



NORTHERN BOBWHITE

Colinus virginianus

BOBWHITE QUAIL

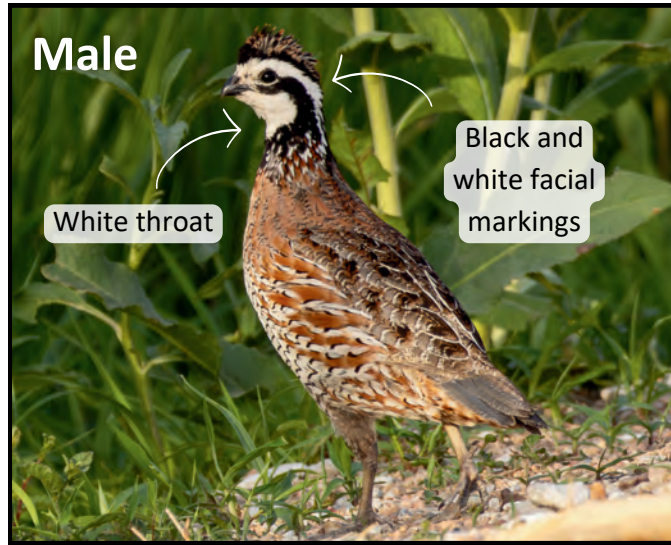
The Northern Bobwhite (also known as Bobwhite Quail) is a small, ground-dwelling upland bird that is found in central and eastern North America. The Northern Bobwhite is the most economically important upland game bird in the midwestern and southern United States. Once common, these quail are facing rapid declines throughout their range due to habitat loss, change in agricultural practices, fire suppression, and poor forest management. In response to their rapid decline, they are an increasingly high priority for conservation.

Conservation Status - Near Threatened.



*You are more likely to hear the Northern Bobwhite before you see them. Listen for their two-note “**BOB-WHITE**” call that can be heard during spring and summer.*

Male



Habitat

Northern Bobwhite occur in a variety of open habitats across their range including prairies, pine and/or mixed hardwood savannas, open woodlands, rangelands, and agricultural lands. Regardless of the habitat type, Bobwhites need a mix of bare ground, native bunchgrasses, native forbs, and shrub cover. In order to maintain the floral diversity and mosaic of vegetation structure that Northern Bobwhite need, vegetation disturbance such as prescribed fire and/or grazing is required.



 Adapted from *Birds of the World*
<https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.norbob.01>

Food

Northern Bobwhite are ground-foragers. Bobwhites primarily eat seeds, insects, berries, and leafy greens. Grains from crop fields are also important, especially during the winter when insects are scarce. A chick's diet consists of 80% invertebrates, so it is important to have a diversity of native grasses and forbs on the landscape.

Nesting

Both sexes will select a nest site on the ground in proximity to standing dead vegetation. The nest consists of a shallow depression lined with grass and/or dead vegetation with more grass domed overtop of the bowl. Both male and female will incubate the nest.

Female



Clutch Size: 10-12 eggs
Incubation: 23 days
Peak Hatch: mid-June

I	N	S	E	C	T	S	U	S	H	R	U	B	S
U	V	D	Y	C	U	L	W	L	A	E	R	A	L
R	F	E	D	F	C	A	L	T	P	B	Q	L	R
O	Y	E	O	G	E	U	A	Q	X	B	Y	U	Q
B	V	S	O	O	J	E	N	V	C	H	P	U	A
U	U	V	R	E	F	O	J	R	Z	O	A	F	K
N	S	Z	B	Y	T	F	Q	I	E	I	V	F	B
C	N	Q	D	D	D	I	T	B	L	P	S	E	E
H	E	R	I	F	H	A	H	O	M	H	P	J	Y
G	Y	Y	I	A	T	D	K	W	T	C	F	B	Y
R	X	R	Y	I	K	M	A	Y	B	X	O	Z	N
A	G	K	B	Z	T	P	F	O	F	O	R	O	Y
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S	H	Y	T	R	Q	L	K	W	L	P	S	E	Y

Forbs Whistle

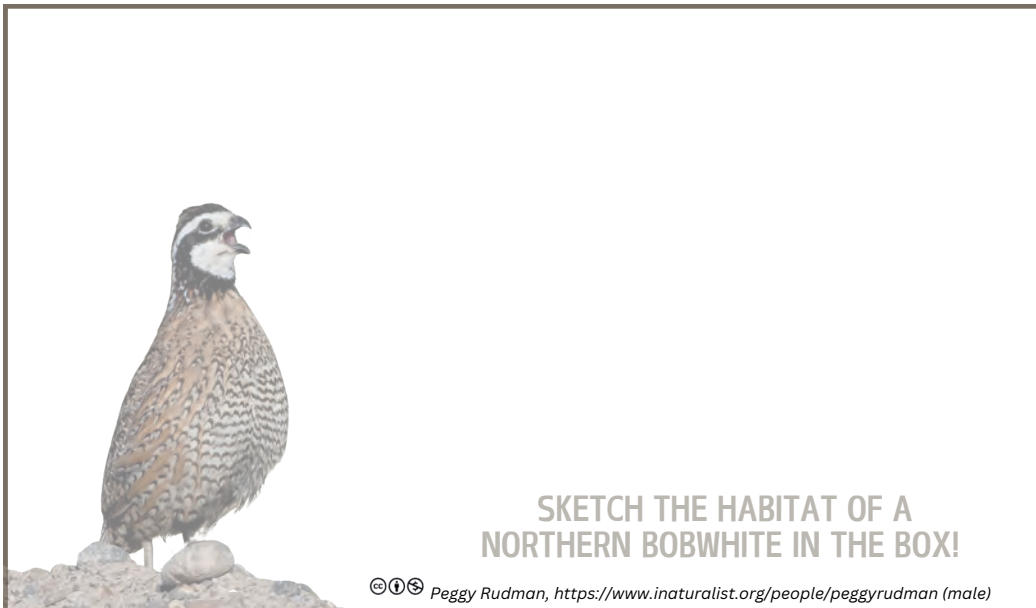
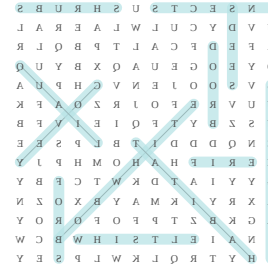


Image Credits: Mike Stewart, inaturalist.org/people/a-tristis (female) Tobin Brown, inaturalist.org/people/brobin (male) Didier Descouens (egg)

