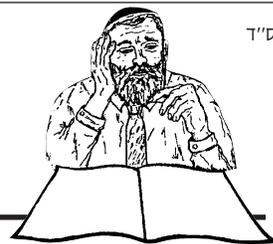
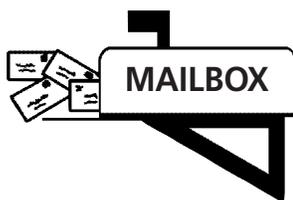


THE Daf HaKASHRUS



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE  RABBINIC FIELD REPRESENTATIVE



MAILBOX

An Email from Australia

THE QUESTION

Dear Rabbis,

I read with great interest the teshuvois on the Mesorah of birds in *The Daf HaKashrus* (Vol. ל"ח No. 2 & 3).

The problem I have is as follows On the acceptable (kosher) list you placed quail... Does this mean all species of quail? Is quail in Australia and Europe the same as the US? Is Quail the same all over the US ... Our caterers have for years wanted to use quail eggs but for years our Australian *shochtim* (*mesorah* from *Chashidische Shochtim* that came here after the war) have told us that they can't ascertain whether this is the kosher quail Can you enlighten us? If there is really no clear response because of lack of *mesorah* or if the US is different than the rest of the world then perhaps a further clarification should go out on the Daf that your list is for NY or the US etc – because it makes its way to RFR's all over the world and may lead to confusion or G-d forbid eating *issur*...

Perhaps the simple way to do it would be to actually write the genus and species in the latin (like we do often with fish) that the OU *poskim* have approved – that would then make identification precise even in the US – and I believe I will demonstrate that it is absolutely essential to use the latin descriptions and names alone are not enough ...

Using Google I found californian quail that is "*callipepla californica*". There is also "*callipepla gambelii*" known as *gambelii* quail There is also bobwhite quail - *Colinus virginianus* ...there is also something called button quail Now which quail is which – which is kosher and which is not?

Any or all of the following?

Quail-Family: Odontophoridae

Mountain Quail *Oreortyx pictus*

Scaled Quail *Callipepla squamata*

California Quail *Callipepla californica*

Gambel's Quail *Callipepla gambelii*

Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus*

Montezuma Quail *Cyrtonyx montezumae*

Actually according to a google search European quail is none of the above but is rather something called "*coturnix coturnix*" –

which is the one most likely to be kosher – but is it? Which quail is being served and which eggs are being eaten by restaurants in the US...you can see the room for lots of confusion ...

The quail we have here (in Australia) is I believe *coturnix coturnix* and also *coturnix japonica*...? Which is the one that you allow?

All the best,

Rabbi Moshe D Gutnick

Rabbinic Administrator

The NSW Kashrut Authority

THE RESPONSE

Daf Notes: Rav Yisroel Belsky, Shlita, one of the OU's *Poskim*, responded to Rabbi Gutnick's question with the *psak* printed below which at this time only permits quail whose latin name is *coturnix coturnix* and the one named *coturnix japonica*. To properly identify these two types of quail and their eggs an expert should always be consulted. *The Daf HaKashrus* is also pleased to publish below an article by Rabbi Chaim Loike entitled "The Mesorah of Kosher Quail". Rabbi Loike provides the technical basis which forms the underpinning of Rav Belsky's *psak*.

In his article Rabbi Loike provides as well pictures of kosher and non kosher quail and their eggs. To see the birds and eggs in color go to *The Daf HaKashrus'* direct link on the web www.ou.org/kosher/daf/ and click on the Nisan 5765 April 2005 issue link.

1. *coturnix coturnix* בענין quail טוב לצמצם דדוקא ב' מנין אלו
2. *coturnix japonica* נמסרו לנו והשאר לא יודעין בבירור עינין.

. בעלסקי

The Mesorah of Quail

BY RABBI CHAIM LOIKE

Teacher of Practical Shechita at RIETS

There are a number of species of birds which are called quail, some are related to the kosher quail and others are not related. Many people have erroneously gone to libraries, taken out a book on birds, looked up the quail and assumed that the pictures they found depicted the quail we accept as kosher. We do not permit all species of quail. As far as we know, the only species of quail permitted are those belonging to the *coturnix* family i.e. *coturnix coturnix* and *coturnix japonica*. These quail, which range from Northern Africa to Europe (and migrate from Egypt to Israel across the Sinai), were consumed by the *Ashkenazi* Jewish communities of Europe.

continued on next page

QUAIL

continued from previous page

The OU has found only certain species of *coturnix* quail to have an acceptable tradition of permissibility. To obtain this tradition of permissibility, a number of breeds of *coturnix coturnix* and *coturnix japonica* were researched and then brought to reliable European *shochtim* living in New York. These *shochtim* confirmed that the quail presented were accepted in Europe as kosher.

