

Bobwhite

Male



Female



Bobwhites are small birds with stout bodies. They are approximately eight or nine inches long, and weigh about a quarter of a pound. Their feathers are heavily mottled with a pattern of brown, black, and white of various shades. Male bobwhites have white faces, with a c-shaped "mask" on their eyes and throats. In females, this pattern is tan and brown, and not as distinguished.

Diet

Includes seeds, leaves, insects. Diet varies with season and place. Eats many seeds (especially those of legumes), also leaves, buds, berries, acorns, roots, insects, spiders, and snails. May eat mostly seeds in winter, with more insects eaten in summer. Young birds may eat mostly insects at first.

Habitat

Farms, brushy open country, roadsides, wood edges. Found in a wide variety of semi-open habitats, including brushy meadows, overgrown fields, or where pastures or agricultural fields are next to hedgerows or woodlots.

Known for their calls,

bobwhites are very social and remain with a covey, or group of 6-25 quail, for the duration of their lives. A bobwhite uses several different calls but has a specific use for each one.