



Pennsylvania Aviculture Society Full Day Conference
February 22, 2025 at Ramada State College Hotel & Conference Center

Are Your Birds Surviving or Thriving?

Pheasants – Their Identification & Comparison Utilizing Museum Skins

Manage Your Collection Based on Native Habitats

Presented by James Pfarr and Ron Johnson

This seminar will provide a written manual, visual, and narrative information on pheasants, utilizing museum skins, historical information, and field research to assist breeders to: 1) accurately identify species, subspecies, and hybrids, and 2) apply wild habitat adaptations into their captive breeding programs.

Schedule of Events

9:00 – 9:30 am	Registration	9:30 – 10:00 am	PAS Meeting (and other groups)
10:00 – 11:30 am	Introduction and First Session	11:30 – 1:00 pm	Lunch with raffle and auctions
1:00 – 3:00 pm	Second Session	3:00 – 3:20 pm	Break
3:20 – 4:50 pm	Third Session	4:50 – 5:00 pm	Wrap-up

Optional – Unwind, socialize, and reconnect with fellow aviculturists

5:00 – 6:00 pm Social Hour

6:00 – 8:00 pm Buffet Dinner

First Session

The Long View: Who Do I Pair Up for Offspring Vigor and Long-Term Sustainability of the Species?

1) General overview of population terminology as it relates to species and subspecies in correlation to wild populations, and how these ties in with captive breeding goals. 2) The importance of bird selection as it pertains to wild type, outliers and range diversity. 3) A discussion on differences and similarities within and between species in strategies for reproduction, breeding and mating tactics. 4) What is hybrid vigor, inbreeding, line breeding and conservation breeding?

Second Session

Do I Have a Pure Bird?

1) Case studies (8-10) of similar species/subspecies/races that can be problematic for maintaining pure breeding stock [i.e. Golden/Amherst, Coppers, Kalij, Silvers] utilizing museum skins to highlight their phenotypic traits with multiple photos of each, pointing out specific characteristics to compare and identify. 2) Skin comparisons of subspecies showing differences throughout their ranges. 3) Assessments of closely related species will be discussed for proper identification to prevent crossbreeding, and for long-term species management.

Third Session

Don't Force Your Birds to Adapt to You

An overview of 1) historical range, 2) environmental factors, and 3) current conservation approaches of the pheasant family, and how these relate to sustainable captive management.

Using Himalayan pheasants as an example, information on wild pheasant environmental factors and habitats will be explained in regards to maximizing captive breeding potential. A broad overview of ecoregions and habitat types will be discussed, providing attendees with information they can utilize in their aviary designs, feeding plans and breeding methods.

Cost: \$60/person (includes conference, breaks, lunch, and opportunity to bid on donated books & prints)

Optional Buffet Dinner \$26.00/person