In the New York live poultry market, almost all of the quail offered for sale are *coturnix* quail. However, this is not true across the United States. For the same price, there is another bird called quail



The coturnix quail which is accepted as kosher.



The bobwhite for which there is no mesorah.

which is sold for meat. These quail are the bobwhite quail (*colinus virginianus*). While the *coturnix* quail have an established tradition proving that they are kosher, no such tradition exists for the bobwhite quail. It is thus crucial to be able to differentiate between the *coturnix* and the bobwhite quail.

The bobwhite quail is native to much of North America, and has been extensively domesticated. As can be seen in the attached pictures (in *The Daf HaKashrus* colored web edition), the two species are similar but they can be distinguished by the color of their beaks and the colors of their feathers. In general, the coloration of a bird is not the best way to identify its species. As is evident by the domestic chicken, ducks, and geese, domesticated birds come in a range of colors. Through selective breeding, farmers are constantly producing new breeds of fowl, and new color strains. As it stands now, most bobwhite quail and *coturnix* quail do not have the same coloration, but it is important to pay attention to the body and bone structure of these birds, if one wants to be certain that the quail are being correctly identified.



Pictured above are the coturnix japonica, or the pharaoh quail, which are accepted as kosher. It should be noted that although their coloration is different from the quail pictured on the top of the page, they have the same beak.

Just as the *coturnix* and bobwhite quail are both sold as quail, the eggs of both species are ambiguously called quail eggs and sold as such. Since the value of both types of quail eggs are approximately the same, the hatcheries do not always differentiate between the *coturnix* and the bobwhite quail eggs. There are even some hatcheries which offer both *coturnix* and bobwhite quail eggs for sale, but include a disclaimer informing the potential purchaser that depending on availability bobwhite or *coturnix* eggs may be substituted for each other. Since there is no tradition of permissibility for the consumption of the bobwhite, it is also problematic to consume the eggs of this quail. If one wants to eat quail eggs, they must be

able to identify the eggs of the *coturnix* quail. The easiest way to differentiate between the eggs of the *coturnix* and the bobwhite is by the coloration of the shell. The egg shells of the *coturnix* quail are covered with brown spots, while the eggs of the bobwhite quail are white.

While most bobwhites and *coturnix* do not have similar coloration, there is a breed of bobwhite, known as the Tennessee red which is similar to the brown strain of the *coturnix* quail. The brown *coturnix* quail were brought to the European *shochtim* who identified this quail as the same *coturnix* quail which was eaten in Europe. In contrast the Tennessee red is native to North America,



The Tennessee red, regarding which there is no tradition of permissibility.



An egg from a bobwhite quail.

and there is no tradition of permissibility. As can be seen in the pictures, to correctly differentiate the *coturnix* and Tennessee red quail it is insufficient to merely glance at the feather structures of the two birds. Instead it is crucial that close attention be paid to the structure of the beaks. The *coturnix* quail have a thin beak, while the bobwhites have a much thicker beak.

In addition to the bobwhites, there are a number of other quail for which we have been unable to find any tradition of permissibility. These quail are not raised for meat, so it is unlikely that they will be encountered in the live poultry market, although they are occasionally raised as pets. Among the quail which are not included as kosher are the Montezuma, scaled, California, mountain and Gambel's quail of North or Central America and the painted quail (*coturnix chinensis*) from Asia.



Eggs of the kosher coturnix quail.

MAZAL TOV TO ...

our devoted RFR in L.A., CA **RABBI REUVEN NATHANSON AND HIS WIFE** on the engagement of their daughter Chaya Sara to Rabbi Saadya Kaufman of New Orleans, LA.

CONDOLENCES TO...

our devoted RFR's in Brooklyn, NY **RABBIS TZVI AND SHIMSHON MANDEL** on the loss of their father, Rabbi Pinchas Mandel of Brooklyn, NY.

◆ המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים ◆