

EATING DISORDERS

1 This year, China is predicting a significant reversal of a recent decline in its grain production, and officials say grain reserves are ample. Good news, one might think. Yet, on a visit to a farm earlier this year, the country's prime minister, Wen Jiabao, called for more grain output and warned the assembled peasants that grain security was a matter concerning the nation's livelihood and social stability. Why all the fuss?

2 China has not suffered famine for 40 years. It is more or less self sufficient in grain, rice being the biggest component, along with large quantities of wheat and maize. Its huge foreign exchange reserves, which top \$470 billion, make it readily able to import any shortfall. But a surge in domestic grain prices since last October has revived atavistic fears among Chinese leaders that if attention to grain production slips, then inflation, chaos and hunger will follow sooner or later.

3 Maintaining self sufficiency in such land intensive commodities as grains makes questionable economic sense in a country that has relatively little arable land and, in the northern wheat growing areas, little water to spare. Yet China's policy has long been to keep imports to no more than 5% of consumption. Wariness of the international grain market is one reason for this. China is also concerned that the main grain exporting nations happen to be America and its friends.

4 Last year's price increases were triggered by poor crops and a rundown of government grain reserves. Prolonged low prices had prompted many farmers to turn to more profitable crops or join the jobseeking exodus from countryside to city. The price upsurge was the main contributor to a revival of consumer price inflation, which reached 5% last month, the highest level for more than seven years.

5 In the past few months, a jittery government has sought to revive peasants' enthusiasm for grain by offering them direct subsidies. Floor prices have been established for the purchase of crops. Stricter controls have been imposed on

the appropriation of arable land for urban development. Agricultural taxes are to be phased out over a five year period.

6 Some of these steps look like a return to greater government intervention in the grain market. But despite the frequent intonation of terms such as "grain security" and "self sufficiency" (for a Communist Party of peasant origin, these have a pleasant ring), there are signs that the government is moving towards greater acceptance of the role of the market in regulating grain supplies and prices. In June, China announced measures aimed at introducing more competition in the procurement and marketing system, hitherto dominated by state owned enterprises. Michael Goettl of China Food and Agricultural Services, a Beijing based consultancy, says that in recent months officials have shown greater flexibility in their definition of self-sufficiency. Some now suggest imports could rise to 10% of consumption.

7 Thanks mainly to the stimulus of surging prices, this year's harvest is expected to bounce back to around 455m tonnes, about the level of two years ago. The prospect of a better harvest this year appears to be helping to curb the growth of grain prices. Figures released this week showed they rose 32.0% year on year in June, compared with 32.3% in May and 33.9% in April. Officials say overall consumer price inflation is also easing.

8 The harvest will still be well short of the historic high of 512m tonnes in 1998. A senior official predicted last weekend that China would need another 37.5m tonnes to meet this year's demand. Part of this will come from reserves, but Mr Goettl says that imports of wheat are likely to rise to 8m 10m tonnes this year, compared with 1m tonnes in 2003. If China seeks to maintain a high degree of self sufficiency, it will have to increase yields considerably to meet the demands of a growing population. But yields are low compared with those in developed countries, suggesting there is ample room for growth.

EATING DISORDERS

41 Which of the following is supported by information in the article?

- A** Though China's grain production has declined in recent years, government officials appear not to be worried.
- B** Though China's grain production has declined in recent years, grain reserves have never been so plentiful.
- C** Though China's grain situation is essentially positive, China's prime minister seems to believe that Chinese peasants are taking unfair advantage of rising grain prices.
- D** Though China's grain situation is essentially positive, China's prime minister appears to be worried that the country does not have enough grain.
- E** The projected increase in Chinese grain production has unfortunately had no effect on rising grain prices.

42 You can infer from the information in the article that Chinese leaders

- A** want the country to be a grain exporter instead of a grain importer.
- B** seem to have a somewhat irrational fear that a problem in grain production will eventually result in social and economic disaster.
- C** are terrified of famine because they personally suffered so much in China's last famine 40 years ago.
- D** are bitterly divided over how best to spend the country's foreign-exchange reserves.
- E** believe that high grain prices will lead to economic stability.

43 You can infer from the information in the article that one of the reasons China wants to maintain its grain self-sufficiency is that

- A** as an essentially rural country, it still has plenty of economically viable farmland.
- B** its water resources are plentiful and of good quality and easy access.
- C** its grain consumption has been growing at only 5% a year.
- D** it doesn't completely trust the international grain market.
- E** trade restrictions are making it difficult to import grain from America and its allies.

44 Which of the following is not supported by information in the article?

- A** China's policy is to produce at least 95% of the grain it consumes.
- B** For a long time producing grain was not a good business for Chinese farmers.
- C** Low grain prices have led many Chinese farmers to abandon farming.
- D** China has been experiencing a population shift from rural areas to urban areas.
- E** For the last seven years, China's consumer-price inflation has been stable at around 5% a year.

