

144 Common Quail

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Quail. Adult. Male dark morph (04-V).

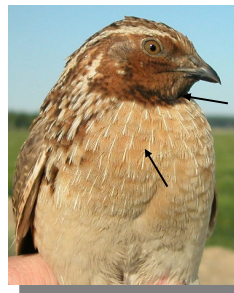
COMMON QUAIL (*Coturnix coturnix*)

IDENTIFICATION

16-19 cm. Buff brown upperparts, with dark marks; paler underparts and mottled on flanks; white line on eye and neck; **male** with dark throat; **female** with white throat.

SEXING

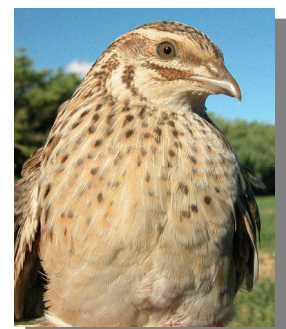
Adult Male with black or brownish anchor-shaped patch on throat, with a variable extent since just a narrow anchor till whole black throats; buff breast with white streaks; flank feathers with chestnut streaks, without dark spots. **Juvenile male** may or may not have dark throat, but recognizable by buff breast with few dark dots. **Female** with throat always whitish, without anchor; buff breast very spotted with dark dots; flank feathers with dark spots.



Quail. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of throat and breast: left male; right female.



Quail. Female. Pattern of breast, head and upperparts.



Quail. Juvenile. Sexing. Pattern of throat and breast: left male; right female.

SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

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AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized (**CAUTION:** since quails breed in winter, all age types can be found at any time of the year):

Juvenile resembles a **female**; fresh plumage; wing without moult limit; **males** have some flank feathers with **female** pattern.

2nd year with moult limit between changed dark flight feathers and the retained **juvenile** 3-5 outermost primaries, with their primary coverts, which are worn and ochre (**CAUTION:** late hatching birds have the outermost primaries only slightly worn but differences in colour can be found; **males** retain some feathers on flanks with **female** pattern).

Adult with all wing feathers with the same age, without moult limits.



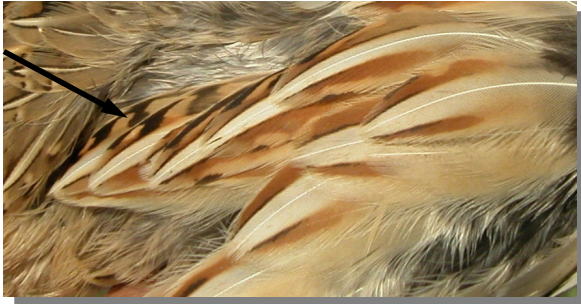
Quail. Ageing. Pattern of breast: top adult female; bottom juvenile male.



Quail. Ageing. Mould in primaries: top adult; middle 2nd year; bottom juvenile.

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Quail. Adult. Male pale morph (04-V)

Quail. Male. Ageing. Pattern of flank: top adult; bottom 2nd year.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult started before migration and usually finished in breeding areas but also suspended and finished in wintering quarters. Partial **postjuvenile** moult changing body feathers in 6 weeks after hatching; between august and september all flight feathers are moulted except the 3-5 outermost primaries. A **prebreeding** moult can be found in all ages including body feathers only, so the outermost **juvenile** primaries are moulted with the first **postbreeding** moult.



Quail. Adult. Female (29-VII)

PHENOLOGY

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

STATUS EN ARAGON

Summer visitor. Widely distributed throughout the Region, absent only from the most arid areas of the Ebro Basin.



Quail. 2nd year. Male (04-V)

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Quail. 2nd year. Female (08-IV)



Quail. Adult. Head pattern and iris colour: top male dark morph (04-V); middle male pale morph (04-V); bottom female (29-VII).



Quail. Juvenile. Male (09-VII).



Quail. 2nd year. Head pattern and iris colour: top male (04-V); bottom female (08-IV).



Quail. Juvenile. Female (20-VIII).

