

Brown Eared-pheasant

Crossoptilon mantchuricum

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

Range: China endemic

Conservation Concern: The Brown Eared-pheasant is listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN. Habitat fragmentation and human disturbance during nesting are the main causes for the decline of this species. Human disturbances occur by fungus collectors harvesting this food source in protected reserves.



Photo credit: Handbook of Birds of the World

Species account: The Brown Eared-pheasant is the rarest member of the genus *Crossoptilon*. Only found in north-central China, this large species can withstand cold temperatures and can be a popular exhibit animal in northern U.S. zoos, as they can be housed outdoors for most of the winter.

This species was recommended to be a program species in the 2012 RCP, but a program leader was unable to be recruited. This species is a program species in EAZA, and the AZA/U.S. private sector population likely holds distinct genetic lineages that are not found within EAZA. This is an important species to display as it is a unique and large bird from a region of China that is underrepresented in Zoos.

AZA Role: This large species of pheasant can be housed outdoors in northern climates for most of the year. This allows institutions in cold climates to display a species that will not require winter housing.

TAG Program Goals: The Brown Eared-pheasant is a managed population in EAZA, and the birds in the AZA Region (U.S. private sector and AZA collections) are likely genetically distinct from EAZA. Over this RCP period, the TAG wants to increase the numbers of this species held in AZA collections as a resource for the future. Recruiting founders from China will likely be impossible. The two regions (AZA and EAZA) will have to depend on each other for exchanges to better preserve the genetics that are housed ex-situ. To establish an AZA population, birds will need to be acquired from multiple sources from the private sector much like the “Private Sector Import” that occurred for the Edwards’s Pheasant.

Education Emphasis

- Endemic species
- Habitat fragmentation
- Isolated populations

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

Brown Eared-pheasant <i>Crossoptilon mantchuricum</i> recommended species by other TAGs within species range				
Common name	Scientific name	TAG	Program	Conservation status
Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>	PACCT TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
Red-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythroryncha</i>	PACCT TAG	Red SSP	Least Concern
Swan Goose	<i>Anser cygnoid</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Yellow SSP	Vulnerable
Falcated Duck	<i>Anas falcata</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Near Threatened
Baikal Teal	<i>Anas formosa</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Lesser White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser erythropus</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Phase-in	Vulnerable
Baer's Pochard	<i>Aythya baeri</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Phase-in	Critically Endangered

**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:

- Siberian Roe Deer *Capreolus pygargus*
- Asian Black Bear *Ursus thibetanus*
- North-Chinese leopard *Panthera pardus orientalis*

If your institution supports a field project with one of these species, check if your conservation partner is observing the Brown Eared-pheasant in their study/ field site. If your Zoo displays one of the following species, the addition of an aviary for Brown Eared-pheasant can help illustrate the diversity of this biome at your institution and highlight a vulnerable bird.