

# NORTHERN BOBWHITE

(*Colinus virginianus*)



The Nebraska Environmental Trust

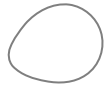
preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations



Clutch size: 7-28 eggs  
Incubation: 23 days  
Peak hatch: mid-June

Bobwhites may have more than one brood per nesting season.

A newly hatched quail is the size of a bumblebee.



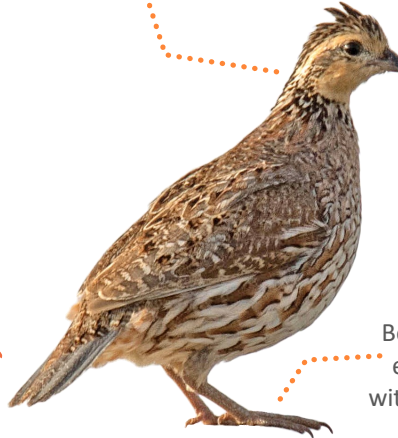
EGG



CHICK



BROOD



FEMALE

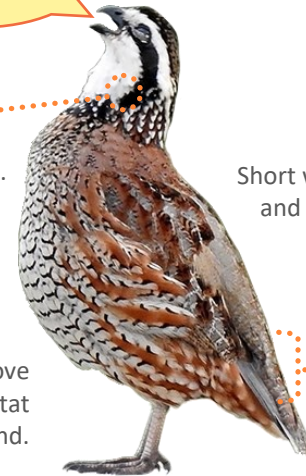
Light brown feathers distinguish females from male bobwhites.

Crest

BOB-WHITE!

Black and white feathers.

Bobwhites move easily in habitat with bare ground.



MALE

Short wings and tail



A covey is a group of quail. Circular roost formations provide warmth and many watchful eyes for predators.

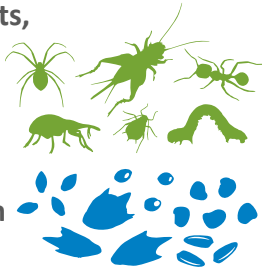


Quail range in Nebraska.

What makes good habitat? Having easy access to food, water, cover, and space to support growth and survival.

## QUAIL FOOD IS IN THE WEEDS

To people, a weed is a plant out of place. Yet, quail view ragweed, pigweed, croton, sunflower, and other weedy plants as desirable food sources. Quail forage on the ground for seeds, insects, berries, and leafy greens. Grains from crop fields also are important, especially during the winter when insects are scarce.



## QUAIL HABITAT - LIVING ON THE EDGE

Bobwhites live where two or more habitat types meet (edge habitat) and are never far from woody cover. Picture a plum thicket growing in a grassy fence line at the edge of a crop field. In addition to habitat arrangement, quail also prefer habitats in the early stages of plant succession, with scattered grasses, annual weeds, and bare ground cover. All the habitat needs of a quail are typically found within a home range of 20-40 acres.



**1500 SQUARE FEET** RECOMMENDED AREA FOR A QUAIL COVEY HEADQUARTERS.

**51-66** THE AVERAGE FLIGHT DISTANCE OF A QUAIL MEASURED IN YARDS.

**5.1 SECONDS AIRBORNE** THE AVERAGE FLIGHT TIME OF A BOBWHITE QUAIL.

Pheasants Forever is dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education and land management policies and programs.

For more information visit [NebraskaPF.com](http://NebraskaPF.com)

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



1.) **True / False:** Bobwhite quail can be found throughout Nebraska.

2.) **True / False:** Both the male and female bobwhite quail have a crest.

3.) **True / False:** Quail live in early successional habitat.

4.) **True / False:** There is no such thing as a “good weed.”

5.) **True / False:** Quail use plum thickets as covey headquarters.



GOT HABITAT? Sketch in the box to help this quail feel more at home.