

Quail



Quail



Quail (female)

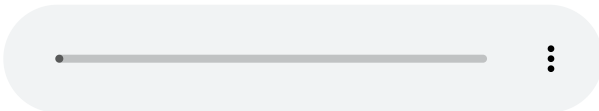
Scientific name: **Coturnix coturnix**

Bird family: [Pheasants and partridges](#)

UK conservation status: [Amber](#)

Protected by [The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#)

Quail call audio



[Patrik Åberg](#), Xeno-canto

Key information

Quails are distinctive due to the combination of their stocky bodies and long, pointed wings. Their upperparts are brown, streaked and barred with buff, while their underparts are a warm buffy orange.

Rarely seen, they are more often heard giving a distinctive “wet-my-lips” call.

Their breeding range reaches as far north as the UK, where they are the only migrant species of the Phasianidae family, which includes heavy ground-living birds such as the pheasant.

Due to their historical decline, quails are on the Amber List but are now in partial recovery. They are also listed on Schedule 1 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

What they eat:

Seeds and insects.

Measurements:

Length:

16-18cm

Wingspan:

32-35cm

Weight:

75-135g

Population:



UK breeding: is the number of pairs breeding annually. UK wintering is the number of individuals present from 640 to 1st March. UK passage is the number of individuals passing through on migration in spring and/or autumn.

Identifying features:

Quail

Feather colour: Black Brown Cream/buff White

Leg colour: Brown

Beak: Black Short Curved Chunky

Natural habitats: Farmland Grassland

Similar birds:



Grey partridge



Red-legged partridge

Where and when to see them

Traditional strongholds of quails appear to be parts of Wiltshire, Dorset and in good years the Welsh Marches, East Anglia, low-lying parts of northern England and parts of southern Scotland can be occupied by calling birds. They are very difficult to see, so are easier to hear, usually calling from grass or cereal fields.

* This map is intended as a guide. It shows general distribution rather than detailed, localised populations.

Resident

Passage

Summer

Winter



Quails arrive in late-April and May, staying until late summer.

This bird can be seen in the UK in: apr may jun jul aug sep oct

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