

California quail *Callipepla californica* 25 cm

INTRODUCED TO NEW ZEALAND AND CHATHAMS

The California quail is a large brown, white and grey quail with a forward-curving plume on the head. The male has a black throat with a white band under it. This North American species was introduced to New Zealand in the 1860s, and is presumed to have been introduced to the Chatham Islands before 1950, where it may survive in small numbers on Chatham and Pitt Islands. California quail prefer a mix of rough pasture and low scrub.



Male California quail.
Photo: Peter Reese.