



MOUNTAIN QUAIL

Oreortyx pictus

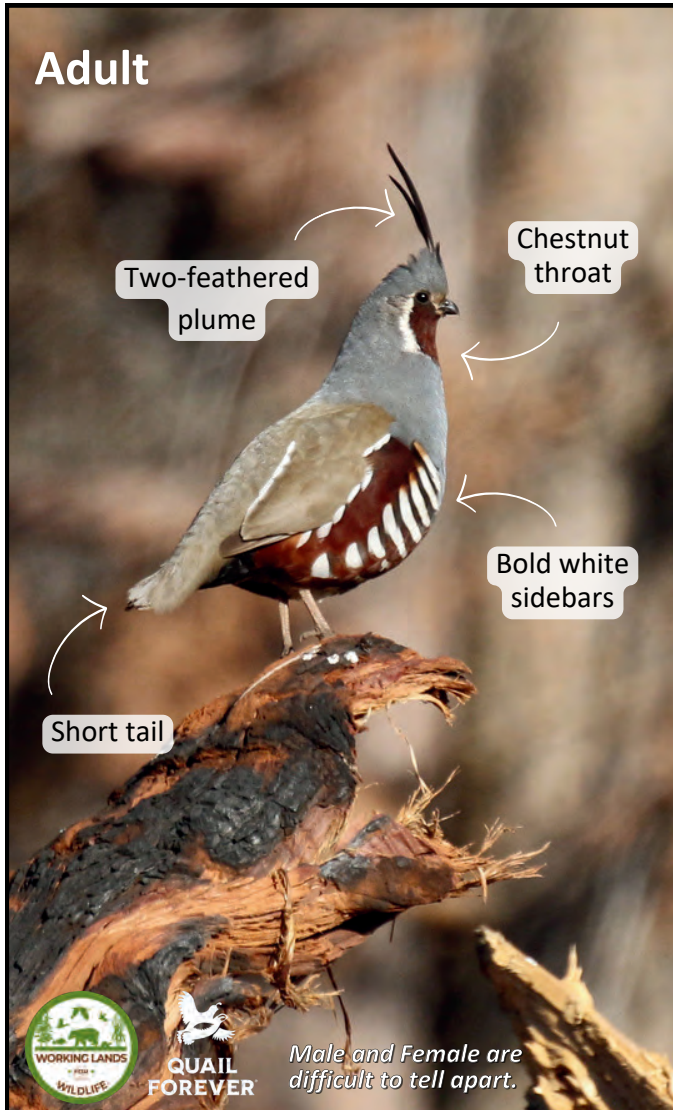
SAN PEDRO QUAIL,
PAINTED QUAIL, PLUMED QUAIL

Mountain Quail are denizens of the foothills and mountains of western coastal states. They are the largest species of quail in the United States, but despite their size and distinctive plumage, they are difficult to observe in the wild. Mountain Quail have been observed undergoing short-distance migrations during the year. During the winter months, they will travel by foot to lower elevations to seek favorable weather. **Conservation Status - Low Concern, Decreasing.**



If you want to encounter Mountain Quail, your best option is to spend time in the mountainous backcountry within its geographical range. Listen for the male's **QUEE-ar!** song.

Adult



Habitat

Mountain Quail inhabit a variety of habitat types, including both arid and wet habitats. They seldom frequent open grassy habitats (like other western quail species), but prefer areas with a well developed brushy understory. They are most common in pine-oak woodland, coniferous forest, and scrubby habitat like chaparral. They will often move into areas that were recently burned or logged favoring areas with shrubby growth.

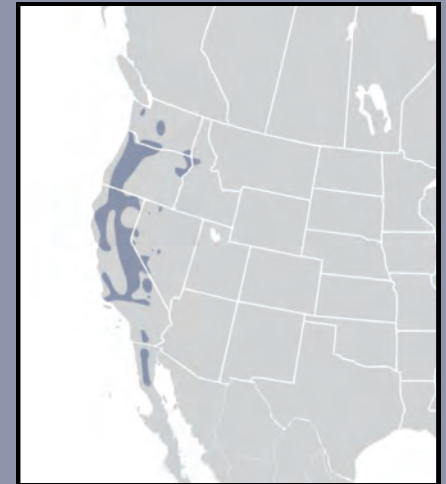
To meet their daily habitat requirements, Mountain Quail need areas with dense brushy cover and patches of low-vegetation.

Food

Mountain Quail mainly forage for food on the ground; however, they will leap into trees to pick leaves or fruit. Their diet consists of leaves, seeds, berries, bulbs, and invertebrates. Their diet will change seasonally but includes manzanita fruits, pine nuts, grass seeds, acorns, and small flowering plants such as chickweeds and lupine.

Nesting

Male Mountain Quail make a shallow depression in the ground at the base of a shrub or sapling in dense cover. The female will line the nest with pine needles, leaf litter, or grass.



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



Clutch Size: 9-15 eggs
Incubation: 24-25 days
Peak Hatch: June - July

MOUNTAIN QUAIL WORD SEARCH

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

Brush

Migrate

Cover

Mountain

Forest

Plume

Forager

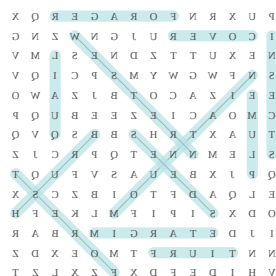
Quail

Fruit

Seeds

Insects

Western



SKETCH THE HABITAT OF A MOUNTAIN QUAIL IN THE BOX!



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Forever resources!**