

PHEASANTS

(PHASIANUS COLCHICUS)

CONSERVATION STATUS: LEAST CONCERN*



WE ARE BIRDS

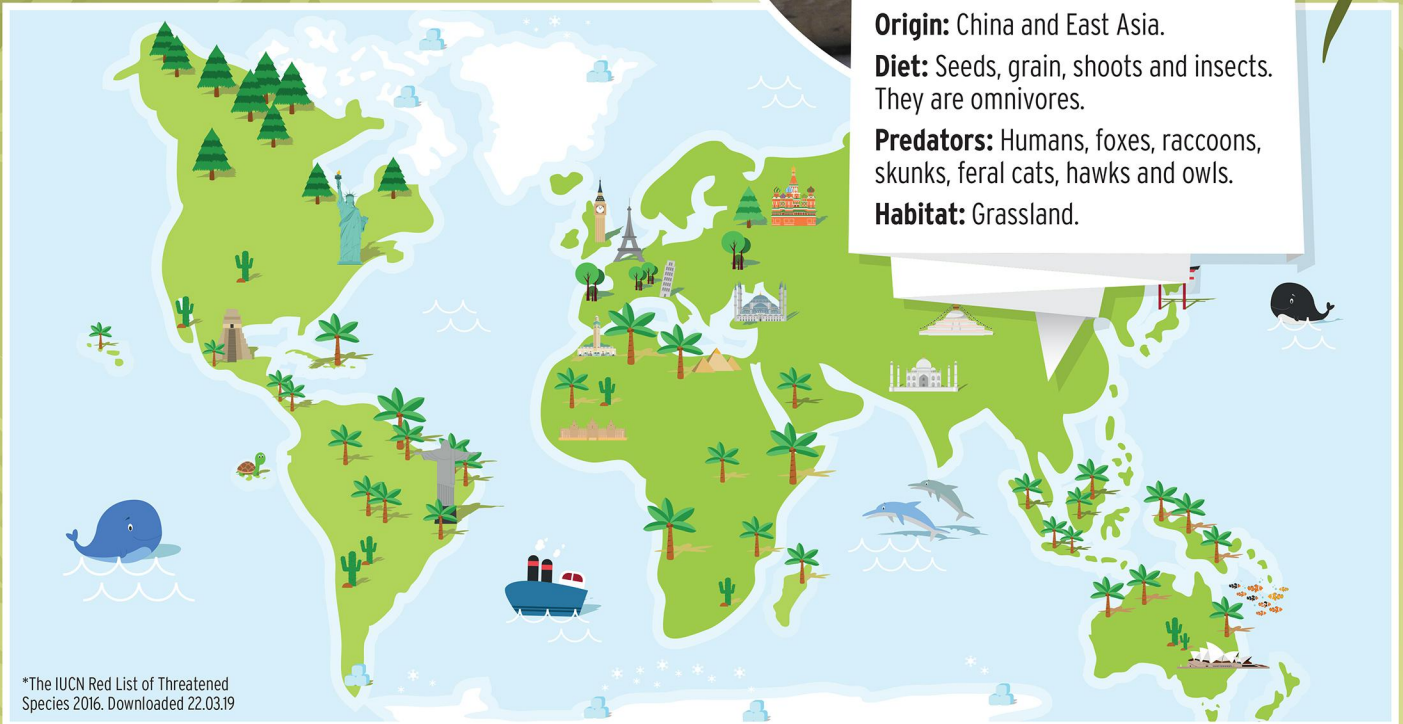
with a lifespan of less than a year in the wild, 11-18 years in captivity

Origin: China and East Asia.

Diet: Seeds, grain, shoots and insects. They are omnivores.

Predators: Humans, foxes, raccoons, skunks, feral cats, hawks and owls.

Habitat: Grassland.

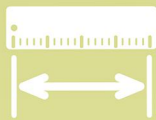


*The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016. Downloaded 22.03.19



Weight Males

1-1.7kg



Length

53-89cm



Top Speed (flying)

60mph

Weight Females

750g-1.2kg

DID YOU KNOW?

Pheasants are large, long-tailed game birds often used for the shooting sport.

Around 20 million pheasants are released in Britain every year for shooting.

Males are golden-brown with black markings on their bodies and tails and a green head and red face. They have long tails. Females are a mottled pale brown and black with much shorter tails.

ADAPTATIONS

Pheasants have excellent eyesight and hearing to protect themselves from predators. During the summer they breathe rapidly to keep their body temperature low. They are good swimmers and can escape from predators by taking to the water.

REPRODUCTION

Males often breed with around 6 females a year. After mating, the males have nothing more to do with the incubating or raising of the chicks. Females nest on the ground. They lay around 12 eggs over a 2-3 week period between April and June. The incubation period is around 23 days. The chicks can feed themselves soon after hatching but will remain with the hen until around 80 days when they will become independent. At around 12 days old their feathers will have developed and they will be able to fly.

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