



3.0 Pheasants

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Seventeen species of Pheasants occur in India (see Table). In this Chapter, we present the Species Accounts for these species in a field guide format that would provide information at a glance. We have collated information largely from Ali and Ripley (1983), Johnsgard (1985), McGowan and Garson (1995), Grimmett, Inskipp and Inskipp (1998), and Madge and McGowan (2002). Other works that were consulted are given in the References below. We have followed Monroe and Sibley (1993) for taxonomic sequence, and Inskipp, Lindsey and Duckworth (1996) for common names. For currently valid scientific names, we have followed emendations as and when adopted by the British Ornithologists Union, Clements checklist (2004), Howard and Moore's checklist (Dickinson 2003), Oriental Bird Club checklist by Inskipp *et al.* (1996), Allan Peterson's zoonomen database and other taxonomy publications in peer reviewed journals. Species illustrations are from the book "Pheasants, Partridges and Grouse" by Madge and McGowan (2002), A and C Black (Publishers) Ltd., London.

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Pheasants of India

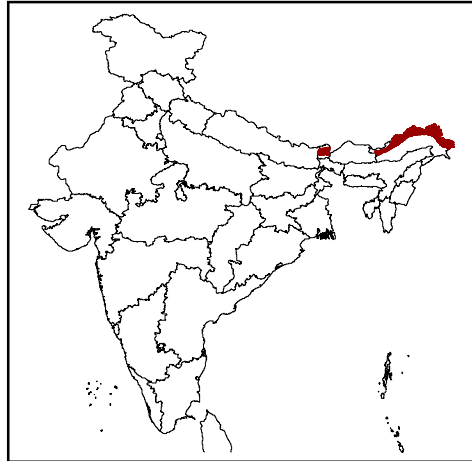
S.No.	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
1	Blood Pheasant	<i>Ithaginis cruentus</i>
2	Western Tragopan	<i>Tragopan melanocephalus</i>
3	Satyr Tragopan	<i>Tragopan satyra</i>
4	Blyth's Tragopan	<i>Tragopan blythii</i>
5	Temminck's Tragopan	<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>
6	Koklass Pheasant	<i>Pucrasia macrolopha</i>
7	Himalayan Monal	<i>Lophophorus impejanus</i>
8	Sclater's Monal	<i>Lophophorus sclateri</i>
9	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>
10	Grey Junglefowl	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>
11	Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>
12	Tibetan Eared Pheasant	<i>Crossoptilon harmani</i>
13	Cheer Pheasant	<i>Catreus wallichii</i>
14	Mrs Hume's Pheasant	<i>Syrnaticus humiae</i>
15	Grey Peacock Pheasant	<i>Polyplectron bicalcaratum</i>
16	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
17	Green Peafowl	<i>Pavo muticus</i>

**BLOOD PHEASANT** *Ithaginis cruentus* Hardwicke 1821

Vernacular Names: *Same, Semo, Soomoong pho* (Sikkim-Lepcha), *Chiku* (Arunachal-Mishmi)



David Mead

**Distribution & Habitat**

Resident and fairly common. Distributed in the Central and Eastern Himalayas (Sikkim & Arunachal Pradesh), mostly between 3,200-4,700 m (down to 1,500 m in winter). Inhabits open fir and rhododendron forest and rhododendron scrub, birch and juniper scrub. Mostly in dense bamboo clumps and often near snow patches.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule I
CITES : II

Description

Male is an unmistakable brightly coloured pheasant with lanceolate plumage. It has bright red orbital patch; black forehead and 'spectacles'; crimson-red chin and throat; blue-grey upperparts streaked with white (and with apple-green in wing-coverts); apple-green underparts streaked with pale yellow-green; and crimson splashes on breast, tail-coverts and in tail. The female has dark brown upperparts, and rufous-brown underparts. It has grey crest, nape and upper mantle, and rufous-orange forehead, face and throat.

Behaviour

When compared to other pheasants, the Blood Pheasant is found at higher elevations, even in winter. It is gregarious and keeps in coveys of five to ten birds, but sometimes 30 or more. Tame and fearless, it is a swift and strong runner and usually runs uphill or flies down hill. It forages actively throughout the day, scratching the ground and turning over leaves and grasses with its feet; can dig down through snow, which often covers the vegetation. It roosts in trees or scrub, or on the ground. The call is a repeated *chuck*, and has a loud, grating *kzeuuk-cheeu-chee*.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 38 cm
Weight : 482-568 g
Habitat : open fir and rhododendron forest, shrubberies of rhododendron, juniper & birch, partial to dense bamboo clumps
Altitude (m) : 1,500-4,700 m

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *chuck*,
kzeuuk-cheeu-cheeu-cheeu
Breeding Season : April-June
Nest Site/ Type : loose nest of leaves under bushes or bamboo
Clutch Size : 5 to 12
Incubation Period : 29 days

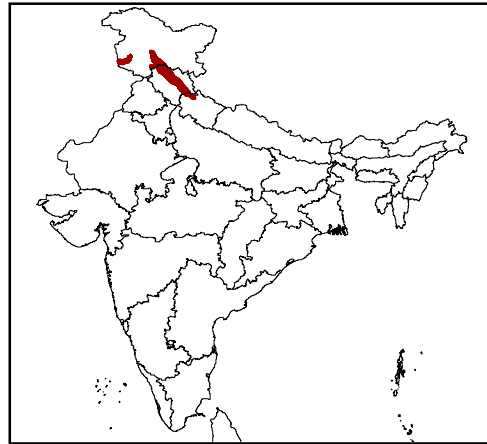


WESTERN TRAGOPAN *Tragopan melanocephalus* Gray 1829

Vernacular Names: *Jujurana* (Himachali-Kullu, Mandi), *Fulgar*, *Fulgari* (Himachali-Chamba), *Pyara* (Kinnaur), *Jyazi* (Bushahr) *Sonalu*, *Solalee* (Kashmiri), *Jewar* (Garhwali), *Sing monal* (Pahari-N.W.Himalaya)



David Mead



Distribution & Habitat

Resident and rare. Distributed in the northwestern and western Himalayas (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand), mostly between 2,400-3,600 m (down to 2,000 m in winter). Inhabits dense undergrowth and montane bamboo clumps in undisturbed temperate and subalpine oak, coniferous, and mixed forests.

