



Forestry Administration



World Pheasant Association

Cambodian Galliformes Conservation Programme

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Monthly Report

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Summary

Cambodia is home to 14 species of Galliformes of which four are considered to be globally threatened. The most important areas for Galliformes within Cambodia are the Eastern Plains, Northern Plains and Southwest Cambodia. Between 3rd and 12th November 2005, we undertook ornithological and questionnaire surveys to establish the status and threats to Galliformes, particular the Chestnut-headed Hill-partridge, on Bokor Mountain, Kampot Province, South Cardamom, Southwest Cambodia. We established the presence of six galliform species by the ornithological and questionnaire surveys and by a trapping survey.

1. Study area

Phnom Bokor Mountain is located in Monivong "Bokor" National Park, within the South Cardamom Mountain range in Southwest Cambodia. Most of the area is covered by dense evergreen forest and at the higher elevations montane woodland and open grassland. The area is situated near the sea, and onshore winds frequently sweep the area with low cloud, fog and rain.

2. Methods

Three methods were used to record the presence of Galliformes, assess their numbers and establish their threats. These were ornithological and questionnaire surveys, and a trapping survey.

2.1 Ornithological surveys

Surveys were undertaken between 3rd and 12th November 2005 using a combination of transect surveys (to establish presence) and point-count surveys (to measure abundance). Each transect took about 2 hours to walk, started at 05:30 and 16:30 and finished at 07:30 and 18:30, respectively. When a bird was heard calling its direction and estimated distance from the observer was recorded. The location of record was recorded by a Geographical Positioning System (GPS). During the surveys, the presences of other important onogalliform bird species was also recorded.

2.2 Questionnaire survey of local people and hunters

In addition to undertaking the ornithological surveys, a questionnaire survey of local communities has also been undertaken to collect information on their perceived status of Galliformes, their distribution and to ascertain their threats.

The commune leaders, village elders and senior hunters specifically and more generally other village people and hunters were shown pictures of Galliformes in the Guide to Birds of Southeast Asia, and the Guide to Birds of Cambodia and asked the following questions:

- How many species of Galliformes are there in the area?
- How many individuals of each species are there in the area?
- How many individuals of each species are hunted in the area?
- How many hunters are there in the area?
- How many hunters come from outside area?
- What hunting methods do they use?
- How many traps are set in the area?

How many traps did each hunter set in the area?
Where did they sell hunted birds?
When did hunters always hunt green peafowl and collect its chicks?
How many days are traps set in the area?
Would they hunt if alternative food were provided?
What alternative food would they like?
Do you think it is important to protect the wildlife around their village?
Have you preferred Green Peafowl? Why?

2.3 Trapping surveys

In addition to ornithological and questionnaire surveys, a trapping survey, using lines of leg-hold snares, was undertaken. About 40 traps were set along trails and near water and were checked regularly.

3. Results

3.1 Galliformes

The results from the ornithological, questionnaire and trapping surveys are summarised in Table 1, 2 and 3. We walked 11 transects, during which four species of galliform were heard calling at 10 locations and one bird was observed directly along the transect. Information from the questionnaires revealed that Green Peafowl were present in the foothills of the mountains near the rice fields. Its population was thought to number around twelve individuals within a single small group. Chestnut-headed Partridge was heard calling between elevations of 500 to 1075 metres asl and was thought to only be present in small numbers. Siamese Fireback were thought to be more numerous than Chestnut-headed Partridge and were heard calling in the dense forest at the higher elevations at around 920 metres asl. Silver Pheasant was heard calling from many points in the dense forest. We caught a juvenile male in one of the snare traps at 500 metres asl. Additionally, we observed three individuals, a female and two males, fighting near our camp at about 500 metres asl. Scaly-breasted Partridge was heard calling from many points, ranging from 500 metres asl near our camp to the higher elevations at 912 metres asl. It was thought that this species was widespread and common. Red Junglefowl were not heard or observed during our surveys, possibly because their breeding season had not started, but a park ranger confirmed that the species is common throughout the area.

The information we collected on the numbers of Galliformes hunted in the Phnom Bokor area clearly shows that illegal trapping is a major threat to the status and conservation of many species. Trapping is undertaken by some villagers living around the area in order to provide supplementary food and raise their incomes. This usually involves setting up to 200 traps per hunter along old trails and near water to opportunistically trap any ground dwelling animals or birds. Not all species are equally affected by hunting, with those that are easy to catch (Chestnut-headed Hill-partridge and Red Junglefowl), or are desirable for meat, eggs and feathers (Green Peafowl) being especially targeted by hunters. The main purpose of this trapping is to provide food for the hunter and his family, the village and occasionally (especially in the case of Green Peafowl) for the pet trade.

