

Regaining Paradise?
Sustainability in the Early Years
ECEY6005/C

Discover

When I was growing up; I was lucky enough to have a large forest and a small field at the back of my house. despite the field and forest being very difficult to maintain. during its peak of flourish, I can only ponder on how much wildlife was lurking among the grass and trees ready to be explored. I was fortunate to grow up on the Gower peninsular where trips to the local beaches were available at short notice. I remember as a child going to the beach early and not getting home until it was dark and spending all day exploring the rockpools and searching for any wildlife that may be waiting to be discovered. Since starting this assignment it has made me realise how much I took for granted as a child having the freedom and locations of such wonderful places at my disposal and how living a hectic lifestyle can cause one to overlook the beauty that surrounds them.



Discovering the area

- The Gower peninsular has been blessed with some of the best beaches in Britain. These include Three Cliffs bay, Oxwich, Caswell Beach as well as Langland Bay which is known to be a surfer's paradise. Although Gower can be bleak during winter it still boasts a spectacular and raw wildlife display.



(Exploring The Gower Peninsula, 2022)



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Exploring my Garden

- Whilst I was exploring my garden I found slow worms, field mice, badgers and evidence of foxes all living in my garden. As well as an abundance of birds. However, due to the conditions of the wildlife's habitats being overgrown, this limited the ability to explore the garden to it's full potential. However having the field cut once a year and the hedges cut back when there is less impact on the wildlife. We do and will continue to provide birds with bird boxes and food, as well as providing them a safe place to nest.



We have been hanging bird feeders around the garden to encourage birds to visit and strive with our help.



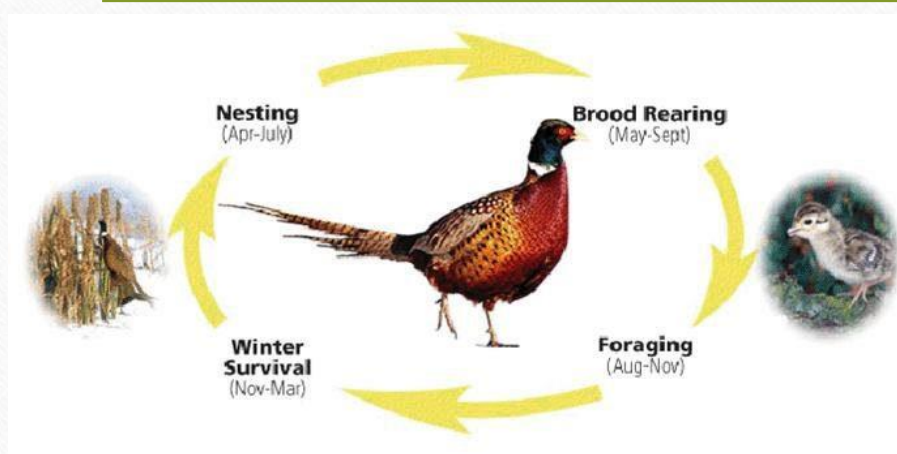
Phillip the Pheasant.



My brace of pheasants in my
garden.



The life cycle of a pheasant.



Average Nest Initiation Date: May 1 (March 15-July 15)

Average Incubation Start: May 24 (April 1 – August 1)

Average Hatch: June 15 (April 15-Aug 15)

The annual life cycle of a pheasant can be broken into four major phases (Nesting, Brood Rearing, Foraging and Winter Survival) that roughly correlate with the seasons (Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter). During each phase the pheasant faces different challenges.

Nesting: Attracted by roosters' crowing, hens build nests if they can find good shelter. After all the eggs are laid the hen begins incubating, leaving the nest only once or twice a day to eat. After 23 days, the eggs hatch. Pheasants will rebuild ruined nests because they're determined. Hatching signifies the beginning of the brood rearing season.

Brood Rearing: All viable eggs hatch in 24 hours. Shortly after hatching, the hen leads the brood to alfalfa or other forb fields rich in grasshoppers and other insects. The hen will stay with the brood for 8-10 weeks, but half will die. By 16 weeks, young pheasants have adult-like plumage.

Food and foraging: Late in September, young and adult birds begin a feeding spree to develop winter fat reserves. Foraging season overlaps with hunting, which claims half of all roosters.

Winter survival; Upper Midwest winters are the deadliest for pheasants. Snows and freezing temperatures often impair pheasants' health or concentrate them in narrow habitats where predators kill them. Core Wintering Places can be employed in areas with suitable nesting cover to promote overwinter survival and introduce more healthy hens into the nesting season.

Phillip the pheasant

Phillip the pheasant standing so proud.

His distinct feathers make him stand out from the crowd.

A squeak and a squawk and he's top of the walk.

Looking for a mate, a feathery date. As he ponders on from the garden gate.

From March to July in their nests they will lie.

Incubating their brood, only leaving the nest to gather some food.

Only 8 to 10 weeks the mother will stay, until the youngling are free to stray.

Late in September they better remember,
they must not wait to pile on weight as the chances of survival do not look great.

The season for Christmas bunting and wild game hunting.

Conserve

- Whilst partaking in the John Muir award, I have come to the realisation of how little time I spend embracing the beautiful outdoors which are readily available on my doorstep. Instead of spending time indoors I aspire to embrace the nature in all its glory. I feel by spending more time outdoors and appreciating the surrounding nature I would be improving my personal health and wellbeing. During this award I have been spending more time outdoors and whilst doing so learning how much of an impact nature has on us, and how much of an impact we have on nature. I have been consciously making an effort to include bird food into my weekly grocery shop to ensure I am providing for the vast wildlife in my garden. Since adding multiple bird feeders to the garden environment I have witness an influx of birds enjoying the food readily available to them. By hanging the bird feedes above ground it allows them to eat without the risk of being captured by other wildlife.

A short video of birds in the garden.





Birds using
the bird
feeder.

Photo of my
bird feeder.



Reflection

Whilst reflecting, I feel a busy work and personal life as well as the Covid 19 pandemic has almost been overwhelming, However it has made myself and others realise that to experience nature and it's beauty doesn't require having to travel further than our doorstep which was the only available option during the pandemic. This made us explore places much closer to home and allowed us to appreciate what nature has to offer locally. I now feel that I have a more in depth appreciation for the little things nature has to offer. Which I can now pass on to the children in my work setting.



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