45 Which of the following probably best explains why, as mentioned in paragraph 5, "Agricultural taxes are to be phased out over a five-year period"?

- A** China's policy makers want to encourage the production of grain crops for exportation.
- B** China's policy makers want to encourage Chinese peasants to increase grain production.
- C** China's policy makers want to stop the expansion of urban areas.
- D** China's government is planning to reform the country's archaic tax structure.
- E** Such taxes are the main cause of a serious unemployment problem in rural areas.

46 According to the information in the article, China's government

- A** appears to be taking steps to decrease its control of the domestic grain market.
- B** appears to be taking steps to regain control over all aspects of the domestic grain market.
- C** still has absolute control over how much grain is produced and how much it will cost.
- D** is now advocating a return to a completely free and competitive domestic grain market.
- E** has at last admitted that its agricultural policies have failed to stimulate domestic grain production.

47 In paragraph 6, "Some" in "Some now suggest imports could rise to 10% of consumption" most likely refers to which of the following?

- A** Some officials of China Food and Agricultural Services.
- B** Some definitions of self-sufficiency.
- C** Some Chinese government officials.
- D** Some international agricultural officials.
- E** Some consultants.

48 According to the information in the article, which of the following is the strongest reason for the projected increase in China's grain production this year?

- A** Exorbitant international grain prices have made grain imports less attractive.
- B** China's government is mobilizing the country's peasants to produce more grain for patriotic reasons.
- C** Domestic grain prices, which had been low, have recently experienced a significant increase.
- D** The United States and its allies are cutting grain exports to China.
- E** Liberal government policies have made more farmland available in China.

49 Which of the following is most supported by information in the article?

- A** This year will probably see China's highest level of grain production in a decade.
- B** Chinese officials expect the country to produce 37.5m more tonnes of grain this year than it did last year.
- C** This year wheat is expected to account for more than half of the grain imported by China.
- D** Though China's grain production is expected to increase this year, the country will probably still need to use a portion of its grain reserves.
- E** China is considering crop substitution as a viable alternative to its dependence on imported and domestic grain.

50 You can infer from the information in the article that

- A** Chinese grain farmers are probably not as productive as they could be.
- B** Chinese grain production is higher than that of other underdeveloped countries.
- C** Chinese agriculture's biggest problem is obsolete technology.
- D** China will probably never attain a high degree of self-sufficiency in grain production.
- E** China's precarious grain-production situation means that famine is always a real threat.

THE FACE OF EXTINCTION

1 Until the middle of the nineteenth century, as documented by no less an eminence than John James Audubon, passenger pigeons by the billions turned day to night as they passed overhead in the American skies [see “Audubon in Kentucky,” by Wilham Souder, page 46]. Yet by the turn of the twentieth century, all that had changed: fifty years of relentless extermination forever banished *Ectopistes migratorius* from the Earth. The last passenger pigeon in the wild was reportedly shot by a boy in Ohio in 1900.

2 But the species officially went extinct only with the death of Martha, a denizen of the Cincinnati Zoo. Martha had been born in about 1894, and, in her youth, she had a female passenger pigeon’s classic good looks: pale cinnamon rose breast; long, pointed tail feathers; a graceful head and neck. By the year of her death, the news of an incipient extinction, together with clamorous announcements of unclaimed cash rewards for locating a passenger pigeon nest or colony, was attracting visitors from far and wide to Martha’s red roofed aviary in Ohio.

3 In the following years, many more visitors turned out to admire Martha’s taxidermied mount in the Birds of Our World gallery, at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. Martha’s presentation there, in fact, was carefully planned. Her body had been promised to the Smithsonian, and when she finally expired, in September 1914, the zookeepers rushed her corpse to the Cincinnati Ice Company. There, held by her feet, she was lowered into a tank of water, frozen upside down in a 300 pound block of ice, and shipped by express train to the capital.

4 Martha was officially signed into the Smithsonian collections as a “passenger pigeon in the flesh.” Her accession card is by turns blunt, then sentimental: “The death of this individual marks the complete extinction of the genus and species, of the countless hordes of other days” She was unpacked, thawed, and autopsied. Several organs including her eyes, brain, and liver were examined and placed in separate jars of ethyl alcohol.

5 Once Martha’s taxidermic treatment was complete, she was perched on a model “branch,” enclosed in a glass case, and given a post of prominence in the gallery, surrounded by other extinct and endangered avians from North America. In her new, postmortem role, she even went on the road several times on behalf of species that were facing the threat of extinction. She served as a tabletop mascot at a conservation conference for the San Diego Zoo at the zoo’s golden jubilee, in 1966, and at a Cincinnati Zoo fund raiser, in 1974. She always flew first class, coddled by the flight crew and protected, at least financially, by a hefty insurance policy.

