



SCALED QUAIL

Callipepla squamata

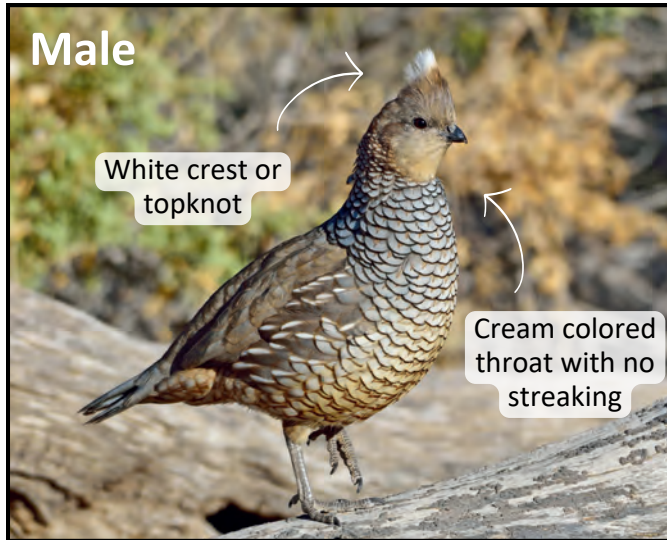
BLUE QUAIL, COTTONTOP

Scaled Quail (also commonly referred to as Blue Quail or Cottontop) are residents of the arid grasslands of Mexico and the southwestern United States. Like most other quail species, Scaled Quail are gregarious birds that form large winter coveys. At night, the covey will form a tight circle with their heads facing outwards allowing them to remain vigilant and stay warm. Scaled Quail populations go through a “boom-and-bust” cycle, and if areas receive heavy snowfall in winter or prolonged drought in summer, population numbers can decrease rapidly. **Conservation Status - Least Concern, Decreasing.**

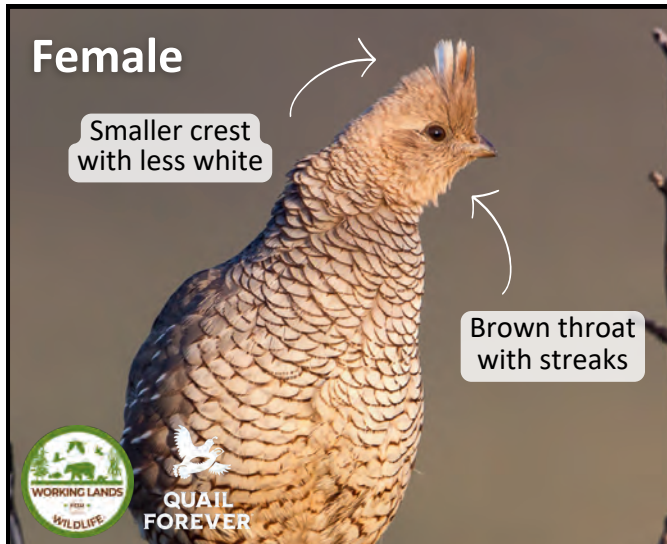


If you want to see Scaled Quail in the wild, be sure to look for them in sparsely vegetated grasslands with scattered shrubs or cacti. Listen for the male's repeated, squealing “WHOCK” call.

Male



Female



Habitat

Scaled Quail occupy semi-arid grassland and desert communities; however, basic habitat needs are the same across their range: mixed native grasses and forbs, bare ground, and low-growing shrubs or spiny plants. Daily food and cover requirements must be within a quail's home range. Key plants associated with Scaled Quail habitat include sandsage, prickly pear, tree cactus, cholla, sumac, saltbush, wild plum, and yucca.

Woody encroachment and overgrazing impact the usability of an area for Scaled Quail.

Food

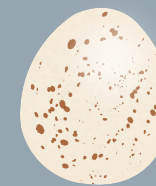
Scaled Quail are ground-foragers. Their diet consists of seeds from shrubs, grasses, and forbs, leafy vegetation, and insects. Insects and herbaceous leaves are consumed on a seasonal basis. Scaled Quail consume a high proportion of insects compared to other species of quail.

Nesting

Scaled Quail are ground nesters. Their nests are concealed by dense, low vegetation such as cacti, yucca, and shrubs. Both male and female with help construct the nests of grass and leaves. Typically, only the females will incubate the nests.



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



Clutch Size: 7-14 eggs
Incubation: 22-23 days
Peak Hatch: June - July

SCALED QUAIL WORD SEARCH

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

Arid

Grasslands

Boom

Habitat

Bust

Insects

Cottontop

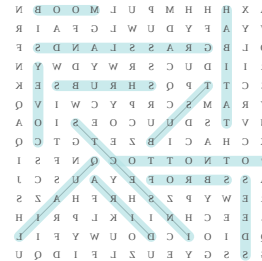
Quail

Covey

Seeds

Forbs

Shrubs



SKETCH THE HABITAT OF A
SCALED QUAIL IN THE BOX!



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