

Lady Amherst's Pheasant

Scientific Name: *Chrysolophus amherstiae*

Class: Aves

Order: Galliformes

Family: Phasianinae



Lady Amherst's Pheasant is native to southwestern China and northern Myanmar. The adult male is 100 to 120 cm (39 to 46 in) in length, with the tail making up about 80 cm of the total length. The bird weighs between 1.5 and 2 pounds. It has a nuchal black and white cape with a red crest. They have long black and white tails with a rump that is red, blue, dark green, white and yellow plumage. The "cape" can be raised for display. They are closely related to the golden pheasant but has a yellow eye with blue-green bare skin around it. The bill is horn-colored and the legs are blue-gray. The female is far less showy to aid in camouflage.

She has duller mottled brown plumage all over but with finer barring than

most common female pheasants. In comparison to the female golden pheasant, she has a darker head and cleaner underparts. The life span of the Lady Amherst's pheasant is 6 to 10 years in the wild but can survive up to 15 years in captivity. They are predominantly ground dwelling birds, roosting in trees at night, preferring to run rather than fly.

Range

The Lady Amherst's pheasant is native to southwest China and northern Myanmar.

Habitat

Lady Amherst's pheasants are found in dense, dark forested areas with thick undergrowth and bamboo thickets.

Gestation

After the female lays the eggs, she will incubate them for 23 to 24 days.

Litter

The hen lays 6 to 12 creamy buff eggs with each breeding cycle.

Behavior

Even though the male has a showy appearance, there is very little known of their behavior in the wild. They feed on the ground on grain, leaves, and invertebrates during the day. At night they can be found roosting in the trees. While they can fly, they prefer to run although if startled can burst upwards at a great speed.

Reproduction

They reach breeding age in their second year. The male has a gruff call during the breeding season. The breeding season starts in May. The female hen lays 6 to 12 eggs which she incubates for 23 or 24 days. Since the pairs tend to be monogamous, the male will sometimes help in rearing the young.

Wild Diet

In the wild their diet consists of seeds, berries, and roots.