6 Almost five years ago, though, around the turn of the millennium, Martha’s perch went dark. The Smithsonian Institution closed its bird gallery indefinitely to the public at the end of 1999. And now the last exemplar of a vanished species is hidden away in a storage cabinet in the bird division’s research collections.

7 Yet without reminders such as Martha, how are people to visualize, materialize, and memorialize the Earth’s destroyed and extinguished species? After eighty five years in the public eye, the figure of Martha has become an organic monument, biologically continuous with the living bird she commemorates, the embodiment of extinction itself. In the words of the naturalist Aldo Leopold, effigies such as Martha’s “five forever by not living at all.”

By Hanna Rose Shell
NATURAL HISTORY - May 2004

THE FACE OF EXTINCTION

51 You can infer from the information in the article that

- A** enormous groups of passenger pigeons once blocked out the sun as they flew across the sky.
- B** enormous groups of passenger pigeons sometimes took days to fly across the sky.
- C** the passenger pigeon was the first bird species to become extinct in North America.
- D** the passenger pigeon was exterminated because it was considered a pest in rural America.
- E** passenger pigeons existed in the billions during the entire nineteenth century.

52 Which of the following probably best expresses the significance of Martha?

- A** She is the world's only living passenger pigeon.
- B** She is an example of a North American passenger pigeon.
- C** She was the last passenger pigeon killed in the wild.
- D** She was the last living passenger pigeon, who died in 1914.
- E** She made Americans understand that they must protect threatened animal species.

53 You can infer from the information in the article that female passenger pigeons

- A** tended not to migrate, thus facilitating their extinction.
- B** tended to fly low, thus facilitating their extinction.
- C** were handsome, well-proportioned birds.
- D** were big, heavy birds with enormous wingspans.
- E** were bigger and more colorful than male passenger pigeons.

54 According to the information in the article, immediately after her death Martha was

- A** put on display at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.
- B** visited at the Cincinnati Zoo by many people eager to see the last passenger pigeon.
- C** the subject of controversy, as a few experts believed that some passenger pigeons still existed.
- D** preserved in a jar of ethyl alcohol.
- E** frozen and quickly sent to Washington, D.C.

55 In paragraph 4, the expression "...in the flesh" most likely signifies that the passenger pigeon the Smithsonian Institution received was

- A** a frozen specimen.
- B** a real and complete specimen.
- C** a dead specimen
- D** the last specimen of its kind
- E** an irreplaceable specimen.

56 You can infer from the information in the article that, in her taxidermied condition, Martha

- A** is the world's only existing example of a passenger pigeon.
- B** is the world's most beautiful example of a passenger pigeon.
- C** was until recently the only example of a passenger pigeon at the Smithsonian Institution.
- D** is indistinguishable from a living passenger pigeon.
- E** no longer has certain parts of her body.

57 According to the information in the article, which of the following did not happen to Martha after her taxidermic treatment was finished?

- A** She was placed in her own special wing of the museum.
- B** She was surrounded by glass and displayed in a special place.
- C** She was displayed among examples of other North American birds that were either extinct or threatened with extinction.
- D** She was used at times to help the cause of other animals that were threatened with extinction.
- E** She was a special presence at an environmental-protection meeting at the San Diego Zoo and at a fund-raising meeting at the Cincinnati Zoo.

58 In paragraph 6, the phrase “Martha’s perch went dark” most likely means the same as which of the following?

- A** Martha’s plumage lost its brilliance.
- B** Martha’s display was closed.
- C** It became difficult to see Martha clearly.
- D** The Smithsonian Institution’s bird gallery lost its funding.
- E** The turn of the millennium was nearly the hundredth anniversary of Martha’s death.

59 Which of the following would the author of the article probably choose as one of Martha’s most important functions?

- A** To make it possible for artists to recreate passenger pigeons with anatomical accuracy.
- B** To celebrate the dignity and the beauty of colorful birds around the world.
- C** To remind us that extinction is forever.
- D** To help us keep alive the memory of species that the Earth has lost.
- E** To help us keep alive the memory of the species that the Earth has lost in the last eighty-five years.

60 You can infer that the author of the article most likely believes that

- A** though Martha as a bird is dead, as a symbol she is immortal.
- B** more passenger pigeon effigies on display would make the public aware of the tragedy of extinction.
- C** Martha is more valuable dead than she would be if she were alive.
- D** without symbols like Martha to serve as reminders, the public will lose interest in protecting the environment.
- E** Martha’s effectiveness as an environmental symbol may be exaggerated.

FIM DA PROVA DE INGLÊS