Conservation Status

IUCN : vulnerable
IWPA : Schedule I
CITES : I

Description

A brightly coloured, white-spotted, red and black pheasant. The male is strikingly different from male Satyr Tragopan, by having bright orange foreneck and upper breast, white-spotted black underparts, and deep scarlet hindneck contrasting with intricately patterned black and grey-brown upperparts. It also has red facial skin, bluish throat, and bluish lappets and horns which are erected in display. The female is dull grayish-brown in colour, intricately patterned with dark browns, greys and buffs. It has slight rufescent tinge to crown and neck, and irregular white spotting on underparts. Very similar to female Satyr Tragopan, but has dark grey-brown coloration to underparts. When in flight, it could be confused with females of Koklass pheasant and Himalayan Monal. The former has broad, rounded tail and stockier appearance, darker and more uniform coloration, and lack of white on throat. The latter is heavily streaked on upperparts and underparts, has white throat and 'horseshoe' patch on rump, and has a loud shrieking flight call.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 68-73 cm
Weight : 1,250-2,150 g
Habitat : dense undergrowth in undisturbed temperate and subalpine oak, coniferous and mixed forests
Altitude : 1,735-3,600 m

Behaviour

Usually found singly or in pairs. It is very shy, extremely wary and skulking, but sometimes forages in forest glades or on open slopes. Feeds on the ground, mainly in early mornings and late evenings. It roosts in trees, where it is well concealed. Territorial during breeding season. While displaying, males repeatedly expand and contract their horns and colorfully patterned lappets. The call is a nasal, wailing *khuwaaah*, repeated in bouts of 7-15 calls, uttered by male and female, usually at dawn and dusk, and is very similar to the wailing of a child or goat. When alarmed, a more abrupt and anxious *waa, waa, waa*.

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *khuwaaah, khuwaaah, waa, waa, waa*
Breeding Season : May-early June
Nest Site/ Type : nest of sticks, line with grass, in thick undergrowth
Clutch Size : 3 to 6
Incubation Period: 28 days

**SATYR TRAGOPAN *Tragopan satyra* Linnaeus 1829****Vernacular Names:** *Lungi* (Hindi, Garhwali, Kumauni), *Bop* (Bhotia), *Tarrhyak* (Sikkim-Lepcha)

David Mead

**Distribution & Habitat**

Resident and rare. Distributed in the western, central and eastern Himalayas (eastern Uttarakhand, northern West Bengal, Sikkim and western Arunachal Pradesh), mostly between 2,400-4,500 m (down to 2,000 m in winter). Inhabits dense undergrowth or montane bamboo clumps in temperate and subalpine oak-rhododendron, coniferous or broadleaved forests, scrub in steep hillsides, and narrow ravines.

Conservation Status**IUCN** : near threatened**IWPA** : Schedule I**CITES** : III**Description**

Male is a brightly coloured unmistakable pheasant. It has red neck, mantle and underparts that are black-bordered white spots. It has intricately patterned olive-brown back, rump, uppertail-coverts and wing coverts, spotted with white and mottled with red. It also has blue facial skin and throat, and bluish lappets and horns which are erected in display. The female varies from rufous-brown to ochraceous-brown in colour, and is vermiculated, mottled and spotted with black and buff. As like other female tragopans, the underparts are generally brighter and more rufescent

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range**Body Length** : 67-72 cm**Weight** : 1,000-2,100 g**Habitat** : moist oak & rhododendron forest with dense undergrowth and bamboo clumps, shrubberies on steep hill sides, narrow ravines, & mixed coniferous/ broadleaved forest**Altitude** : 2,000-3,800 m**Behaviour**

Similar to those of Western Tragopan. Usually found singly or in pairs. It is very shy, extremely wary and skulking, but sometimes forages in forest glades or on open slopes. Feeds on the ground, mainly in early mornings and late evenings. Roosts in trees, where it is well concealed. Territorial during the breeding season. While displaying, males repeatedly expand and contract their horns and colorfully patterned lappets. It gives a deep, wailing drawn-out call, mainly at dawn, *wah, waah! Oo-oh! Oo-aaaa!* uttered 12-14 times, the series rising in volume and becoming more protracted until it becomes almost a shriek. Also a *wah, wah* call uttered at any time of the day. When alarmed, or flushed, a more anxious *wak, wak* call.

Reproduction & Life Cycle**Call** : *wah, waah! oo-aaaa!* , *wah, wah, wak, wak, wak, wak***Breeding Season** : May-June**Nest Site/ Type** : a rough nest of sticks in branches of a forest tree**Clutch Size** : 2 to 4**Incubation Period** : unknown



BLYTH'S TRAGOPAN *Ttragopan blythii* Jerdon 1870

Vernacular Names: *Son sorai* (Assamese-Sadiya), *Hur huria* (Assamese & Miri), *Gnu* (Naga-Angami), *Aghah* (Naga-Sema), *Aoho* (Naga-Chang)



David Mead



Distribution & Habitat

Resident and rare. Distributed in the eastern Himalaya (Arunachal Pradesh) and hills of northeast India (Assam, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland). Inhabits moist, evergreen broad-leaved forest with a thick understorey, dense scrub, and in montane bamboo on steep slopes.

Conservation Status	
IUCN	: vulnerable
IWPA	: Schedule I
CITES	: I

Description

The male is large brightly coloured pheasant with brilliant red plumage and conspicuous white ocelli on back. The male is similar to Satyr and Temminck's Tragopans, but has sandy-grey breast and belly and orange-yellow facial skin. It also has broader red supercilium, and has clean division between red of hindneck and 'brown' upperparts, which have numerous brownish-maroon ocelli. Female could be distinguished from female Satyr Tragopan by paler underparts lacking strong rufous tone, and from female Temminck's by paler underparts with much less distinct white spotting.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range	
Body Length	: 65-70 cm
Weight	: unknown
Habitat	: moist, evergreen broadleaved forest with a thick under storey; dense shrubberies & montane bamboo on steep slopes
Altitude	: 1,800-3,500 m

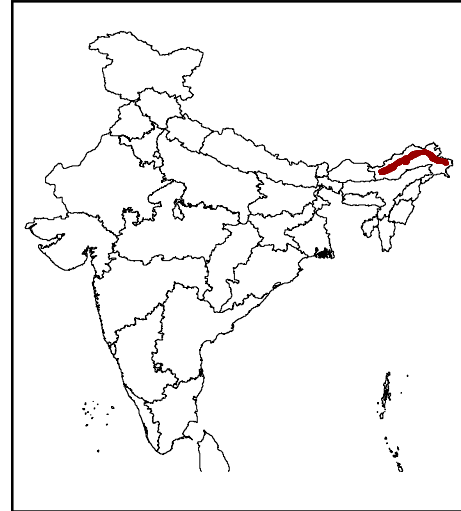
Behaviour

Similar to those of Western Tragopan. Usually found singly or in pairs or in small parties of four to five. It is very shy, extremely wary and skulking, but sometimes forages in forest glades or on open slopes. Feeds on the ground, mainly in early mornings and late evenings. It roosts in trees, where it is well concealed. Territorial during the breeding season. While displaying, males repeatedly expand and contract their horns and colorfully patterned lappets. The call is a deep *mao, mao* uttered in the early morning and again in the evening. Male's courtship call is a sonorous *wak*, sometimes lengthened to a *wa ak-ak* producing a 'two-toned' effect.

