Written evidence submitted by Liz Crocker

Add Pheasants to the list of Invasive species and take precautionary action to reduced the population

Pheasant (Phasianus colchicus) are not native wild birds to the UK and are not listed in Annex II of the Birds Directive 2009 listing birds protected under the Birds Directive but which are permitted to be hunted.

According to Article 11, Birds Directive 2009:

"Member States shall see that any introduction of species of bird which do not occur naturally in the wild state in the European territory of the Member States does not prejudice the local flora and fauna. In this connection they shall consult the Commission."

I have not had time to find or examine any consultations the UK government has had with the Commission on the impact of pheasants on the local fauna or flora but I would suggest that this is an issue which should be reviewed.


Furthermore, this practice is supported by REGULATION (EU) No 1143/2014 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species which requires Member States to commit to regularly review the list of invasive alien species of the Union (Article 4). I would suggest that the common pheasant is a bird species which should be added to the list of fauna due to be reviewed for the list of invasive species for 2020.

In addition, the EU Biodiversity Strategy, Target 5 requires that by 2020, invasive alien species are identified, priority species controlled or eradicated, and pathways managed to prevent new invasive species from disrupting European biodiversity. (52011DC0244). It is accompanied by two specific actions to tackle the threat of invasive alien species.

Action 15: Make sure that the EU Plant and Animal Health legislation includes a greater concern for biodiversity.
Action 16: Provide a legal framework to fight invasive alien species

In my opinion, there is a good case to be made that the impact of the release of huge numbers of pheasants on the local fauna and flora should be reviewed with a view to adding pheasant to the list of invasive species.
This action could be supported by a ban on the deliberate breeding and import of pheasants or, alternatively, an outright ban on shooting pheasants.


This may require the introduction of new legislation, as specified in Action 16 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

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