

Chakor

Chukar Partridge

Scientific name: *Alectoris chukar*

National Bird of Pakistan

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Chukar is also known as gamebird.

Attractive bird

The black and white stripes decorate the wings.

The black band runs across the eyes.

The upper body and head feathers of the chukar are brown.

Legs are red.

The face is white.

The beak is short, strong, and orange in color.



Characters

Living

They prefer to live with a group of 5-40 members called coveys

Average Lifespan

2-5 years in wild

Flying Speed

45 to 60 mph

Foods

Seeds, roots, grass, grain, insects, fruit



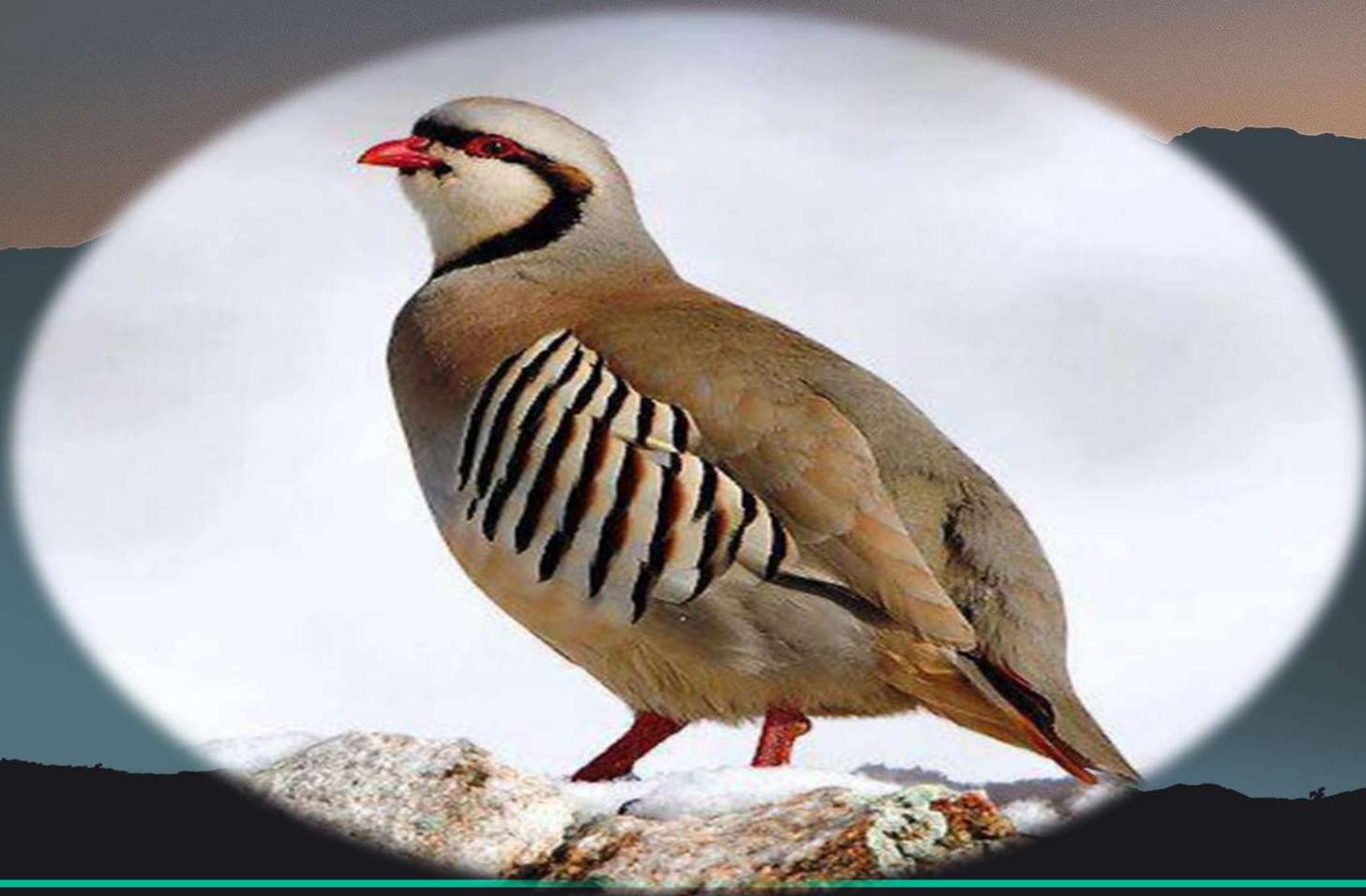
Chukor size

Male weight: 510 – 800 g

Female weight: 450 – 680 g

Height:

32 – 39 cm



Wingspan: 47 – 52

Habitat

They usually occur on steep, rocky hillsides with a mixture of brush, grasses, and forbs.

