

Animal species in this issue

Common quail (*Coturnix coturnix*)



Kingdom: Animalia & Phylum: Chordata & Class: Aves & Order: Galliformes & Family: Phasianidae & Genus: *Coturnix* & Species: *Coturnix coturnix* & *Coturnix japonica*

Quail is a collective name for several genera of mid-sized birds generally considered in the order Galliformes. Old World quail are found in the family Phasianidae, and New World quail are found in the family Odontophoridae. The buttonquail are not quail at all, are named more for their superficial resemblance to quail, and are members of the Turnicidae family, more closely related to the Charadriiformes. The King Quail, a member of the Old World quail, is often sold in the pet trade and is commonly referred to there as a "button quail". Many of the common larger species are farm raised for table food or egg consumption, and are hunted on game farms or in the wild, where they are sometimes artificially stocked to supplement the wild population, or extend into areas they are normally not found naturally.

The collective noun for a group of quail is a *covey* or **bevy**.

Source: Wikipedia

Animal species in this issue

Long-eared hedgehog (*Hemiechinus auritus*)



Kingdom: Animalia & Phylum: Chordata & Class: Mammalia & Order: Erinaceomorpha & Family: Erinaceidae & Genus: *Hemiechinus* & Species: *H. auritus* (S.Q.Gmelin, 1770)

The **Long-eared hedgehog** (*Hemiechinus auritus*) is a species of hedgehog native to Central Asian countries and the Middle East. The long-eared hedgehog lives in burrows that it either makes or finds and is distinguished by its long ears. It is considered one of the smallest middle eastern hedgehogs. This Hedgehog is insectivorous but may also feed on small vertebrates and plants. In captivity they may live as long as 7.6 years.

The length of the head and body of the long-eared hedgehog is approximately 120–270 mm, and the tail is 10–50 mm long. The skull is about 38–48 mm long. Unlike other species the pterygoids of the skull do not inflate and they do not relay information to the tympanic membrane. The ears of this hedgehog are 30–45 mm longer than the closest spine. They are used for heat radiation in the desert. Long-eared hedgehogs have great senses of hearing and smell that they use to hunt out food and detect predators. The long-eared Hedgehog's spines are embedded in a unique muscle sheath that forms a bag like structure which acts as protection for the hedgehog. They can withdraw into this pouch and erect their spines out to fend off predators if need be. The dorsal spines are white on the tip with darker banding below. They do not have dark and light areas on their faces. Also they do not have a gap of spines on the back of their necks that is common to other species of hedgehogs.

Source: Wikipedia