

(Jeff Lemons)



Phasianidae the PHEASANTS, GROUSE, and TURKEYS

This is a very large and widespread family of birds that has long been of great importance to man. Many species in this family are among the world's most important game birds, and the barnyard chicken was domesticated from this family of birds. Three species of birds in the Phasianidae family have been found in this part of the Carolinas.

One, the Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), is a non-native bird that was introduced here as a game bird. The introduction failed and it is no longer found breeding in the wild anywhere in the region. The Ring-necked Pheasant is described in the Exotic Bird List. The second species is the Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), once known locally as the "Mountain Pheasant" or just "Pheasant." It is described in the Supplementary Bird List. Our third species in the family Phasianidae is the Wild Turkey. It is the sole representative of this family that is found throughout the Central Carolina region, and it is described in detail below.