

Impact of Agricultural Development on status of Common Pheasants in Central Asia

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Distribution of Common Pheasant in Central Asia:



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|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| ■ P.c. persicus | ■ P.c. principalis | ■ P.c. chrysomelas | ■ P.c. zarudnyi |
| ■ P.c. bianchii | ■ P.c. turcestanicus | ■ P.c. mongolicus | |

Study in Uzbekistan Republic:

Materials:

- From long-term monitoring of Syrdaria pheasant population (*P.c.turcestanicus*) occurring in Dalversin hunting concession, since 1980 to present (Kashkarov 2009),
- Monitoring of Zeravshan pheasant population (*P.c.zeravschanicus*) in Zeravshan Nature Reserve,
- And from expeditions conducted within various part of the Country in 1995-2006.

Conclusion:

Agriculture development is the most powerful driving force impacting the pheasant population.

Reasons of their increaset:

- Abandonment of the monocultures for the benefit of a diversified agriculture.
- Agricultural expansion increasing their living environment.

Risks of natural hybridization:

- The expansion of farmlands and artificial irrigation is going to create later connections and hybridizations between nearby subspecies and the loss of the unique morphological characters of the Pheasants.

Actions:

- Collect more data of the various areas of distribution of the Pheasants of Central Asia (comparison of the densities and the abundance between wild living environment and cultivated spaces).
- Be very attentive to the conservation of the genetic variety of all these subspecies.



Syr Dar'ya pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus turcestanicus*).

Photo: Alisher Atakhodjaev