

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Ten Year Review Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Deletion of Cyrtonyx montezumae mearnsi and C. m. montezumae from Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The United States of America.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Aves
12. Order: Galliformes
13. Family: Phasianidae
14. Species: Cyrtonyx montezumae mearnsi (Nelson, 1900)
Cyrtonyx montezumae montezumae (Vigors, 1830)
15. Common Names: English: harlequin quail, Mearns' quail
French:
Spanish:
16. Code Numbers: 1314003011002001 (ISIS)

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Harlequin quail (Cyrtonyx montezumae spp.) are widespread throughout east and central Arizona, central New Mexico, west Texas, and across the south central uplands of Mexico from Guerrero to Veracruz. Cyrtonyx m. mearnsi and C. m. montezumae are somewhat demarcated on a north-south axis, with mearnsi to the north and somewhat by the Sierra Madre Occidental and montezumae on the southern slopes in Jalisco, but ranging to Atlantic drainages in Pueblo and Veracruz.
22. Population: According to John Phelps of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (pers. comm., 1991), the Mexican populations of harlequin quail are doing better than US populations since the habitat is in better condition and the area is largely uninhabited. Both US and Mexican populations get little hunting pressure. In 1989, severe drought in southern Arizona affected the seasonal abundance of Mearns' quail.
23. Habitat: Cyrtonyx montezumae ssp. occupy the pine-oak and oak scrub in the southwest United States and Mexican highlands especially in open woodland with grassy understory (subtropical and lower temperate zones).

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: The harlequin quail is highly valued upland game bird in Arizona. Annual harvest for the three years 1987-1989 averaged 16,400 birds. Harvest figures were not obtained for the States of New Mexico and Texas and the country of Mexico.
32. Legal International Trade: Commercial trade is nearly non-existent with only one stuffed specimen being imported from Mexico over the past 3 years. Specimens legally hunted in Mexico are permitted to be imported as personal effects provided the hunter has the required hunting licence and does not exceed the legal limit.
33. Illegal Trade: None reported.

4. Protection Status

41. National: The harlequin quail is listed as an upland game bird in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, and the wildlife departments of these States provide and enforce protection for the species commensurate with its legal status as a game bird. In Mexico, harlequin quail are currently included in the hunting season calendar.
42. International: Cyrtonyx montezumae mearnsi (Mexico population) and C. m. montezumae are listed in Appendix II of CITES.

5. Information on Similar Species

Cyrtonyx montezumae merriami is considered to be a synonym of C. m. sallei, and sallei is still considered to be a subspecies of montezumae (Leopold and McCabe, 1957).

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

The Arizona Game and Fish Department commented that the removal of these two taxa from the CITES appendices would have no impact on the continued survival of the species or any of the described subspecies in either the United States or Mexico. Mexico commented that it would be appropriate to remove the harlequin quail from the list since they are properly managed and currently included in the hunting season calendar and they are not bought or sold commercially.

7. Additional Remarks

At the Washington Conference (1973), C. m. merriami was proposed for listing in Appendix I and C. m. mearnsi and C. m. montezumae in Appendix II. At the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties (1979), C. m. merriami was removed from Appendix I and the US population of C. m. mearnsi from Appendix II. Since their original listing, harlequin quail have rarely entered into international commercial trade.

8. References

de la Garza Garcia, G., 1991. SEDUE Subsecretaria de Ecologia, Mexico. (in litt.).

Leopold. A.S., and R.A. McCabe., 1957. Natural History of the Montezuma Quail in Mexico. Condor 59:26.

Phelps, J., 1991. Arizona Game and Fish Department. (in Litt.).

