"A favourite resort of these alpine Pheasants is the brushwood and forests clothing the sides of the high Toongassee mountain, which lies between Rammee and Joseemuth, where the hazel-nut is abundant, and where the pink-flowered Rhododendron with yellow under-surfaced leaves also abounds at the highest elevation of brushwood growth. This mountain is, I believe, about 18,000 feet high, and is only traversable during the months of August and September, when it is tolerably free from snow; its top is undulated and studded with small hills or rounded cupola-shaped mounds, among which flowering bulbs and grass abound, and among them the bird, doubtless, finds a supply of its favourite food. I never met with any young birds, nor did I ever find any of the nests or eggs."

Captain Hutton informs us that a pair kept in confinement lived contentedly, became exceedingly tame, and produced two eggs in June, both of which, however, were destroyed by the male; their colour was pale rufous-brown, like those usually termed in India 'game hen's eggs.' Captain Hutton adds that the species is peculiar to the confines of the snow on the loftier hills of the North-western Himalaya.

The sexes of few birds differ more widely in colour than do those of the present species, the female being dressed in a sombre-coloured livery, while the male is adorned with the deepest tints and most conspicuous markings, and with wattles and horns of the most brilliant hues; the colouring of these horns and wattles is, however, only conspicuous during the breeding season; at other periods of the year they are greatly contracted or shrivelled up as it were, and their colours are very much less brilliant, so much so, indeed, as to present little or no indication of the tints they exhibit at the pairing season; of which the following is an accurate description.

Crown of the head, crest and ear-coverts black; bill black; irides hazel; naked skin of the throat rich deep bluish-black in the centre, passing into rich indigo-blue on the sides, into verditer-green at the base of the bill, and beset with black hairs; wattles thin, free, the upper part deep blue, the lower four-fifths rich reddish flesh-colour, corrugated and edged with rich blue, and with four diagonal stripes of the same hue proceeding from a central black line towards the outer edge; orbits, a series of small fleshy wart-like papillæ, of a rich yellowish-vermilion with light blue interspaces; the upper edge of the orbits, and the pointed fleshy horn-like processes proceeding from their posterior upper angle, bluish verditer-green; back and sides of the neck and a large patch on each shoulder maroon-red; all the upper surface and wings freckled black and sandy-buff, with numerous spots of white encircled with black; primaries dark brown, crossed by irregular freckled bars of sandy-buff; on the upper tail-coverts the sandy freckles are larger and more conspicuous, and at the end of each feather is a large spot of white, bounded on the sides with pale chestnutbrown, and above and below with black; tail black, freckled with sandy-buff at the base; on the centre of the breast a number of stiff lanceolate blood-red feathers; feathers of the under surface maroon-red, freckled at the base with buff and brown and largely tipped with black, in the centre of which is a spot of white; these white spots are of small size on the breast, but gradually increase until they become very large towards the tail; the black tips and white spots, too, occupy so much of the feather, that the maroon hue only occasionally appears; legs and feet reddish flesh-colour.

In the young male the plumage is less brilliant, the horns and wattles but little developed, the orbits are of a dull yellow, and the lanceolate feathers of the breast are orange instead of blood-red.

The general hue of the female is light brown, mottled and barred with fine zigzag lines and spots of blackish-brown; the feathers of the back with a narrow central streak of buffy-white, and those of the under surface with larger and more conspicuous markings of the same hue near the tips of the feathers; bill and legs paler or more horn-colour than in the male.

The Plate represents two males about three-fourths of the natural size, and two females in the distance much reduced.