

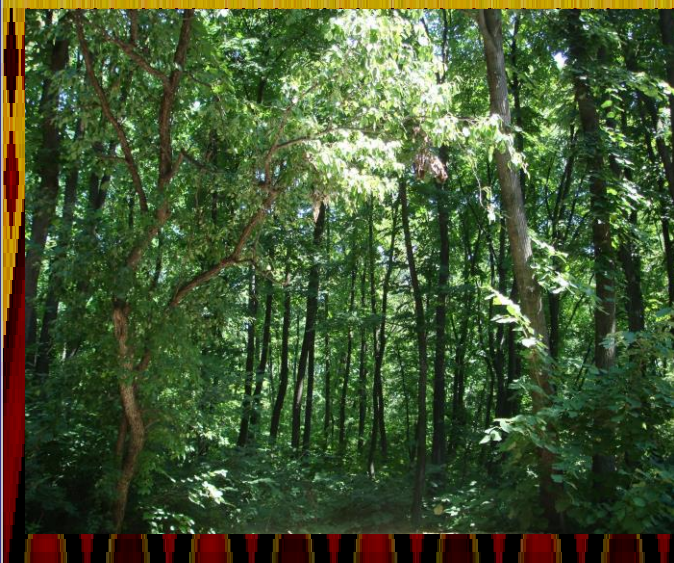
# Lady Amherst's Pheasant

*Chrysolophus amherstiae*

The Lady Amherst's Pheasant is native to south-western China and Burma, but has been introduced elsewhere, and has established a self-supporting, but declining, feral population in England.

Despite the male's showy appearance, these birds are very difficult to see in their natural habitat, which is dense, dark forests with thick undergrowth. Consequently, little is known of their behaviour in the wild. The name commemorates Sarah Countess Amherst, wife of William Pitt Amherst, Governor General of Bengal, who was responsible for sending the first specimen of the bird to London in 1828.

They feed on the ground on grain, leaves and invertebrates, but roost in trees at night. Whilst they can fly, they prefer to run, but if startled they can suddenly burst upwards at great speed, with a distinctive wing sound.



**Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Weight:** 800 – 1 100 g

**Size:** 100 - 120 cm (including 80cm tail for males)

**Breeding Season:** September - March

**Incubation Period:** 23 - 24 Days

**Number of Chicks:** 6 - 12

**Diet:** Grains, Leaves and Insects.

**Problems They Face:** Habitat destruction, trapping for trade.

**Conservation Status:** Not Globally Threatened – Common through most of their range