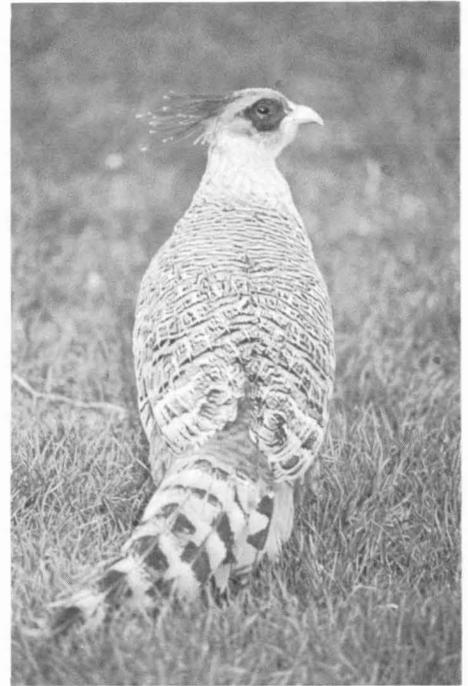
The Cheer is a medium-sized pheasant, about the size of a Ringneck. The hen resembles the cock but is a little smaller, and its crest is shorter.

While it is quite common in captivity, Cheer are fairly rare in the wilds now where it inhabits rugged terrain covered with forest and thick scrub on the hill-sides of the Himalayas. Its range is the western and central Himalayas (northern, mountainous areas of Pakistan, India, Nepal, etc.), to be precise, from Durung Galli and the Hazara district in the north and west to the Simla States, Tehri Garhwal and Nepal.

Cheer are quite unique among the pheasant family, being the only species in its genus, *Catreus*. They are monogamous in the wilds and you usually find that they must be paired as well in captivity.

They have very stout, curved bills with which they dig up all kinds of food including grubs, insects, seeds, roots, berries, shoots, leaves, etc. In captivity, they do very well on the usual diet fed pheasants such as mixed grains, greens and a laying ration just before and during the breeding season. The chicks are easily raised the same as most other pheasants. High protein is good for them, but after about six weeks you can go to a less expensive grower ration with less protein. All pheasants do better if you chop up greens to feed along with their prepared diet.

Cheer assume their adult plumage the first year and breed the next spring after their birth. Cheer have always done well in captivity since they were first introduced into Europe about 1960, and anyone can raise this species if they feed a good diet to the breeding stock and the growing birds, provide clean water at all times, and keep their surroundings clean. Also the stock must be unrelated, otherwise you can run into difficulty. Inbred chicks hatch weak and are hard to raise, so if you have problems raising this species, you know your breeders are too closely related. If the parent stock are inbred, they may not breed and lay at all. The quality of the breeding stock is 99% of raising anything.



Cheer cock, photographed at the Game Bird Preservation Center by Lincoln Allen.

At the Game Bird Preservation Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, we have full flighted Cheer living at liberty around the grounds. This is the only pheasant we've found that will stay around when not penned, and we have one pair now that has been here for several years. It is nice to see them fly up on the tops of buildings and into trees at night to roost.

In nature, Cheer are very sedentary birds with a strong attachment to their territory which probably accounts for their making good birds to turn loose as well as explains why they are becoming extinct in the wilds. Hunters can stay in the same area where these pheasants live and the birds won't leave until a whole local population is wiped out.

The Pheasant Trust in England raises a lot of Cheer. As people will recall, the Trust was responsible for the re-introduction of the Cheer to a reserve forest near Simla in Himachal Pradesh, India. In 1971 twelve pairs of Cheer Pheasants bred at the Trust were sent as a gift to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, and in 1973 a further twelve pairs were sent for release in the same area. This re-introduction project was personally supervised by the wildlife warden of Himachal Pradesh, Mr. K.L. Mehta. He wrote on April 28 last that as a result of a recent visit to the area by him, he could personally verify that the Cheer Pheasants which were released under his supervision are doing excellently. This is an example of the wonderful conservation work that is being done for pheasants by Philip Wayre and his Pheasant Trust.