Reproduction & Life Cycle	
Call	: <i>mao, mao, wak, wa ak-ak</i>
Breeding Season	: poorly known
Nest Site/ Type	: unknown
Clutch Size	: unknown
Incubation Period	: unknown

**TEMMINCK'S TRAGOPAN** *Tragopan temminckii* Gray 1831Vernacular Names: *Bop* (Tibetan)

David Mead

**Distribution & Habitat**

Resident and rare. Distributed in eastern Himalaya (Arunachal Pradesh) between 2,100-3,600 m. Inhabits dense undergrowth in damp, evergreen broad-leaved forest and dense rhododendron and montane bamboo.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule I
CITES : not listed

Description

The male is large bright crimson coloured pheasant with round black-bordered pearl-grey spots or ocelli on underparts. Male distinguished from male Satyr Tragopan by larger spotting (without black borders), brighter orange red neck, mainly red upperparts (lacking Satyr's olive-brown tones to back and rump) with black-bordered grayish-white spotting, and more extensive blue facial skin. It could be easily distinguished from male Blyth's Tragopan by coloration and patterning of upperparts and underparts. The female is much more conspicuously spotted with white on underparts than other female tragopans.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 64 cm
Weight : 1,600 g
Habitat : dense undergrowth in damp, evergreen broadleaved forest and dense rhododendron & bamboo
Altitude : 2,100-3,600 m

Behaviour

Similar to those of other Tragopans, but very arboreal. Usually found singly or in pairs. It is very shy, extremely wary and skulking, but sometimes forages in forest glades or on open slopes. Feeds on the ground, mainly in early mornings and late evenings. It roosts in trees, where it is well concealed. Territorial during breeding season. While displaying, males repeatedly expand and contract their horns and colorfully patterned lappets. The call is a series of six to nine eerie moaning notes, gradually increasing in length and volume, terminated by a curious nasal grumbling note *oh...woah..woah... waaah..waaah.. waaah..waaah.. griiik*

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *who..woah..woah..woahh.. waaah..waaah..waaah..griiik*
Breeding Season : poorly known
Nest Site/ Type : unknown
Clutch Size : unknown
Incubation Period : unknown

The call is a series of six to nine eerie moaning notes, gradually increasing in length and volume, terminated by a curious nasal grumbling note *oh...woah..woah... waaah..waaah.. waaah..waaah.. griiik*



KOKLASS PHEASANT *Pucrasia macrolopha* Lesson 1829

Vernacular Names: *Pucrasi* (Kumauni), *Pucklas* (Garhwali, Himachali), *Kukrola* (Himachali-Chamba), *Plash*, *Khwasksha* (Shimla/ Pandrabis), *Plas* (Kashmiri)



Carl D'Silva



Distribution & Habitat

Resident and fairly common. Distributed in the north western and western Himalayas (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand) between 2,700 and 3,300 m (down to 1,500m in winters). Inhabits coniferous, oak and deodar forests with dense undergrowth of bushes and montane bamboo, and favours steep slopes and ravines.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Description

The male is a medium-tailed Himalayan pheasant with distinct metallic green head and hornlike ear-tufts, yellowish-brown crest, white neck patch, streaked appearance to body, and variable amounts of chestnut on breast and belly. The female has white throat and short buff ear-tufts; upperparts are mottled black and brown, and finely streaked with buff, and buffish underparts (prominently streaked with black). It is likely to be confused with female Kalij Pheasant but that species has bared red facial skin, more uniform brownish upperparts, and a laterally compressed tail. When in flight, it could be distinguished from female tragopans by white throat, smaller size and 'streaked' appearance, and by longer, more sharply graduated tail.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 58-64 cm
Weight : 510-1,415 g
Habitat : coniferous, oak & deodar forests with dense undergrowth of bushes & montane bamboo
Altitude : 2,100-3,300 m

Behaviour

It usually occurs singly or in pairs, but in winter, several birds may congregate. It is very shy and secretive and more often heard (dawn) than seen. When disturbed, it runs away quickly through undergrowth, or bursts upwards giving a noisy alarm before flying down the slope, twisting between the trees at great speed. Feeds mainly in dawn and dusk in grassy glades. It roosts in trees, from where males crow at dawn almost throughout the year. It is highly territorial during the breeding season. The call is a *kok, kark, kuk..kukuk*, uttered mainly at dawn and repeated at intervals with corvid-like raucousness. When flushed, a harsh *Kwak-kwak-kwak*. Female's alarm call has been described as a higher-pitched, more melodic *quiquick qui-quik qui-quik*.

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *kok..kark..kuk..kukuk, kwak-kwak-kwak*
Breeding Season : April-June
Nest Site/ Type : under thick bushes
Clutch Size : 5 to 7
Incubation Period : 20-21 days

**HIMALAYAN MONAL *Lophophorus impejanus* Latham 1790**

Vernacular Names: *Munal, Ghar munal, Ratia kawan, Ratnal, Ratkap, Nil(m), Kareri (f), Nilgur (Pahri-N.W.Himalaya), Bnal (m), Bodh (f), (Shimla, Kullu, Pandrabis), Datiya (Garhawali, Kumauni), Sunal, Sunamurgh(m), Ham(f) (Kashmiri), Fo dong (Sikkim-Lepcha), Pia padir (Arunachal-Mishmi)*



Kim Franklin

**Distribution & Habitat**

Resident and fairly common. Distributed in the north western, western, central and eastern Himalayas (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim & Arunachal Pradesh) between 2,300-4,875 m and down to 2,000 m during winters (western Himalaya), and between 2,800-4,575 m and down to 2,500 m during winters (eastern Himalaya).

