

Nature

Peacocks compete for a mate by dramatically fanning their tails, making loud cries, and putting on a display for the peahens. By surviving in groups, peafowl cover large parcels of land needed for feeding. The peafowl's diet consists of seeds, nuts, small reptiles, and insects.



Predators of this species include foxes, raccoons, and mongoose, who raid the peafowl ground nests. However, adult peafowl are not the targets; their eggs and chicks are.

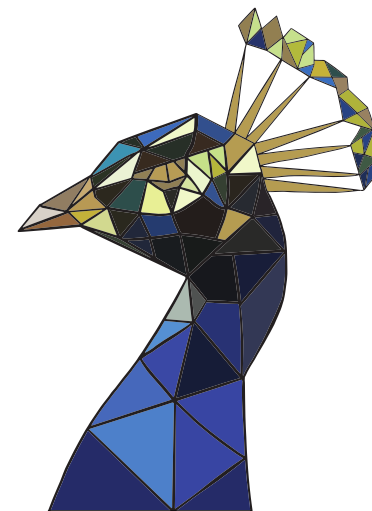
Andalusía

Today, the Andalusia Farmhouse Museum owns a pair of peafowl fondly named Astor and Mrs. Shortly after two characters in O'Connor's "The Displaced Person." While the museum cannot host a harem of birds such as Flannery maintained, they proudly care for a coupled peacock and peahen in memorandum for one of Flannery's greatest passions.



King of Birds

A CLOSER LOOK AT
PEAFOWL & FLANNERY
O'CONNOR




ANDALUSIA
home of
FLANNERY O'CONNOR
GEORGIA COLLEGE

Species

Though the term "peacock" is commonly associated with both sexes, the correct term for these birds is peafowl.

Congo >



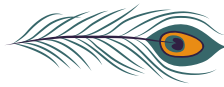
^Indian



^Green

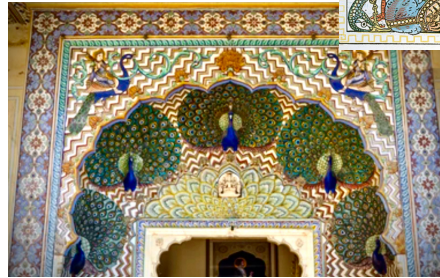
Peafowl belong to the same scientific family as pheasants, *Phasianidae*. There are three main species: the Indian Peafowl, the Green Peafowl, and the Congo Peafowl. The Indian Peafowl, with its token tail feathers and plumage, is the most famous.

Historical



Highlights

Throughout history, peafowl have been symbolic motifs, spanning cultures and religions from Hindu to Greek and Roman to Medieval Christian Europe.



Domesticated peafowl were found across Europe in the 14th century, but were mainly the property of the royals and wealthy class, used as decorative pieces to have wandering opulent palace ground. Today the peafowl can be found on many farms, zoos, and grounds across the world.

Flannery's Flock

Flannery O'Connor dedicated her life to her two passions: her birds and her writing. Even with, "a pen of pheasants and a pen of quail, a flock of turkeys, seventeen geese, a tribe of mallard ducks, three Japanese silky bantams, two polish crusted ones, and several chickens," Flannery believed her collection to be lacking.* She eventually ordered a few peafowl, until her flock grew to upwards of 40 heads.



*Flannery O'Connor, "Living with a Peacock." Holiday Magazine.
<https://holidaymag.wordpress.com/2012/03/30/living-with-a-peacock-by-flannery-oconnor-september-1961/>