

SWINHOE'S PHEASANT



MALE

Photo: "Snowyowls"

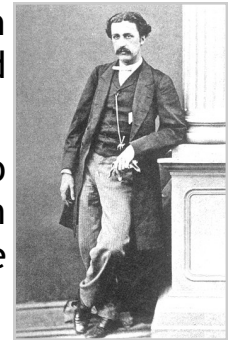
Swinhoe's Pheasant, *Lophura swinhoii*, is endemic to Taiwan, where it inhabits primary broadleaved forest and mature secondary forest. There are no known subspecies.

The male is a spectacular bird indeed, the chest, belly and rump are a glossy blueish-purple; the shoulders brown; the facial wattles are red and upper-tail feathers and the back of the neck and crest bright white. The female is the typical dark brown

barred colour of the majority of female pheasants.

This species was first described in 1862 by the British ornithologist Robert Swinhoe, and was subsequently named after him.

The diet mainly consists of seeds and fruits, in addition to insects and other animal matter. The clutch size is between two and six eggs which are incubated for 25-28 days, with the young leaving the nest after 2-3 days.



Robert Swinhoe
1836-1877



TAIWAN

Map: "prattflora"

Studies in the early 1970s suggested there might be just 5,000-10,000 individuals left in the wild. However, recent fieldwork suggests there may be around 6,500 Swinhoe's in Yushan National Park alone, indicating that the total population is likely to exceed 10,000. Numbers are probably stable where it is protected, but may be declining elsewhere due to a variety of habitat pressures.

Swinhoe's Pheasant is listed as "Near Threatened" on the IUCN List of Threatened Species.

R.V.C. with help from Wikipedia