Inhabits Temperate and subalpine oak, deodar, coniferous and rhododendron forests with montane bamboo and grassy glades; and alpine scrub and meadows, and sometimes remains above the snowline.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule I
CITES : I

Description

The male is a stout dumpy very colourful Himalayan pheasant that is unmistakable throughout much of its range. It has metallic green head and spatulate-tipped wire-like crest, brilliant metallic green and bronze on hindneck and mantle, iridescent blue and purple and green on wings and uppertail-coverts, cinnamon-brown tail, and velvety-black underparts. During flight, it exhibits white on back. The female has prominent white throat, short crest, and bright blue orbit skin. It has dark brown upperparts with streaked appearance, and brown underparts with variable, broad pale streaking. During flight, it shows whitish 'horse-shoe' on uppertail-coverts, and broad rounded tail with rufous barring and narrow white tip.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 70 cm
Weight : 1,800-2,380 g
Habitat : oak, coniferous, deodar & rhododendron forests with grassy glades, alpine meadows, rock & scrub
Altitude : 2,000-4,875 m

Behaviour

Usually occurs singly or in pairs and in small groups of three to four even in the breeding season. During late autumn and winter, it is gregarious and encountered in fairly large numbers in one place. It feeds mainly by digging with its strong bill, even when snow covered. Although cautious, it is less shy than most other Himalayan pheasants and can often be seen in summer foraging in pastures and flushing out even when disturbed at greater distances. It has a distinctive call, uttered by both sexes during the breeding season, is a series of upward-inflected whistles, *Kurleiu* or *kleeh-vick*, which are strung together, alternated with higher-pitched *kleeh* calls, similar to those of snowcocks. The alarm call is a similar *Kleeh-wick-kleeh-wick*, alternating with shorter, more urgent *kwick-kwick* cries.

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *kur-leiu* or *kleeh-vick*
Breeding Season : April-mid July
Nest Site/ Type : on ground under a steep, rocky & grass covered slopes
Clutch Size : 4 to 6
Incubation Period : unknown

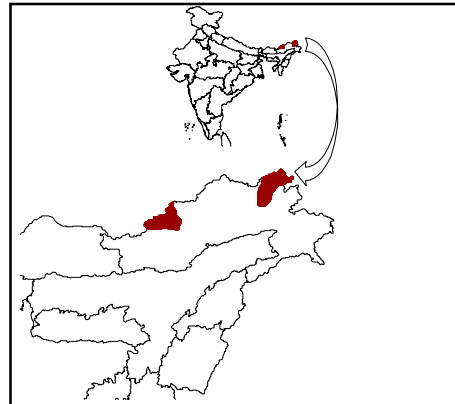


SCLATER'S MONAL *Lophophorus sclateri* Jerdon 1870

Vernacular Names: *Tratta*, *Poa padio* (Arunachal-Mishmi), *Pur di* (Arunachal-Chuikatta Mishmi)



Kim Franklin



Distribution & Habitat

Resident and rare. Distributed in the eastern Himalayas (Arunachal Pradesh) between 3,000 and 4,000 m. Inhabits fir forest with dense rhododendron undergrowth.

Conservation Status	
IUCN	: vulnerable
IWPA	: Schedule I
CITES	: I

Description

Male is similar to Himalayan Monal but somewhat duller and less refulgent metallic green, blue and bronze coloration to head and upperparts, and velvety-black underparts. It is distinguished from Himalayan Monal by lack of spatulate-tipped crest but has short curly crown feathers, by white lower back, rump and uppertail-coverts, and by broad white tip to the cinnamon-brown tail. Female is similar to female Himalayan Monal, but lacks crest and has contrastingly pale lower back, rump and uppertail-coverts, and broad white terminal band to tail. The upperparts and mantle are darker, and underparts are more uniform and lack bold splashes of grayish-white. The bill is yellowish, and has more extensive area of blue skin around eye.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range	
Body Length	: 68 cm
Weight	: unknown
Habitat	: fir forest with dense rhododendron undergrowth
Altitude	: 3,000-4,000 m

Behaviour

Not much is known and is reported to be similar to those of Himalayan Monal. Usually occurs singly or in pairs and in small groups. Feeds mainly by digging with its strong bill. The Alarm call is 'a shrill, harsh, plaintive cry' uttered repeatedly; also a wild ringing whistle like Himalayan Monal but distinct in tone.

Reproduction & Life Cycle	
Call	: <i>woah..woahh..woahh..</i> <i>waaah..waaah..waaah..griik</i>
Breeding Season	: unknown
Nest Site/ Type	: unknown
Clutch Size	: unknown
Incubation Period	: unknown

The White-tailed Monal¹ is probably a new species of monal that differs from Sclater's monal only in the tail colouration. One specimen from Taksing locality in upper Subansri had a completely white tail feathers that had dark brownish-black base, and a small chestnut patch at the centre of a few tail feathers. Another specimen had a small chestnut splash on the outer edges close to the dark base of the tail feathers.

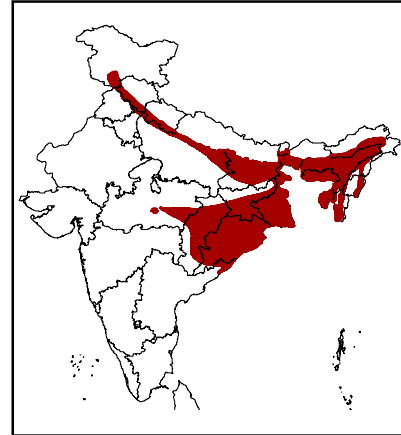
¹ Kumar, R.S., and Singh, P. 2000. Survey for Pheasants with reference to the distribution of genus *Lophophorus* in Arunachal Pradesh, India. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. 35pp.

