



2.0 Partridges, Quails, Francolins and Snowcocks

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Partridges, Quails, Francolins, and Snowcocks in India add up to 27 species (see Table). They belong to family Phasianidae. In this Chapter, we present the Species Accounts for these species in a field guide format that would provide information at a glance. We have collated information largely from Ali and Ripley (1983), Johnsgard (1988), McGowan *et al.* (1995), Grimmett, Inskipp and Inskipp (1998), and Madge and McGowan (2002). Other works that were consulted are given in the References below. We have followed Monroe and Sibley (1993) for taxonomic sequence, and Inskipp, Lindsey and Duckworth (1996) for common names. For currently valid scientific names, we have followed emendations as and when adopted by the British Ornithologists Union, Clements checklist (2004), Howard and Moore's checklist (Dickinson 2003), Oriental Bird Club checklist by Inskipp *et al.* (1996), Allan Peterson's zoonomen database and other taxonomy publications in peer reviewed journals. Species illustrations are from the book "Pheasants, Partridges and Grouse" by Madge and McGowan (2002), A and C Black (Publishers) Ltd., London.

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Partridges, Quails, Francolins and Snowcocks of India

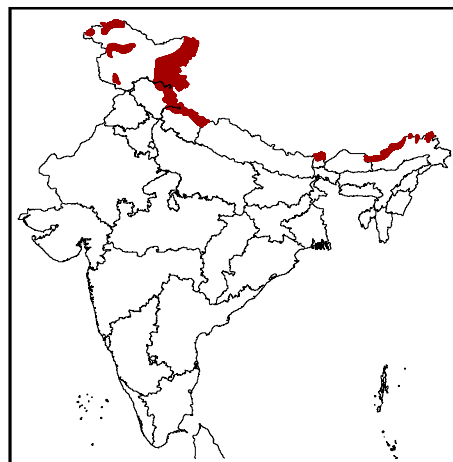
S.NO.	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
1	Snow Partridge	<i>Lerwa lerwa</i>
2	Tibetan Snowcock	<i>Tetraogallus tibetanus</i>
3	Himalayan Snowcock	<i>Tetraogallus himalayensis</i>
4	Buff-throated Partridge	<i>Tetraophasis szechenyii</i>
5	Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>
6	Black Francolin	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>
7	Painted Francolin	<i>Francolinus pictus</i>
8	Chinese Francolin	<i>Francolinus pintadeanus</i>
9	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>
10	Swamp Francolin	<i>Francolinus gularis</i>
11	Tibetan Partridge	<i>Perdix hodgsoniae</i>
12	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
13	Japanese Quail	<i>Coturnix japonica</i>
14	Rain Quail	<i>Coturnix coromandelica</i>
15	Blue-breasted Quail	<i>Coturnix chinensis</i>
16	Jungle Bush Quail	<i>Perdicula asiatica</i>
17	Rock Bush Quail	<i>Perdicula argoondah</i>
18	Painted Bush Quail	<i>Perdicula erythrorhyncha</i>
19	Manipur Bush Quail	<i>Perdicula manipurensis</i>
20	Hill Partridge	<i>Arborophila torqueola</i>
21	Rufous-throated Partridge	<i>Arborophila rufogularis</i>
22	White-cheeked Partridge	<i>Arborophila atrogularis</i>
23	Chestnut-breasted Partridge	<i>Arborophila mandellii</i>
24	Mountain Bamboo Partridge	<i>Bambusicola fytchii</i>
25	Red Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>
26	Painted Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix lunulata</i>
27	Himalayan Quail	<i>Ophrysia superciliosa</i>

**SNOW PARTRIDGE** *Lerwa lerwa* Hodgson 1833

Vernacular Names: *Quir* or *Kur monal* (Garhwali), *Janguria* (Kumauni), *Barf ka titar* (Himachali-Kullu), *Biju* (Himachali-Chamba), *Lerwa* (bhotia)



Daniel Cole

**Distribution & Habitat**

Resident and fairly common in the Himalayas (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh) between 4,000 and 5,000m in summers, and down to 3,050 m in winter, but never <2,500 m. Inhabits alpine scrub and meadows close to the snowline on steep rocky or grassy slopes interspersed with scattered dwarf juniper or *rhododendron* bushes.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Description

A high-altitude close-barred, partridge with bright red legs and bill. The upperparts are closely barred black and white, the underparts is largely deep chestnut, broadly streaked with whitish on abdomen and flanks. The under tail coverts are chestnut, streaked with black and tipped with whitish. While in flight, shows a narrow white trailing edge to the wings. Sexes alike.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 38 cm
Weight : 454-709 g
Habitat : steep rocky/grassy slopes with juniper or rhododendron scrub near snowline
Altitude : 3,000-5,500 m

Behaviour

During spring, usually in pairs and later in family groups of up to 30 birds. It is very tame in areas where not hunted, standing on rock to watch the observer, rather than flying away. When flushed, the flock disperses, first raising up silently for a metre or two then plunging quickly downhill scattering without calling, but with a great whirring and clattering of wings

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : harsh frequently repeated whistle
Breeding Season : May-July
Nest Site/ Type : well hidden under rock or grass clump
Clutch Size : 3 to 5
Incubation Period : unknown

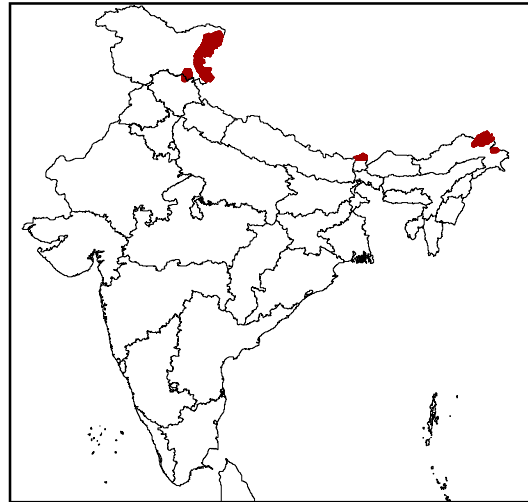


TIBETAN SNOWCOCK *Tetraogallus tibetanus* Gould 1854

Vernacular Names: *Hrak-pa* (Bhotia)



Daniel Cole



Distribution & Habitat

Resident and uncommon. In the Himalayas (Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim & Arunachal Pradesh), up to 5,800 m (summer) and down to 3,000 m (winter) in the western Himalaya; and between 4,500 & 5,500 m (summer); and down to 3,650 m (winter) in eastern Himalaya. Inhabits alpine meadows and scrub, rocky ridges and slopes.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule I
CITES : I

Description

A stout, dumpy, high-altitude galliforme reminiscent of a huge overgrown Grey partridge and differs from the Himalayan Snowcock by the prominent white patch on ear-coverts against the grey head and neck and the double band of grey across upper breast. The sides of forehead, secondaries, throat are white. Back largely sandy grey and blackish grey, finely vermiculated and streaked with buff. Rump upper tail coverts and central tail feathers rufous, rest of tail blackish brown with rufous tips. Underparts largely white; throat and upper breast unmarked, followed by a grey band separating them from rest of underparts which are broadly streaked with black, the streaks broadest on flanks and lower abdomen. Legs red. Sexes differ slightly. The race of Western Himalaya is much paler and sandier above than the race of Central and Eastern Himalayas.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 51 cm
Weight : unknown
Habitat : barren rocky slopes with sparse scrub or meadows
Altitude : 3,000-5,800 m

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *cour-lee-whi-whi*
Breeding Season : May-August
Nest Site/ Type : under stones/rock on leeward side
Clutch Size : 8 to 16
Incubation Period : unknown

Behaviour

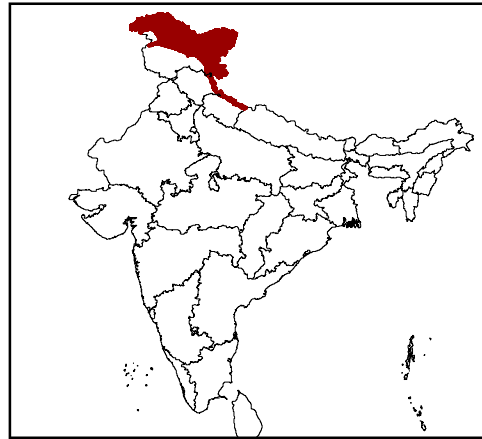
Stays in pairs in the breeding season and later in groups of up to 30 birds. Escapes by running uphill or, if disturbed, by flying swiftly downhill for a long distance before settling again. Flicks its heavy tail as it walks, showing the white undertail-coverts. Calls frequently, a subdued chuckling which gradually becomes louder and louder until it reaches a kind of climax, a whistle, and a call strangely reminiscent of Eurasian curlew.

