

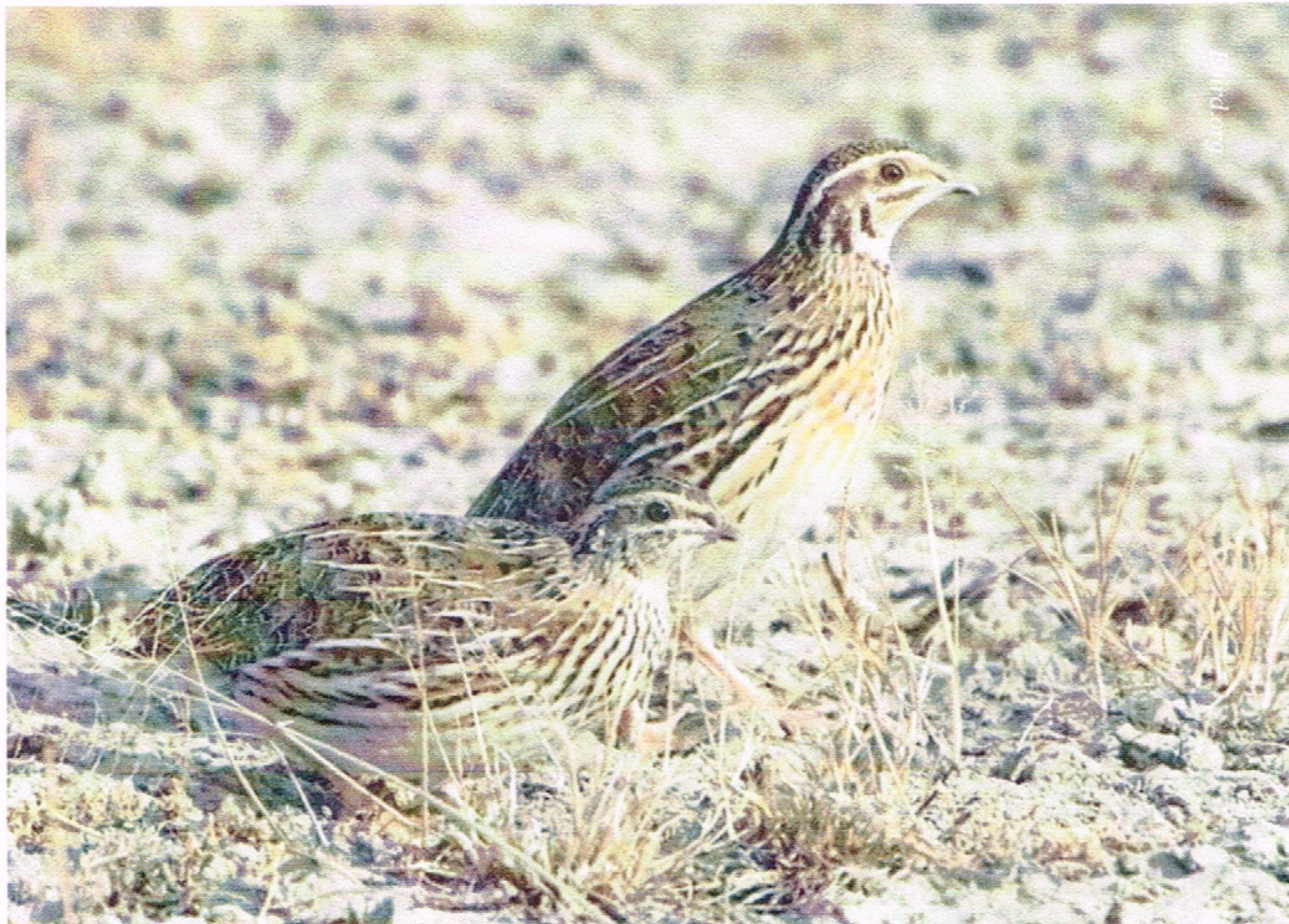
Wildlife Sightings in Rittenhouse Square

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

This summer, people spending time in Rittenhouse Square noticed some unusual and cute little visitors: quails. Several neighbors posted messages about them on Facebook. St. Mark's Church even posted a sermon about them.

Some birders have identified them as Common Quail (*Coturnix*), not a native species. Ebird says this quail is a "small pear-shaped gamebird, which breeds in taller grassland and grain fields from western Europe east to central Asia and winters in similar habitat in Africa, southern Europe, and South Asia."

Some posters guessed the quails might be escapees from local restaurants or markets. Birders and other observers debated about whether quails could survive here on their own, and continued to report observations and to root for these small, gentle creatures.



CCStreetwise

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