



Temminck's Tragopan

Order: Galliformes
Family: Phasianidae
Genus: *Tragopan*
Species: *temminckii*



Range: Northern South Asia, from northeast India, northwest Vietnam, Tibet and northern provinces of China.

Habitat: Evergreen and mixed forest between 3,000 and 12,000 feet above sea level; with bamboo and rhododendron

Niche: mainly terrestrial, mainly herbivorous, diurnal

Wild diet: berries, grass and plants with an occasional insect

Zoo diet:

Life Span: (Wild)
(Captivity)

Sexual dimorphism: sexually dichromatic

Location in SF Zoo: Short bird string

APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

The temminck's tragopan is a medium-sized, pheasant with short tails. The male is a stocky red-and-orange bird with white-spotted plumage, black bill and pink legs. The head is black, forming a mask around the blue facial skin that is extended during courtship; these lappets are patterned in shades of blue with contrasting strokes of red. Males also have and **two fleshy, horn-like projections above the eyes**. The female is a white-spotted brown bird with blue circular eye skin.

Pheasants are strong runners with short legs. Their short rounded wings allow them to fly for short distances to escape danger. Pheasants use their stout bill and four-toed clawed feet to scratch the dirt and leaf litter adapted to uncover seeds and insects in the ground.

Weight: M 3 lbs – 3 lbs 3 oz F 1lb 16oz – 2lb 4 oz
Length: M 25.2 in F 22.8 in
Wingspan:

STATUS & CONSERVATION

The temminck's tragopan is widespread and a common species throughout its large habitat range. It is listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

This species is becoming increasingly threatened as humans and their livestock invade and encroach upon its forests. Over-grazing and understory cutting is destroying and degrading its habitat, while egg-collecting and hunting for its colorful feathers also pose a threat. Fortunately, Temminck's tragopan is recorded in over 30 protected areas in China, and in Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary in northeast India.

TEMMINCK'S TRAGOPAN

COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR

These shy, elusive birds live singly or in pairs. Unlike most of its pheasant relatives, temminck's tragopan prefers to nest in trees a few feet off the ground, although it spends most of the daytime on the ground scratching for food.

This species migrates vertically up and down the mountain slopes according to the seasons, spending the cold winters at lower altitudes, and moving to higher altitudes as the temperature rises during spring.

COURTSHIP AND YOUNG

The mating season begins in early May. Courting males attempt to entice females by inflating the large, brightly-colored patch on the throat, erecting the two long fleshy horns above the eyes, fanning the tail and performing an impressive dancing display. The nest of dry leaves and branches lined with feathers is made in a tree.

The precocial young are raised by the female, they develop quickly and are able to fly just days after hatching. The female remains with the chicks for about a month to six weeks, until they are able to feed themselves and are capable of climbing to safety in trees.

Incubation:	26 - 28 days	Sexual Maturity:	2 years
# of Eggs:	3 - 5	Fledging:	~ 1 week

MISCELLANEOUS

The temminck's tragopan is named for Dutch ornithologist Coenraad Jacob Temminck (1778-1858).

Temminck's tragopan is distinguished from the satyr tragopan by its all red upperbody plumage and orange collar.

Sources:

created 9/2013

Handbook of the Birds of the World, Vol II © 1996 Josep del Hoya, Lynx Edicions.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life/Temminck's_Tragopan

<http://www.arkive.org/temmincks-tragopan/tragopan-temminckii/#text=All>

<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/speciesfactsheet.php?id=240>