

Crested Wood-partridge

Rollulus rouloul

Family: Phasianidae, Genus: *Rollulus*
Recognized Subspecies: 0, Monotypic
Conservation status: Near Threatened
Wild Pop. Trend: Decreasing
CITES Appendix III
USFWS: Not Listed

Range: Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Sumatra, and Borneo

Conservation Concern: The Crested Wood-partridge is listed as Near Threatened by the IUCN. This species was upgraded from Least Concern in 2004. The main threat to the Crested Wood-partridge population is loss of habitat and habitat fragmentation across the species broad range.

Habitat conversion to palm oil agriculture has been one of the leading causes of loss of habitat. This species has been observed to return to secondary growth areas, but the initial augmentation of habitat is still a detriment to the species. Population declines related to habitat loss are compounded by trapping for the captive bird trade.

Species account: The Crested Wood-partridge, AKA rouloul, is the only species in the genus *Rollulus*. This species is very popular with the public and zoo staff alike as they are naturally friendly birds that are striking in appearance and very active.

AZA Role: This small galliformes is a species that, when held in monogamous pairs, does not require a large amount of space. They have a very strong pair bond and are highly interactive with each other on exhibit. Roulrouls are an excellent addition to mixed-species aviaries.

TAG Program Goals: Only a few species of partridge are housed in AZA collections. This species group has been sensitive to the “boom and bust” population trend which makes them susceptible to losing genetic diversity in a brief period. Due to this, the TAG only recommended one Partridge species to allow this SSP to become a larger and more sustainable population. This species is also the rarest of the Partridges represented in AZA. In the future, the relationship with the EAZA population needs to be investigated and determined if an import of unrelated birds is possible.

Education Emphasis

- Sexual dimorphism
- Palm oil



Photo credit: Lincoln Park Zoo

AZA Connections: The following table is not a guide of what the Crested Wood-partridge can be housed with (although many of these are a possibility), but instead it is meant to show the connections between other AZA recommended program species.

Crested Wood-partridge <i>Rollulus rouloul</i> recommended species by other TAGs within species range				
Common name	Scientific name	TAG	Program	Conservation status
Hooded Pitta	<i>Pitta sordida</i>	PACCT TAG	Red SSP	Least Concern
Fairy Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	PACCT TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
Common Shama Thrush	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	PACCT TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
White-breasted Wood Swallow	<i>Artamus leucoryn</i>	PACCT TAG	Candidate	Least Concern
Golden-crested Mynah	<i>Ampeliceps coronatus</i>	PACCT TAG	Red SSP	Least Concern
Jambu Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus jambu</i>	Columbiformes TAG	Yellow SSP	Near Threatened
Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	Columbiformes TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
Pink-headed Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus porphyreus</i>	Columbiformes TAG	Candidate	Least Concern
Nicobar Pigeon	<i>Caloenas nicobarica</i>	Columbiformes TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>	Parrot TAG	TAG Monitored	Least Concern
White-winged Wood Duck	<i>Asarcornis scutulata</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Yellow SSP	Endangered
Indian Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Red SSP	Least Concern
Lesser Indian Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Hooded Merganser	<i>Mergus cucullatus</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern

**Disclaimer: this information was collected in 2017. If you have interest in any of these species, contact the perspective TAGs. All range overlap information was determined using the IUCN Red List range maps.

Conservation priority species that share the same range.

- Sumatran Tiger *Panthera tigris sondaica*
- Malay Tapir *Tapirus indicus*
- Sumatran rhinoceros *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*

If your institution is supporting a field project with one of these species, see if your conservation partner is observing the Crested Wood-partridge in their study/field site. If your Zoo displays one of the following species, the addition of an aviary for Crested Wood-partridge can illustrate the diversity of this biome at your institution and highlight a threatened bird.



Crested Wood-partridge hen
Photo credit Shutterstock