**HIMALAYAN SNOWCOCK** *Tetraogallus himalayensis* Gray 1843

Vernacular Names: *Jer Monal* (Garhwali), *Huinwal* (Kumauni), *Leep* (Himachali-Kullu), *Galaond* (Himachali-Chamba), *Gleund* (Himachali-Kangra), *Kabak*, *Gura kakov*, *Ramchakor* (Kashmiri)



Daniel Cole

**Distribution & Habitat**

Resident and fairly common. In the Himalayas (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand) from 4,000 to 5,500 m (summer) and down to 2,100 m in W Himalayas. Inhabits alpine meadows and scrub near the snowline, bare stony ridges and steep slopes.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Description

Similar to the Tibetan Snowcock largely grey, white, chestnut and black streaked and vermiculated plumage. The white throat, separated by a broken chestnut collar from the dark grey underparts, and white under tail-coverts, are distinguishing characters. There is a strong contrast between pale grey crown/mantle and dark grey back. It lacks white striping on scapulars and coverts which is a striking feature of the Tibetan Snowcock. While in flight, Himalayan Snowcock shows extensive white in primaries but little or no white in secondaries.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 72 cm
Weight : 1,360-3,000 g
Habitat : alpine meadows, steep slopes
 and stony ridges near snowline
Altitude : 3,000-5,800 m

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *cour-lee-who-who*,
chok-chok-chok
Breeding Season : April-June
Nest Site/ Type : under stones/rock on leeward side
Clutch Size : 5 to 7
Incubation Period : 27-28 days

Behaviour

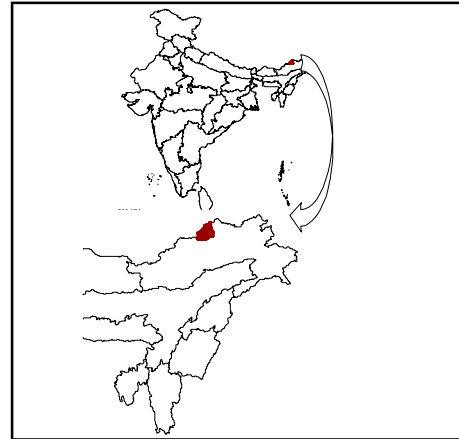
Usually in pairs (breeding season), or parties of 3-5 although coveys of >20 birds are frequently observed. They shoot downhill in the morning to drink and slowly work their way upwards feeding as day warms up, scratching the ground and digging vigorously with their stout bills. They hardly fly uphill or flap their wings in flight except before alighting. When alarmed, escapes by running uphill like a waddling goose-like gait, its colouration blending to perfection with the barren environment or flying swiftly downhill for a long distance without a single wing beat before settling again. Flicks its heavy tail as it, walks, showing the white undertail-coverts. They are noisy birds continually uttering clucking calls as they feed, and shrill cackles of alarm, when flushed as well as on the wing.



BUFF-THROATED PARTRIDGE *Tetraophasis szechenyii* Madarasz 1885
Vernacular Names: *Kwa-kwa-dzi kuling* (Tibetan)



Daniel Cole



Distribution & Habitat

Resident and rare. In Upper Subansri and Siyom drainage areas of Arunachal Pradesh. It occurs between 3,350m and 4,600 m. Inhabits well-vegetated rocky ravines or fir forest and *rhododendron* scrub in subalpine and alpine zones.

Conservation Status	
IUCN	: others
IWPA	: Schedule IV
CITES	: not listed

Description

A very large plain coloured galliforme with long and broad white-tipped tail and is likely to be confused only with the female Sclater's Monal that also occurs in its distribution range, but lacks white rump and prominent mantle streaking of that species. Diagnostic features are bare red skin around eyes; orange-buff throat; greyish breast, spotted with black;

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range	
Body Length	: 64 cm
Weight	: unknown
Habitat	: well-vegetated rocky ravines, fir forest, rhododendron scrub in subalpine & alpine zones
Altitude	: 3,350-4,600 m

prominent orange-buff and chestnut spotting on belly and flanks; uniform grey crown/ear-coverts and uniform brown mantle; grey rump; and broad buffish and white tips to the wing-coverts, secondaries, tertials and scapulars. Sometimes occurs above the treeline and could be confused with Tibetan Snowcock, but dark underparts, white tip to tail and lack of white in the wing on Buff-throated help in identification even from a distance.

Behaviour

Usually in groups of four to six birds. When disturbed, it escapes into trees and 'freezes' becoming well camouflaged and difficult to detect. If flushed in open areas, where it has frozen on the observer's approach, it rises with a whirr of wings and plummets downhill and into the nearest forest cover. Roosts on trees. A quieter bird and has a loud harsh series of notes difficult to describe.

Reproduction & Life Cycle	
Call	: series of harsh, anxious cries
Breeding Season	: unknown
Nest Site/ Type	: unknown
Clutch Size	: unknown
Incubation Period	: unknown

**CHUKAR *Alectoris chukar* Gray 1830****Vernacular Names:** *Chukor* (Hindi), *Chakru* (Himachali-Chamba), *Kakov* (Kashmiri)

Robin Budden

**Distribution & Habitat**

Resident and fairly common in the Himalayas (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand) largely between 1,200m and 3,960m. It inhabits open, arid rocky hills, barren hillsides with scattered scrub, grassy slopes, and in areas near dry terraced cultivated river valleys often near a water source.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Description

A large plump and sleek pinkish grey-brown partridge with rufous tail and conspicuous rib-like bars on flanks in buff and black. A black band running across forehead back through the eyes and downsides of neck to as a 'necklace' on upper breast enclosing the buffy to glistening white cheeks, chin and throat. Red bill and legs. While in flight, it displays rufous corners to tail. Sexes alike, but the females are slightly smaller and lack spur on the tarsus.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 38 cm
Weight : 370-765 g
Habitat : open, arid rocky slopes, barren hillsides with grassy slopes and scattered scrub, terraced fields, stony ravines
Altitude : 1,200-5,000 m

Behaviour

Keeps in parties of 4-5 birds but flocks of up to 50 birds outside the breeding season. If flushed, the covey disperses, flying very fast and strongly but the flight is not sustained, and in hilly regions flies downhill hugging the contours. They move with speed and agility over rough ground. The male has a rattling crow uttered from an exposed rock or other vantage point in the early morning and late evening with a particularly ring in the breeding season. It is a loud chuckling far reaching call.

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *chuck, chuck-aa, chuck-chuk-chuk*
Breeding Season : April-August
Nest Site/ Type : under a rock, bush or tussock on a rocky slope
Clutch Size : 7 to 12
Incubation Period: unknown

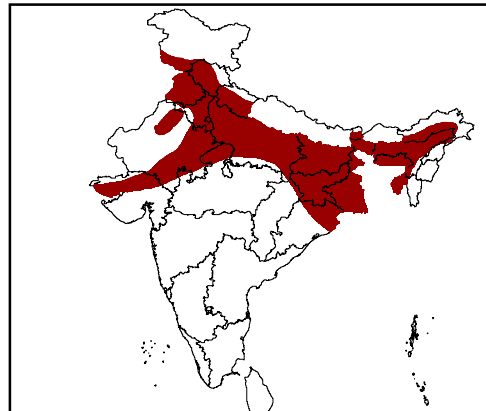


BLACK FRANCOLIN *Francolinus francolinus* Linnaeus 1766

Vernacular Names: *Kala teetar* (Hindi)



Norman Arlott



Distribution & Habitat

Resident and common in the lower Himalayas (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim & Arunachal Pradesh) up to 2,100m, plains of northwest, east and northeast India. Inhabits, cultivated areas, tea estates and tall grass and scrub, especially near rivers and canals, as it requires good ground cover and water.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Description

A plump, stub-tailed galliforme where the male is unmistakable, with white ear-covert patch on otherwise black face, rufous collar, black upper mantle spotted with white, and black underparts with flanks boldly spotted with white. The female is paler and browner, with no white cheek patches or chestnut collar, only a dull chestnut patch on nape. Below, chin and throat are buffy white; rest of the underparts and flanks are heavily barred with black. Vent and under tail-coverts are chestnut.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 34 cm
Weight : 227-566 g
Habitat : Cultivated areas, tall grass and scrub, especially near rivers and canals, tea gardens
Altitude : <2,500 m

Reproduction & Life Cycle

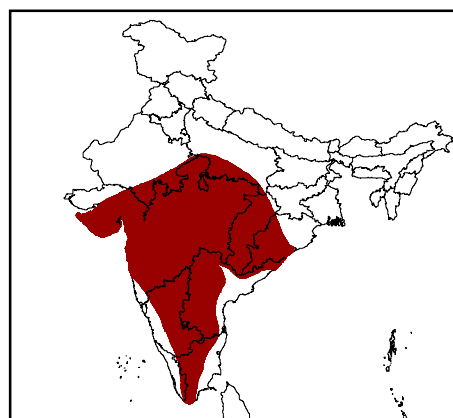
Call : *kar-kar, kee, ke-kee*
Breeding Season : March-October
Nest Site/ Type : among grasses, dense scrub or agriculture fields
Clutch Size : 6 to 9
Incubation Period: 18-19 days

Behaviour

Found solitary, in pairs or in groups of up to 5 birds. It roosts in thick ground cover such as tall grass clumps or sugarcane fields and leaves for more open crops and grassland for feeding. It is active in early morning and late afternoon, returning into cover during mid day. When disturbed, escapes by running away swiftly, but otherwise flushes easily, flying off strongly and at great speed. During the breeding season, calls at any time of the day often from a tree or stump. Call is loud, penetrating and a curious blend of the harsh and the musical and has a peculiar far reaching ventriloquistic quality. The call is repeated at intervals of 15 seconds or so, several birds answering one another from all directions.