**RED JUNGLEFOWL *Gallus gallus* Linnaeus 1758**

Vernacular Names: *Jangli murgha, Lal murgha, Ban murgha* (m), *Jangli murghi, Lal murghi, Ban murghi* (f), (Hindi, Bengali), *Kattu kozhi* (Tamil, Malayalam), *Yerra aduvu kodi* (Telugu), *Lal raan* (Marathi), *Ban kukur* (Assamese), *Daono* (Assam-Cachar), *Pazok chi* (Sikkim-Lepcha), *Ganga* (Oriya), *Inrui* (Naga-Kacha)



Daniel Cole

**Distribution & Habitat**

Resident and locally common. Distributed in the lower Himalayas (<2,000 m) from Jammu & Kashmir east to Arunachal Pradesh, Shiwaliks, Terai, northeast and eastern India. Inhabits undergrowth in moist mixed forest and scrub jungle interspersed with patches of cultivation and well-watered areas.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Description

Male is conspicuous with the characteristic red comb and wattle, elongated rufous-orange and golden-yellow hackles across nape and mantle, blackish-brown underparts, crimson band across nape and mantle, blackish-brown underparts, crimson band across back, rufous secondaries, and long greenish-black, sickle-shaped tail. There is an eclipse plumage during monsoon (July-September), after the summer moult, when the hackles are replaced by short, dark brown feathers, the central tail feathers are lacking, and the comb is duller and smaller. During eclipse plumage, head and neck are dark brown, crimson band across back is more clearly apparent, and tail is much shorter. The female has 'shawl' of elongated. Feathers across nape and mantle, and naked reddish face. The remaining upperparts are rufous-brown, finely vermiculated with black, and has rufous-brown underparts streaked with buff. It could be distinguished from the female Grey Junglefowl which has more pronounced 'shawl' and lacks bold white streaking on underparts. It could be distinguished from the female Red Spurfowl, which is stockier, with laterally compressed tail which is often held cocked; fine streaking on breast, and black-streaked golden-buff 'shawl'.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 65-75 cm
Weight : 485-1,360 g
Habitat : well-watered areas, undergrowth in moist mixed forest & scrub jungle interspersed with patches of cultivation
Altitude : <2,000 m

Behaviour

Generally occurs in small groups, usually one cock with several hens. It is shy and very secretive, skulking into the undergrowth at the least disturbance. When flushed, it rises cackling, with a clatter of wings. It comes out into the open to feed on forest tracks, firelines, and fields at forest edges during early mornings and late afternoons. It roosts in trees and bamboo clumps. The calling of male at dawn

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *cock-a-doodle-doo*
Breeding Season : January-October
Nest Site/ Type : under a bush or bamboo clump in forest
Clutch Size : 5 to 6

and dusk, is a loud *cock-a-doodle-doo*, very similar to the crowing of a domestic cockerel, but individual notes less pronounced. Both male and female, utter a variety of cackling and clucking notes, while feeding and when alarm calls.

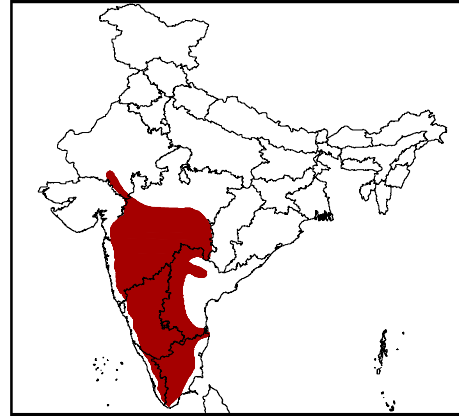


GREY JUNGLEFOWL *Gallus sonneratii* Temminck 1813

Vernacular Names: *Jangli murgha* (m), *Jangli murghi* (f), (Hindi), *Kattu kozhi* (Tamil, Malayalam), *Tella adavi kodi* (Telugu), *Koli Kad koli* (Kanada), *Rakhi ran kombda* (Marathi), *Jangli murgu* (Gujarati), *Komri* (Rajasthani-Mt.Abu)



Daniel Cole



Distribution & Habitat

Resident and locally common. Distributed from south Rajasthan east to central Madhya Pradesh and south through the peninsula and upto 2,400 m in the Nigiris (Western Ghats). Inhabits undergrowth in broadleaved evergreen and deciduous forest, secondary growth, bamboo thickets and patches of cultivation in forest; in southern India also in abandoned plantations; near water sources in summer.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule II
CITES : II

Description

Male is conspicuous with red comb, face and wattles, 'shawl' of white and pale golden-yellow spotting across nape, neck and mantle, band of golden-yellow spotting on scapulars, grey underparts, back and rump streaked with white, and long sickle-shaped, purplish-black tail. During eclipse plumage, the neck hackles are short and brownish-black, the elongated central tail feathers are lacking and a much reduced comb. The female is similar to female Red Junglefowl, but has less extensive rufous-orange 'shawl' of elongated feathers across hind-neck, and has bold white centres to feathers on underparts.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 70-80 cm
Weight : 705-1,136 g
Habitat : undergrowth in broadleaved evergreen & deciduous forest, secondary growth, bamboo thickets & patches of cultivation in forests
Altitude : <2,400 m

Behaviour

As like the Red Junglefowl, but not so gregarious; usually found singly, in pairs or in family parties. It is normally very shy, never venturing far from cover, but tame where not hunted. The male has a distinctive crowing call which is a loud, staccato *kuk-ka-kurruk-ka* repeated at regular intervals, and given four to five times per minute.

Reproduction & Life Cycle

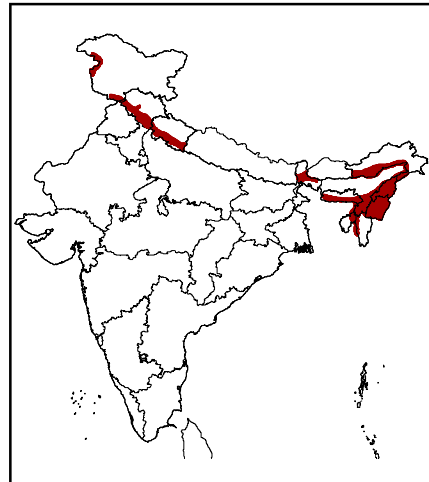
Call : *kuk-ka-kurruk-ka*
Breeding Season : February-May
Nest Site/ Type : under a bush or bamboo clump in forest
Clutch Size : 3 to 5
Incubation Period : 20-21 days

**KALIJ PHEASANT** *Lophura leucomelanos* Latham 1790

Vernacular Names: *Kala murgha, Kalesi* (Hindi), *Kaleej, Kukera, Kalesur* (m), *Kolsa* (Pahri-N.W.Himalaya), *Kansha, Kalesa* (Shimla Solan / Pandrabis), *Panti, Kulsus* (Kinnaur), *Kar rhyak* (Sikkim-Lepcha), *Modura* (Assam-Cachar), *Darik, Dirrik, Durug* (Meghalaya-Garo Hills), *Inruitip* (Naga), *Waba* (Manipuri)



Daniel Cole

**Distribution & Habitat**

Resident and locally common. Distributed in the northwestern, western, central and eastern Himalayas (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and northern West Bengal) usually <2,700m and in the hills of northeast India (Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland & Tripura). Inhabits all types of forest with dense undergrowth and thickly overgrown steep gullies, usually not far from water.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule I
CITES : not listed

Description

The male is glossy blue-black on upperparts, with variable amounts of white on underparts and rump. It has bright red facial skin and wattles, and long, down-curved, laterally compressed tail. The female varies from dull brown to dark red-dish-brown in colour, with grayish-buff fringes giving scaly appearance and has brownish tail. It could be distinguished from female Koklass Pheasant by red facial skin, scaled (rather than streaked) upperparts and underparts, and different shape to tail.

