



Weekender

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June 4, 2010

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We can not say “THANKS” enough for all those who spent so many hours working on the garage sale both before, after and during!

Also we are very grateful for all of the donations that made the sale a great success.

We raised over \$ 1500.00 for the 306th Bridge Site project.

If you have not been by to see the progress you should drive by! It is developing into a beautiful area for all our members to enjoy!

The Flag and Veterans plaque dedication will be June 14, 2010 at 11:00 A.M. we hope to see you there!

Be sure and visit our web site
at
<http://www.surfsideonline.org/>





Fire crew getting ready to douse the fire.

I took the attached photo at the training burn on G Street, Saturday, May 22. I thought this photo really looked great.

Rob Miller

30517 G Street



Garage Sale!

The Memorial Day garage sale was a great success! Friday was rainy and cold (more like a February day than the end of May), but it did not keep the shoppers away. Saturday weather wise showed a little more promise, and the shoppers arrived at the stroke of nine!

The proceeds from this year's sale will help with the expenses of the 306th Bridge Site Veteran's Park.

Left are pictures of the garage sale, shoppers and worker bees!

Below is a picture of the new concrete picnic table being delivered and set up



Mark your calendars for the Flag and Veterans Memorial Dedication Ceremony June 14, 2010 at 11:00 am., at the 306th Bridge site on I Street.



Waikiki Beach Concert Series

Cape Disappointment State Park
Saturday afternoons, 2 pm
These concerts are FREE,
thanks to our sponsors.

6/12	Trashean Joe <small>Homemade music with a bit of tradition and a lot of soul</small>
6/26	Retroactive Gamma Rays <small>Vintage-yet modern surf melodies from Lincoln City, Oregon</small>
7/10	The Blackberry Bushes Stringband <small>2nd place winners in the 2009 Telluride Bluegrass Festival band contest in Colorado</small>
7/24	Double J and the Boys <small>Long Beach Peninsula locals make us proud with their old-timey pickin' and grinnin'</small>
8/14	The Ian McFeron Band <small>Acoustic folk to alternative country blues from Seattle, Washington</small>




FMI: (360) 642-3029

Clever Hints

Flexible Vacuum: To get something out of a heat register or under the fridge add an empty paper towel roll or empty gift wrap roll to your vacuum. It can be bent or flattened to get in narrow openings.

Reducing Static Cling: Pin a small safety pin to the seam of your slip and you will not have a clingy skirt or dress. Same thing works with slacks that cling when wearing panty hose. Place pin in seam of slacks and ta da! Static is gone.



Measuring Cups: Before you pour sticky substances into a measuring cup, fill with hot Water, dump out the hot water, but don't dry cup. Next, add your ingredients, such as peanut butter, and watch how easily it comes right out!



Pheasants

The **Common Pheasant** (*Phasianus colchicus*), is a bird in the pheasant family (Phasianidae). It is native to Russia and has been widely introduced elsewhere as a game bird. In parts of its range, namely in places where none of its relatives occur such as in Europe (where it is naturalized), it is simply known as the "**pheasant**". "**Ring-necked Pheasant**" is a collective name for a number of subspecies and their crossbreeds. As of 2005, it has the smallest known genome of all living amniotes, only 0.97 pg (970 million base pairs) .

It is a well-known gamebird, among those of more than regional importance perhaps the most widespread and ancient one in the whole world. The Common Pheasant is one of the world's most hunted birds it has been introduced for that purpose to many regions, and is also common on game farms where it is commercially bred. Ring-necked Pheasants in particular are commonly bred and were introduced to many parts of the world; the game farm stock, though no distinct breeds have been developed yet, can be considered semi-domesticated. The Ring-necked Pheasant is the state bird of South Dakota, one of only three US state birds that is not a species native to the United States.

The Green Pheasant (*P. versicolor*) of Japan is sometimes placed as subspecies within the Common Pheasant. Though the species produce fertile hybrids wherever they coexist, this is simply a typical feature among Galloanseres, in which postzygotic isolating mechanisms are slight compared to most other birds. The species apparently have somewhat different ecological requirements and at least in its typical habitat the Green outcompetes the Common Pheasant; its introduction to Japan has therefore largely failed.