**PAINTED FRANCOIN *Fracolinus pictus* Jardine and Selby 1828****Vernacular Names:** *Titur, Chitur* (Hindi), *Kakera kozhi* (Tamil), *Kala titur* (Marathi)

Norman Arlott

**Distribution & Habitat**

Resident and fairly common. It is distributed from Gujarat north to south Uttar Pradesh, east to Orissa and south through the Indian peninsula. It generally occurs in water and thicker habitats such as undulating tall thick grassland and cultivation with scattered trees and bushes, also glades in thin forest; partial to thick cover.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Description

Similar to female Black Francolin and both sexes of Grey Francolin but could be distinguished by rather plain rufous-orange face and throat, bold white spotting on blackish mantle, and spotted appearance to underparts. Sexes are very similar in colour; some females have white throat and /or less heavily spotted mantle with buff edges to dark-centred feathers giving rise to streaked-looking lower mantle. It is distinguished from Grey Francolin by spotted and streaked appearance of upperparts. Spur absent in both sexes.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 31 cm
Weight : 242-340 g
Habitat : wetter & thicker open grass plains, thorn scrub, near dry cultivation & drier areas
Altitude : <1,000 m

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *click..cheek..cheek-keray*
Breeding Season : March-October
Nest Site/ Type : mixed grass & scrub, sugar cane or other crops
Clutch Size : 4 to 8
Incubation Period : unknown

Behaviour

Usually keeps in pairs, sometimes in family groups. Leaves cover to feed in early morning and late afternoon. Very skulking, and if disturbed it will escape into cover. Roosts in trees as well as on the ground where canopy is by arching grass. Call very similar to that of the Black Francolin almost indistinguishable from it. Calls from a tree stump, mound, or other elevated site once every 20 seconds or so, frequently for over 15 minutes at a stretch.

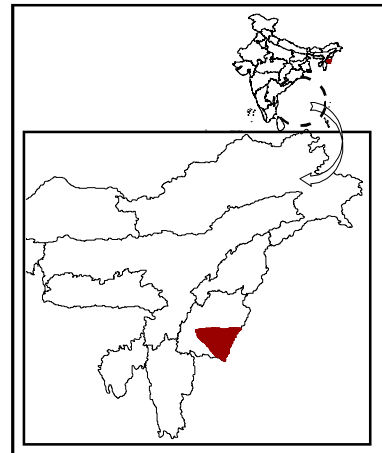


CHINESE FRANCOLIN *Francolinus pintadeanus* Scopoli 1786

Vernacular Names: *Kabo urenbi* (Manipur)



Norman Arlott



Distribution & Habitat

Very local Resident and rare in SE Manipur in the Kabaw and Manipur valleys, common in drier areas. Dry open dipterocarp forest and oak scrub in undulating or hilly country

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Description

Distinguished from Black Francolin in silhouette by heavier head and thicker neck. Male easily distinguished by orange-buff sides of crown, black moustachial stripe that divides white throat from white ear-coverts, absence of rufous on hindneck, and extensive white spotting on upperparts, rufous in scapulars, and extensive white spotting on black breast and belly. Female like male but duller, and white underparts are barred with black. Absence of rufous on hindneck, extensive white spotting on mantle, bold black moustachial stripe, and barred patterning to scapulars are distinguishing features.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length: 33 cm
Weight : 284-397 g
Habitat : dry open dipterocarp forest, oak scrub in hills
Altitude : <3,000 m

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *wi-ta-tak-takaa*
Breeding Season : unknown
Nest Site/ Type : scrub jungle or grass
Clutch Size : 3 to 7
Incubation Period : unknown

Behaviour

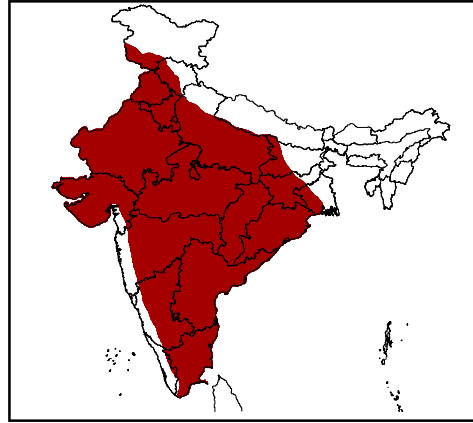
Usually found singly or in pairs and threes, but not in groups. A skulker that remains under cover. It is a stronger flier than the Black francolin. Often heard than seen. Call is a loud, harsh, metallic, repeated after fairly long intervals and are made from a tree stump or branch up to 3 m high. The call is five noted and unusually resonant and is given mostly in the early mornings and at dusk when several birds may be heard calling simultaneously.

**GREY FRANCOLIN** *Francolinus pondicerianus* Gmelin 1789

Vernacular Names: *Tetair, Ram teetar, Safed Teetar, Gora Teetar* (Hindi), *Kauthari* (Tamil), *Kawanga* (Telugu), *Kozhi kata* (Malayalam), *Gowjal hakki* (Kannada); *Kondari, Chitur* (Marathi), *Jhirufti* (Punjabi), *Khyr* (Bengali)



Norman Arlott

**Distribution & Habitat**

Resident and common from the plains of Jammu & Kashmir in the west to West Bengal in the east and south through the peninsula. Introduced in Andaman Islands in 1890. Inhabits dry open grassy undulating plains and thorn scrub, often near dry cultivation near villages, also stony semi-desert and sand dunes.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Description

A squat, stub-tailed galliforme largely grayish brown, rufous and chestnut above, mottled, barred and vermiculated with buff and black. Underparts are pale buff and rufous, narrowly cross-banded on fore-neck and upper breast and finely vermiculated on abdomen and flanks with black. Has a prominent yellowish rufous throat patch enclosed with a black spotting loop, chestnut, grey-brown and dark brown barring to upperparts, and chestnut on tail in flight. Sexes alike, but males are slightly larger and have sharp spurs.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length: 33 cm
Weight : 200-340 g
Habitat : dry open grass plains and thorn scrub, often near cultivation, stony semi-desert and sand dunes
Altitude : <1000 m

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *khateeja- khateeja- khateeja, kila-kila-kila*
Breeding Season : March-October
Nest Site/ Type : under bush, rock or other shelter
Clutch Size : 4 to 8
Incubation Period : 18-19 days

Behaviour

Usually found in pairs or in groups of up to eight birds, which roost together in small thorny trees or by squatting on the ground within dense thorny shrubs. It is well adapted to drought conditions. It escapes by running and seldom fly, but when disturbed rises with a loud whirr of wings and alights again after only 50-100m. Call is harsh and rapidly repeated or a softer whistle like. Grey francolins have been observed successfully defending their brood of very small chicks by actually attacking and fighting off a group of marauding Crows *Corvus splendens*¹. Male calls from a vantage point.

¹ Kalsi, R.S. & Kalsi, R. 1993. Brood defence in Grey Francolin. *WPA-India News*, 1, 10.

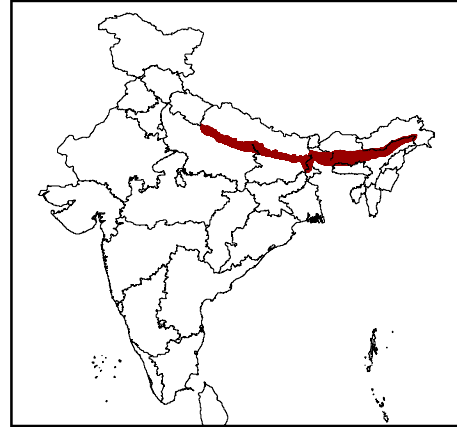


SWAMP FRANCOLIN *Fraucolinus gularis* Temminck 1815

Vernacular Names: *Kyah, Khyr, Kaijah* (Bengali), *Bhil titri* (Bihari), *Koi, Koi sordi, Koira* (Assamese), *Bheel teetar, Gul teetar* (Assamese-Cachar)



Norman Ailott



Distribution & Habitat

Resident and fairly common in northern Uttar Pradesh and southern Nepal, east through northern Bihar and West Bengal to the Brahmaputra valley in north-eastern India and, at least historically, to parts of Bangladesh. Found at an altitudinal range of 50 – 200 m, its current distribution is fragmented. Presently it is confined to protected areas in the terai and plains.

