

BLACK GROUSE

TETRAO TETRIX

DISTINGUISHING MARKS:

Black grouse male has blue black, white top-to-bottom stripe in the wings and lyre shaped tail's lower deck feathers are white.

During the courtship there is a big red gill under male's eye. Female is more modest; coloured rust yellow and black, tail has a notch shaped end. Length: male 55 cm, female 45 cm. Weight: male 1-1,3 kg, female about 1 kg.

PREVALENCE:

In the whole country except in the northernmost part of Lapland.

HABITAT:

Grouse lives on marsh lands, open fields and in the birch groves shattered by watercourses or logging.

LIFE STYLES:

In summer stays mostly on the ground, in wintertime as a swarm in the birchwood, spends the night in the snow. Place bird.

NOURISHMENT:

Sprout of the wands, buds, seeds, grass and berries.

BREEDING:

In April-May cocks assemble to the courtship places in small hours and at the time of the sunrise. Nest of the black grouse is usually by the foot of the conifer or under branches. The female lays 7-10 light yellowish eggs, which are bathed 25-27 days. Chicks follow rather quickly their mother. Grouse plays broken-winged when threatened.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE POPULATION:

Annual variation of the population large.

HUNTING:

The most common and most hunted of our fowl. Hunting time September-October.