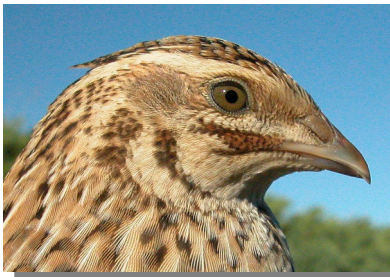


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Quail. Juvenile. Head pattern and iris colour: top male (09-VII); bottom female (20-VIII)



Quail. Juvenile. Breast pattern: left male (09-VII); right female (20-VIII)



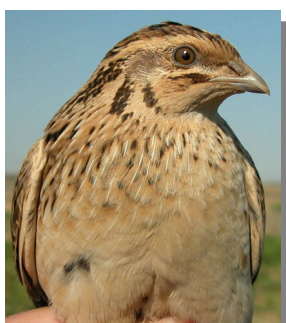
Quail. Adult. Male: flank pattern (04-V).



Quail. Adult. Breast pattern: top left male dark morph (04-V); top right male pale morph (04-V); left female (29-VII)



Quail. Adult. Female: flank pattern (29-VII).



Quail. 2nd year. Breast pattern: left male (04-V); right female (08-IV).



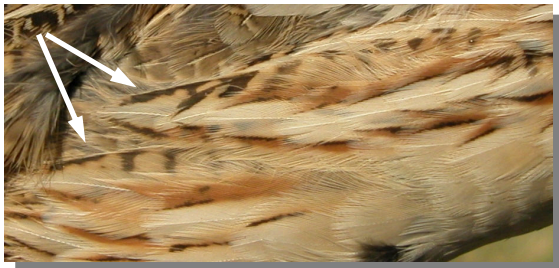
Quail. 2nd year. Male: flank pattern (04-V).

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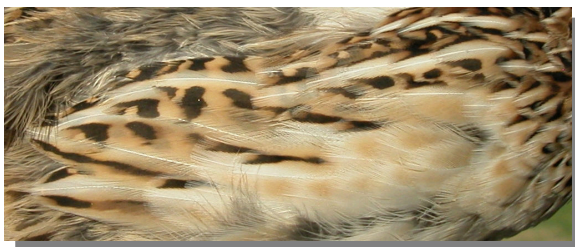
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Quail. 2nd year. Female: flank pattern (08-IV).



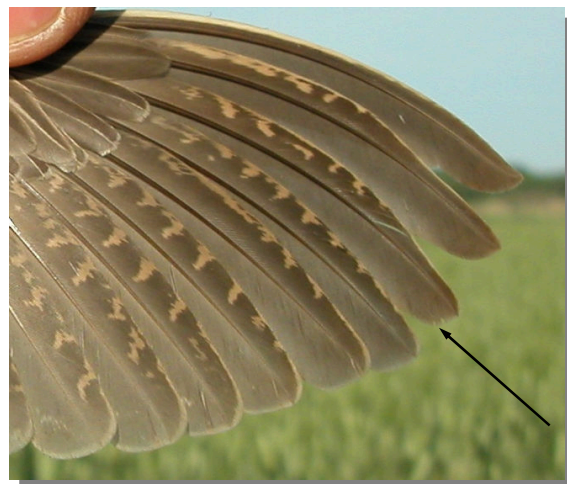
Quail. Juvenile. Male: flank pattern (09-VII).



Codorniz común. Juvenil. Hembra. Diseño de las plumas del flanco (27-IV).



Quail. 2nd year: pattern of primaries in early hatching birds (26-IV).



Quail. 2nd year: pattern of primaries in late hatching birds (04-V).



Quail. Adult: pattern of primaries (04-V).



Quail. Juvenile: pattern of primaries in early hatching birds (09-VII).

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Quail. Juvenile: pattern of primaries in late hatching birds (09-VII).



Quail. Juvenile: pattern of wing in early hatching birds (09-VII).



Quail. Juvenile: pattern of wing in late hatching birds (09-VII).



Quail. Adult: pattern of wing (04-V).



Quail. 2nd year: pattern of wing in early hatching birds (26-IV).



Quail. 2nd year: pattern of wing in late hatching birds (04-V).