It generally inhabits tall wet grasslands and swamps in the terai. It is commonly found near water using its unusually long legs for the genus, to wade through water with ease. It uses tall riverine grasslands, shorter *Imperata*-dominated grasslands, tall wet grasslands containing *Phragmites karka*, *Arundo donax*, *Themeda arundinaceum*, *Narenga porphyrocoma*, and particularly *Sclerostachya fusca* and *Saccharum*. Many a times it has been reported to use sugarcane fields adjacent to its natural habitats.

Conservation Status

IUCN : vulnerable
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 37 cm
Weight : 510 g
Habitat : tall wet grasslands & swamps, also sugarcane fields near natural habitats
Altitude : <800 m

Description

A large and conspicuously long-legged francolin with a brown crown and nape. It could be distinguished from other francolins by the rufous-orange throat and fore neck, brown upperparts finely barred with buff, broad white streaking to brown underparts, and buff supercilium and cheek-stripe. Only males have spur and female has paler orange legs. As like Grey Francolin, shows chestnut on outer tail in flight.

Behaviour

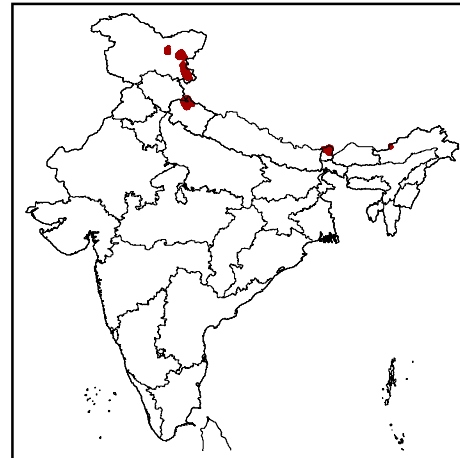
Usually found in pairs or in groups of up to six birds. It often wades in marshes, or climbs on to reeds in deep water. Feeds in open grasslands and fields, and when flushed, rises noisily with loud chuckling and whirring of wings. Call is loud and harsh.

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *kew-care*, or *qua, qua, qua, chuckeroo, chuckeroo, chuckeroo*
Breeding Season : February-May
Nest Site/ Type : thick pad of vegetation among reeds in shallow water
Clutch Size : 4 to 5
Incubation Period : unknown

**TIBETAN PARTRIDGE *Perdix hodgsoniae* Hodgson 1857****Vernacular Names:** *Chak pa* (Ladhaki)

Robin Budden

**Distribution & Habitat**

Resident and fairly common. Extends marginally from Tibet into Northern India and Sikkim. Winters at 3,660-4,100 m (down to 2,800 m), summers up to 5,600m. In the Trans- Himalayan semi-desert and on rocky slopes with scattered *Caragana*, *Juniper*, and dwarf *Rhododendron* scrub.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Description

A high altitude partridge similar to the grey partridge of the plains. Diagnostic features of adult are bold, black ear-covert patch on whitish face, rufous collar, bold black barring on underparts forming variable black patch on belly, and rufous barring on flanks.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 31 cm
Weight : 450 g
Habitat : Trans-Himalayan semi desert, rocky slopes with *Caragana* bushes and dwarf scrub
Altitude : 2,800-5,200 m

Behaviour

Usually keeps in groups of up to about 10-15 birds during non breeding season. Generally, very reluctant to fly. When disturbed, birds run fast uphill, giving a shrill call. If disturbed further, they run in different directions and fly downhill, re-establishing contact later by calling to each other.

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *scherrreck-scherrreck, chee, chee, chee, chee*
Breeding Season : May-July
Nest Site/ Type : under boulder or bush
Clutch Size : 8 to 10
Incubation Period : unknown

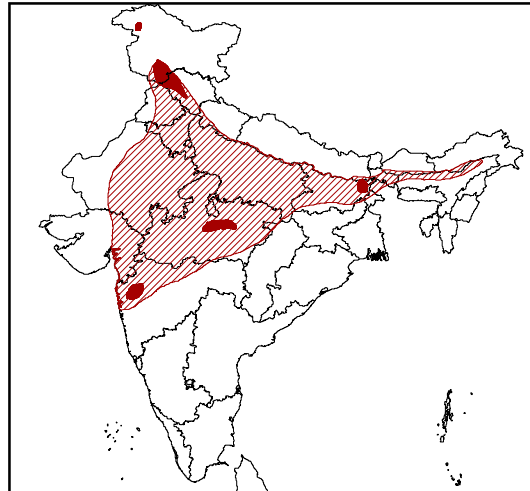


COMMON QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* Linnaeus 1758

Vernacular Names: *Bater, Bada bater, Ghagus bater* (Hindi), *Kadai* (Tamil), *Gogari Yellich* (Telegu), *Barli, Sipale hakki* (Kannada), *Kata* (Malayalam), *Lowa, Bada ganga, Gurganj* (Marathi), *Bhatri* (Bengali), *Gundri* (Oriya), *Bota sordi* (Assamese) *Daobi kashiba* (Assamese-Cachar), *Soibol, Sorbal* (Manipuri),



Carl D'Silva



Distribution & Habitat

Common quail is a widespread, fairly common galliforme that is partly resident, and partly winter visitor. It breeds in Kashmir (up to 2,500 m) east through Bihar to Assam and south to Maharashtra. Widely but very locally reported as resident in the north; probably under-recorded. Formerly very common locally in some years, especially on migration, but has declined. It inhabits standing crops, paddy stubbles and grasslands, with vegetation dense and tall enough to conceal birds.

Description

A plump and squat pale brown galliforme with conspicuous buff spear-shaped streaks and irregular mottling of reddish brown and black barring above in both sexes. It has stripy head pattern. In males, the chin and line centre of throat is black, and has two dark bands (sometimes indistinct) from the throat to ear coverts forming "anchor-shaped" pattern. Has a whitish gorget across foreneck, which is usually separated from breast by band of rufous or blackish blotching. Breast varies from warm buff to rufous, with pale buff shaft streaking. Rest of the underparts is creamy white. In females, 'anchor' marking on throat is absent, and has blackish spotting on buff breast.

Behaviour

Usually occurs singly or in pairs. Very secretive and keeps out of sight. When flushed the bird rises almost vertically for a few feet with the typical partridge whirr of wings and a squeaky whistling note flying low on rapidly vibrating wings straight and fast for 100-200 m before dropping into the crops again. On arrival at breeding areas, males establish territories by calling persistently in early morning, evening and sometimes during the day or night. Call is far carrying and repeated in quick succession.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 20 cm
Weight : 86-120 g
Habitat : standing crops, paddy stubbles, scrub & grasslands with tall and dense vegetation
Altitude : 2,135-3,150 m

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *whit, whit-tit, whree-chuk*
Breeding Season : March-July
Nest Site/ Type : herbaceous vegetation
Clutch Size : 6 to 8
Incubation Period: unknown



JAPANESE QUAIL *Coturnix japonica* Temminck and Schlegel 1849
Vernacular Names: *Bota sordi* (Assamese), *Sorbol* (Manipuri)



Carl D'Silva



Distribution & Habitat

Winter visitor and rare. It is reported to visit Assam south of Brahmaputra river in small numbers.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Description

As like the Common Quail, the Japanese Quail is also a plump and squat pale brown galliforme not distinguishable until in hand. During the breeding season, male has rufous face, throat and foreneck, with rufous often extending onto sides and upper part of breast. Some birds show faint dark 'anchor' marking on throat, as like Common Quail. Coloration and patterning of breast and flanks is variable. In non-breeding season, rufous colour on head is faint or absent, and head pattern is rather untidy and variable. Female indistinguishable from female Common Quail.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 20 cm
Weight : unknown
Habitat : standing crops, paddy stubbles, scrub & grasslands with tall and dense vegetation
Altitude (m) : unknown

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *choo-ee-trrr,*
churck-churr
Breeding Season : unknown
Nest Site/ Type : unknown
Clutch Size : 6 to 8
Incubation Period : unknown

Behaviour

Usually occurs singly or in pairs. Very secretive and keeps out of sight. When flushed the bird rises almost vertically for a few feet with the typical partridge whirr of wings and a squeaky whistling note flying low on rapidly vibrating wings straight and fast for 100-200 m before dropping into the crops again. Call is soft and muted, but the notes much harsher and blurred compared with Common Quail.

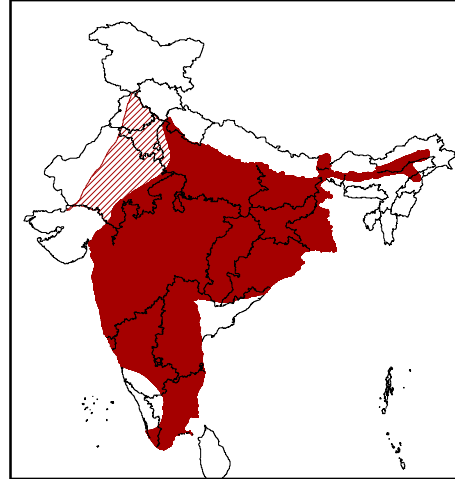


RAIN QUAIL *Coturnix coromandelica* Gmelin 1789

Vernacular Names: *China bater* (Hindi), *Kadai* (Tamil), *Chinna yellich* (Telugu), *Kata* (Malayalam), *Chinaga bater* (Gujarati)



Carl D'Silva



Distribution & Habitat

Resident, widespread and locally fairly common, mostly in the plains and hills of peninsular India and up to 2,000 m in the Himalaya. Inhabits standing crops, grasslands, grasslands, paddy stubbles, and grass and scrub jungle.

