



## SPECIAL COMPOSITION AND DISTRIBUTION OF CHICKEN-LIKE INDIVIDUALS IN NATURE IN UZBEKISTAN

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**ABSTRACT** *This article analyzes the species composition, ecological characteristics, and geographical distribution of chicken-like birds (order Galliformes) in Uzbekistan. The study is based on field observations, analysis of scientific literature, and regional faunal data. Uzbekistan's diverse landscapes — deserts, steppes, foothills, and mountainous ecosystems — provide habitats for several representatives of Galliformes. The research identifies key species, examines their ecological adaptation, and evaluates factors influencing their distribution. Special attention is given to anthropogenic impacts and conservation issues. The results demonstrate that species diversity is higher in mountainous and foothill regions, while desert zones support well-adapted, specialized species. The study contributes to biodiversity conservation and rational use of avifauna resources in Uzbekistan.*

**Keywords:** *Zoology education, Galliformes, biodiversity, distribution, ecology, Uzbekistan, conservation, avifauna.*

Galliformes (chicken-like birds) represent one of the most ecologically and economically significant groups of birds. They include pheasants, partridges, quails, and related species. These birds play an important role in maintaining ecosystem balance, participating in seed dispersal, and serving as a food source for predators.

Uzbekistan's geographical position in Central Asia and its diverse climatic conditions create favorable habitats for several species of Galliformes. However, environmental changes, habitat degradation, and human activities have influenced their population size and distribution patterns. Therefore, studying their species composition and ecological distribution is essential for conservation and sustainable management.

The purpose of this research is to analyze the taxonomic composition and spatial distribution of chicken-like birds in Uzbekistan and to assess ecological factors affecting their populations.

Materials and methods

The study is based on:

- Field observations conducted in desert, steppe, foothill, and mountainous regions of Uzbekistan.
- Analysis of zoological literature and faunal reports.





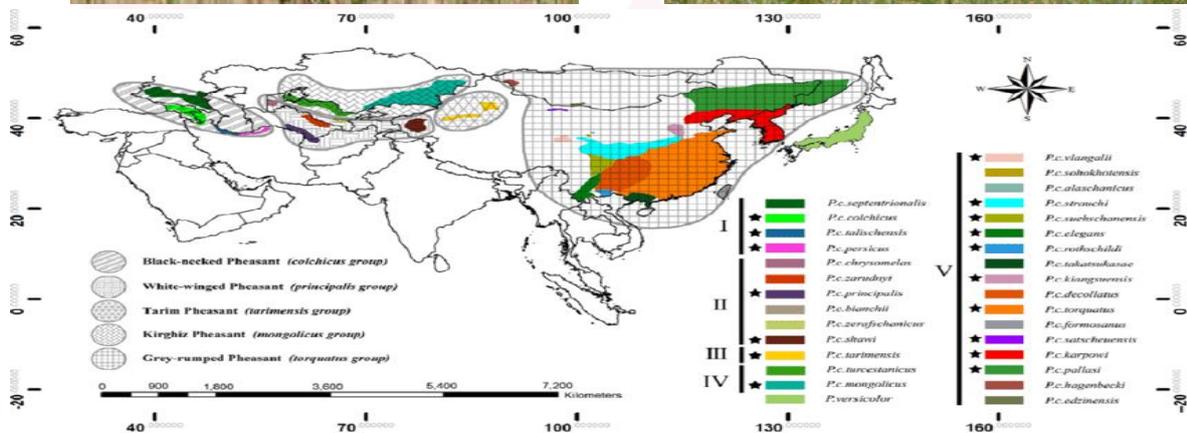
- Comparative ecological assessment of habitats.
- Monitoring data from protected natural areas.

Species identification was carried out according to modern ornithological classification. Distribution patterns were analyzed in relation to altitude, vegetation type, climate, and anthropogenic influence.

