

Trade of Galliformes in Indonesia

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A bird market in Medan

The trade of wild birds in Indonesia has a high economic value and hundreds of species are traded on a daily basis. While the bulk of the animals traded at markets are birds, a number of other animals (fish, reptiles, mammals) are also offered for sale. Traders are increasingly offering captive-bred birds (budgies, canaries, guineafowl etc), however the vast majority of birds and species originate from the wild. Most buyers are local and only a small proportion of species traded at these markets is destined for international markets. Trade in Galliformes at these markets is largely for bird collections, with some also being sold for meat. Surveying the number and species composition of wild Galliformes which pass through these markets can give a better understanding of wildlife trade and the drivers behind it. Such awareness is paramount for planning and developing approaches to reduce unsustainable harvest and trade, and also enables more informed decisions to be made regarding trade regulations.

Indonesia is home to 34 species of Galliformes and 16 of them are native to the island of Sumatra. The status of Sumatra's Galliformes is poorly known and some have rarely been observed, such as Aceh pheasant *Lophura hoogerwerfi*. Others are known to be under threat, such as the bronze-tailed peacock-pheasant *Polyplectron chalcurom* which has been in decline in parts of its range for well over a decade.

Medan is the capital city of North Sumatra and the third largest city in Indonesia. Over eleven years (1997-2008) 66 surveys were conducted at two bird markets in Medan. During this time 355 Galliformes, comprising ten species, were observed (see table), although this probably represents only a fraction of those traded. Most of the birds seen had badly damaged heads caused by jumping in their wire-topped cages.

The most commonly encountered species were red junglefowl *Gallus gallus*, bronze-tailed peacock-pheasant and Roll's hill-partridge *Arborophila rolli*. Most of the birds are believed to have originated in Sumatra (excluding those which do not occur on the island) with the majority being captured in Aceh Province, in the north of the island. Two of the ten species observed are listed as Vulnerable on the 2008 IUCN Red List: green peafowl *Pavo muticus* (which is not found in the wild on Sumatra) and Aceh pheasant. This is a particular cause of concern, as is the regular occurrence of trade in other less-threatened species, such as bronze-tailed peacock-pheasant.

In Indonesia, permits are legally required for catching, transporting and selling birds. Only those species which have an allocated harvest quota can be taken from the wild and quotas are only set for two species of Galliformes, red junglefowl and green

junglefowl *Gallus varius*, at less than a hundred birds per year. However, these limits are unlikely to be adhered to and trade in all other species is outside of the law. Of the ten species recorded only one (green peafowl) is legally protected by Indonesian law.

To better understand the effect of illegal trading on Sumatra's Galliformes, further research is required to determine their status. In order to cease illegal trade the Indonesian authorities need to be made aware of the significance of the species involved, and greater enforcement is needed in those bird markets operating outside of the law. Public awareness of the species and their habitats is also required to increase support for their protection.

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SPECIES	TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SEEN	
Chestnut-bellied hill-partridge <i>Arborophila javanica</i>	3	<p>Aceh pheasants</p>
Roll's hill-partridge <i>Arborophila rolli</i>	51	
Ferruginous partridge <i>Caloperdix oclea</i>	4	<p>Bronze-tailed peacock-pheasants with head wounds</p>
Blue-breasted quail <i>Corturnix chinensis</i>	33	
Red junglefowl <i>Gallus gallus</i>	128	
Green junglefowl <i>Gallus varius</i>	14	
Aceh pheasant <i>Lophura hoogerwerfi</i>	20	
Green peafowl <i>Pavo muticus</i>	18	
Bronze-tailed peacock-pheasant <i>Polyplectron chalcurom</i>	78	
Crested wood-partridge <i>Rollulus rouloul</i>	6	

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