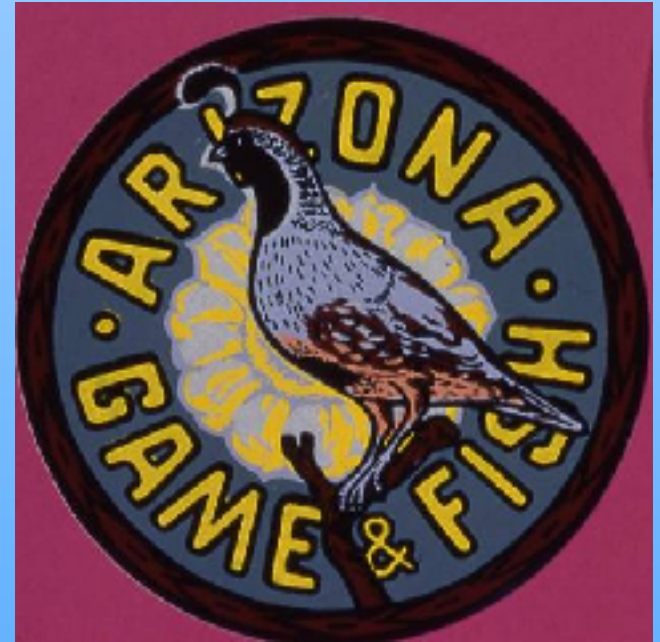


Quail hunting Arizona

Kirby Bristow
Research Biologist
Arizona Game and Fish Department



Wildlife Restoration



**Your purchase of firearms, ammunition
and archery equipment supports wildlife
management in Arizona.**

Native Species

- Masked Bobwhite
- Montezuma (Mearns')
- Scaled
- Gambel's
- Greatest Species Richness with Texas and New Mexico



Introduced Species

- California or “Valley” Quail in Springerville area
- Elegans or Benson’s Quail near Douglas



Gambel's Quail

Callipepla gambelli



- Most numerous quail in Arizona
- Near statewide distribution
- Sexually dimorphic
- Habitat generalist adapted to Sonoran Desert scrub
- Feeds on seeds and small fruits of forbs and shrubs
- Populations fluctuates with Winter (Oct-Mar) precip.

Gambel's Quail habitat



- Sonoran desert scrub etc.
- Below 6000 ft elevation
- Common in urban areas especially golf courses and low density housing near undeveloped desert
- Prefers brush lined washes

Gambels' quail general habits

- Gregarious, congregate in family units spring and summer forming large coveys of multiple pairs in Fall and winter
- High reproductive capacity (10-15 eggs/clutch)
- Multiple broods/female
- Highly vocal



P. Coin



P. Coin

Scaled Quail

Callipepla squamata



- Second most numerous quail in Arizona
- Closely related to the Elegant, (*C. douglasii*) and Gambel's quail (*C. gambelii*)
- Sexes similar in appearance
- Adapted to grassland habitats Chihuahuan desert
- Feeds on seeds and insects
- Facultative breeder

Scaled Quail habitat



- Scaled quail range in Arizona overlaps Gambels' quail
- Grasslands, Chihuahuan deserts, and semi-desert grasslands
- Restricted to se. AZ areas that receive higher summer precipitation

Scaled quail general habits

- Ground roosts in family units congregates in large winter coveys
- Lower reproductive capacity than Gambel's (10-12 eggs/clutch)
- Feeds on a variety of seeds of forbs, shrubs, grasses, insects (ants)
- Escape predators with “run split up and hide” strategy



Montezuma Quail *Cyrtonyx montezumae*



- Most restricted distribution of native quail in Arizona
- Population fluctuations determined by summer rainfall
- Sexually dimorphic
- Adapted to Oak woodland/ grassland habitats
- Feeds on underground bulbs, tubers, acorns, insects

Montezuma Quail habitat



- Oak woodlands semi-desert grasslands above 4,000 ft elevation
- Distributed in se AZ areas that receive higher summer precipitation
- Distribution may be affected by their preferred foods
- Bulbs and tubers of woodsorrel and nutsedge

