

IDENTIFICATION KEY – QUAILS AND BUTTON QUAILS

The identification of Quails and Button-Quails can be problematic.

- Location and habitat give clues;
- The answers to the questions below may assist in cases of doubt;

QUAILS

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|----|--|---------------------------|
| 1. | If it has yellow legs - go to 2.
If it has pinkish-white legs | Stubble Quail |
| 2. | Measure wing length: 65 – 74 mm:
91 – 101 mm: | King Quail
Brown Quail |

BUTTON-QUAILS

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|----|---|------------------------------|
| 1. | If it has pink legs - go to 2.
If it has yellow legs - go to 3. | |
| 2. | Undertail coverts white and with no eye stripe:
(found primarily in arid and semi-arid regions across much of Australia) | Little Button-quail |
| | Undertail coverts buff and with mottled white eye stripe:
(found in grasslands and woodlands of temperate and tropical Australia) | Red-chested Button-quail |
| 3. | Reddish shoulder patch - go to 4.
No reddish shoulder patch - go to 5. | |
| 4. | Bill shallow; heavily mottled back, white-edged feathers of upperparts mostly black with rufous barring:
(found in forest and woodlands of temperate and eastern tropical Australia, Tasmania and sw WA) | Painted Button-quail |
| | Bill deep; back lightly mottled black, white-edged feathers of upperparts mostly pale rufous with black tip:
(restricted to lowland coastal grasslands and woodlands of tropical north Queensland) | Buff-breasted Button-quail |
| 5. | Wing length > 105mm:
(restricted to high rainfall forest in se Queensland) | Black-breasted Button-quail |
| | Wing length > 85mm < 105mm:
(restricted to monsoonal forest and woodlands of the top end of WA & NT) | Chestnut-backed Button-quail |
| | Wing length < 85mm:
(found in coastal and sub-coastal grasslands and crops of tropical and warm temperate areas) | Red-backed Button-quail |