

RED GROUSE

Cearc Fhraoigh *Lagopus lagopus*

Red grouse are sedentary birds, spending their entire lives in the same area. They are reluctant to fly, relying on their plumage as camouflage against the Heather. However when flushed, they explode into a strong, rapid flight low across the Heather.

Description: The red grouse is a medium-sized game bird. It has a plump body, a short tail and a lightly hook-tipped bill. It is reddish-brown, with its legs and feet covered in pale feathers.

Habitat: Upland heather moors away from trees. It can also be found in some low-lying bogs and birds may visit farmland during hard weather.

Diet: Adult birds feed mostly on Heather, Bilberry and Cottongrass shoots, flowers, seeds and berries.

Éin suiteacha iad na cearca fraoigh a chaitheann a saol uile sa cheantar céanna. Is leasc leo eitilt agus braitheann siad ar a gcluimhreach mar dhuaithnócht ar an bhfraoch. Nuair a dhúisítear iad áfach, téann fuadar fúthu, ag eitilt go láidir go tapaídh agus go híseal trasna an fhraoigh.

Cur Síos: Éan géim leathmhór í an chearc fhraoigh. Tá corp ramhar aici, eireaball gearr agus gob le iarracht de bharr crúca air. Tá sí ruadhonn agus a cosa agus a crúba clúdaithe le cleití bána.

Gnáthóg: Móinteacha sléibhe fraoigh amach óna crainn. Faightear í freisin i bportaigh ísle agus taobhaíonn na héin feirmeacha i rith drochaímsire.

Cothú: Itheann na héin fásta fraoch den chuid is mó, chomh maith le fraochán agus beangáin cheannabháin, bláthanna, síolta agus sméara.

