

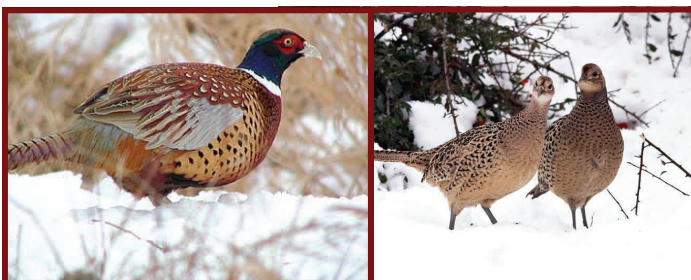


# RING-NECKED PHEASANT

*Phasianus colchicus*



The ring-necked pheasant is a medium-sized, chicken-like species that is a very popular game bird. Males are characterized by their colorful plumage. Although plumage coloration can vary according to subspecies, most individuals have a green head with bright red fleshy skin on the face. The neck has a white ring around it. The rest of the body consists of various shades of maroon, rust, gray, and orange. Females are mottled brown. Both species have very large tails that are often held semi-erect. Males defend groups of females from other males during the breeding season. In many areas of its range, this species must be re-stocked on an annual basis to sustain populations for hunting.



## SPECIES QUICK FACTS

### SIZE

The ring-necked pheasant reaches up to 36 inches in length from the head to the tip of the tail feather.

### WINGSPAN

The ring-necked pheasant has an average wingspan of 28 to 32 inches.

### FOOD HABITS

The ring-necked pheasant eats seeds (including grains), leaves, roots, fruits, and insects.

### HABITAT

The ring-necked pheasant is typically found in prairies and agricultural areas, especially when some adjacent cover is present.

### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The ring-necked pheasant was introduced into North America from Asia. It is now common in many areas of the United States.

### FUN FACT

The ring-necked pheasant prefers to run instead of flying to escape danger.