They also occur across barren plateaus and deserts with sparse grasses.

Chukars tend not to stray far from water, especially during the short, hot summers.

Individuals move continuously and range widely, especially during winter when birds move in groups.

In tough winters with heavy snowfalls, Chukars may venture down into agricultural fields or towns in search of food.



Food

Chukars are ground foragers and are predominantly vegetarian as adults; chicks are fed mainly insects.

In North America, Chukars' preferred foods are the leaves and seeds of annual and perennial grasses (primarily introduced cheatgrass).

Chukars also eat seeds from pinyon pine, sunflower, rough fiddleneck, and tansy mustard.

During the late fall and winter, green grass leaves provide the bulk of their diet.



Nesting

NEST PLACEMENT

Chukars hide their nests near rocks and brush on mountain slopes, or under sagebrush, saltbush, goldenbush, or desert tea.

NEST DESCRIPTION

Chukar nests are simple depressions scratched in the ground and lined with dry grasses and breast feathers.

One nest measured in British Columbia had an outside diameter of about 8 inches and was 2 inches deep.

Females do most of the nest tending, although males sometimes stay with their mates and help during the nesting season.

NESTING FACTS

Clutch Size:	10-21 eggs
Number of Broods:	1 brood
Egg Length:	1.5-1.9 in (3.7-4.8 cm)
Egg Width:	1.2-1.3 in (3-3.2 cm)
Egg Description:	Pale white to coffee colored, with purplish, reddish, or yellowish brown spots.
Condition at Hatching:	Covered in down, eyes open, able to leave the nest and feed soon after hatching



Behavior

Chukars spend most of their time on the ground, only taking flight for short distances when threatened.

Their alert and vocal nature make them sentinels for approaching danger, and they have distinct calls for both ground and overhead predators.

Birds roost on the ground, often tucked under vegetation or a rock.

Chukars are monogamous and males hold territories during the breeding period.

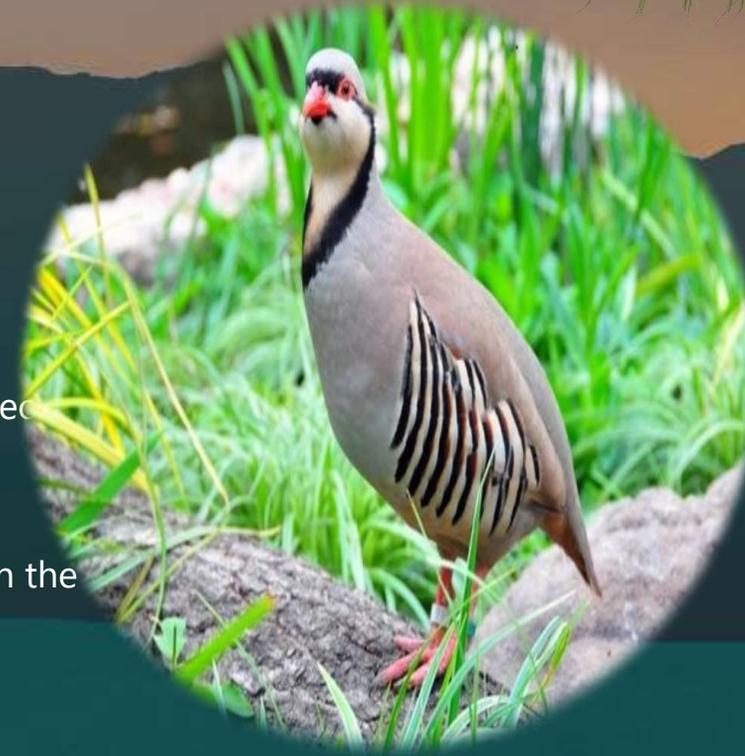
Courtship displays often begin with calling by the male and female.