General Habits

- Ground roosts in family units
- Feed on bulbs and tubers by digging with enlarged claws
- Food (forbs) and cover (bunchgrasses) are dependent on summer precipitation
- Escape predators with “crouch and hide” strategy



Escape Behavior

- Cryptic coloration increases effectiveness of their primary predator avoidance strategy







Gambel's Quail hunting tips

- State and BLM land throughout SW $\frac{3}{4}$ of the state
- Hunt Sonoran desert scrub, semi desert grasslands, pinyon juniper, and Chaparral
- below 6,000 ft
- Look for coveys around tree lined washes and near water
- Look at previous winter precip. patterns



Gambel's Quail hunting tips

- Break up coveys
- Mark birds down rather than shooting at the covey rise
- Look diligently for singles
- Move quickly to a dog on point
- Listen for calls



Scaled Quail hunting tips

- State and BLM land in Cochise, Santa Cruz, and Pima Counties
- Hunt open semi desert grasslands and shrublands
- Look for coveys on hills, mesas or flats between washes
- Listen for calls



Scaled Quail hunting tips



- Break up coveys
- Mark birds down rather than shooting at the covey rise
- Look diligently for singles
- Move quickly to a dog on point

Mearns' Quail hunting tips

- Coronado National Forest
- Hunt oak woodland savannah habitat
- above 4,000 ft
- Look for coveys under the oaks in the grass
- Look at previous summer precipitation patterns



Mearns' Quail tips

- Hunt with a pointing dog
- Look for birds in the grass not brushy cover
- Look for sign
- Trust your dog
- Shoot on the covey rise



General Quail hunting tips



- Safety first, no quail is worth risking yourself or friends (including 4 legged)
- Keep up with the dogs
- Be prepared to take advantage of shooting opportunities
- Mark downed birds and move to retrieve when it is safe

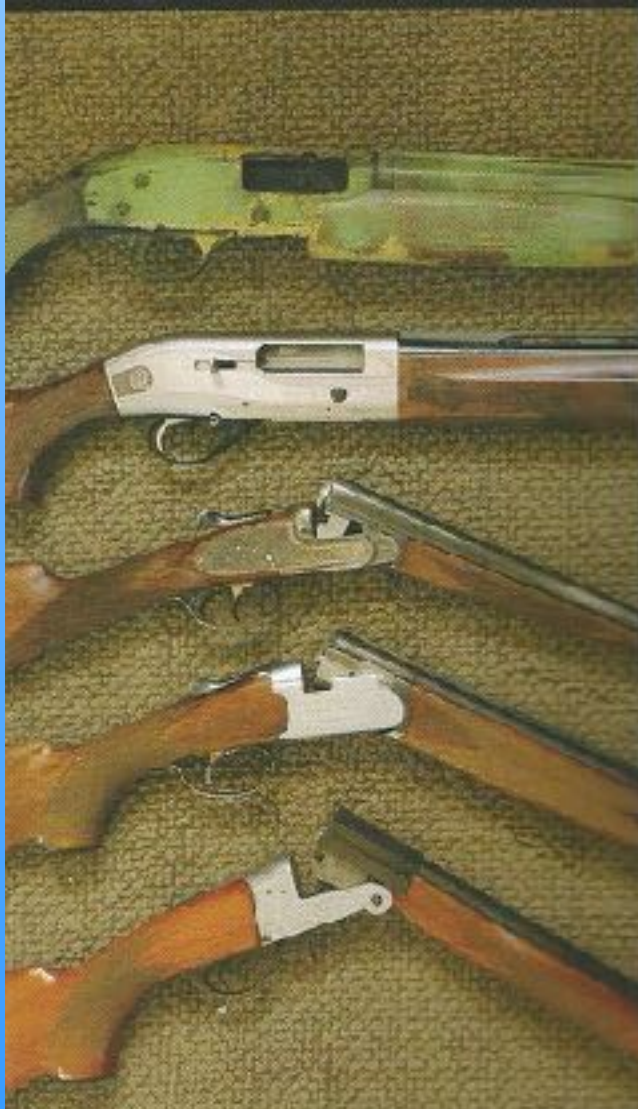
Quail hunting equipment

- Shotgun
- Vest
- Boots

- Chaps/brush pants
- Hat
- Water bottle/canteen
- Sunscreen
- Calls



Quail hunting equipment



Shotguns

- Pumps
 - Semi Auto
 - Doubles
- Gauges

Shot sizes/loads
3/4 oz to 1 1/4 oz
#6, #7.5, #9

Light weight
Fit
Balance
Open Choke

Quail hunting equipment

Dogs

- Training Collars
- Bell
- Beeper collars
- GPS collars
- Water
- First aid
- Boots



