



Guide to Hunting in Germany

08j – FEATHERED GAME (*FEDERWILD*)

(2) Hungarian Partridge (*Rebhuhn*)



Rufendes Rebhuhn (Calling Partridge)

Breeding season	March – April
Eggs per nest	15, light gray – brown dirty green color
Male	<i>Hahn</i>
Female	<i>Huhn, Hühner</i>
Flock:	<i>Gesperre</i>

The weight of a Hungarian Partridge is about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pound.

Both the cock (*Hahn*) and the hen (*Huhn*) reach a length of 12 inches; the tail grows up to 3 inches long.

The Hungarian Partridge's coloring is perfect camouflage. Male and female partridges are brownish-gray, although the males may be somewhat brighter in color.

The feet are yellowish in young birds but become grayish-blue with maturity.



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The rings around the eyes turn red after the first molting. The cheeks and the upper part of the throat are yellowish. Their underside is brighter than the rest of the body.

The horseshoe marking on the breast is often darker and more developed on the male. Hens have a bluish-gray breast with a rusty shine on the wings.

The Hungarian Partridge prefers open, fertile, cultivated fields (i.e. beet fields), especially fields of grain stubble, and particularly if shrubbery is present.

Unlike Pheasants, Partridges always rest at night on the ground.

The Hungarian Partridge eats seed, grain, insects, worms, and some greens. Grit is necessary in the diet of this seed-eating bird.

The Hungarian Partridge is monogamous. The birds pair off (*Paarzeit*) during March or April. In April or May the hen lays about 15 light grey-brown colored eggs in a rough nest that is scratched into the dirt in the field.

Eggs hatch in about 24 days. If the nest is destroyed, the hen will attempt to hatch a second setting of eggs and will even make a third attempt.

Young stay with their parents, and the entire group unites with one or more broods during Autumn to form a covey (*Kette*) of 20 to 30 birds.

A good bird dog is necessary when hunting Partridges, not only to locate the birds, but also to retrieve them (a downed Partridge is difficult to find). Modified choke shotguns with shot size 5, 6, or 7 ½ are used.



Männlicher Rebhuhn / Hahn (Male Partridge)