



**LEAGUE**  
AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

# BEAUTIFUL BIRDS

A guide to glorious 'game' birds





**Pheasant**

(*Phasianus colchicus*)





# Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)

- Although native to south-central Europe and south-east Asia, pheasants were first recorded in the UK in medieval times.
- Their feather colourings can vary from a soft green, brown or orange to a more exotic tint of pink and purple.
- A pheasant's body length can measure anything from 53cm to 89cm, but their long tails can measure up to 20cm for females and an impressive 50cm for males.
- You are likely to find them grazing on anything from seeds to small mammals.
- Pheasants are protected by The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.



# Red-legged Partridge

(*Alectoris rufa*)





# Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*)

- Commonly known as the french partridge, the red-legged partridge is native to south-west Europe but were first recorded in the UK in 1770.
- They have a distinctive large white chin and throat patch surrounded by a black border with very pink or red coloured legs - hence the name 'red-legged' partridge!
- The red-legged partridge can measure from 32 to 34cm and weighs about as much as a half a bag of sugar (500g).
- If you enjoy walking through woodlands, grasslands or heathlands you may be lucky enough to see one foraging for seeds and roots.
- The red-legged partridge is protected by The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

# Red Grouse

(*Lagopus lagopus*)





# Red Grouse (*Lagopus lagopus*)

- Whilst the red grouse is a bird native to the UK, it is more commonly spotted in the north of England and Scotland.
- Aptly named the 'red' grouse, the hue of red and brown feathers gives it a warm appearance.
- Considered a medium sized bird, its length can vary between 37cm and 42cm with an extraordinary wingspan of 55cm to 66cm – impressive considering its petite body.
- You can expect to see the red grouse feeding exclusively on heather which is a low growing evergreen shrub typically found on upland expanses of land.
- The red grouse has a UK conservation status of Amber, meaning it is of 'Conservation Concern' according to the RSPB.

**Did you know?** During breeding time in February and March, male red grouse can be heard across moorland, making their distinctive call 'Go back! Go back! Go back!'

**League Against Cruel Sports**

New Sparling House  
Holloway Hill  
Godalming  
GU7 1QZ

01483 524 250

[supportercare@league.org.uk](mailto:supportercare@league.org.uk)

[www.league.org.uk](http://www.league.org.uk)



League Against Cruel Sports is a registered charity in England and Wales (no. 1095234) and Scotland (no. SC045533)