Behaviour

As like the Red Junglefowl. Found in pairs or groups. It spends much time digging and scratching for food. It emerges into the open to forage at forest edges and on tracks during dawn and dusk. It roosts in trees. Calls include a crowing which is described as a loud, whistling chuckle or *chirrup*, and 'a series of guinea-pig-like squeaks and chuckles' or sharply repeated *koorchi, koorckhi, koorchki* or a whistling *psee-psee-psee-psee* when flushed.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 65-73 cm
Weight : 564-1,700 g
Habitat : all types of forests with dense undergrowth, thickly overgrown steep gullies usually not far from water
Altitude : 245-3,050 m

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *chirrup, koorchi, koorchi, koorchi, or psee, psee, psee*
Breeding Season : March-October
Nest Site/ Type : a scrape scantily lined with grass/dried vegetation amongst thick undergrowth
Clutch Size : 6 to 9
Incubation Period : 24-25 days

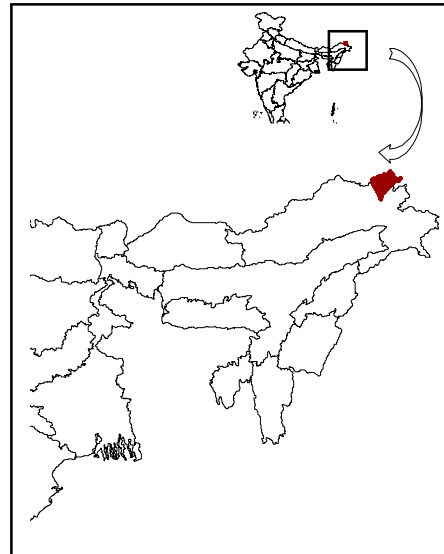


TIBETAN EARED PHEASANT *Crossoptilon harmani* Elwes 1881

Vernacular Names: *Cha-nga*



David Mead



Distribution & Habitat

In India, very rare and only one confirmed record from Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh. In Tibet, summers in patchy subalpine birch and rhododendron scrub and subalpine meadows; winters in spruce and pine forests.

Conservation Status

IUCN : near threatened

IWPA : Schedule I

CITES : not listed

Description

An overall ashy blue-grey pheasant with a bright red naked face, white throat connecting with band across nape and broad laterally compressed tail. It is blacker on neck and white on centre of belly, paler grey rump and uppertail-coverts, and broad blackish, downcurving tail which is glossed with green, blue and purple. Sexes similar.

Behaviour

Keeps in flocks of about five or ten birds in the rhododendron scrub and comes out to feed in the open grassy patches in the mornings and evenings. While feeding, constantly gives a drawn-out cackle. It gets much of its food by digging with its strong bill. When alarmed, it either runs uphill and into the nearest bushes or flies into a nearby tree. During breeding season, calls uttered in unison by both sexes and sounding like a repeated *trip-crrra-ah*, becoming progressively louder and lasting up to 30 seconds. The alarm call is a sharp repeated *wrack*; a conversational cackling that terminates on a high *cucu cuco*.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 72 cm

Weight : unknown

Habitat : patchy subalpine birch and rhododendron scrub and subalpine meadows, spruce & pine forests

Altitude : 2,800-4,600 m

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *trip-crrh-ah*,
wrack, cucu cuco

Breeding Season : poorly known

Nest Site/ Type : bark & pulp, line with moss and placed under tree

Clutch Size : unknown

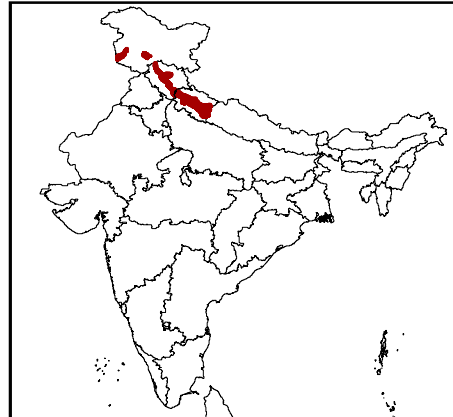
Incubation Period : unknown

**CHEER PHEASANT *Catreus wallichii*** Hardwicke 1827

Vernacular Names: *Chir*, *Chihir* (Garhwali, Kumauni), *Bunchil*, *Herril* (Pahri-N.W.Himalaya), *Chaman(m)*, *Chamani(f)* (Himachali-Chamba), *Tana* (Shimla/Pandrabis), *Reear*, *Rehar* (Kashmiri)



Carl D'Silva

**Distribution & Habitat**

Resident and uncommon. Distributed as fragmented populations in the northwestern and western Himalayas (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand) between 1,500-3,050 m. Inhabits precipitous, often craggy hillsides with scrub and stunted trees and dissected by wooded ravines or with some scrub and grass cover; village grazing lands and recently cleared areas with secondary growth. Strongly favours early successional habitats.

Conservation Status

IUCN : vulnerable
IWPA : Schedule I
CITES : I & II

Description

A long-tailed Himalayan Pheasant with a long narrow backward projecting brown crest on head, red facial skin, and body in buffy white and pale rusty, closely barred with black. When on flight, the buff, grey and brown body coloration and long broadly banded tail are the characteristic features for identification. The male has unmarked greyish throat and neck, heavily barred buff-and-black mantle and back, rufous rump barred with black, and greyish breast becoming more buffish on belly and flanks. Tail has broad buffish-white banding and with black-edged chestnut bands across outer feathers, and black-mottled grey-brown bands across central feathers. The female is similar to male, but has more rufescent upperparts, with prominent shaft streaking. It is more heavily barred on breast, and has rufous-brown lower breast and belly scaled with buff, grey-brown rump mottled with black and buff, and narrower buff bands across tail.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 90-118 cm

Weight : 1,250-1,700 g

Habitat : precipitous, often craggy hillsides with scrub & stunted trees & dissected by wooden ravines, scrub & grass cover, recently cleared areas with secondary growth

Altitude : 1,500-3,050 m

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *chir-a-pir*, *chir-a-pir*, *chir*, *chir chirwa*, *chirwa*, *chewewoo*

Breeding Season : late April-early June

Nest Site/ Type : no nest, eggs are laid in undergrowth on rough grounds

Clutch Size : 9 to 14

Incubation Period : 26 days

Behaviour

Keeps in groups of five or six while feeding on the open hillsides and well hidden under dense undergrowth. It is a very shy bird and when disturbed, prefers to run off rapidly or skulk in thick undergrowth. When flushed, it rises noisily and dives downhill. It often roosts together in trees. Call is a far-carrying, loud *chir-a-pir chir*, *chir chirwa*, *chirwa*. It also gives contact and chorus calls (dusk and pre-dawn), which include high piercing whistles, *chewewoo*, interspersed with short cut calls and short staccato harsh notes.

