

Ghana – Coqui Francolin

13 March 2023



Image source: <https://www.igpc.com/>

On 13 March 2023, the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation (IGPC), which issues stamps for the Ghana postal authority, issued two sheetlets featuring the Coqui Francolin (*Campocolinus coqui*), a member of the Phasianidae family (pheasants and allies). This bird is native to Africa, primarily countries in central, southern and eastern Africa: Angola, Eswatini, Mozambique, Namibia,

South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe. However, there are also small populations of the Coqui Francolin located in Western Africa, including Burkina Faso, Gabon, Nigeria and Togo.¹

According to the IUCN Red List, the Coqui Francolin has Least Concern conservation status, though scientists have yet to quantify the population of this bird. That said, the IUCN Red List indicates that the scientific community consider the population stable.

Both the IUCN Red List and eBird indicate that the Latin name for Coqui Francolin is *Campocolinus coqui*, but that it formerly was known as the *Peliperdix coqui*. Interestingly, the stamps issued by the IGPC use the latter (and previous) Latin name for the bird. The revision trail on the Birds of the World suggests that its editors amended the Latin name on 18 August 2021, so the “new” Latin name is a relatively recent change.

The eBird description for the Coqui Francolin states:

*Small, beautifully-patterned francolin. Males have a rufous head, while females have an elaborately-striped head, and both sexes show dark barring on the belly. Found on the ground in areas with thick grass, ranging from pure grassland to lush woodland. A generally shy and retiring species that sometimes sits out boldly when calling.*²

There is only one other stamp that illustrates the Coqui Francolin is from Namibia; and was issued by Namibia Post in 2018:



Image source: www.birdtheme.org

This stamp comes from a set of five dedicated to Francolins.

¹ Source: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22678736/111663262>

² Source: <https://ebird.org/species/coqfra2>