

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Galliformes
Scientific Name: *Polyplectron napoleonis*

Family: Phasianidae
Common Name: Palawan Peacock-pheasant

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

Circadian Cycle: Diurnal Crepuscular Nocturnal Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

Cold Tolerance: To 70° F To 60° F To 50° F To 40° F
 To 30° F To 20° F Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F To 50° F To 70° F To 90° F
 To 110° F Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

Diet: Frugivore Carnivore Piscivore Insectivore
 Nectivore Omnivore Folivore Other (Add Below)

Captive Dietary Needs:

The primary offering should be a gamebird maintenance pellet mixed with chopped fruit and greens. Insects, such as crickets or mealworms, may also be offered.

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: unknown Females: unknown

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: Median: 8.3 years Max: 24.6 years Females: Median: 6.4 years Max: 21.8 years

Species Fact Sheets

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 1 year Females: 1 year

Courtship Displays: The breeding display is attractive and resembles that of larger peafowl species. The male attempts to attract the female by holding food in his beak while head bobbing, then dropping the food for her. He will then erect his crest feathers and fan out his tail.

Nest Site Description: These birds nest on the ground by digging out a scape to lay the eggs in.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 1-2 eggs, buff colored

Incubation Period: 19 days

Fledgling Period: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Parental Care: The hen will brood the chicks and call chicks over to food. Chicks are able to find food on their own after several days, but the female will continue to protect them for several weeks.

Chick Development: Chicks are precocial. Initial growth is slow and chicks may take 7 days to break hatch weight. Chicks are brooded until they are able to thermoregulate on their own. Juvenile plumage resembles female plumage for at least 4 months.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Can be found in pairs or small groups.

Social Structure in Captivity: Birds can be housed individually, but pairs are preferred. Males can become aggressive towards each other, so it is not recommended to have multiple adult males housed together.

Minimum Group Size: 1

Maximum Group Size: 3

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes **Comments:** They can be housed with Passerines, such as Bali Mynah or Laughing Thrush. It is not recommended that they be housed with other Galliformes.

Optimal Habitat Size: The enclosure width should be a minimum of 5 feet and a length of 10 feet.

Management Challenges: Hens should be encouraged to parent-rear their own young, however, males can sometimes become aggressive toward chicks and may need to be housed separately.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

This is a sexually dimorphic, charismatic species. The males are colorful, very active, and display to females regularly. This is a relatively small pheasant species with a similar display to larger peafowl species, so they

Species Fact Sheets

are great exhibit animals for smaller areas. They can be housed with other species, such as Passerines.

The male *P. napoleonis* is 50 cm (tail 24-25 cm) with an average weight around 436 g. The male can be described as follows: mantle consists of shiny green and blue feathers with black underparts, the face consists of a distinctive black and white pattern, there is a long, pointed crest.

The female is 40 cm (tail 16.5-17 cm) with a weight around 322 g. The female is typically brown with scattered buff markings, face and throat are brownish-white in color; and there are ill-defined black subterminal patches on the tail.

The wild population was estimated to number fewer than 10,000 individuals in 1995 (McGowan and Garson 1995). However, more recent estimates from Puerto Princes Subterranean River National Park suggest that the population may be estimated to be between 20,000 and 50,000 individuals (Mallari et al. 2011). The Palawan Peacock-pheasant is still thought to be declining and is classified as Vulnerable by IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN Red List 2008).

Threats to the wild Palawan Peacock-pheasant population have included deforestation due to excessive logging and mining, agricultural encroachment, hunting, and trapping for live trade (Mallari et al. 2011). The entire island of Palawan has been classified as a game reserve since 1983. Despite hunting being illegal, the laws are not enforced effectively. These threats can be tied in to any institution's conservation messaging regarding these topics. The species conservation message can be detailed within zoo graphics or relayed during chats.

The Palawan Peacock-pheasant has been known as both *Polyplectron emphanum* or *Polyplectron napoleonis*. *Polyplectron napoleonis* is the preferred taxonomy.

CITES: Appendix 1

IUCN Status: Vulnerable

Species Fact Sheets

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