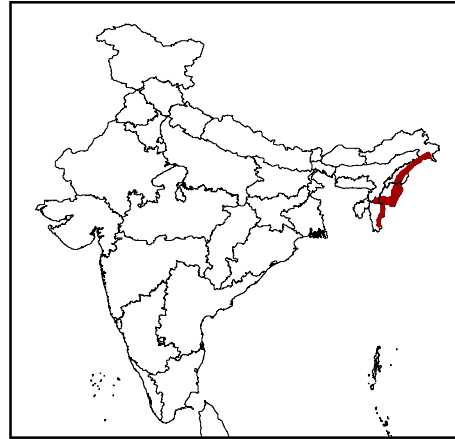


MRS HUME'S PHEASANT *Syrmaticus humiae* Hume 1881

Vernacular Names: *Loningkoi, Noiningkoi* (Manipuri), *Nongin* (Manipuri-Chiru tribe)



Carl D'Silva



Distribution & Habitat

Local resident and rare. Recorded from Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland, at 1,200-3,000 m; only recent records are from Mizoram. It inhabits steep rocky slopes with open oak and pine forest and long grass, bracken and bushes.

Conservation Status	
IUCN	: vulnerable
IWPA	: Schedule I
CITES	: I

Description

A long straight-tailed pheasant as like the Cheer Pheasant, but the male is much brighter coloured and lacking the crest. The male has bright red facial skin, glossy blue-black head, neck, upper breast and upper mantle, and mainly chestnut upperparts and underparts. It has broad white band along scapulars, white wing-bars and white tips to tertials. The rump and uppertail-coverts are glossy blue-black, with fine white barring, and the long grey tail is narrowly banded with chestnut and black. The female is grey-brown on upperparts, cryptically mottled and barred with black, and prominently spotted with white on mantle. The underparts are pale rufous-brown, barred with buff. It has suggestion of greyish band along scapulars, and narrow whitish wing-bars formed by tips to greater coverts and secondaries. The female's tail is shorter than male's central tail feathers and are sandy-brown, banded with black and rufous-brown and tipped with white, and outer feathers are chestnut with prominent white tips and black subterminal bands.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range	
Body Length	: 90 cm
Weight	: 1,080 g
Habitat	: steep rocky slopes with open oak & pine forests & long grass bracken & bushes
Altitude	: 1,200-3,000 m

Behaviour

Very little known in the wild; probably similar to those of Cheer Pheasant. Calls include a very distinctive crowing *cher-a-per, cher-a-per, cheria, cheria*, also repeated cackling *waaak* notes, and a sharp alarm note, *tuk tuk*.

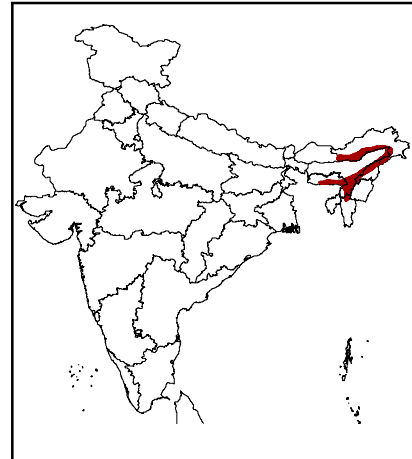
Reproduction & Life Cycle	
Call	: <i>cher-a-per, cher-a-per, chir chir, cheria cheria, waaak, tuk tuk</i>
Breeding Season	: April-May
Nest Site/ Type	: no nest, eggs under a bush, rock or grass clump
Clutch Size	: 6 to 10
Incubation Period	: unknown

**GREY PEACOCK PHEASANT *Polyplectron bicalcaratum* Linnaeus 1758**

Vernacular Names: *Munowwar, Deyodahuk, Deoderik* (Assamese), *Dao dip, Dao dai dip, Mejoor* (Assamese-Cachar), *Deodurug* (Meghalaya-Garo) *Burruninrui* (Naga-Kacha)



Kim Franklin

**Distribution & Habitat**

Resident and fairly common in undisturbed forests. Distributed in the central and eastern Himalayas (Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh) and northeast India (Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura). Inhabits dense undergrowth in tropical moist, broadleaved evergreen and semi-evergreen forest.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule I
CITES : II

Description

The male is grayish brown with short-tufted crest and long broad tail. It is finely spotted and barred with whitish, and strikingly marked with whitish-rimmed iridescent purple and green ocelli on mantle, wing-coverts, tertials, uppertail-coverts and tail. The female is similar, but is smaller, with shorter tail and shorter crest, and is more uniformly brown with smaller and duller ocelli on mantle, wing-coverts and tail. The older female is similar to male except for shorter tail.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 48 cm
Weight : 568-910 g
Habitat : dense undergrowth in tropical moist broadleaved evergreen & semi evergreen forests
Altitude : <1,200 m

Behaviour

Found singly or in pairs, it is a great skulker and very swift on its legs. Most often heard than seen, especially during the breeding season. The call is a deep guttural *hoo*, rapidly repeated about seven times, and soft chuckling notes. Also an *Ok-kok-kok*.

