

## Bornean Crested Fireback

### *Lophura ignita*

Family: Phasianidae, Genus: *Lophura*  
Recognized Subspecies: 2  
Conservation status: Near Threatened  
Wild Pop. Trend: Decreasing  
CITES Appendix III  
USFWS: Not Listed

**Range:** Borneo and Bangka islands in Indonesia

**Conservation Concern:** The Bornean Crested Fireback is listed by the IUCN as near threatened. The escalating concern for all the wildlife on Borneo is habitat conversion for palm oil agriculture. Not only does this practice turn large areas of forest into a monoculture, the fires associated with the clearing of the land can burn for years due to the high amount of peat in the soil.



Photo credit: St. Augustine Alligator Farm

**Species account:** The Bornean Crested Fireback was once considered three subspecies until the most recent taxonomic evaluation of this group which re-described the Malayan Crested Fireback, the mainland subspecies, into its own species *Lophura rufa*. Currently, the Bornean Crested Fireback has two subspecies: Greater Bornean Crested Fireback *Lophura i. nobilis* and the Lesser Bornean Crested Fireback *Lophura i. ignita*. The relation and differences between these two subspecies on Borneo is not well-defined. There is a hybrid zone that occurs naturally in the wild on the island, and this population shares a combination of the defining characteristics of these two subspecies.

The captive individuals that make up the AZA population and the U.S. private sector population are of unknown sub-species. Many of the captive birds share the traits of both. Traditionally all birds in AZA have been designated as the Lesser Bornean. Regardless, it is doubtful that new founders will ever be acquired from Borneo and even more doubtful that these animals would have an exact known capture location. Concentration should be placed on the current AZA genetics, the U.S. private sector, and those available from EAZA.

**AZA Role:** The Bornean Crested Fireback represents a threatened bird species and a biome that is endangered. The effects of palm oil agriculture on this species are of increasing threat, and this species should be highlighted along with the other species of Borneo and Indonesia that are losing habitat to this practice.

**TAG Program Goals:** This large showy pheasant is a popular bird with the public due to the striking appearance of the male and the bright blue mask of both sexes. These birds are an active exhibit bird, and to ensure the continuation of the unique AZA and private sector genetic lines emphasis needs to be placed on acquiring new spaces for this species. This is still a species that is



Photo Credit: Mike Maxcy

bred in the private sector and as recently as the early to mid-1990s Richard Miller was importing wild caught stock.

#### Education Emphasis

- Palm oil
- Island endemism
- Sexual dimorphism

**AZA Connections:** The following table is not a guide of what the Bornean Crested Fireback can be housed with (although many of these are a possibility) but it shows the range connections between other AZA recommended program species.

Bornean Crested Fireback <i>Lophura ignita</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 leucorhyn</i>	PACCT TAG	Candidate	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
Chestnut-breasted Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus curvirostris</i>	Turaco and Cuckoo TAG	TAG Monitored	Least Concern
Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>	Parrot TAG	TAG Monitored	Least Concern
Storm's Stork	<i>Ciconia stormi</i>	Ciconiiformes TAG	Red 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

\*\*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 this species range:

- Asian arowana *Scleropages formosus*
- Bornean orangutan *Pongo pygmaeus*
- Borneo pygmy elephant *Elephas maximus borneensis*

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



Male at Pheasant Haven

*Photo credit: Joel Sartore*