

be a part of the Torah Shebaal Pe that is still transferable only Baal Pe (orally). I spent a lot of time researching the various type of quail and found out that part of the confusion stems from the fact that the old world quail (coturnix) is not indigenous to the Americas and when the Europeans arrived they named an indigenous American bird quail (remember this is a completely different species; *Colinus*, commonly called the bobwhite quail) similarly common names in general are used differently in different localities. Thus the name alone cannot be used to identify a kosher bird.

After speaking to at least a dozen breeders of quail in Australia as well as game hunters (who need to be very careful with proper identification for legal reasons; they get pretty hefty fines if they hunt the wrong breed of quail, I learned many of the differences and similarities of the breeds. I also learned that the domesticated Quail bred here in Australia are Coturnix Japonica otherwise known as Japanese quail. These are the same as the European Quail only that they were brought into Japan in the eleventh century and have through selective breeding slightly different colorings than the classic European Quail. Additionally with the new studies in genetics and improved selective breeding techniques in the last hundred years we now have a whole range of new colorings in the plumage, size, and increased abilities of birds, such as those raised for eggs as opposed to meat or even for show.

After such extensive research I felt confident in my ability to identify the correct bird. So I bought five quail to raise and examine, I contacted Rabbis Loike, Greenspan, and Zivotofsky and sent them pictures of the birds. They were all very helpful and we spoke a few times and emails were flying back and forth, but in the end I would still need to have a live transference of the mesorah.

I thank Hashem for his wonders; as hashgacha pratit would have it as this was transpiring Harav Machpud was inspecting a shechita in Melbourne. Rabbi Greenspan and Rabbi Dickshtein both were involved in arranging a meeting.

I took 6am flight to Melbourne on Sunday the 13th of December, took the 9 o'clock shuttle to the 770 on Hotham Street and after Shacharis, Rabbi Dickshtein and I drove to a farm two hours away. Once there we went out of our way to select the widest range of plumage variations possible in order to have no qualm or worry for differing strains. In the end we took 10 quail. After the 2 hour drive back we met with the Mora DeAsra Rabbi Telsner and a Shochet Mumche Rabbi Krinsky. We then drove almost another hour to meet with the Rav Machpud. Once there we first met and spoke about mesorah in general and some of the issues that might be involved concerning the difference in Ashkenazy and Sephardy customs relating to the mesorah of birds. He then agreed to examine our birds. He looked at each one and confirmed that without any reservation they are indeed the kosher quail. To seal the deal I offered the Rav Machpud my Chalaf to check and he motioned to Rabbi Telsner and it said that it would be more appropriate

for him to check as the Mora Deasra. After the proper examination, Rabbi Dickshtein and I shechted some of the quail and Rav Machpud wrote a letter confirming the event.

I look forward this Friday night to having quail lekavad Shabos Kodesh

I would like to mention my heartfelt thanks to all involved in this event. I was amazed how helpful Rabbi Machpud, Rabbi Loike, Rabbi Greenspan, Rabbi Zivotsky, Rabbi Dickshtein, Rabbi Telsner and Rabbi Krinsky all were in helping to make this happen. Thank you!

Rabbi Yehoshua Fuchs