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : guttural *hoo, ok-kok-kok-kok*
Breeding Season : March-June
Nest Site/ Type : on ground among thick vegetation
Clutch Size : 2
Incubation Period : 21days

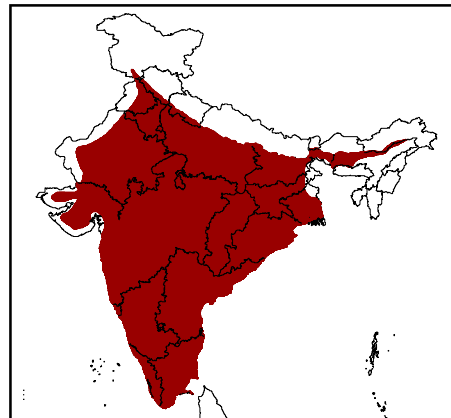


INDIAN PEA FOWL *Pavo cristatus* Linnaeus 1758

Vernacular Names: *Mor, Manjur, Mayura* (Hindi), *Mayil* (Tamil, Malayalam), *Nemali* (Telugu), *Navilu* (Kannada), *Mor(m), Dhe(f)* (Gujarati), *Mor(m), Landor(f)* (Marathi), *Mayur* (Bengali), *Manja(m), Mania(f)* (Oriya), *Moira* (Assamese), *Mongyung* (Sikkim-Lepcha), *Dode* (Meghalaya-Garo), *Wahong* (Manipuri)



Kim Franklin



Distribution & Habitat

Resident and locally very common. Distributed throughout much of India except for the Himalayas and northeast India. Inhabits undergrowth in a variety of forests and scrub near streams; also in agricultural lands, villages, and in institutional campuses in urban areas. Introduced in Andaman and Nicobar islands and Sikkim.

Conservation Status	
IUCN	: others
IWPA	: Schedule I
CITES	: not listed

Description

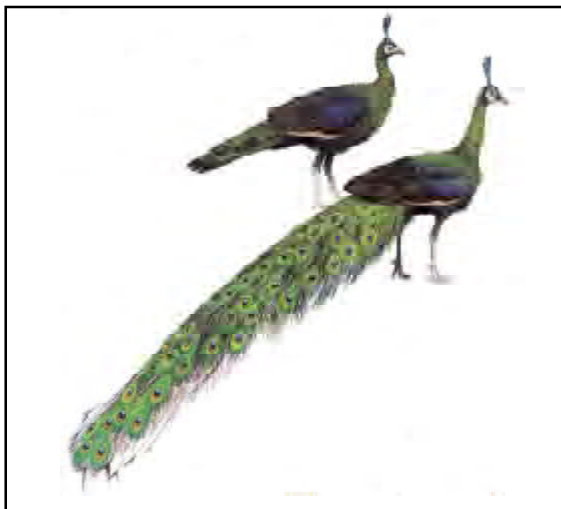
A familiar and universally known pheasant. The male has its characteristic fan-like crest, glossy blue crown, neck, upper mantle and breast, metallic green lower mantle and back, and spectacular glossy green train which comprises of numerous elongated uppertail-coverts with blue-centred, green copper ocelli. The female lacks sweeping train, and has fan-like crest, whitish face and throat, chestnut-brown crown and hindneck, metallic green upper breast and mantle, white belly, and brown back, rump and tail. Primaries are dark brown.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range	
Body Length	: 180-230 cm
Weight	: 2,750-6,000 g
Habitat	: in undergrowth in deciduous forests near streams, where semi-feral, lives in villages and cultivation
Altitude	: <1,800 m

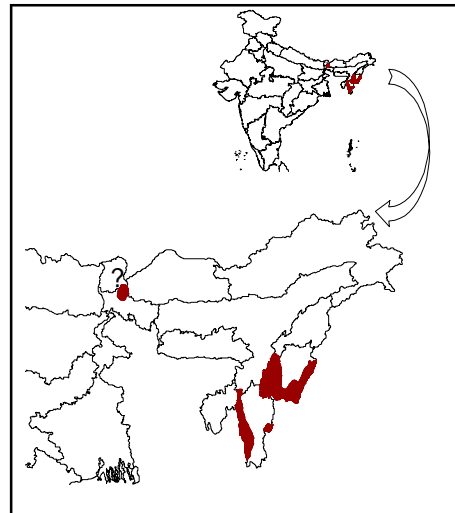
Behaviour

It is gregarious, generally in small groups of usually one cock and three to five hens when breeding, and often in separate parties of adult males and of females with immatures in the non-breeding season. It roosts in tall trees and emerges from dense thickets in early mornings and late afternoons to feed in forest clearings and fields at forest edges. It is protected for religious or sentimental reasons in many parts of India, where it has become very tame, but is quite shy and secretive where hunted. Call is a trumpeting, far-carrying and mournful *kee-ow, kee-ow, kee-ow* and also series of short, gasping screams, *Ka-an..ka-an..ka-an*, repeated six to eight times, and *kok-kok* and *cain-kk* when alarmed.

Reproduction & Life Cycle	
Call	: <i>kee-ow, kee-ow, kee-ow, ka-an, ka-an, ka-an, kok-kok, cain-kok</i>
Breeding Season	: January-September
Nest Site/ Type	: on ground among dense undergrowth, semi-feral birds on buildings
Clutch Size	: 4 to 6
Incubation Period	: 28 days

**GREEN PEAFOWL *Pavo muticus* Linnaeus 1766****Vernacular Names:** *Pegu majura* (Bengali), *Wahong* (Manipuri)

Kim Franklin

**Distribution & Habitat**

Resident and very rare. Recorded from eastern (west Bengal) and northeastern India (Assam, Manipur, Mizoram), but now is very rare and believed to be exterminated from the Indian subcontinent. A recent report has confirmed the presence of Green Peafowl in Chintupui and Lunglei districts, Mizoram. It inhabits dense forest near streams or clearings.

Conservation Status

IUCN : vulnerable
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : II

Description

At a glance, the male apparently resembles the India Peafowl, but has erect tufted crest, blue and yellow facial skin, green neck and underparts, green coverts, and uniform brown tertiaries and secondaries. It has long train as on Indian Peafowl, but with stronger bronze, copper and purple hues. The female lacks long train and ocelli, but is similar to male except that lower back, rump, scapulars and tertiaries are blackish-brown, barred with buff and lightly glossed with green, elongated golden-green uppertail-coverts, which fall short of tail tip, are barred with buff and brown. The tail is barred buff, brown and black.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 180-300 cm
Weight : 3,850-5,000 g
Habitat : dense forest near streams
or clearings
Altitude : <1,000 m

Behaviour

Similar to those of Indian Peafowl, but extremely shy and generally does not emerge into forest clearings and edge. The male has a very loud, far-carrying *ki-wao* or *yee-ow*, often repeated. The female give loud *aow-aa*, often repeated with short intervals.

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *ki-wao* or *yee-ow*
aow-aa
Breeding Season : January-May, July-September
Nest Site/ Type : in dense forests
Clutch Size : 3 to 6
Incubation Period : 26-28 days