Conservation Status	
IUCN	: others
IWPA	: Schedule IV
CITES	: not listed

Description

Very similar to Common and Japanese Quails, but slightly smaller, with prominent crown –stripe and supercilium, and buff shaft streaking on mantle. Compared with those species, male Rain Quail has more dark marks on face and an anchor mark on the throat, more jet-black contrasting strongly with the white cheeks. The eye-stripe and moustachial, and black lower border to white band across fore neck are prominent. Also, shows extensive black patch on underparts, contrasting with cinnamon-pink sides of neck and sides of breast, and bold black streaking on flanks. Female is very similar to female Common Quail, but primaries are unbarred.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range	
Body Length	: 18 cm
Weight	: 64-85 g
Habitat	: standing crops, grasslands, paddy stubbles, grass & scrub jungles
Altitude	: <2,000 m

Behaviour

As like Common Quail. It is solitary or found in pairs, or sometimes in groups of up to six birds. It is frequently heard throughout the day during the monsoon especially when breeding. When disturbed, makes a short squeaky whistling note. The call is loud metallic and high pitched.

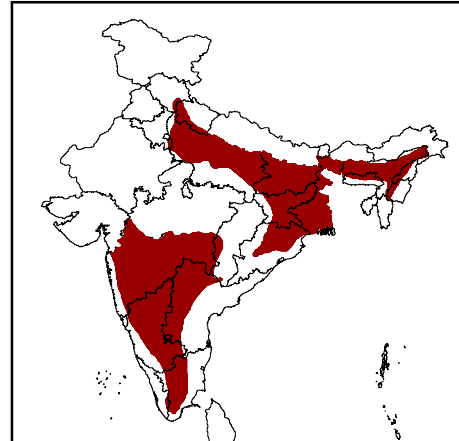
Reproduction & Life Cycle	
Call	: <i>whit-whit</i>
Breeding Season	: March-October
Nest Site/ Type	: standing crops or thin grass
Clutch Size	: 6 to 8
Incubation Period	: 18-19 days

**BLUE-BREASTED QUAIL *Coturnix chinensis* Linnaeus 1766**

Vernacular Names: *Gurru* (Bengali), *Daobui majungbi* (Assamese-Cachar), *Sorbol* (Manipuri), *Mul* (Nicobari)



Carl D'Silva

**Distribution & Habitat**

Resident, occurs widely but uncommon and it is distributed sparsely and patchily in small numbers, and some nomadic movements during monsoon. It occurs mainly in the plains, also up to 2,000 m in peninsular hills. It is distributed from Punjab east to Assam, and south to Tamil Nadu with a possible gap in central gap and also found in Nicobar islands. Inhabits wet grassland, marshes, paddy-field edges, dense grass at roadsides and scrub.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Description

A diminutive dark quail with bright yellow legs and sexually dimorphic. Diagnostic features of male are uniform slaty-blue forehead, supercilium, sides of neck, breast and flanks, black-and-white patterning on head and fore neck, and reddish-chestnut belly and under tail-coverts. The extent of red-dish-chestnut below varies, in some cases extending to reach white band across fore neck. Patterning of above also varies; some show blue-grey on crown, mantle and scapulars. In case of others, it is more rufescent-brown with bold whitish shaft streaking upperparts, with darker brown crown and clearly defined crown-stripe. The diagnostic features of female from female Common, Japanese and Rain Quails is smaller size, rufous forehead and broad supercilium, and barred breast and flanks. In addition, crown-stripe is finer, as is shaft streaking on hind neck, mantle and scapulars. Flight feathers are unbarred - another difference from Common and Japanese.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 14 cm
Weight : 36-57 g
Habitat : wet grassland, marshes, paddy-field edges, dense grass and scrub
Altitude : <2,000 m

Behaviour

Similar to those of Common Quail, but more partial to wetter terrain. Keeps in pairs or small family groups. Usually flush singly dropping into the grass after a short flight. Call is a high-pitched series of two or three descending piping notes.

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *ti-yu , quee-kee-kew*
tir..tir
Breeding Season : December-September
Nest Site/ Type : grass clump close to thick cover
Clutch Size : unknown
Incubation Period : unknown

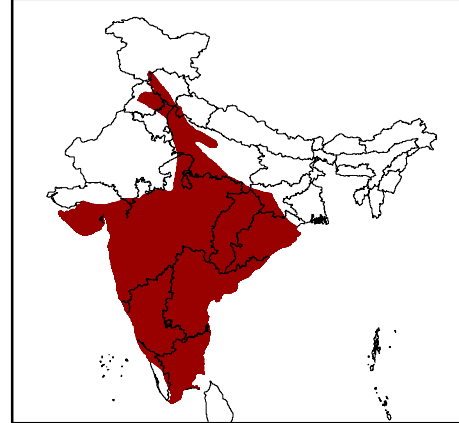


JUNGLE BUSH QUAIL *Perdica asiatica* Latham 1790

Vernacular Names: *Lowwa* (Hindi, Marathi), *Kadai* (Tamil), *Girza pitta* (Telegu), *Vari kada* (Malayalam), *Kari lowya* (Kannada), *Vana lavdri* (Gujarati)



Daniel Cole



Distribution & Habitat

Widespread resident, fairly common and endemic to the Indian subcontinent. From Gujarat east to Orissa, north to Himachal Pradesh (up to 1,200 m) and south throughout the peninsula. It inhabits dry grass and scrub jungle and both open and fairly dense deciduous forest, preferably on dry and stony ground.

Description

A squat and plump little galliforme. Male is fulvous-brown streaked and mottled with black and buff. It has rufous orange throat and supercilium whitish moustachial stripe, brownish ear-coverts, and orange-buff vent. It has white underparts heavily barred with black, and is very similar to male Rock Bush Quail. Female has vinous-buff underparts, without black barring. It differs from female Rock Bush Quail by striking head pattern, which is much as male jungle, with rufous-orange throat distinct from rest of under parts.

Behaviour

Found in groups of up to 20 birds outside the breeding season. When roosting or resting during the day, the birds bunch up together under a bush facing outward. When flushed, the burst into flight in all directions with a loud whirring of wings; they soon reassemble by making rallying calls to each other. They move in more or less single file, and shift from one feeding ground to another using the same little paths or tunnels formed in the matted and bent-over grass day after day. Cocks are pugnacious in breeding season. Call is harsh grating or soft musical whistling after a group has been scattered.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

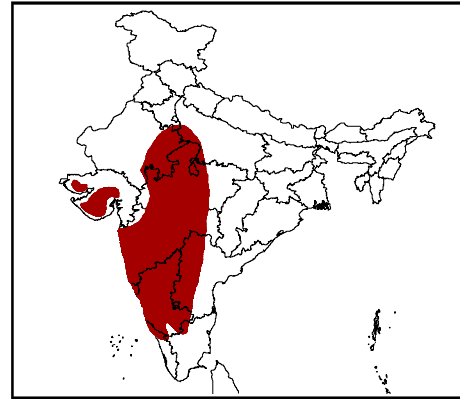
Body Length : 17 cm
Weight : 57-82 g
Habitat : dry grass & scrub jungle, open & fairly dense deciduous forests, preferably on dry and stony ground
Altitude : unknown

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *chee-chee-chuck, chee-chee- chuk, whi-whi-whi-whi-whi-whi*
Breeding Season : Throughout
Nest Site/ Type : base of grass tussock in scrub
Clutch Size : 4 to 8
Incubation Period: 16-18 days

**ROCK BUSH QUAIL *Perdicula argoondah* Sykes 1832****Vernacular Names:** *Lowwa* (Hindi, Marathi), *Sinna kada* (Tamil), *Lawunka* (Telugu)

Daniel Cole

**Distribution & Habitat**

Resident and fairly common, from Haryana south to north Kerala, and from Gujarat east to central Madhya Pradesh and central Andhra Pradesh. Inhabits dry rocky or sandy areas thinly vegetated with thorn scrub. When compared to Jungle Bush Quail, it is usually found in much thinly vegetated and stonier habitats.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Description

A squat and plump galliforme where the male is easily confused with Jungle Bush Quail due to the white under parts that is heavily barred with black, but could be distinguished by subtle differences in head pattern. It has duller, more vinaceous-buff throat, creamy white superciliary stripe, and lacks white moustachial stripe. It also has a buffish-white vent. Female has vinaceous to vinaceous-buff below without black barring.

