

The Ptarmigan - 60-Second – Captioned for the Visually Impaired

MUSIC: "HINTERLAND WHO'S WHO" THEME

ANNOUNCER: (V.O.):

[A ptarmigan on branches]

Perched in the willows from which it takes its name is the willow ptarmigan.

[A ptarmigan sitting in the snow]

Ptarmigan are versatile birds. In winter, their white plumage allows them to burrow in the snow almost unseen. As well as providing camouflage, the white plumage prevents heat loss.

[A ptarmigan walking on the ground]

In the spring, the feathers gradually darken and the birds merge with their rocky surroundings. Only the hen sits on the eggs. She sits there for nearly 26 days. Even the eggs are well camouflaged.

[A ptarmigan nest with eggs]

Ptarmigan are found around the arctic with a few scattered on mountains further south.

[A ptarmigan nest with fledgings]

For more information on the willow ptarmigan, why not contact the Canadian Wildlife Service in Ottawa.