There are many colour forms of the male Common Pheasant, ranging in colour from nearly white to almost black in some melanistic examples. These are due to captive breeding and hybridization between subspecies and with the Green Pheasant, reinforced by continually releases of stock from varying sources to the wild. For example, the "Ring-necked Pheasants" common in Europe, North America and Australia do not pertain to any specific taxon, they rather represent a stereotyped hybrid swarm. Body weight can range from 0.5 to 3 kg (1.1-6.6 lb), with males averaging 1.2 kg (2.6 lb) and females averaging 0.9 kg (2 lb).

The adult male Common Pheasant of the nominate subspecies *Phasianus colchicus colchicus* is 60–89 cm (24–35 in) in length with a long brown streaked black tail, accounting for almost 50 cm (20 in) of the total length. The body plumage is barred bright gold and brown plumage with green, purple and white markings. The head is bottle green with a small crest and distinctive red wattle. *P. c. colchicus* and some other races lack a white neck ring.



Pheasants

Flavistic hen

The female (hen) is much less showy, with a duller mottled brown plumage all over and measuring 50–63 cm (20–25 in) long including a tail of around 20 cm (8 in). Juvenile birds have the appearance of the female with a shorter tail until young males begin to grow characteristic bright feathers on the breast, head and back at about 10 weeks after hatching.

The Green Pheasant (*P. versicolor*) is very similar, and hybridization makes individual birds' identities often difficult to determine. Green Pheasant males are shorter-tailed on average and have a darker plumage that is uniformly bottle-green on the breast and belly; they always lack a neck ring. Their females are darker, with many black dots on the breast and belly.

In addition, various color mutations are commonly encountered, mainly melanistic (black) and flavistic (isabelline or fawn) specimens. The former are rather common in some areas and are named **Tenebrosus Pheasant** (*P. colchicus* var. *tenebrosus*).

Taxonomy and systematics



This species was first scientifically described by Linnaeus in his *Systema naturae* in 1758 under its current scientific name. The Common Pheasant is distinct enough from any other species known to Linnaeus for a laconic [*Phasianus*] *rufus*, *capite caeruleo* – "a red pheasant with blue head" – to serve as entirely sufficient description. Moreover, the bird had been extensively discussed before Linnaeus established binomial nomenclature. His sources are the *Ornithologia* of Ulisse Aldrovandi,^[6] Giovanni Pietro Olina's *Uccelliera*,^[7] John Ray's *Synopsis methodica Avium & Piscium*, and *A natural history of the birds* by Eleazar Albin.^[9] Therein – essentially the bulk of the ornithology textbooks of his day – the species is simply named "the pheasant" in the books' respective languages. Whereas in other species, such as the Eastern Meadowlark, Linnaeus felt it warranted to cite plumage details from his sources, in the Common Pheasant's case he simply referred to the reason of the bird's fame: *principum mensis dicatur*. The type locality is given simply as "Africa, Asia".

However, the bird does not occur in Africa, except perhaps in Linnaeus' time in Mediterranean coastal areas where they might have been introduced during the Roman Empire. The type locality was later fixed to the Rioni River – known as *Phasis* to the Ancient Greeks – where the westernmost population occurs. These birds, until the Modern Era, constituted the bulk of the introduced stock in Europe; the birds described by Linnaeus' sources, though typically belonging to such early introductions, would certainly have more alleles in common with the transcaucasian population than with others. The scientific name is Latin for "Pheasant from Colchis", *colchicus* referring to that region in the Caucasus; the Ancient Greek term corresponding to the English "pheasant" is *Phasianos ornīs* (Φασιανὸς ὄρνις), "bird of the river Phasis". Although Linnaeus included many Galliformes in his genus *Phasianus* – such as the domestic chicken and its wild ancestor the Red Junglefowl, nowadays *Gallus gallus* –, today only the Common and the Green Pheasant are placed in this genus. As the latter was not known to Linnaeus in 1758, the Common Pheasant is naturally the type species of *Phasianus*.

Pheasants

In the USA, Common Pheasants are widely known as "**Chinese Pheasants**" *Sturnella magna* though they are not the only pheasant species from China, nor the only Chinese pheasant that was attempted to introduce to North America, it is the only such bird that is common and widespread nowadays. More colloquial North American names include "**chinks**" or, in Montana, "**phezzens**". In China, meanwhile, the species is properly called **zhī jī** (雉鸡) – "pheasant-fowl" –, essentially implying the same as the English name "Common Pheasant". Like elsewhere, *P. colchicus* is such a familiar bird in China that it is usually just referred to as **shan jī** (山雞), "mountain chicken",^[14] a Chinese term for pheasants in general.



