

RING-NECKED PHEASANT

(*Phasianus colchicus*)



Clutch size: 8-12 eggs
Incubation: 23 days
Peak hatch: mid-June

Roosters have colorful, iridescent feathers. A fleshy, red wattle displays dominance and attracts hens.

Wings shaped for rapid take-off and short flights.

Long tail

Ring-neck

Roosters use spurs to defend their territory.

Drab, brown plumage helps hide hens while on the nest.

60

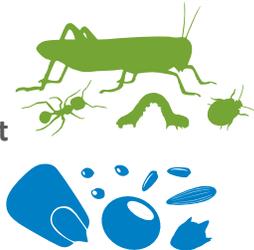
Pheasants first arrived from Shanghai by boat in 1881 and have since flourished in the wild throughout the U.S. In China, the pheasant is called zhìjī (雉鸡).

Pheasant distribution

What makes good habitat? Having easy access to food, water, cover, and space to support growth and survival.

BIRDS NEED A BALANCED DIET

Pheasants eat a wide variety of foods, including insects, seeds, grains, berries, and green plant matter. Their diet varies with age and the seasons. Protein-rich insects make up 90% of a chick's diet. Full grown pheasants eat high-energy grains to build fat reserves, which help supply winter warmth.



HABITAT IS HOME FOR PHEASANTS

Pheasants live in farmland areas mixed with undisturbed grassland. Most of their activity occurs within a square-mile (640 acres) home range. Pheasants nest on the ground where vegetation is at least 8-12 inches tall to conceal hens from predators. She'll lead chicks to more open habitat (brood-rearing cover) to forage for insects. Pheasants are not migratory. However, they move to dense winter cover when temperatures drop. Winter cover is never far from food sources.



RUN PHEASANTS PREFER TO STAY ON THE GROUND, EVADING PREDATORS QUICKLY & QUIETLY.
8-10 MPH

FLUSH POWERFUL FLIGHT MUSCLES ACHIEVE RAPID, VERTICAL TAKE-OFF SPEED.
60 MPH

FLY PHEASANTS GLIDE AFTER USING RAPID WINGBEATS. THE AVERAGE CRUISING SPEED OF A PHEASANT.
38-48 MPH

Pheasants Forever is dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education and land management policies and programs.

For more information visit pheasantsforever.org

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



1.) **True / False:** Both male and female pheasants are brightly colored.

2.) **True / False:** Pheasants prefer to run when in danger.

3.) **True / False:** Male pheasants are known as roosters.

4.) **True / False:** Pheasants can fly up to 60 mph when chased.

5.) **True / False:** Roosters have a ring of white neck feathers.



GOT HABITAT? Sketch in the box to help this rooster feel more at home.