Behaviour

Similar to those of Jungle Bush Quail. Found in parties of up to 20 birds outside the breeding season. When roosting or resting during the day, the birds bunch up together under a bush facing outward. When flushed, the burst into flight in all directions with a loud whirring of wings; they soon reassemble by making rallying calls to each other. They move in more or less single file, and shift from one feeding ground to another, using the same little paths or tunnels formed in the matted and bent-over grass day after day. Cocks are pugnacious in breeding season. Call is harsh grating or soft musical whistling after a group has been scattered.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 17 cm
Weight : 60-74 g
Habitat : dry rock & sandy areas, thinly vegetated with thorn scrub, less vegetated and stony habitats
Altitude : unknown

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *chee-chee-chuck, chee-chee-chuk, whi-whi-whi-whi-whi-whi*
Breeding Season : Throughout
Nest Site/ Type : under rock, bush or grass tussock
Clutch Size : 4 to 8
Incubation Period : 16-18 days

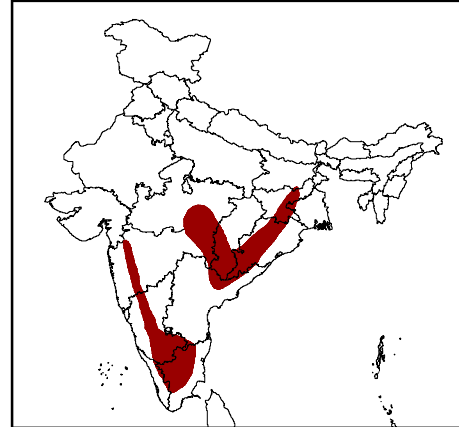


PAINTED BUSH QUAIL *Perdicula erythrorhyncha* Sykes 1832

Vernacular Names: *Kokni lowwa* (Hindi), *Sirse lowwa*, (Hindi-Madhya Pradesh), *Kadai* (Tamil), *Meni kada* (Malayalam), *Huker* (Bengali)



Daniel Cole



Distribution & Habitat

Resident and fairly common, mainly in Western and Eastern Ghats, locally distributed and common between 600 and 2,000 m. Inhabits thin scrub, and scrub at forest edges often interspersed with cultivation.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Description

A dark but brightly coloured galliforme with conspicuous bright bill and feet. It has bold black spotting on olive brown upperparts, bold black spotting on breast and, especially, on rufous flanks, and prominent white shaft streaks on scapulars and wing-coverts. Male has supercilia meeting across fore crown, black around eye, on forehead and on chin, and striking white throat. Female has fewer or no black spots on breast. It has rufous supercilium, lower ear coverts and throat.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 18 cm
Weight : 50-85 g
Habitat : thin scrub & scrub at forest edges, often interspersed with cultivation
Altitude : unknown

Reproduction & Life Cycle

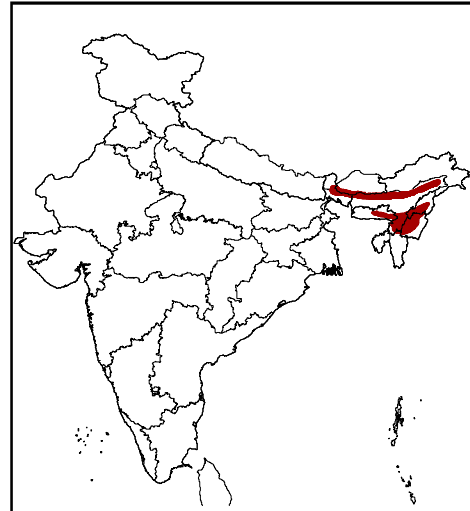
Call : *kirikee, kirikee, tu-tu-tu-tu-tutu-tutu-tuttu*
Breeding Season : Throughout
Nest Site/ Type : under rock, bush or grass tussock
Clutch Size : 4 to 7
Incubation Period: 16-18 days

Behaviour

Similar to those of Jungle Bush Quail. Keeps in parties of up to 15 birds for most of the year. Feeds in open areas during mornings and evenings. Often dust bathes at edges of jungle paths and tracks. When flushed the party scatters in all directions, the birds tumbling into the undergrowth after a short flight. They begin their rally calls to each other almost at once, and soon work their way back through the bushes to reunite.

**MANIPUR BUSH QUAIL *Perdica manipurensis* Hume 1880****Vernacular Names:** *Kala goondri* (Assamese-Goalpara), *Lanz sorbol*, *Sorbol amuba* (Manipuri)

Daniel Cole

**Distribution and Habitat**

Very rare local resident, now confined to NE Indian states viz., Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and West Bengal. Inhabits tall moist grassland and scrub habitats in foothills (up to 1,000 m), and also in swamps. Recently, rediscovered after a gap of 75 years in Manas NP¹.

Conservation Status

IUCN : vulnerable
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Description

A dark but brightly coloured quail, with dark olive-grey upperparts finely marked with black barring and spotting, and golden-buff under parts with black cross-shaped markings. Male is distinguishable by white lores, and chestnut forehead, supercilium, lower ear-coverts and throat. Female has less 'golden' underparts, chestnut of head replaced by brownish-grey.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 20 cm
Weight : 64-78 g
Habitat : tall moist grassland & scrub in foothills, sometimes in swamps
Altitude : unknown

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *whit-it-it-it- t-t*
Breeding Season : unknown
Nest Site/ Type : among grass
Clutch Size : 4
Incubation Period : unknown

Behaviour

Similar to those of Jungle bush Quail. Usually encountered in parties of six to eight birds. Very secretive and keeps in dense cover. Comes out into burnt grass patches with new shoots sprouting, in the early morning and late afternoon. When roosting or resting during the day, the birds bunch up together under a bush facing outward. When flushed, they burst into flight in all directions with a loud whirring of wings; they soon reassemble by making rallying calls to each other. Most easily located by its distinctive call.

¹Choudhury, A. 2006. Rediscovery of Manipur Bush Quail. *Mistnet*, 7(2):15-16.

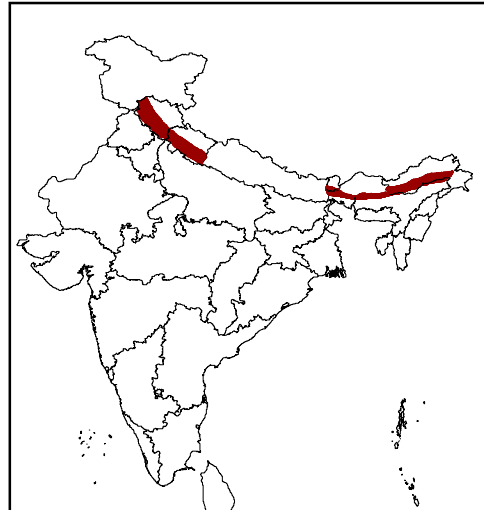


HILL PARTRIDGE *Arborophila torqueola* Valenciennes 1826

Vernacular Names: *Peura, Ban teetar* (Hindi, Garhwali, Kumauni), *Roli, Ram chukra* (Himachali), *Duboi* (Assamese-Nowgong), *Dao bui* (Assamese-Cachar), *Kohumbut* (Sikkim-Lepcha), *Pao-er* (Arunachal-Mishmi), *Wogam, Gam toung* (Mainpuri-Kachin), *Inrui whip* (Naga)



Carl D'Silva



Distribution & Habitat

Resident and fairly common in the Himalayas (1,830-3,050 m) from Himachal Pradesh east to Arunachal Pradesh and northeast India. Inhabits ravines and slopes in undergrowth of moist, dense oak and other evergreen broad-leaved forests.

Conservation Status	
IUCN	: others
IWPA	: Schedule IV
CITES	: not listed

Description

A dumpy, short-tailed olive-brown partridge. Male has rufous crown and nape, black eye-patch and eye-stripe, white neck sides streaked with black, and white half-collar separating throat from breast. Female is similar to male, but has olive-brown crown and ear-coverts and rufous fore neck. Could be distinguished from Rufous-throated Partridge as male has rufous crown and presence of white half-collar separating throat from breast. Whereas, female closely resembles Rufous-throated and could be distinguished by buff supercilium, lack of black border between rufous fore neck and grayish breast, blackish barring to olive-brown mantle, diffuse rufous-buff fringes to breast, and grayish or brownish legs and feet.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range	
Body Length	: 28 cm
Weight	: 227-400 g
Habitat	: ravines & slopes in undergrowth of moist dense forest of oak and other evergreen broadleaves
Altitude	: 400-4,000 m

Reproduction & Life Cycle	
Call	: whistle
Breeding Season	: April-July
Nest Site/ Type	: forest or scrub jungle
Clutch Size	: 3 to 5
Incubation Period	: unknown

Behaviour

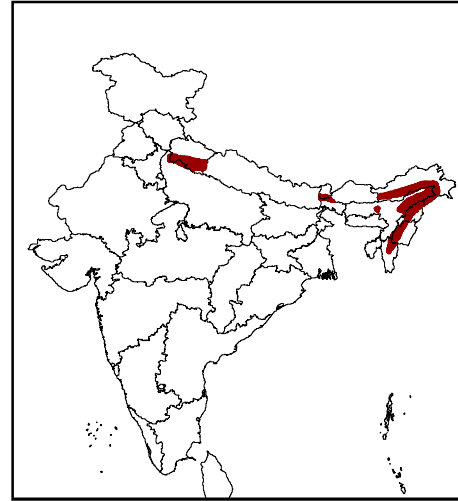
Usually in pairs but sometimes gregarious, found in parties of five to ten birds outside the breeding season. Dig for food among litter and humus on the forest floor, and birds keeping in contact by calling, as they move in forest. When disturbed, usually moves away on foot; if flushed, flies strongly, zigzagging around the trees, and usually settles after less than 100 m. Roost in parties on trees. Call is a single, mournful, drawn-out whistle, repeated 2 or 3 times, followed by 3 to 6 double whistles.

