

KOKLASS PHEASANT



Photo: Jean Howman

The Koklass Pheasant, *Pucrasia macrolopha*, also known as the Koklass Trogopan, is elusive and only occurs in high altitude forests from Afghanistan to central Nepal, and in north-eastern Tibet to northern and eastern China.

The upper-parts of the male Koklass Pheasant are covered with silver-grey plumage with the centre of each feather streaked with velvety-black. The head is black with conspicuous white patches on the sides of neck. The breast is chestnut. Females differ from males in that their upper-parts are covered with pale brown plumage. Both sexes have elongated tails tipped with pale feathers. Males weigh between 1135-1415g (2.5-3.2lbs) and females 1025-1135g (2.25-2.5lbs). Immatures and juveniles are pale versions of the female.



Photo: with permission of Krissy Bush[©]



Male Western Tragopan

Like the Western Tragopan, the Koklass does not extend its range above the tree line. Its normal altitude range being 2,400 to 3,000 meters (8,000 to 10,000 feet).

One of the less colourful pheasants, this species exhibits moderate sexual dimorphism. They are notorious for skulking under bushes, which makes observation difficult. However, they give loud predawn calls during the breeding season and during autumn, which reveal their presence. They remain in pairs or small family groups throughout the year. They nest on the ground and spend the nights roosting in trees, or under rock overhangs.

R.V.C. with help from Wikipedia