

Dilemma of wildlife management and introductions in Hungary: Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* as an example

Authors: Sugár, László, Csányi, Sándor, and Faragó, Sándor

Source: *Wildlife Biology*, 2(3) : 227

Published By: Nordic Board for Wildlife Research

URL: <https://doi.org/10.2981/wlb.1996.023>

BioOne Complete (complete.BioOne.org) is a full-text database of 200 subscribed and open-access titles in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences published by nonprofit societies, associations, museums, institutions, and presses.

Your use of this PDF, the BioOne Complete website, and all posted and associated content indicates your acceptance of BioOne's Terms of Use, available at www.bioone.org/terms-of-use.

Usage of BioOne Complete content is strictly limited to personal, educational, and non - commercial use. Commercial inquiries or rights and permissions requests should be directed to the individual publisher as copyright holder.

BioOne sees sustainable scholarly publishing as an inherently collaborative enterprise connecting authors, nonprofit publishers, academic institutions, research libraries, and research funders in the common goal of maximizing access to critical research.

Dilemma of wildlife management and introductions in Hungary: Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* as an example

László Sugár, Sándor Csányi & Sándor Faragó

Sugár, L., Csányi, S. & Faragó, S. 1996: Dilemma of wildlife management and introductions in Hungary: Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* as an example. - Wildl. Biol. 2: 227.

Abstract

Captive breeding and release of the ring-necked pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* became very intensive in Hungary in the 1960s. In the peak year of 1977 over one million birds were harvested which was a 4-fold increase compared to the late 1960s. In the late 1970s about one million birds were released annually. In the 1980s the number of harvested pheasants started to decrease in spite of the fact that more and more birds were released (about 1.8 million in 1990). The spring population size of the pheasant has decreased from nearly 2.5 million in the late 1970s to 700,000 in 1995. The most important factor responsible for the decline is the loss of favourable habitat due to large-scale agriculture. Moreover, the increased proportion of released birds into the female pheasant population lowers the number of recruits per adult hen as has been shown in England. The mortality of wild hens and their progeny might also increase because of increased predation pressure and diseases e.g. botulotoxicosis - which both result from the increased density due to the massive releases. It is now evident that improving habitat quality would be a better way to manage pheasant as well as other wildlife populations in Hungary, and a management program towards that end has been initiated.

László Sugár*, Department of Poultry Breeding, Faculty of Animal Science, H-7401 Kaposvár, Guba S. u. 40, Pannon Agricultural University (PAU)

Sándor Csányi, Department of Wildlife Biology and Management, University of Agricultural Sciences, Gödöllő, H-2103 Páter K. u. 1., Hungary

Sándor Faragó, Department of Game Management, University of Forestry and Wood Sciences, H-9400 Sopron, Bajcsy-Zs. u. 4, Hungary

*Present address: Department of Zoology and Physiology, Georgikon Faculty, PAU, H-8360 Keszthely, Deák F. u. 16, Hungary