

# Germain's Peacock-Pheasant

By Solomon Turner  
Staff Writer

*Polyplectron germaini* is a spectacular endemic species native to Indo-China where it persists in very small regions in Vietnam and Cambodia. In this area the largest sub-populations can be found in the scattered forested wildlife preserves.

The habitat for these birds includes mountainous regions covered in secondary and disturbed forests as well as dipterocarp, a large dominant tree species in Asia, evergreen and semi-evergreen and bamboo forests.

Their coloration is largely what you expect when thinking of peacocks and peacocks. The majority of their feathers are light grey with white speckling. On their tails and wings, peacock-like eyes provide elegant and elaborate ornamentation. These eyes are dark but iridescent greenish blue, often times purple.

Males, standing around 56 to 60 centimeters tall, have a dark head with small pale white bars on the upper part of the neck. They lack a feather crest on their head but on their face striking blood-red skin is visible. The eyes on their feathers are larger than the females.

Females, standing around 48 centimeters tall, are more uniform in coloration with small and slightly pointed eyes on their feathers. They too have the red facial skin but have more distinct barring and speckling on the feathers.

According to Red Data Book: Threatened Birds of Asia, the diet and breeding patterns of these birds in the wild are largely unknown, and research is still needed. The lack of specific

information may be due to the diverse range of species of *Polyplectron* genus and the lack of funding for research. It is known however that the breeding season does encamp the February and April months.

In captivity, the breeding pattern of these birds is year-round. The female will lay a new clutch of eggs, usually one to two eggs, once the previous young is able to fend for itself.

*Polyplectron germaini* is classified by the IUCN Red List as "Near Threatened" due to its small and declining population and range. According to Bird Life International the

estimated total population of these pheasants is around 10,000. The rapid decline of these birds is hypothesized by researcher Nick Brickle and Johnathan Eames to be due to the local high hunting pressure and steady habitat loss.

The threats to these birds historically have come from major deforestation and forest fragmentation. The coffee and cashew industries have also caused swaths of forests to be cleared for agricultural purposes. Illegal hunting, logging and trapping still pose a substantial threat to their populations, even within preserves.



*Polyplectron germaini* sitting at a water bowl.

# Good news: Quarantine puppies

By Caroline Hoy  
Staff Writer

Recently something very nice has happened at the animal shelters. The shelters have not had enough dogs and cats. People have been adopting what has become known as quarantine puppies and kittens.

With everyone sheltering in place at home with nothing to do, they have a lot of time to spend with a new friend. If this quarantine keeps up who knows, all pets could end up being adopted out of shelters. The adoptions have gotten so high that some shelters don't have any more animals to adopt.

On Instagram the #quarantinepuppy has over 5,000 results and even more results on TikTok. It has become a trend on TikTok to post

getting new toys, food and then the new puppy. Adopting a puppy has been very popular.

The truth of this story is that even when the world seems to be falling apart there is still some good in it. But of course there is some negative

to this story. To go out and adopt the animals people risk contracting or spreading COVID-19.

Adopting can lift spirits and give animals homes but think about yours and others' safety before making the decision.



Photo courtesy of Pinterest.com