Hybrid male in Europe, intermediate between Mongolian Ringneck and Caucasus group phenotype

Subspecies

There are about 30 subspecies in five (sometimes six) groups. These can be identified according to the male plumage, namely presence or absence of a white neck-ring and the color of the uppertail (rump) and wing coverts. As noted above, introduced population in our time mix the alleles of various races in various amounts, differing according to the original stock used for introductions and what natural selection according to climate and habitat has made of that.



Caucasus Pheasant-type male



Mongolian Ringneck-type male



Chinese Ringneck-type male (note grey rump) with very pale female

Sometimes this species is split into the Central Asian Common and the East Asian Ring-necked Pheasants, roughly separated by the arid and high mountainous regions of Turkestan. However, while the western and eastern populations probably were entirely separate during the Zyryanka glaciation when deserts were more extensive,^[16] this separation was not long enough for actual speciation to occur. Today, the largest variety of color patterns is found where the western and eastern populations mix, as is to be expected. Females usually cannot be identified even to subspecies group with certainty.

The subspecies groups, going from west to east, are:

Phasianus colchicus colchicus group – **Caucasus Pheasants**

Caucasus to W Turkestan.

No neck ring. Wing coverts buff to brown, uppertail coverts rusty to chestnut.

Phasianus colchicus chrysomelas/principalis group – **White-winged Pheasants** including **Prince of Wales Pheasant** (*P. c. principalis*)

Central Turkestan.

No or vestigial neck ring. Wing coverts white, uppertail coverts and general plumage hue bronze to brown.

Phasianus colchicus mongolicus group – **Mongolian Ring-necked Pheasants** or **White-winged Ring-necked Pheasants**

NE Turkestan and adjacent Mongolia.

Broad neck ring. Wing coverts white, uppertail coverts hue rusty to chestnut, general plumage hue copper.

Phasianus colchicus tarimensis group – **Tarim Pheasants**

SE Turkestan around the Tarim Basin.

No or vestigial neck ring. Wing coverts buff to brown, uppertail coverts dark khaki to light olive.

Phasianus colchicus torquatus group – **Chinese Ring-necked Pheasants** including **Taiwan Pheasant** (*P. c. formosanus*)

Throughout China but widespread in the east, extending to northernmost Vietnam and Taiwan in the south and to the Strait of Tartary region in the north.

Usually broad neck ring. Wing coverts tan to light grey (almost white in some), uppertail coverts grey to powder blue with orange tips. Top of head light grey.



Resident pheasants
picture by George Yesalavich

Ecology



A startled male makes a dash for cover

Common Pheasants are native to Asia, their original range extending from between the Black and Caspian Seas to Manchuria, Siberia, Korea, Mainland China and Taiwan. The birds are found in woodland, farmland, scrub and wetlands. In its natural habitat the Common Pheasant lives in grassland near water with small copses of trees. Extensively cleared farmland is marginal habitat that cannot maintain self-sustaining populations for long.

Common Pheasants are gregarious birds and outside the breeding season form loose flocks. Wherever they are hunted they are always timid once they associate humans with danger, and will quickly retreat for safety after hearing the arrival of hunting parties in the area.



Chicks about 1 hour after hatching

While Common Pheasants are able short-distance fliers, they prefer to run. If startled however, they can suddenly burst upwards at great speed, with a distinctive "whirring" wing sound and often giving *kok kok kok* calls to alert conspecifics. Their flight speed is only 43-61 kilometres per hour (27 to 38 mph) when cruising but when chased they can fly up to 90 kilometres per hour (60 mph).

Common Pheasants feed solely on the ground but roost in sheltered trees at night. They eat a wide variety of animal and vegetable type-food, like fruit, seeds and leaves as well as a wide range of invertebrates, with small vertebrates like snakes, lizards, small mammals and birds occasionally taken.

The males are polygynous as is typical for many Phasianidae, and are often accompanied by a harem of several females. Common Pheasants nest on the ground, producing a clutch of around ten eggs over a two-three week period in April to June. The incubation period is about 23–26 days. The chicks stay near the hen for several weeks after hatching but grow quickly, resembling adults by only 15 weeks of age.

As introduced species



Although non-indigenous species, the Common Pheasant is farmed even in conservation areas, as seen here in Litovelské pomoraví protected landscape area.



