Alectoris chukar

System: Terrestrial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Family</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animalia</td>
<td>Chordata</td>
<td>Aves</td>
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<td>Phasianidae</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Common name

iwashako (Japanese), chucor (English), coturnice orientale (Italian), perdrix choukar (French), chukar (English), chukarhuhn (German), orbeice cukar (Czech), berghôna (Swedish), perdiz chucar (Spanish), vuoripyy (Finnish), aziatische steenpatris (Dutch), perdiz-chukar (Portuguese), kuropta cukar (Slovak), chukor (English), Indian chukor (English), chukar partridge (English), chukor partridge (English), rock partridge (English), chukharhene (Danish), góropatwa azjatycka (Polish), berghæna (Icelandic), berghøne (Norwegian)

Synonym

Alectoris kakelik
Tetrao kakelik

Similar species

Notes

Alectoris chukar has a wide distribution, stretching from the Aegean Sea through to Central and Eastern Asia (Barbanera et al., 2009b). There does however seem to be two genetic clades within the species, those from the Mediterranean through to Central Asia and those from Eastern Asia. This is important as individuals used in the introduction into North America and Hawaii were from individuals from Eastern Asia; whereas individuals causing hybridization problems in Europe come from the Mediterranean and Central Asian clade. This hybridization is causing major problems to the genetic purity of the native Alectoris rufa in the Iberian Peninsula, and strict measures in regards to potential hybridization, and the importation and introduction of farm-reared individuals needs to be introduced.

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Alectoris chukar has a wide distribution, stretching from the Aegean Sea through to Central and Eastern Asia (Barbanera et al., 2009b). The Himalayas seem to represent some sort of barrier between the two. Naturally A. chukar and A. rufa distributions do not cross, however recently A. chukar has been released for shooting alongside A. rufa in the United Kingdom, France and Italy which has lead to hybridisation in the wild occuring between the two species (Barbanera et al 2005).
General Impacts
*Alectoris chukar* is causing genetic purity issues in *A. rufa*, a native to the Iberian Peninsula through hybridization (Blanco-Aguiar et al., 2008). Despite consuming large amounts of exotic plant material within the United States, *A. chukar* does not seem to spread these species through faecal distribution and thus may actually aid in their control (Larsen et al., 2007).

Management Info
**Biological:** Due to hybridization that can occur easily between *Alectoris chukar* and other *Alectoris* species, identifying populations that are more genetically pure than others is essential for the management of *A. chukar*. This concept, mentioned by Allendorf & and Luikart (2007; as seen in Barbanera et al., 2009a) was applied in a study by Barbanera et al., (2009a), in which they surveyed populations within the Mediterranean. This process though is applicable world-wide. It now also seems that the genetic pollution caused by *A. chukar* is also occurring intra-specifically, as the two clades, one from the Mediterranean and Central Asia and the other from Eastern Asia, seem to be mixing with increased human movement (Barbanera et al., 2009b).

**Pathway**
*Alectoris chukar* has been introduced to many areas of Europe to help restock levels of game-relatives such as *A. rufa* (Blanco-Aguiar et al., 2008)

**Principal source:**

**Compiler:** IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) with support from the Overseas Territories Environmental Programme (OTEP) project XOT603, a joint project with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment

**Review:**

**Publication date:** 2010-06-08

**ALIEN RANGE**

[1] ITALY  
[1] SAINT HELENA  
[1] UNITED KINGDOM  
[1] NEW ZEALAND  
[1] SPAIN  
[9] UNITED STATES

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

20 references found for *Alectoris chukar*

**Management information**


**Summary:** This compilation of information sources can be sorted on keywords for example: Baits & Lures, Non Target Species, Eradication, Monitoring, Risk Assessment, Weeds, Herbicides etc. This compilation is at present in Excel format, this will be web-enabled as a searchable database shortly. This version of the database has been developed by the IUCN SSC ISSG as part of an Overseas Territories Environmental Programme funded project XOT603 in partnership with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment. The compilation is a work under progress, the ISSG will manage, maintain and enhance the database with current and newly published information, reports, journal articles etc.

General information

**Avibase, 2010. Chukar (Alectoris chukar) (Gray,JE, 1830)**

**Summary:** Available from: http://avibase.bsc-eoc.org/species.jsp?lang=EN&avibaseid=87CBEF7C53AF64C [Accessed 3 July 2010]

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Barlani, Marina; Slougaris, Athanassios; Giannakopoulos, Alexis; Mucci, Nadia; Tabarroni, Cristiano; Randi, Ettore. 2007. Detecting introgressive hybridisation in rock partridge populations (Alectoris graeca) in Greece through Bayesian admixture analyses of multilocus genotypes. Conservation Genetics. 8(2). APR 2007. 343-354.


**Summary:** Available from: http://www.iucnredlist.org/apps/redlist/details/141217/0 [Accessed July 3 2010]


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**Summary:** Available from: http://si-pddr.si.edu/dspace/bitstream/10088/1952/2/SCtP-0023-Lo_res.pdf [Accessed 3 July 2010]


