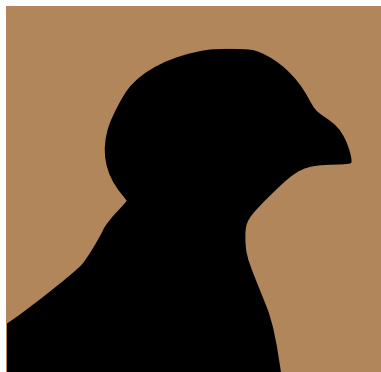




MONTEZUMA QUAIL

Cyrtonyx montezumae

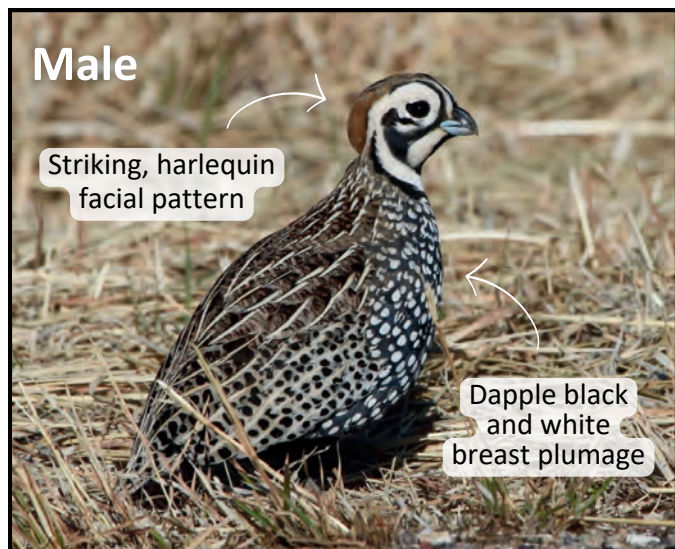
MEARNS' QUAIL

Montezuma Quail (also referred to as Mearns' Quail) dwell in the arid southwest. These plump robin-sized birds are unmistakable with their distinctive “puffy” heads and striking facial markings. Even with their striking plumage, Montezuma Quail are difficult to observe in the wild. Unlike other species of quail, Montezuma Quail do not form large coveys in the fall or winter, instead they remain in small family groups. **Conservation Status - Low Concern, Decreasing.**



*If you want to see Montezuma Quail in the wild, look for them in the early morning or late afternoon when they are likely on the move. Listen for the **descending whistle combined with a buzz call.***

Male



Habitat

Montezuma Quail inhabit the mountain grasslands and oak woodlands of Mexico, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. These birds can live at various elevations preferring areas with native bunchgrasses. Key grasses in their preferred habits include common wolfstail, plains lovegrass, and tanglehead.

To meet their daily habitat requirements, Montezuma Quail need native bunchgrasses, variety of native forbs, and shrubby cover.

Food

Montezuma Quail are ground-foragers. They have powerful feet with sickle-shaped claws that allow them to dig for tubers and acorns. Common foods include acorns, seeds, and the tubers of Drummond's wood sorrel and sedges. During the rainy season, Montezuma Quail will supplement their diet with a variety of invertebrates including beetles, grasshoppers, and ants.

Nesting

Female Montezuma Quail will select a nest site on the ground within a clump of native bunchgrass. The nest is constructed by both the male and female. The nest consists of a shallow depression lined with grass with more grass domed overtop of the bowl. Both parents incubate.



Adapted from *Birds of the World*
<https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.monqua.01>

Female



Clutch Size: 10-12 eggs
Incubation: 25-26 days
**Peak Hatch: Late July-
mid August**

MONTEZUMA QUAIL WORD SEARCH

X	I	B	Y	S	J	Z	G	E	R	X	E	B	W
F	X	G	Q	T	E	I	D	Q	V	D	R	I	D
B	P	S	U	C	F	Y	V	P	M	O	T	N	Q
S	N	P	Y	E	C	O	U	E	O	K	A	B	R
U	N	S	I	S	R	O	R	D	M	L	C	U	R
V	E	R	M	N	W	D	R	A	S	Z	L	N	E
U	D	E	O	I	O	D	J	S	G	L	M	C	U
V	U	B	V	C	I	I	A	P	X	E	S	H	K
N	W	U	Q	I	A	R	U	M	A	S	R	G	Q
V	G	T	K	T	G	Q	P	R	R	L	F	R	U
F	W	O	O	D	L	A	N	D	S	N	Q	A	A
Y	E	V	O	C	Y	S	L	K	Y	C	K	S	I
P	L	P	Y	K	B	F	W	B	O	E	R	S	L
S	M	S	L	D	E	S	E	R	T	M	X	W	X

Acorns

Grassland

Brood

Insects

Bunchgrass

Mearns

Covey

Quail

Desert

Tubers

Forager

Woodlands

