

## Green Peafowl

### *Pavo muticus*

Family: Phasianidae, Genus: *Pavo*  
Recognized Subspecies: 3  
Conservation status: Endangered  
Wild Pop. Trend: Decreasing  
CITES Appendix II  
USFWS: Not Listed

**Range:** South-east Asia  
China, Lao People's Democratic  
Republic, Myanmar, Thailand,  
Viet Nam, and Indonesia (Java)  
Regionally extinct in Bangladesh, India, and Malaysia.



Green Peafowl male  
Photo credit: Joel Sartore

**Conservation Concern:** The Green Peafowl is listed as endangered by the IUCN. Although this species has a giant range, the greatest conservation concern is habitat fragmentation. Habitat conversion for palm oil plantations is one of the greatest and increasing threats to this species.

**Species account:** The Green Peafowl is the largest species of pheasant. The striking coloration and large size of this species makes it a very popular species with the public. Peafowl are already a familiar and sought-after species by our public because of their familiarity with the Indian Blue Peafowl. The taxonomy of this species is not well understood, and although there are 3 subspecies currently recognized, there are varying theories on whether these three subspecies represent actual species or if there are more subspecies. With the regional extinction of this species in the countries of India and Malaysia, diversity of this species has already been lost. If you are interested in housing Green Peafowl, please be sure to avoid the "Spaulding" type as these are (Green X Blue Peafowl) species hybrids.

**AZA Role:** The increasing threat to this species is habitat conversion for palm oil agriculture. This threat to pheasants and other bird species needs to be highlighted more in AZA institutions. Even though the taxonomy of what birds are found in the U.S. private sector and AZA institutions is not known, this species is Endangered in the wild and is a strong ambassador for a threatened biome. There is never going to be a chance to get founder birds from the wild and there is a strong need to concentrate on the peafowl in captive collections.

**TAG Monitored Goals:** This species was recommended as an unmanaged program in the last RCP, but population growth was minimal. Over this RCP period, the TAG would like to increase interest and awareness of this species in AZA collections. This species cannot be housed at liberty like the Indian Blue Peafowl as they do not establish a home range and will fly off (which is one of the reason this species has not been popular). Disney's Animal Kingdom has managed specimens with trimmed wings in mixed hoofstock species enclosures. The TAG would like to investigate these spaces to allow the population to grow and increase awareness of this species.

## Education Emphasis

- Habitat fragmentation
- Palm oil plantations
- Sexual dimorphism

**AZA Connections:** The following table is not a guide of what the Green Peafowl can be housed with (although many of these are a possibility), but instead it is meant show the range connections between other AZA recommended program species.



Green Peafowl hen  
Photo credit: Joel Sartore

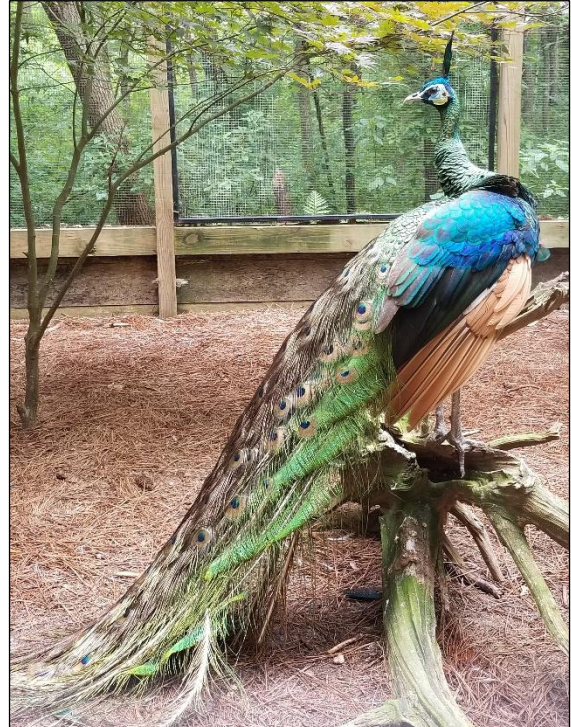
Green Peafowl <i>Pavo muticus</i> recommended species by other TAGs within species range				
Common name	Scientific name	TAG	Program	Conservation status
Hooded Pitta	<i>Pitta sordida</i>	PACCT TAG	Red SSP	Least Concern
Fairy Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	PACCT TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
Common Shama Thrush	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	PACCT TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
White-crested Laughing Thrush	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>	PACCT TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
Red-billed Leiothrix	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>	PACCT TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
Scarlet-faced Liocichla	<i>Liocichla ripponi</i>	PACCT TAG	Candidate	Least Concern
White-breasted Wood Swallow	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>	PACCT TAG	Candidate	Least Concern
Red-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythrorhynchos</i>	PACCT TAG	Red SSP	Least Concern
Golden-crested Mynah	<i>Ampeliceps coronatus</i>	PACCT TAG	Red SSP	Least Concern
Java Sparrow	<i>Lonchura oryzivora</i>	PACCT TAG	TAG Monitored	Vulnerable
Black-naped Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus melanospilus</i>	PACCT TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
Jambu Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus jambu</i>	Columbiformes TAG	Yellow SSP	Near Threatened
Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	Columbiformes TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
Pink-headed Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus porphyreus</i>	Columbiformes TAG	Candidate	Least Concern
Chestnut-breasted Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus curvirostris</i>	Turaco and Cuckoo TAG	TAG Monitored	Least Concern
Rose-ringed Parrot	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Parrot TAG	TAG Monitored	Least Concern
Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>	Parrot TAG	TAG Monitored	Least Concern
Milky Stork	<i>Mycteria cinerea</i>	Ciconiiformes TAG	Red SSP	Endangered
Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	Ciconiiformes TAG	Red SSP	Near Threatened
Storm's Stork	<i>Ciconia stormi</i>	Ciconiiformes TAG	Red SSP	Endangered
White-winged Wood Duck	<i>Asarcornis scutulata</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Yellow SSP	Endangered
Indian Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Red SSP	Least Concern
Lesser Indian Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhynchos</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Baer's Pochard	<i>Aythya baeri</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Phase-in	Critically Endangered
Old World Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Phase-in	Least Concern

**\*\*Disclaimer:** this information was collected in 2017. If you have interest in any of these species, contact the perspective TAGs. All range overlap information was determined using the IUCN Red List range maps.

**Conservation priority species that share the same range.**

- Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus*
- Indochinese Tiger *Panthera t. tigris*
- Malay Tapir *Tapirus indicus*

If your institution is supporting a field project for one of these species, see if your conservation partner is observing the Green Peafowl in their study/ field site. If your Zoo displays one of the following species, the addition of an aviary for Green Peafowl can illustrate the diversity of this biome at your institution and highlight an endangered bird.



Male Green peafowl at Sylvan Heights Bird Park  
*Photo credit: Gen Anderson*