Introduced birds sometimes forage in gardens



An English Cocker Spaniel has brought in the quarry

Common Pheasants can now be found across the globe due to their readiness to breed in captivity and the fact they can naturalise in many climates. Pheasants were hunted in their natural range by Stone Age humans just like the grouse, partridges, junglefowls and perhaps peacocks that inhabited Europe at that time. At least since the Roman Empire the bird was extensively introduced in many places and has become a naturalized member at least of the European fauna. Introductions in the Southern Hemisphere have mostly failed, except where local Galliformes or their ecological equivalents are rare or absent.

The bird was naturalized in Great Britain around the 10th century AD, arguably earlier, by both the Romano-British and the Normans, but became extirpated from most of the isles in the early 17th century. It was rediscovered as a gamebird in the 1830s after being ignored for many years. Since then it has been reared extensively by gamekeepers. Because around 30 million pheasants are released each year on shooting estates, it is widespread in distribution, although most released birds survive less than a year in the wild. The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust is researching the breeding success of reared pheasants and trying to find ways to improve this breeding success to reduce the demand to release as many reared pheasants and increase the wild population. As the original Caucasian stock all but disappeared during the Early Modern era, most dark-winged ringless birds in the UK are actually descended from Chinese Ringneck and Green Pheasant hybrids which were commonly used for rewilding.

Common Pheasants are bred to be hunted and are shot in great numbers in Europe, especially the UK, where they are shot on the traditional formal "driven shoot" principles, whereby paying guns have birds driven over them by beaters, and on smaller "rough shoots". The open season in the UK is 1 October - 1 February, under the Game Act 1831. Generally they are shot by hunters employing gun dog to help find, flush, and retrieve shot birds. Retrievers, spaniels, and pointing breeds are used to hunt pheasants.

The doggerel "Up gets a guinea, bang goes a penny-halfpenny, and down comes a half a crown" reflects the expensive sport of nineteenth century driven shoots in Britain, when pheasants were often shot for sport rather than as food. It was a popular royal pastime in Britain to shoot Common Pheasants. King George V shot over a thousand pheasants out of a total bag of 3937 over a six day period in December 1913, a total which still stands as the British record bag.

Common Pheasants are traditionally a target of small game poachers in the UK, but due to low value of pheasants in the modern day some have resorted to stealing chicks or poults from pens. The Roald Dahl novel *Danny the Champion of the World* dealt with a poacher (and his son) who lived in the United Kingdom and illegally hunted Common Pheasants.



Just hatched, in an egg incubator

Pheasant farming is a common practice, and is sometimes done intensively. Birds are supplied both to hunting preserves/estates and restaurants, with smaller numbers being available for home cooks. Pheasant farms have some 10 million birds^[citation needed] in the U.S. and 35 million in the United Kingdom.



For sale at Borough Market, London

The carcasses were often hung for a time to improve the meat by slight decomposition, as with most other game. Modern cookery generally uses moist roasting and farm-raised female birds. In the UK, game is making somewhat of a comeback in popular cooking, and more pheasants than ever are being sold in supermarkets there.¹

Pheasant hunting in North America

Most common pheasants bagged in the United States are wild-born feral pheasants; in some states captive-reared and released birds make up much of the population.

In many parts of the United States the common pheasant is seen as the premier upland game bird. Some states derive significant revenue from pheasant hunting. In most states only roosters can be legally hunted.

OTHER NEWS

1. June Newsletter to be mailed out the second week in June this mailing will include your proxy and proposed covenant changes.
2. Annual Membership Meeting coming up July 10, 2010 at the Ocean Park School.
3. Annual Membership Picnic following annual meeting July 10th meeting at approximately 1:00 PM at the Surfside Business Office.

JUNE 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Architectural Meeting 9:00 am	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Architectural Meeting 9:00 am 1:00 pm Community Relations Committee Meeting 6:30 Bunco	9 10:00 am. Prep for mailing Newsletter	10 RV Committee Meet- ing 9:00 am	11	12
13	14  Flag Dedication Ceremony 11:00 am 306th Bridge Site	15 Architectural Meeting 9:00 am	16	17	18	19 Board Meeting 9:00 am
20	21	22 Architectural Meeting 9:00 am Float meeting 1:00 pm	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Architectural Meeting 9:00 am	30			