**RUFIOUS-THROATED PARTRIDGE** *Arborophila rufogularis* Blyth 1850

Vernacular Names: *Peura* (Hindi, Kumauni), *Duboi* (Assamese-Nowgong), *Dao bui Daobui yegashi* (Assamese-Cachar), *Kohumbut* (Sikkim-Lepcha), *Pokhu* (Arunachal-Dafla), *Inrui whip* (Naga)



Carl D'Silva

**Distribution & Habitat**

Resident and locally fairly common, in the Himalayas (460-2,500 m) from Uttarakhand east to Arunachal Pradesh and in the hills of northeast India. Subject to vertical movements, *i.e.*, 1,450-1,830 m in the Himalayas and 600-1,800 m in the hills of northeast India. Generally at lower altitudes than Hill Partridge, although ranges sometimes overlap. Inhabits thick understorey of broadleaved evergreen forest and secondary growth.

Description

As like the Hill Partridge, it is a dumpy short-tailed olive-brown partridge. The male is distinguished from the Hill Partridge by grayish forehead and olive-brown crown, rufous-orange throat and fore neck spotted with black, and lack of white half-collar. Both sexes more closely resemble the female Hill Partridge, and are distinguished by the greyish-white supercilium, white moustachial stripe eye, narrow black band between rufous-orange fore neck and grey breast, uniform olive-brown mantle, darker grey breast, and pinkish-red legs and feet.

Behaviour

Similar to Hill Partridge, usually in pairs but sometimes gregarious, found in parties of six to twelve birds outside the breeding season. Usually not shy, but skulk under dense undergrowth and difficult to flush. Dig for food among litter and humus on the forest floor, and birds keeping in contact by calling, as they move in forest. When disturbed, usually moves away on foot; if flushed, flies strongly, zigzagging around the trees, and usually settles after less than 100 m. While in flight in open areas, it deceptively appears like a female kaleej pheasant, but as small as a quail while in dense undergrowth. Roost in conveys on trees. Call is a mournful double whistle repeated constantly and onslightly ascending scale.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 27 cm
Weight : 200-370 g
Habitat : thick understorey of broadleaved evergreen forest and secondary growth
Altitude : 460-2,500 m

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *wheea-whu*
Breeding Season : April-August
Nest Site/ Type : thick pad or hidden in grass or dense undergrowth
Clutch Size : 4 to 5
Incubation Period: unknown



WHITE-CHEEKED PARTRIDGE *Arborophila atrogularis* Blyth 1850

Vernacular Names: *Peura* (Hindi), *Duboi*, *Dubore* (Assamese), *Dao bui*, *Daobui yegashi* (Assamese-Cachar), *Inrui whip* (Naga)



Carl D'Silva



Distribution & Habitat

Resident and fairly common (in areas <750m) in Eastern Himalayas and northeast India (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura) from the lower foothills up to 1500 m. Inhabits bamboo thickets and damp undergrowth in less dense broadleaved evergreen forest than those inhabited by Hill or Rufous-throated Partridges.

Conservation Status	
IUCN	: near threatened
IWPA	: Schedule IV
CITES	: not listed

Description

A dumpy short-tailed olive-brown forest partridge. It is distinguished from other partridges belonging to this genus in the region by white patch on ear-coverts and whitish supercilium, black mask and throat

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range	
Body Length	: 28 cm
Weight	: 200-312g
Habitat	: bamboo thickets & damp undergrowth in less dense broadleaved evergreen forest
Altitude	: <1,500 m

black-streaked orange-yellow on hind neck and sides, and black streaking on white fore neck. Legs and feet are yellowish to red. Mantle and back are olive-brown and heavily striped with black, and upperparts are very similar to female Hill Partridge, although hind neck is orange-yellow.

Behaviour

Like those of Hill Partridge. Usually in pairs but sometimes gregarious, found in coveys of five to eight birds outside the breeding season. Dig for food among litter and humus on the forest floor, and birds keeping in contact by calling, as they move in forest.

When disturbed, usually moves away on foot; if flushed, flies one at a time and only when underfoot, thereby, giving a false impression of being solitary birds. Flies strongly, zigzagging around the trees, and usually settles after less than 100 m. Roost in coveys on trees. Call is accelerating and ascending series of 12-18 far-

Reproduction & Life Cycle	
Call	: <i>whew..whew..whew</i>
Breeding Season	: March-July
Nest Site/ Type	: hollow filled with leaves or a thick pad of grass with a dome
Clutch Size	: 4 to 5
Incubation Period:	unknown

carrying, throaty 'whew' notes that end abruptly.

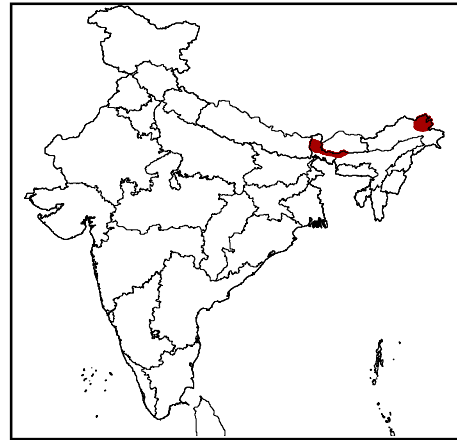


CHESTNUT-BREADED PARTRIDGE *Arborophila mandellii* Hume 1874

Vernacular Names: *Pao-er* (Arunachal-Mishmi)



Carl D'Silva



Distribution & Habitat

Resident and uncommon in eastern Himalayas from West Bengal east to Arunachal Pradesh and Assam between 350 and 2,500 m and possibly higher. Inhabits dense undergrowth in broadleaved evergreen forest.

Conservation Status

IUCN : vulnerable
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Description

A typically dumpy hill partridge. It is distinguishable from other partridges belonging to the same genus by the presence of white half-collar and broad chestnut breast-band. It also has rufous-orange ear-coverts, throat and foreneck, black division between orange foreneck and chestnut breast, black spotting on ear-coverts and sides of neck, and grayish supercilium. Lower breast to vent grey marked on flanks with chestnut and white. Under tail-coverts olive with white spots and rufous mottling. Sexes similar.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 28 cm
Weight : unknown
Habitat : dense undergrowth in broadleaved evergreen forest
Altitude : 350-2,500 m

Behaviour

Unknown in the wild. The call starts with repetition of *prreet*, followed by a series of ascending double notes leading to a climax.

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *prreet..prreet..., prrr prrr-er-it*
Breeding Season : unknown
Nest Site/ Type : pad of grass under a rock in forest
Clutch Size : unknown
Incubation Period : unknown

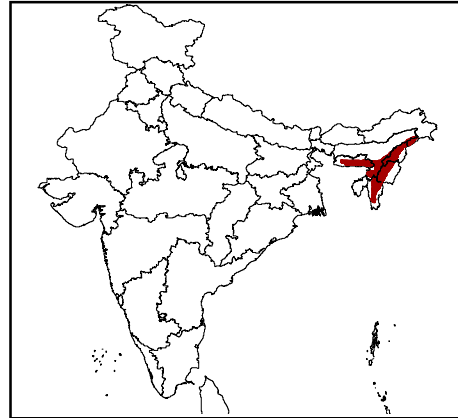


MOUNTAIN BAMBOO PARTRIDGE *Bambusicola fytchii* Anderson 1871

Vernacular Names: *Dao bui lai* (Assamese-Cachar); *Wakrek* (Manipuri)



Daniel Cole



Distribution & Habitat

Resident, but rare. Distributed in northeast India (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland) mostly at low altitudes, but sometimes up to 2,000 m. Inhabits open scrub jungles mixed with tall grasslands along stream banks, paddy fields and dense grass in foothills and sometimes in the adjacent plains. In Manipur, it occurs in low oak and willow scrub along banks of streams, mixed with tall grass and *Rubus* scrub. It favours patches of *Alpinia*, a wild cardamom-like plant.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule I
CITES : not listed

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 35 cm
Weight : 285-400 g
Habitat : dense grass in foothills and sometimes adjacent plains, scrub bordering in dense grass or in trees
Altitude : <2,000 m

Description

A comparatively long-tailed rufous brown partridge with broad, buffish-white supercilium and dark eye-stripe, warm buff ear-coverts, throat and foreneck, rufous and chestnut spotting on breast, mantle and scapulars, diffusely striped tail, and bold blackish heart-shaped spots on flanks. During flight, the rufous primaries and sides of tail are visible. Sexes similar.

