

Discover the Fauna of Our Campus

Common Quail -*Coturnix coturnix*

Kingdom: Animals
Phylum: Chordates
Class: Birds
Order: Galliformes
Family: Pheasants
Genus: Quail
Species: Common Quail

The body length of this bird is 16–20 cm, and its weight reaches 80–145 g. Its eyes are light chestnut-brown, the bill is grayish-pink, and the legs are brownish or pale yellow. The upper body is brown with rusty-yellow transverse and longitudinal stripes. The head is darker than the back. Its throat is rusty-brown, while the crop is rusty-yellow. A bright yellowish-brown stripe passes above the eyes, and a brownish stripe extends from the corners of the mouth. Sexual dimorphism in coloration is weakly expressed. Males have a blackish-brown patch on the throat. The species is polygamous, and males mate with any female. Males fight among themselves for females. A male preparing for mating stretches its whole body, raises and throws back its head, first making a soft “vya-vya” sound and then a loud whistling call.



The bird digs a small pit in the ground with a diameter of 7–14 cm and a depth of 4–6 cm, lining it with dry grass. The nest is usually located among dense grass and has no cover above it. A clutch contains 8 to 14 pea-yellow or pale brownish eggs with brown or blackish-brown spots. The female incubates the eggs for 18 days. The chicks grow rapidly and leave the mother by the sixth week. Despite their fast development and high parental care, about half of them are lost to predators or during migration. The Common Quail lives exclusively on the ground. It can be found in meadows, cultivated fields, forest clearings, and subalpine grasslands. It willingly inhabits moist grassy areas.



Especially in spring and summer, young birds mainly feed on animal food, particularly insects, while in autumn plant seeds form the major part of their diet.

