

COMMON QUAIL

COTURNIX COTURNIX

DISTINGUISHING MARKS:

Dwarf for a fowl, hardly size of a starling. Toddler-like, short tail, sand brown, throughout light striped. Length 18 cm, weight 115 g. Male has black throat label.

PREVALENCE:

Met as a rarity in some parishes in Ostrobothnia, in the north of Karelia and Uusimaa.

Hibernates in Africa.

HABITAT:

Feels comfortable on clover meadows and cornfields, sometimes in river banks.

LIFE STYLES:

Hides carefully in the cover of the vegetation and flies away just at the last moment. The male exposes its whereabouts by whistling 5-10 times running, [hvit-vit-vit]. Moves and sings liveliest in the dusk.

NOURISHMENT:

New crop, seeds and spineless.

BREEDING:

Quails' courtship can be heard in July, when the most of our birds have already calmed down. The nest is in the shelter of grass. The female lays 8-12 yellowish brown maculated eggs and bathes for 18-20 days. Chicks can fly in the age of 19-21 days.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE POPULATION:

The population of the quail is greatly weakened everywhere in Europe during last hundred year.