### Species Composition of Galliformes in Uzbekistan

In Uzbekistan, representatives of the family Phasianidae form the main part of Galliformes fauna. The most common species include:

#### Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)



The common pheasant inhabits river valleys, tugai forests, and agricultural areas. It prefers dense vegetation near water sources. The species has important hunting value and ecological significance.





**Chukar Partridge (*Alectoris chukar*)**



This species is widely distributed in mountainous and foothill areas. It is well adapted to dry rocky slopes and sparse vegetation. The chukar partridge is one of the most characteristic Galliformes species in Uzbekistan.

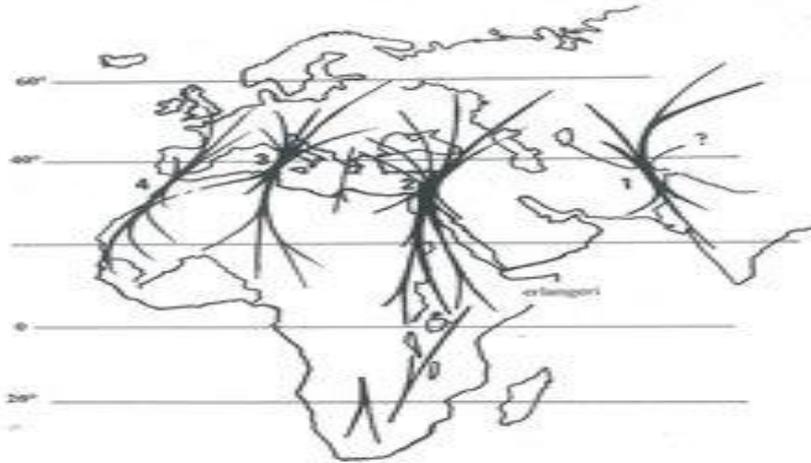
**See-see Partridge (*Ammoperdix griseogularis*)**





The see-saw partridge inhabits arid foothills and rocky desert landscapes. It is adapted to extreme temperature fluctuations and limited water availability.

### Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*)



The common quail is a migratory species found in steppe and agricultural zones during the breeding season. It plays an important role in agroecosystems.

#### **Distribution Patterns**

The distribution of chicken-like birds in Uzbekistan depends on:

- **Climate:** Arid continental climate limits species diversity in desert regions.





- **Vegetation cover:** Dense shrubs and forest belts support higher population density.
- **Altitude:** Mountain ecosystems show greater diversity compared to lowland deserts.
- **Water availability:** Many species prefer habitats near water sources.
- **Anthropogenic factors:** Agriculture, hunting, and habitat fragmentation significantly influence population size.

Mountain and foothill regions (Western Tien Shan, Gissar Range) show the highest diversity. Desert zones (Kyzylkum) support fewer but well-adapted species.

### **Ecological and Economic Importance**

Galliformes contribute to:

- Seed dispersal and vegetation dynamics.
- Food chains as prey for predators.
- Hunting and game management resources.
- Ecotourism development.

However, uncontrolled hunting, habitat destruction, and climate change pose threats to some populations.

### **Conservation Issues**

Conservation strategies should include:

- Protection of natural habitats.
- Regulation of hunting activities.
- Monitoring population dynamics.
- Expansion of protected areas.
- Environmental education programs.

Sustainable management of Galliformes is essential for maintaining biodiversity in Uzbekistan.

### **Conclusion**

The fauna of chicken-like birds in Uzbekistan includes several ecologically adapted species distributed across diverse landscapes. Species diversity is highest in mountainous and foothill ecosystems, while desert regions support specialized forms. Anthropogenic impact remains a major factor influencing their distribution and abundance. Strengthening conservation measures and conducting continuous ecological monitoring are necessary to ensure long-term sustainability of these species.

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— includes Galliformes species such as *Phasianus colchicus*, *Alectoris chukar*, *Ammoperdix griseogularis*, *Coturnix coturnix*, *Perdix perdix* and *Perdix dauurica*.

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