

Project Update: September 2014

In January 2014, we caught the first male green peafowl using snare traps. Traps were set in the area frequently used by a display male and its visiting females. On the caught bird we fitted a 15 g radio-collar so that we could track the bird to study its ranging behaviour and define its home range size during the breeding (December-March) and non-breeding season (March-November). Preliminary results show that home range size for green peafowl males during breeding season is about 27 ha.



Male green peafowl was caught and fitted with 15 g radio-collar

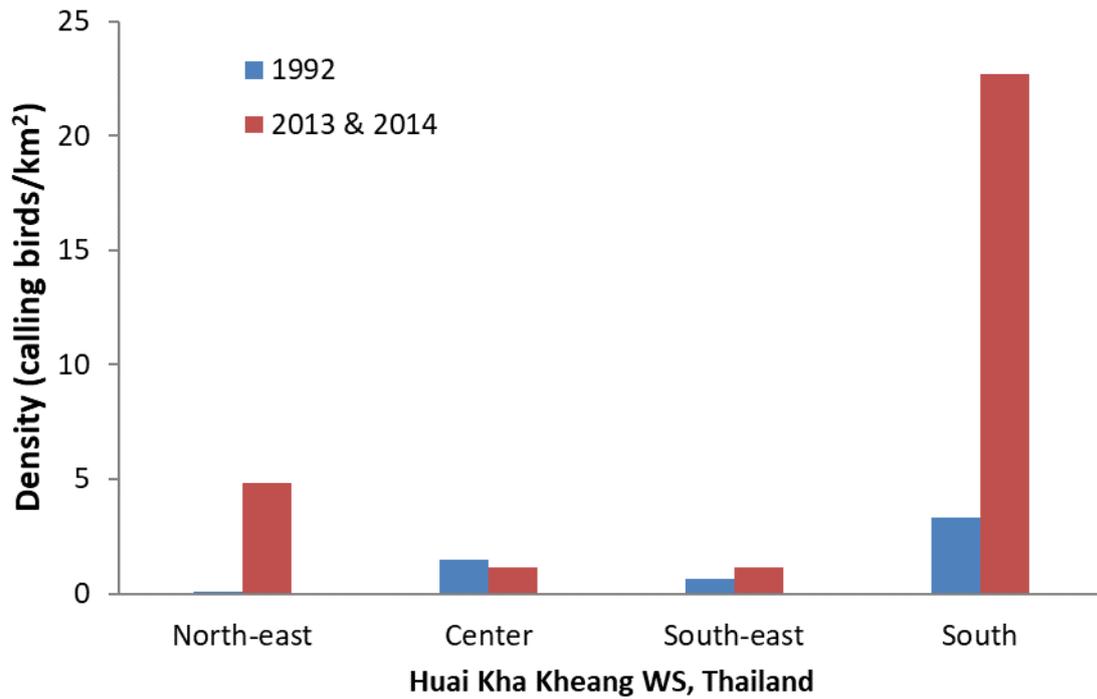
To study habitat selection, we set 35 camera traps across different micro-habitat types in two distinct sites (covering and total area of about 26 km²) during both breeding and non-breeding season. Preliminary results show that during the breeding season the species mostly use open grassland nearby streams where this type of habitat provide food and appropriate display ground.

Moreover, this study attempts to monitor the status of green peafowl in both Thailand and Vietnam. In Thailand, Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary (HKK), preliminary results show an overall high density and appeared higher than what detected in a previous survey in 1992. Due to its large remaining tiger population, the sanctuary has frequent patrolling covering the whole sanctuary resulting, beside an increase in the green peafowl population, also in the presence of other threatened wildlife.



Open grassland nearby stream in Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary (HKK) is a main habitat for green peafowl. Frequent patrol result in an increase of wildlife population including green peafowl in HKK. The picture show two endangered species (IUCN 2103) green peafowl (*Pavomuticus*) and banteng (*Bosjavanicus*) and one vulnerable species (IUCN 2013) sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*) that mostly found foraging in the same habitat.

An additional survey will have done conducted during the coming breeding season (January 2015) in the far north part of the sanctuary where a substantial sub-population have been reported. This study also had a plan to survey both Muong La and Mu Cang districts in northern Vietnam where the presence of a possible remaining population has been rumored. However, after a careful investigation with a gibbon survey team from Fauna & Flora International, it appeared that what was thought to be calls of green peafowl were unfortunately calls from escaped blue peafowl. As the presence of this species has no conservation interest, we decided to cancel the survey in this part of Vietnam and take a chance to hopefully survey more important area in central Myanmar where potentially an important population remain. In this regard we have contacted colleagues in Myanmar and decided to run a preliminary survey in the coming breeding season (end of January and February 2015).



The green peafowl density estimates in Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary, Thailand. The graph shows higher density of green peafowl from a survey in 2013 and 2014 compare to historical survey in 1992.