Quail hunting with kids

- Safety first
- Hunter education/practice
- Use appropriate equipment

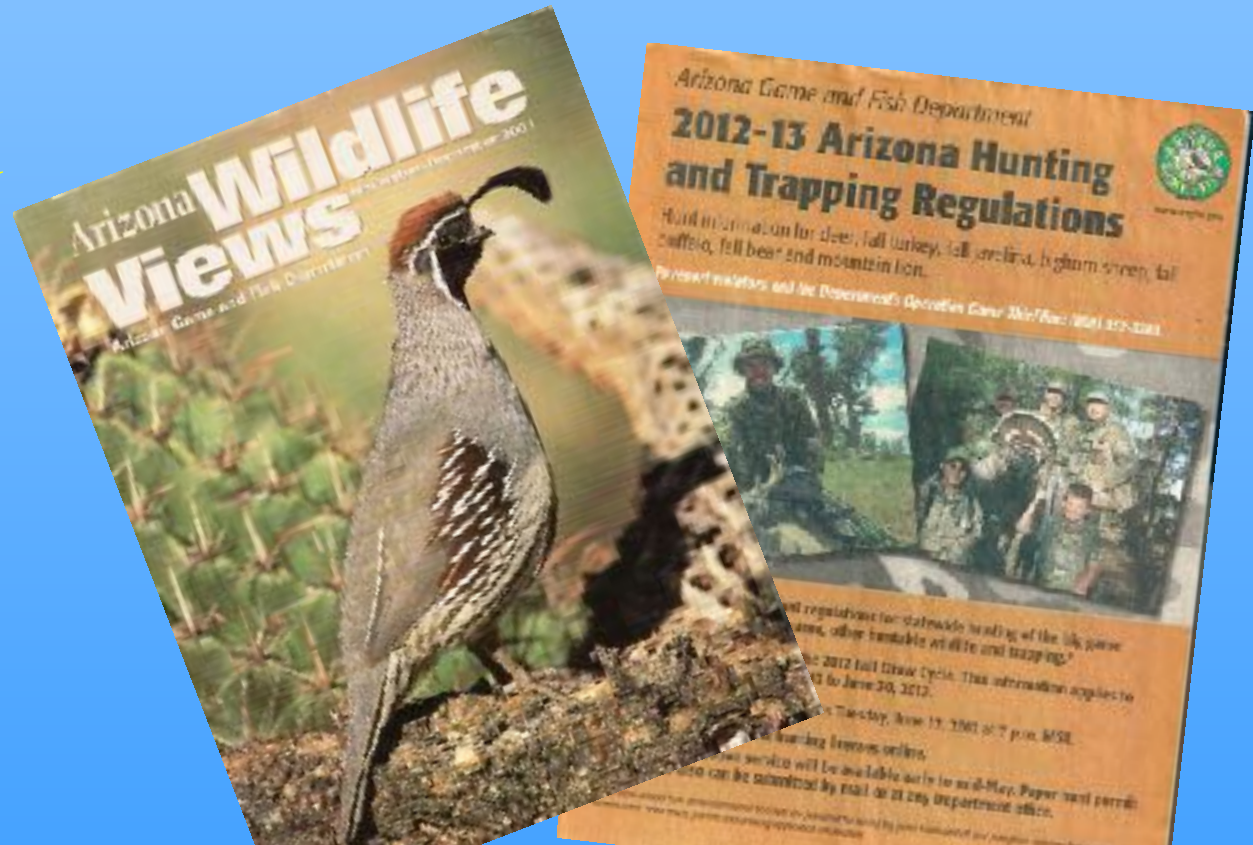


- Scout areas first to be sure of some chance of success



More Quail Hunting Information

- Arizona Game and Fish Department
(602) 942-3000
- Regulations
- Wildlife Views
- Regional Offices
- Web Page
www.azgfd.gov



ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

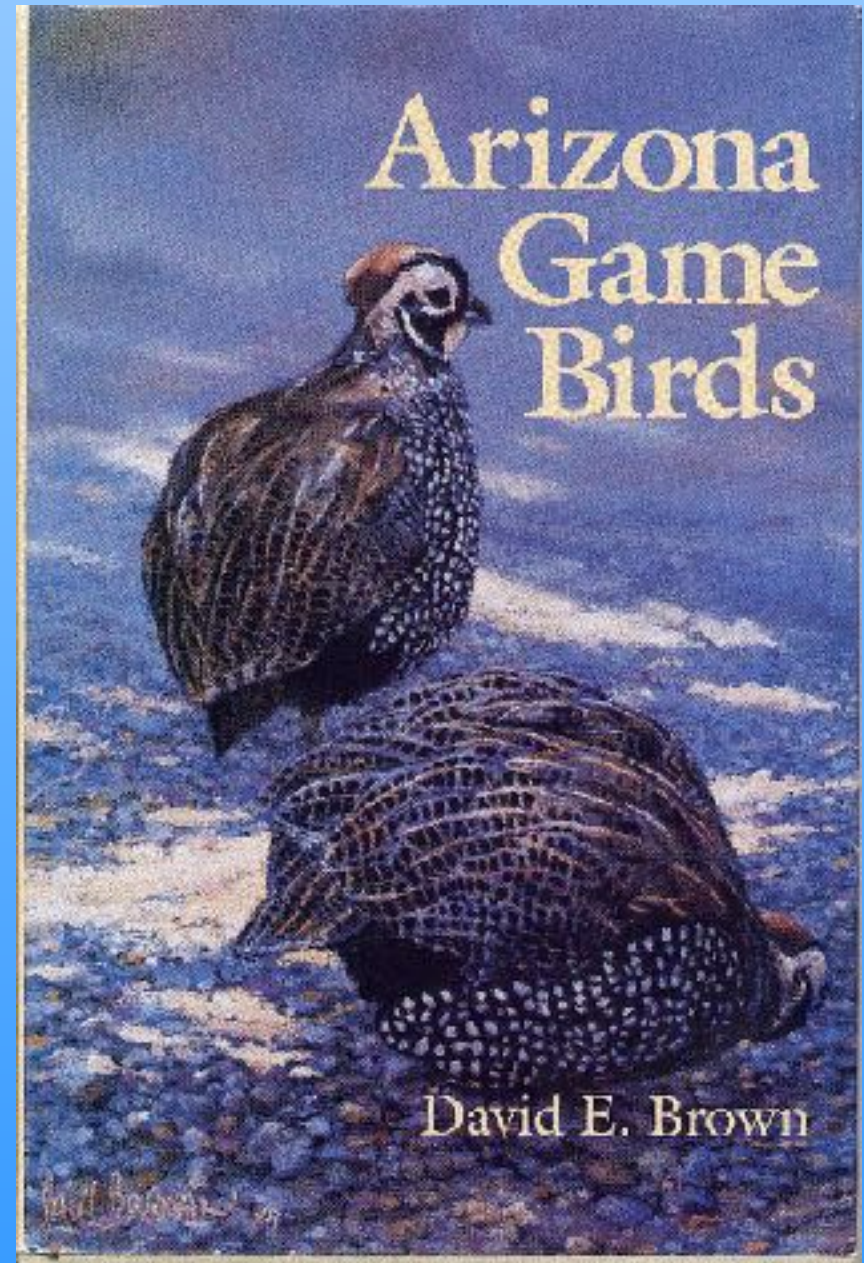
MANAGING TODAY FOR WILDLIFE TOMORROW

www.azgfd.gov



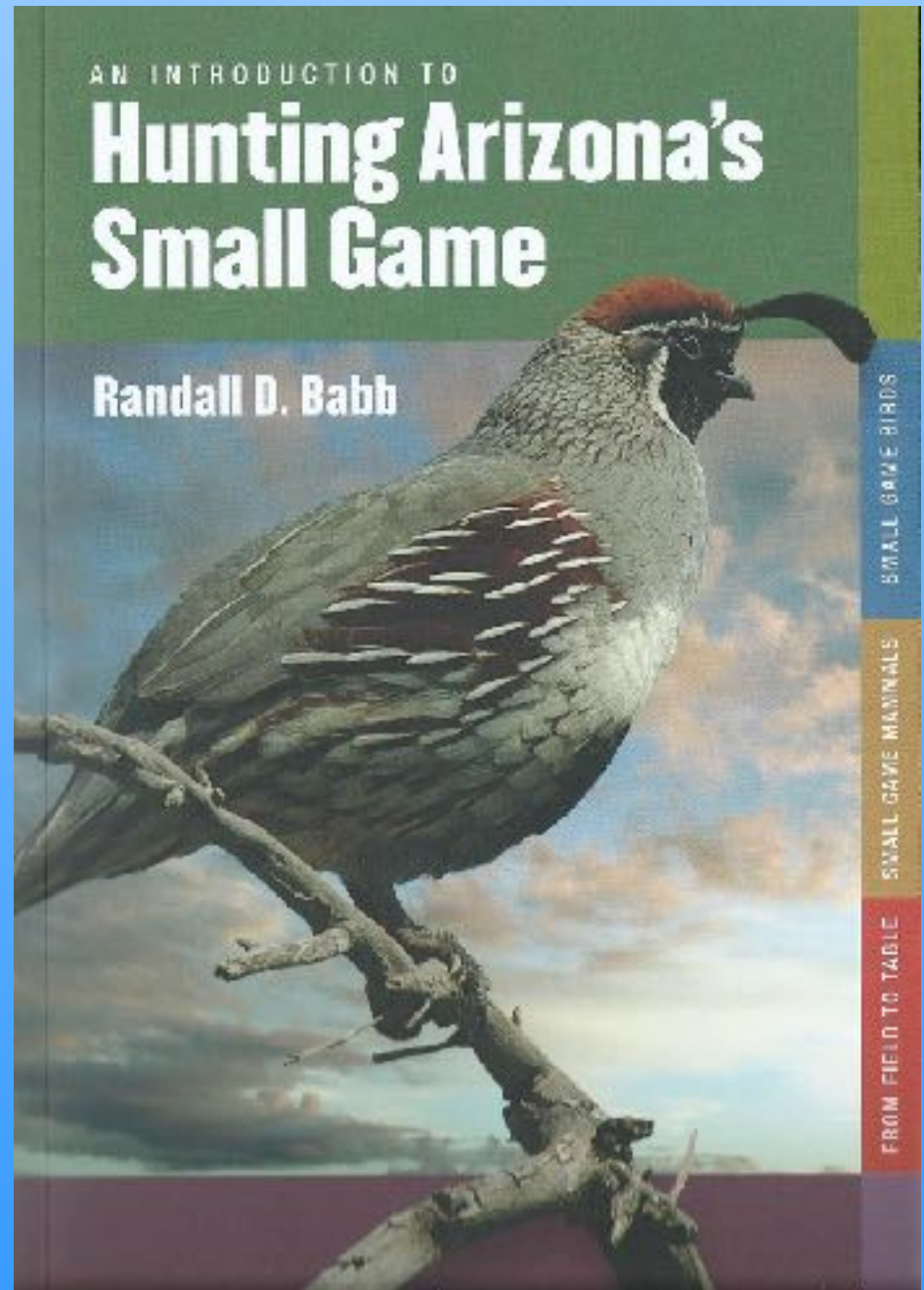
Popular Literature

- 1989
- Practical guide with descriptions, life histories, population data, habitat information, management history, and hunting strategies



Popular Literature

- 2012
- Comprehensive guide with descriptions, life histories, habitat information, hunting equipment advice, hunting strategies, including cleaning and cooking tips for all of Arizona's small game species



Thanks for the
opportunity

