



GAMBEL'S QUAIL

Callipepla gambelii

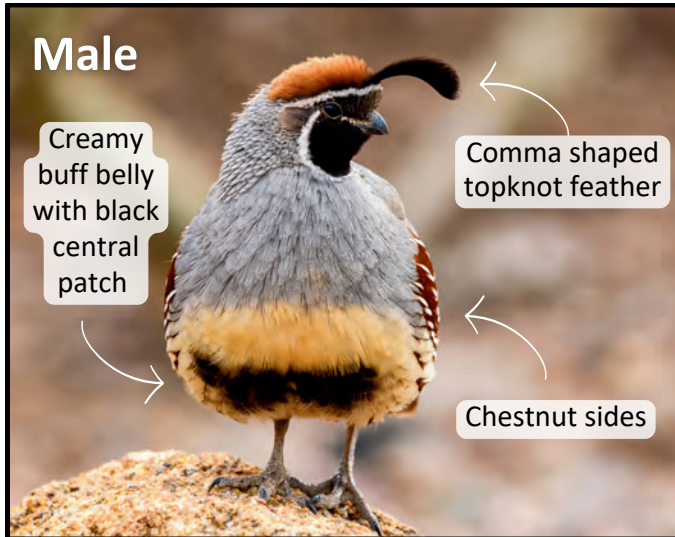
ARIZONA QUAIL, DESERT QUAIL

Gambel's Quail (also known as Arizona Quail or Desert Quail) are fleet-footed desert dwellers often found in stands of heavily armored vegetation. They are gregarious birds that form coveys in the winter consisting of family groups. Like many other desert dwelling species, Gambel's Quail populations go through a "boom-and-bust" cycle. The biggest limiting factor for Gambel's Quail survival and productivity is rainfall during winter and early spring. **Conservation Status - Low Concern.**

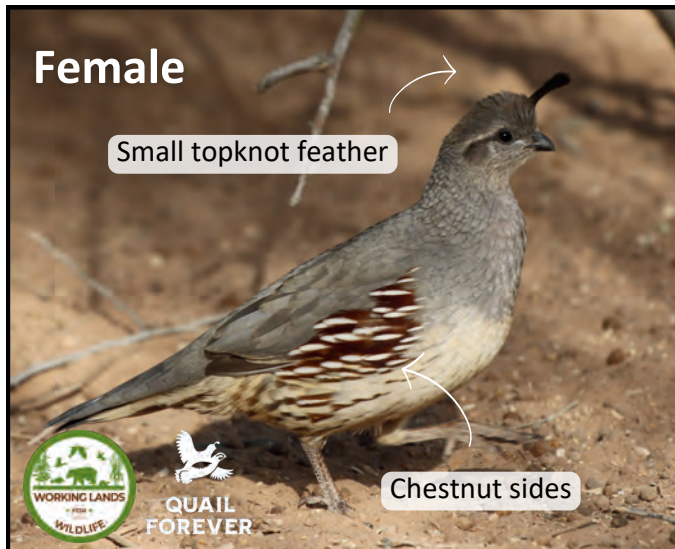


If you want to see Gambel's Quail in the wild, go out in the field in the early morning or late afternoon when temperatures are moderate. Listen for their distinctive "cuk-cuk-cow" call.

Male



Female



Habitat

Gambel's Quail inhabit the arid Southwest ranging from parts of New Mexico, western Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California, Arizona, and far west Texas. They are associated with scrub habitat along river valleys and creeks, in arroyos, near springs and seeps, and in the chaparral and oak woodlands of high desert settings. In agricultural settings, they can be seen near irrigation ditches and brushy canals. Plants often associated with quality habitat are honey mesquite, desert hackberry, catclaw acacia, yuccas, saguaro, prickly pear cactus, saltbush, saltcedar, arrowwood, and screwbean mesquite.



Adapted from *Birds of the World*
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To meet their daily habitat requirements, Gambel's Quail need open ground with a variety of shrubs.

Food

Gambel's Quail eat mostly plant materials. A huge component of an adult's diet is the seeds of grasses, forbs, shrubs, trees, and cacti. Gambel's Quail will also consume insects, especially during peak nesting season. Chicks will eat invertebrates for the first few days after hatching.

Nesting

Female Gambel's Quail will select a nest site on the ground concealed by vegetation. Nest is lined with leaves, grass, or twigs. Occasionally, they build nests in trees where there is a stable nesting platform. Females generally incubate, but males may incubate.



Clutch Size: 10-12 eggs
Incubation: 21-24 days
Peak Hatch: Late April - mid May

Boom

Habitat

Brood

Insects

Bust

Quail

Cover

Scrub

Covey

Seeds

Desert

Uplands

2 S R O A F F I 2 F L H D B A
E E V E U A I C O E V A
S B C X V Y W C E V L S B C
D C C C R C B B B B B B B B
X Y K G O C U D X X M A A S
J H T W R R B B B B B B B B
O D E D I B L T S T U S T
C N I A T C L A W X K J
K W Y Y D C T T L F A R E I
C M T E B I E Y V O C T A
Z M F M B U H Z O K V U
G M A O I S Z C U S V P
O C H K W O Q T C I O U K
B W J X P C B B W Y C K