Another threat to Galliformes in the area we surveyed is habitat degradation by illegal logging to provide wood for house construction by local people or to generate income, and forest clearance to provide area for cultivation. Possibly of more concern is that not only does logging destroy habitats, but it also opens up access to the forest, causes disturbance and loggers also hunt Galliformes for food and start cooking fires, which may spread and cause further forest damage. The collection of non-timber products (bamboos, resins, fruits) and

food (plants, leaves, fish, etc) principally causes disturbance but in addition these foraging parties hunt Galliformes for food whilst in the forest and start cooking fires. They are usually accompanied by dogs into the forest. This adds to the disturbance problems, may spread disease to wildlife.

Table 1 Summary information from the ornithological surveys undertaken in the Phnom Bokor area, South Cardamom Mountains, Southwest Cambodia, during 3rd to 12th November 2005

Species	Number of Transect	Number of birds heard	Number of birds seen
Chinese Francolin <i>Francolinus pintadeanus</i>	11 transects	0	0
Chestnut-headed Partridge <i>Arborophila cambodiana</i>	11 transects	5	1
Scaly-breasted Partridge <i>Arborophila chloropus</i>	11 transects	1	0
Red Junglefowl <i>Gallus gallus</i>	11 transects	0	0
Silver Pheasant <i>Lophura nycthemera</i>	11 transects	3	0
Siamese Fireback <i>Lophura diardi</i>	11 transects	1	0
Germain's Peacock Pheasant <i>Polyplectron germaini</i>	11 transects	0	0
Green Peafowl <i>Pavo muticus</i>	11 transects	0	0
Bar-backed Partridge <i>Arborophila brunneopectus</i>	11 transects	0	0
Rain Quail <i>Coturnix coromandelica</i>	11 transects	0	0
Japanese Quail <i>Coturnix japonica</i>	11 transects	0	0
Blue-breasted Quail <i>Coturnix chinensis</i>	11 transects	0	0
Grey Peacock Pheasant <i>Polyplectron bicalcaratum</i>	11 transects	0	0
Orange-necked Hill-partridge <i>Arborophila davidi</i>	11 transects	0	0



Photo 1 Camping in the forest during surveys in the Phnom Bokor area, South Cardamom Mountains, Southwest Cambodia.

Table 2 Summary information from the questionnaire survey undertaken in the Phnom Bokor area, South Cardamom Mountains, Southwest Cambodia, during 3rd to 12th October 2005

Species	Numbers thought to occur	Numbers hunted
Chinese Francolin <i>Francolinus pintadeanus</i>	0	0
Chestnut-headed Partridge <i>Arborophila cambodiana</i>	100 birds	30 birds/year
Scaly-breasted Partridge <i>Arborophila chloropus</i>	300 birds	70 birds/year
Red Junglefowl <i>Gallus gallus</i>	490 birds	95 birds/ year
Silver Pheasant <i>Lophura nycthemera</i>	280 birds	8 birds/year
Siamese Fireback <i>Lophura diardi</i>	200 birds	5 birds/year
Germain's Peacock Pheasant <i>Polyplectron germaini</i>	0	0
Green Peafowl <i>Pavo muticus</i>	12 birds	1 bird/year
Bar-backed Partridge <i>Arborophila brunneopectus</i>	0	0
Rain Quail <i>Coturnix coromandelica</i>	0	0
Japanese Quail <i>Coturnix japonica</i>	0	0
Blue-breasted Quail <i>Coturnix chinensis</i>	0	0
Grey Peacock Pheasant <i>Polyplectron bicalcaratum</i>	0	0
Orange-necked Hill-partridge <i>Arborophila davidi</i>	0	0

