



FACTSHEET

Peafowl



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Common Name: Indian Peafowl
(Peacock)

Scientific Name: *Pavo cristatus*

Conservation Status: Not listed under IUCN (2016). All Rottnest Island's fauna is protected under the *Rottnest Island Authority Act 1987*.

Habitat: Settlement area.

Body length: male: 180-230cm

Weight: 2.7-6.0 kg

Gestation period: 28 days

Number of young: 1-5 (3-5 eggs)

Description:

The male Peafowl is much larger and ornate than the female. His head has a fan-shaped crest. He has a royal blue neck, breast and head. His back is bright green and he has long tail feathers which he raises in a fan. These tail feathers have an 'eye' at their tips which is made up of dark blue centre surrounded by a thin band of royal blue, a larger band of copper brown and a thin band of green. The male has a dark green

underside and his bill, feet and legs are grey. Although you will not see a female (Peahen) on Rottnest, they are smaller in size, lack the train and have plumage that is much duller and brown in colour.

Peafowl are large birds which spend most of their time on foot, although they can fly when necessary. They forage on the ground for berries and seeds and prey on small insects and reptiles. They have a loud, trumpeting scream-like call.

Diet:

Seeds, berries, insects, small lizards and snakes.

In the Wild:

Like its name suggests, this species of Peafowl is originally from South Asia. Peafowl were introduced to Rottnest in 1912. Pre-1990 a large population of peafowl could be found on the eastern tip of the Island around the settlement areas. They were particularly common near Kingstown Barracks as the Army staff used to feed them.

In late 1992 and 1993 the Rottnest Island Authority started a campaign to remove the Peafowl from the Island as they were becoming a pest.

The Island keeps a population of up to five as they are considered to be of significant value to Rottnest's heritage and visitors. Rottnest Island welcomed two juvenile male Peafowl to the Kingstown precinct. They were placed in quarantine to protect the local wildlife and were released into the wild in September 2015.

The Peafowl forage on the ground.

Threats:

- Human impact on diet and habitat

DID YOU KNOW?

The peafowl species is a native of India. The birds were introduced to Rottnest Island in 1912 as gift to the Governor.

The males use their beautiful tails to attract a mate and threaten competition.

Only male peafowl (peacock) are found on Rottnest.

HOW CAN I HELP?

So that the birds remain healthy and happy, please don't disturb, feed or approach the peacocks.