

Japanese Quail



This small bird has white streaks on mottled gray-brown upperparts, white eyebrow, gray breast with black-gray streaks, rufous sides with white streaks, white belly, gray bill, tan legs and a short tail. The male's throat and face are rufous; female's is white with a black-gray border.

Also known as Coturnix quail, pharaoh's quail, stubble quail and eastern quail

Habitat

Woodlands, croplands, and open spaces that are covered with bushes such as grasslands and farmlands. They originated from North America but can also be found across Europe, Australia, Asia, Africa, and South America. Wild Japanese quail species live in Russia, East Asia, and other parts of Africa.

Japanese Quail eggs have been successfully incubated and hatched on the Mir space station.

Diet

Quails are omnivores, although 95% of their diet is composed of plant matter. They eat mainly grass seeds and berries. Depending on their habitat, they also eat leaves, roots, worms, and some insects such as grasshoppers.