

Bobwhite Quail



Bobwhite quails are ground-dwelling birds that are native to North America. Their name was given to them because the call they make sounds like they are saying "bobwhite."

Bobwhites are easy to identify because of their black caps and black stripe behind their eyes. The area between the strips is white on males (boys) and yellow-brown on females (girls). Their bodies are brown or speckled white and black. The quails weigh between five and six ounces.

Bobwhite quails form groups, or coveys, of about five to thirty birds. Usually the covey dissolves around mid-April as the birds pair off to mate and hatch eggs. Quails lay about one egg each day, and they take about 21-23 days to hatch.

Both males and females incubate the nest. Each set of eggs in the nest is called a **clutch**. A mother quail can lay up to three clutches a year. Once the eggs hatch, new quails will leave the nest about 24 hours after hatching.

Bobwhite quails are ground-dwelling birds that scratch for their food; they eat crops and gizzards. Weed seed, waste grain and insects make up their diet. Quails never disturb grains or fruits until they have fallen to the ground.

Bobwhite quails are the number one game bird in many states.