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Common Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

The Common Peafowl, or Peacock (technically, this name refers to the male only; the female is called a peahen but common usage allows continued use as a name), is native to India and Ceylon, but has been introduced as local, semi-domesticated populations in many parts of the world. A strutting male with its elongated upper tail coverts raised is one of the most dramatic sights in nature.

In Florida, peafowl are kept primarily for display, occasionally for food, and often allowed to roam free like domestic chickens. Although they can become feral, such populations tend to die out over time unless restocked. Their loud raucous calls, especially if given at night, sometimes engender complaints from neighbors.

The Atlas map shows breeding occurring throughout central Florida, but almost always it was associated with human ownership or encouragement.

The Peafowl is an omnivorous feeder, eating seeds, grain, grasses, berries, young shoots, flowers, snails, insects, lizards, and frogs.

In the wild, nests are simple scrapes in thick underbrush. Four to 6 eggs are laid and incubated for 28 days (Whitfield 1984). Young are precocial and do not attain full adult plumage for 3 to 5 years (Delacour and Ridley 1985).

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Common Peafowl

