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Name Derivations

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Name Derivations

- Alectoris*—from Latin *alector* (Greek *alectryōn*): cock
 graeca—from Latin *Graecus*: of Greece
 chukar—apparently onomatopoeic
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 neck-tufts)
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 *kanacheō*: to make a noise, with formative suffix *-ites*
Centrocerus—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 *griais*, meaning spotted bird, and used in England as “grouse” 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)
guttatus—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
phasianellus—diminutive of Latin *phasianus*: a pheasant

Perdix—from Latin, meaning partridge or quail

Phasianidae—from Latin *phasianus* (Greek *phasianos*): 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 *tārmachan*; applied originally to the rock ptarmigan

quail—from Old French *quaille* (modern French *caille*), and originally applied to the migratory quail (*Coturnix*)

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

cinctus—from Latin, meaning banded

Tetraoninae—from Greek *tetraōn*: 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 *echō*: 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