

BULWER'S PHEASANT



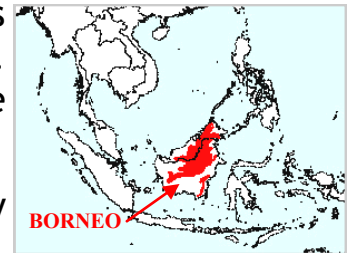
MALE DISPLAYING

Bulwer's Pheasant, *Lophura bulweri*, is also known as Bulwer's Wattled Pheasant, the Wattled Pheasant, or the White-tailed Wattled Pheasant.

The species name *bulweri* is after Sir Henry Ernest Gascoyne Bulwer, Governor of Labuan (Borneo) 1871-1875, who presented the type specimen to the British Museum.

The black-bodied males are about 80cm (31"), and have a maroon breast, crimson legs, a pure white tail of long, curved feathers, and bright blue facial skin with two wattles that cover the sides of the head. Females are an overall dull brown colour with red legs and blue facial skin, and are about 55 centimetres (22") in length.

This species is endemic to the island of Borneo (Kalimantan). Locally common in protected areas, like the Kayan Mentarang National Park, in East Kalimantan, it is rarely found elsewhere. The bird's preferred habitat is hill and lower montane tropical forest, it rarely visits the lowlands below an altitude of 300m (980 feet). Fruits, worms, and insects comprise the bulk of the specie's diet.



RANGE

Bulwer's Pheasant is rarely kept in captivity. The only known pair currently kept are in the San Diego Zoo. Walsrode Bird Park in Germany has kept the species as recently as 2003, and Antwerp Zoo, which has been very successful with many of the *Lophura* genus, has bred them in the past. Unfortunately, specific captive breeding programmes aimed at preserving the species have met with little success.

Like many pheasant species Bulwer's is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as the population is rapidly declining. Habitat loss and fragmentation due to commercial logging and forest fires are the primary reasons for the decline, but hunting by the local inhabitants is also thought to contribute to the decline.

R.V.C. with help from Wikipedia