

NORTHERN BOBWHITE QUAIL

Colinus virginianus

MANAGEMENT BIOLOGY

ID TIPS Black and white striping on the face of males where females have similar markings that are dull tan and brown in color. The rest of the body is a mix of tan, brown, black, and white. Short flights with flutters and gliding.

SONG Whistled bob-WHITE or poor-bob-WHITE; Expect to hear bobwhite calling in the spring and summer from the ground within thickets or grassy areas.

HABITAT Open habitat including fields and meadows, clear cuts, and open woods with dense native grasses

NEST On the ground among dense growth, usually a shallow depression lined with grass and leaves.

FOOD Primarily forages on the ground for small seeds, insects, and leaves.

ACTIVITIES & STRATEGIES

Maintain large expanses of fallow fields, field borders, native grass pastures and thin savannah type forest.

Best utilized in combination with intermixed brushy thickets in pockets or on edges.

Maintain early successional areas with prescribed fire, disking, and targeted herbicides.

EXAMPLE SCENARIO Thin a pine stand to a 40 basal area and burn on a two-year rotation to maintain grasses, forbs, and bare ground.

TIMING Late dormant season and early growing season fires (April-June) on a 2-3 year return interval should minimize nest mortality. Quail tend to re-nest if nests are destroyed.



CONSERVATION STATUS

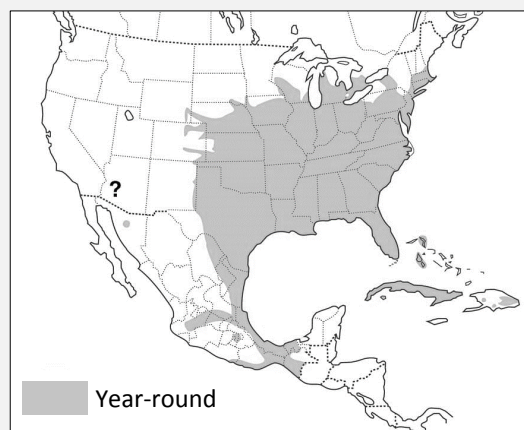
Common species in decline

NC Species of Greatest Conservation Need

FOREST USE AT A GLANCE

Understory

SPECIES RANGE



DID YOU KNOW?

Out of six quail species found in the United States, the bobwhite is the only one in the Eastern States.