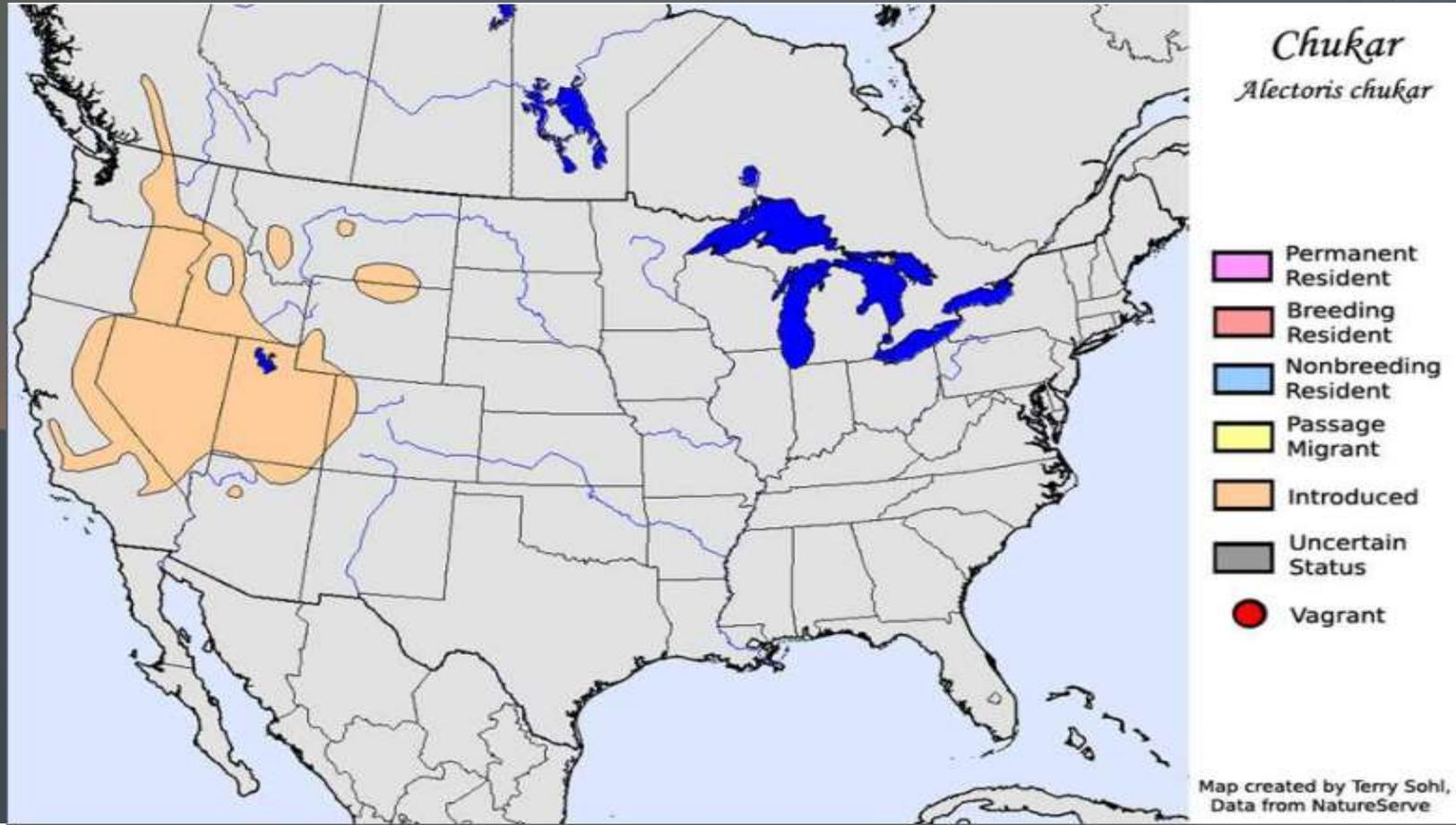
The male then performs a mixture of poses and behaviors, including tilting his head, turning sideways, pecking at objects, and circling the female, sometimes with a wing held low sweeping the ground.

The male typically leaves the female after the eggs are laid, though a small percentage of males stay with the family group.

Chukars are social birds and form family groups called coveys that can grow to include multiple families. Unmated adults of both sexes may also form a covey.

During years of drought, adults may stay in these coveys all year, with only a few individuals pairing up to breed.





Chukor lived in the U.S. and parts of Asia.