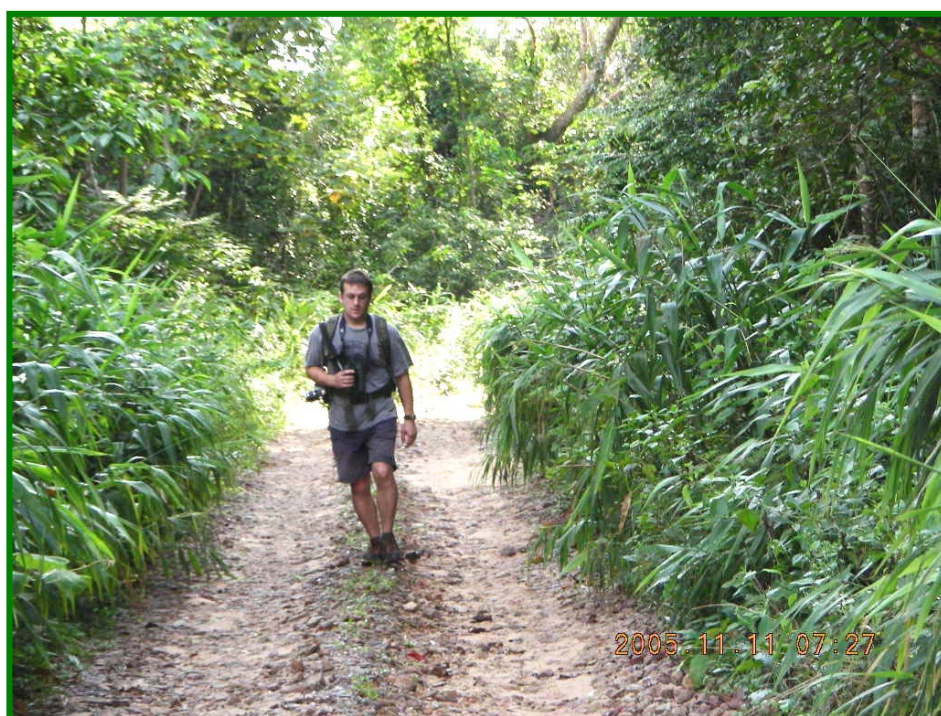


Photo 2 Dr Stephen Browne surveying Galliformes along a trail in the Phnom Bokor area, South Cardamom Mountains, Southwest

Table 3 Summary information from the trapping survey undertaken within the Phnom Bokor area, South Cardamom Mountains, Southwest Cambodia during 3rd to 12th November 2005

Species	Number of trap rows set	Number of traps set	Number of birds caught
Chinese Francolin <i>Francolinus pintadeanus</i>	3	40	0
Chestnut-headed Partridge <i>Arborophila cambodiana</i>	3	40	0
Scaly-breasted Partridge <i>Arborophila chloropus</i>	3	40	0
Red Junglefowl <i>Gallus gallus</i>	3	40	0
Silver Pheasant <i>Lophura nycthemera</i>	3	40	1
Siamese Fireback <i>Lophura diardi</i>	3	40	0
Germain's Peacock Pheasant <i>Polyplectron germaini</i>	3	40	0
Green Peafowl <i>Pavo muticus</i>	3	40	0
Bar-backed Partridge <i>Arborophila brunneopectus</i>	3	40	0
Rain Quail <i>Coturnix coromandelica</i>	3	40	0
Japanese Quail <i>Coturnix japonica</i>	3	40	0
Blue-breasted Quail <i>Coturnix chinensis</i>	3	40	0
Grey Peacock Pheasant <i>Polyplectron bicalcaratum</i>	3	40	0
Orange-necked Hill-partridge <i>Arborophila davidi</i>	3	40	0



Photo 3 Examination and identification of the juvenile male Silver Pheasant caught during the trapping survey in the Phnom Bokor area, South Cardamom Mountains, Southwest Cambodia.

3.2 Other Species

In addition to recording galliform species, other important non-galliform bird species were also recorded and are summarised in Table 4.

Table 4 Summary information of important general species observed within the Phnom Bokor area, South Cardamom Mountains, Southwest Cambodia, during 3rd to 12th November 2005

Species	Scientific Names	Habitat
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>	Montane Forest
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	Dense Forest
Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	Dense Forest
Asian House Martin	<i>Delichon dasypus</i>	Montane Forest
Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Montane Forest
White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>	Dense Forest
Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	Dense Forest
Fork-tailed Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Dense Forest
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Dense Forest
Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	Dense Forest
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Dense Forest
Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	Dense Forest
Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	Dense Forest
Puff-throated Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus pallidus</i>	Dense Forest
Red-billed Blue Mapie	<i>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</i>	Dense Forest
Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	Dense Forest
Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i>	Dense Forest
Oriental Mapie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Dense Forest
Changeable Hawk Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>	Dense Forest

4. Budget

Monthly expenditure for November 2005

Item	Number of personnel	Quantity	Unit	Total (US\$)
Travel				
Motorbike rental	2	10 days	5	100.00
Petrol		10 days		25.00
Motorbike repairs	2			6.00
Subtotal				131.00
Subsistence				
Food & water	3	10 days	3.50	105.00
Subtotal				105.00
Equipment				
Map		1	3	3.00
Small Batteries		4 pieces	1.80	7.20
Very Small Batteries		3 pieces	1.80	5.40
Subtotal				15.60
Staff costs				
Programme Leader	1	1 month	435	435.00
Programme Assistant	1	1 month	250	250.00
Local Guide	1	09 days	5	45.00
Subtotal				730.00
Communications				
Internet		1 month	5	5.00
Phone Card		1 month	10	10.00
Subtotal				15.00
Medicines				5.00
Miscellaneous				
Administration				5.00
Subtotal				5.00
TOTAL				US\$ 1006.60

NB: In October the project account had \$ 3140.67, \$ 776.50 being money left from the GPF surveys during January to April 2005 and \$ 2364.17 transferred by WPA. \$ 1052.70 was spent in for October 2005 surveying Eastern Snuol and \$1006.60 was spent in November 2005 surveying Bokor National Park. In total, the expenditure so far has been \$ 2057.30, leaving a balance of \$ 1083.37 for future surveys.