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *kar-kar, kee, ke-kee*
Breeding Season : March-May
Nest Site/ Type : under shrub or tree or in grass clump
Clutch Size : 4 to 6
Incubation Period: 18-19 days

Behaviour

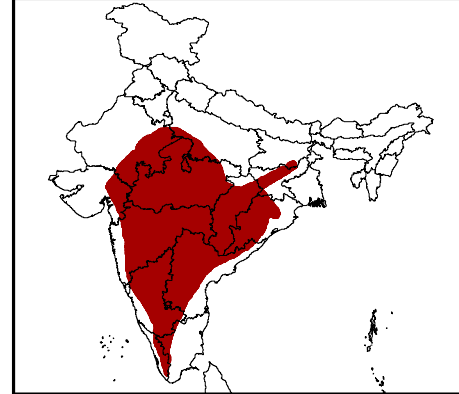
Usually found in parties of up to five or six birds outside the breeding season. Generally shy, coming out in the open to feed only in early mornings and evening, but seldom straying far away from water. Males are very noisy in spring, flying up frequently with a flutter of wings to a nearby mound or tree stump and crowing challenges two or three times and then dropping to the ground. Difficult to flush, and then flies rapidly a short distance before landing in dense grass or in trees. The call is similar to Black Francolin but less shrill and high pitched.

**RED SPURFOWL *Galloperdix spadicea* Gmelin 1789**

Vernacular Names: *Chhoti jangli murghi* (Hindi-Madhya Pradesh), *Sarawa kozhi*, *Chakutti kozhi* (Tamil), *Mullan kozhi* (Malayalam), *Yerra kodi*, *Jita kodi* (Telugu), *chakotri*, *Koaktri*, *Kastoor* (Marathi), *Chokara* (Gujarati)



Daniel Cole

**Distribution & Habitat**

Resident, widespread and fairly common. Distributed from Uttar Pradesh south through the peninsula; foothills up to 1,250 m. Inhabits dense scrub near cultivation, dry and stony scrub-covered foothills, bamboo thickets and secondary growth. In southern India, it inhabits coffee estates, lantana patches, and even near villages.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Description

A reddish-brown partridge-like bird with a comparatively long tail, that is held partly fanned and with central ridge. It has red base to bill and eye-patch, and reddish legs and feet. Male has brownish-grey head and neck and darker brown crown, reddish-brown above, scaled with grey and buff below, brownish-black unbarred tail. Female has browner head and neck, buffish-brown above with bold blackish markings, reddish-brown below with irregular blackish stripes, and buff stripes on tail.

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 36 cm
Weight : 148-454 g
Habitat : dense scrub near cultivation, dry & stony scrub-covered foothills, bamboo thickets and secondary growth
Altitude : <1,250 m

Behaviour

Found in pairs or in parties of three to five birds in scrub vegetation. It is shy, wary, and a great skulker which is more often heard than seen. It is very fast on legs and generally runs uphill and flushes only when hard pressed. It seldom flies far and usually only to 'hedge-hop', thus placing more thickets between itself and the observer and continuing to run again as soon as it touches down, tail open fanwise and carried partly erect. Roosts and often takes refuge in trees or dense thorny bushes. It feeds by scratching about among dead leaves under scrub and coming into the open areas and edges in early mornings or evenings. The call is similar to male Junglefowl.

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *ku-ruk-ku-rak, kuk-kuk-ku-tuk*
Breeding Season : January-June
Nest Site/ Type : dense scrub or bamboo
Clutch Size : 3 to 5
Incubation Period: unknown

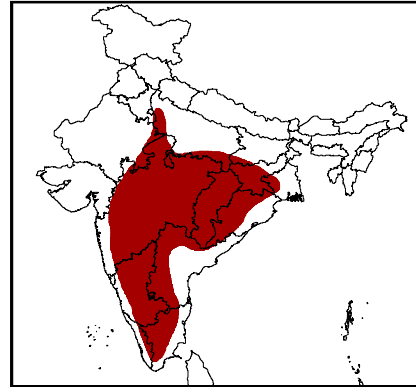


PAINTED SPURFOWL *Galloperdix lunulata* Valenciennes 1825

Vernacular Names: *Kalkodi* (Tamil), *Jitta kodi* (Telegu), *Askal*, *Kainjer* (Oriya), *Hutka* (Gondi)



Daniel Cole



Distribution & Habitat

Resident and fairly common. Distributed from east Rajasthan eastwards to West Bengal and south through the peninsula in foothills up to 1,000 m. Its range overlaps with that of Red Spurfowl but generally in drier, rockier country than Red spurfowl. Inhabits dry stony foothills covered with dense thorn scrub or bamboo thickets.

Conservation Status

IUCN : others
IWPA : Schedule IV
CITES : not listed

Description

A partridge-like bird distinguished by longer tail and distinctive colouration. Male has greenish-black head and neck spotted and barred with white, chestnut-red above with black-bordered white

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 32 cm
Weight : 138-161 g
Habitat : dense thorn scrub or bamboo thickets in dry stony foothills
Altitude : unknown

spots, greenish-black wings and tail with white spotting on coverts. It has yellowish-buff breast and belly barred and spotted with black, and chestnut flanks. Female could be distinguished from female Red Spurfowl by dark olive-brown upperparts and breast, buff throat and malar stripe, and chestnut forehead, supercilium and ear-coverts. Lacks red orbital skin, and has dark bill and legs.

Behaviour

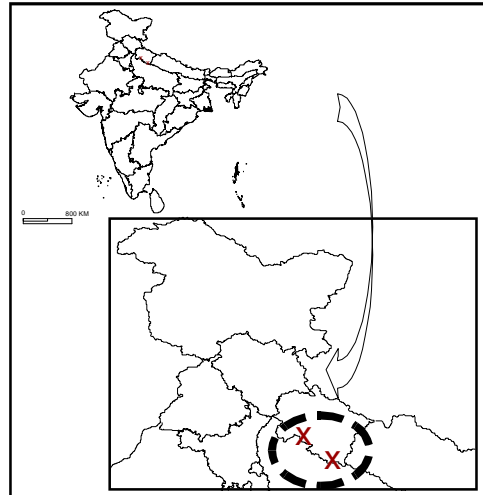
Usually seen in pairs or in family parties of up to five birds. Is a greater skulker than Red Spurfowl. If disturbed, runs away swiftly. If disturbed further, it will fly a few metres, then land and run on again or hide in crevices and escapes into holes among rocks. Male when flushed utters 'a curious bubbling, half-scolding clucking note'.

Reproduction & Life Cycle

Call : *chur, chur, chur*
Breeding Season : January-June
Nest Site/ Type : under rocks or vegetation
Clutch Size : 3 to 4
Incubation Period : unknown

**HIMALAYAN QUAIL *Ophrysia superciliosa* J.E. Gray 1846****Vernacular Names:** *Chota kala teetar* (Hindi)

Daniel Cole

**Distribution & Habitat**

Former status unknown, occurred in W Himalayas in Uttarakhand, at 1,650-2,100 m; now presumed extinct, last confirmed sighting in 1890, but may still be surviving. Old records are from Jharipani, Banog and Bhadraj (near Mussorie) and Sher-ka-danda (near Nainital). Reported to occur in long grass and brushwood on steep hillsides.

Conservation Status

IUCN : critically endangered
IWPA : Schedule I
CITES : not listed

Description

A relatively small, long-tailed slaty brown galliforme with red bill and legs. Male has a complex black-and-white head pattern with black-bordered grayish-white supercilium, grayish-white eye-patch and patch on ear-coverts, and black throat with grayish-white border. The above and below are dark slaty olive-brown with black streaks, except for under tail-coverts, which are black with grayish-white barring. Female does not have striking head pattern like male, but with narrow white eye-patch, pale vinaceous-grey supercilium and ear-coverts, and black sides of crown and stripe behind eye. Above are cinnamon-brown and marked with black; below pale vinaceous-brown, streaked with black

Size, Habitat & Altitude Range

Body Length : 25 cm
Weight : unknown
Habitat : long grass and brushwood
on steep hill sides
Altitude : 1,650-2,100 m

Behaviour**Reproduction & Life Cycle**

Call : A shrill whistle when
disturbed
Breeding Season : unknown
Nest Site/ Type : unknown
Clutch Size : unknown
Incubation Period : unknown

Historical records indicate that it was usually seen in pairs or in parties of three to six. Being greater skulker, it rarely flushed from thick cover. If flushed, birds flew slowly and heavily, soon dropped into vegetation, and reunited by using shrill whistles.