Name Derivations

Paul A. Johnsgard

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, pajohnsgard@gmail.com

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Name Derivations

Alectoris—from Latin alector (Greek alectryōn): cock
graeca—from Latin Graecus: of Greece
chukar—apparently onomatopoetic
Bonasa—from Latin bonasum: a bison (the drumming of the male resembling the bellowing of a bull); perhaps from Latin bonus: good, and assum: roast
umbellus—from Latin, meaning an umbrella (referring to the necktufts)
Callipepla—from Greek kalos: beautiful, and peplos: coat
californica—of California
douglasii—after David Douglas, Scottish explorer
gambelii—after William Gambel, American ornithologist
squamata—from Latin, meaning scale-like
Canachites—from Greek kanacheô: to make a noise, with formative suffix -ites
Centrocercus—from Greek kentron: a spine, and kerkos: tail
urophasianus—from Greek oura: tail, and phasianos: pheasant
Colinus—Latinized from the Spanish word colín, derived from Aztec language Nahuatl, in which zolin means quail
virginianus—of Virginia
cristatus—from Latin, meaning crested
leucopogon—from Greek leukos: white, and pōgōn: beard
nigrogularis—from Latin niger: dark or black, gula: throat, and suffix -aris

cyrtonyx—from Greek kyrtos: bent or curved, and onyx: nail or claw (referring to the long and curved claws)

montezumae—derived from the name of the Aztec warrior and emperor, Montezuma II

ocellatus—from Latin, meaning spotted as with little eyes

dactylortyx—from Greek daktylos: a finger or toe, and ortyx: a quail (referring to the long toes)

thoracicus—from Greek thōrax: chest, with suffix -icus

dendragapus—from Greek dendron: a tree, and agapē: love

obscurus—from Latin, meaning dusky

fuliginosus—from Latin, meaning sooty

canadensis—of Canada

dendrortyx—from Greek dendron: a tree, and ortyx: a quail

barbatus—from Latin, meaning bearded

leucophrys—from Greek leukos: white, and ophrys: brow

macroura—from Greek makros: long or large, and oura: tail

galliformes—from Latin gallus: a cock, and forma: appearance

gallinaceous—from Latin gallina: a hen, and adjective suffix -aceus, meaning pertaining to grouse—probably from French greoche, greiche and griaïs, meaning spotted bird, and used in England as “grous” for the red grouse before being applied in North America for grouse in general

lagopus—from Greek lagōs: a hare, and pous: a foot, meaning hare-footed (referring to the similarity between the feathered toes and the densely haired feet of rabbits)

leucurus—from Greek leukos: white, and oura: tail

mutus—from Latin mutatus: change or alteration (referring to the various plumages)

lophortyx—from Greek lophos: a crest, and ortyx: a quail

odontophorinae—from Greek odous, odontos: tooth, phoros: bearing, and subfamilial suffix -inae

odontophorus—from Greek odous, odontos: tooth, and phoros: bearing (referring to the serrated maxilla)

mutatus—from Latin, meaning spotted or speckled

oreortyx—from Greek oros: mountain, and ortyx: quail partridge—from Middle English pertriche, and applied originally to the gray partridge. Also Scottish variants of patrick, paitrick, and pertrick

pedioecetes—from Greek pedion: a plain, and oiketes: an inhabitant

phasisanellus—diminutive of Latin phasianus: a pheasant
**Perdix**—from Latin, meaning partridge or quail

Phasianidae—from Latin *phasianus* (Greek *phasisnos*): pheasant, and familial suffix *-idae*

pheasant—from Middle English *fesaunt* or *fesaun*, originally from Latin *phasianus*. Applied to the common pheasant, introduced into Europe from the area of the River Phasis (now Rioni) in Colchis, which flows into the Black Sea.

**Philortyx**—from Greek *philos*: loving, and *ortyx*: a quail

ptarmigan—from Gaelic *tarmachan*; applied originally to the rock ptarmigan quail—from Old French *quaille* (modern French *caille*), and originally applied to the migratory quail (*Coturnix*)

**Rhynchortryx**—from Greek *rhynchos*: beak, and *ortyx*: a quail (referring to the large and strong beak)

*cinctus*—from Latin, meaning banded

Tetraoninae—from Greek *tetraôn*: a pheasant, and subfamilial suffix *-inae*

turkey—of uncertain origin, but first applied to peafowl (*Pavo*), guinea-fowl (*Numida*), or capercaillie (*Tetrao*) in England before being used for the New World turkey

**Tympanuchus**—from Greek *tympanon*: a drum, and *echô*: to have or hold

cupido—from Latin *Cupid* (referring to the “Cupid’s wings” on the neck)

*pallidicinctus*—from Latin *pallidus*: pale, and *cinctus*: banded

*pinnatus*—from Latin, meaning plumed