

Temminck's Tragopan

Tragopan temminckii

Class: *Aves*

Order: *Galliformes*

Family: *Phasianidae*

Characteristics:

Tragopans in general are sexually dimorphic, meaning males and females are different in appearance. The males are by far more brightly colored with black plumage marking the forehead, temples, and bordering a rich, vibrant blue skin. The blue skin on the neck can be expanded to display a wattle-like structure called a gular lappet with a complex array of blues and red. There are also two blue, fleshy horns that can only be seen during the courtship dance. The rest of the plumage of the head and neck is a light orange which changes to a brick red as the viewer scans down the body. The body feathers are marked with dull gray spots. The female's plumage is more for camouflage. Her plumage is mostly covered with browns and blacks with white marking some of her feathers in an almost pattern-like fashion.

Behavior:

Temmincks are somewhat transient when it comes to their location. During the summer, they inhabit the high forests of the Himalayas, but will move down in elevation during the winter. Usually solitary creatures until finding a mate when they form a monogamous pair.

Reproduction:

During the breeding season (March and April) to attract a female, a male will often perform a Courtship Dance which is comprised of unfurling and inflating the wattle-like gular lappet, inflating the two horns, fluffing up the plumage and flapping the wings accompanied by some head movements. If the male is successful in courting, the two will soon be incubating an average of three to five eggs (max 12) for 28 days in a nest built in a tree (which is highly unusual for a pheasant).

Diet:

Wild: flowers, grasses, berries, moss and some bugs

Zoo: Soft bill pellets, mixed vegetables, fruits, berries, and meal worms

Conservation:

Deforestation issues. Population is on the decline, but not at a rapid rate.

FYI:

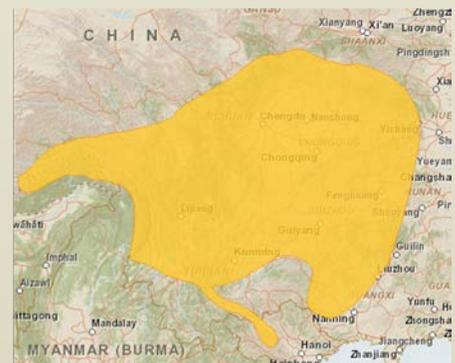
-Named after the Dutch naturalist Coenraad Jacob Temminck.

-Can be tamed rather easily.



Range & Habitat:

Forests of the Himalayan Mountains in China, Myanmar, India and Vietnam



Lifespan: up to 20 years in captivity, unknown in the wild.

Special Adaptations:

Sexually dimorphic

Male: Inflatable horns and gular lappet

IUCN Conservation Status:

Least Concern

