

# Discover the Fauna of Our Campus

## Chukar Partridge-*Alectoris chukar*

Alam: Animals  
Phylum: Chordata  
Class: Aves (Birds)  
Order: Galliformes  
Family: Phasianidae  
Genus: *Alectoris*  
Species: Chukar partridge

The chukar partridge is a medium-sized ground-dwelling bird that mainly inhabits mountainous and rocky regions. Its body is compact and rounded, with relatively short wings adapted for quick, short bursts of flight. However, it prefers running and uses flight only when it feels threatened. This species is widely distributed across the Eurasian region, including the South Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East, and parts of the Himalayas. In Azerbaijan, it is found in mountainous and semi-desert areas, especially on rocky slopes and dry shrublands.

It typically lives in dry, rugged environments such as rocky hillsides,



valleys, and sparsely vegetated areas. Although it prefers open terrain, it relies on bushes and rocks for shelter and protection. The chukar partridge mainly feeds on plant material such as seeds, grasses, leaves, and various plant parts. Occasionally, it also consumes insects and larvae, especially during the breeding season. Breeding takes place in spring. The female builds a simple nest on the ground and lays between 8 and 20 eggs. Incubation lasts about three weeks, and the chicks are precocial, meaning they can walk and feed shortly after hatching.

This bird is very cautious and fast-moving, usually living in small groups. When threatened, it produces alarm calls and quickly escapes by running or hiding. Ecologically, the chukar partridge plays an important role by helping seed dispersal and serving as a food source for predators within the food chain. In some regions, it is also valued as a game bird.