

Gaining ground for
BOBWHITES

**Georgia Bobwhite Quail Initiative
2024 - 2033**



BOBWHITE QUAIL INITIATIVE



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

Restoring HABITAT

Before

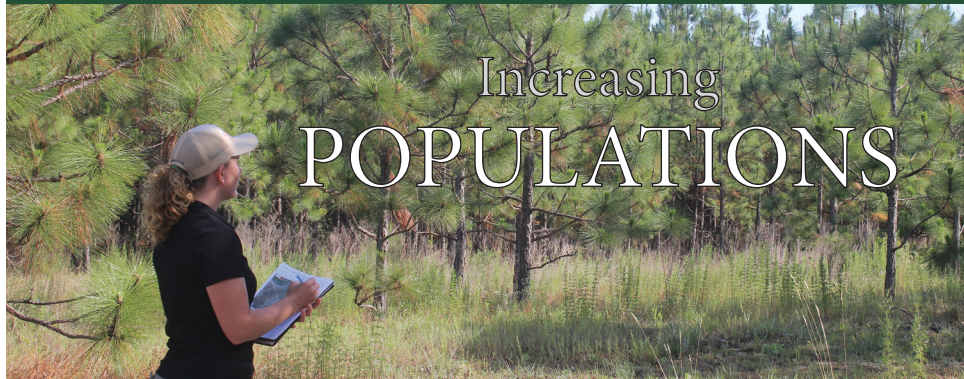


After

Increasing OPPORTUNITY



Increasing POPULATIONS



Education and Research



Goals and Performance Measures

1. Stabilize the bobwhite populations in the Piedmont and mountain regions and increase populations in the coastal plain.

- **Indicator Metric:** USGS Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data.

2. Increase bobwhite populations on private lands within focal geographies.

- **Indicator Metric:** various bobwhite population surveys.

3. Increase density and reduce the variability of bobwhite populations on public lands identified as bobwhite priority areas.

- **Indicator Metric:** various bobwhite population surveys, annual reviews, and planning of management activities on quail-focused WMAs.

4. Increase recreational opportunities related to bobwhites.

- **Indicator Metric:** increase the total number of quail hunting days on public areas and introduce new areas for quail hunting.

5. Evaluate the efficacy of programs and practices, identify gaps and prioritize data collection and potential research used to manage northern bobwhite.

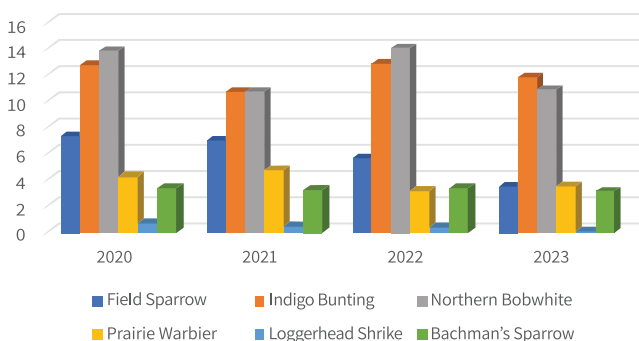
- **Indicator Metric:** number of research projects conducted in Georgia.

The Northern bobwhite quail was designated as Georgia's state game bird in 1970. However, declining quail populations led to a 91% reduction in the number of quail hunters and by 2022 80 percent of the birds harvested were pen-raised. Population declines are due to significant loss of quality habitat through changes in farming and forestry practices and urbanization.

A loss in hunter numbers could negatively impact the state's economy. In 2018, quail hunting created over 9,000 jobs and had an economic impact of over \$213 million in southwest Georgia according to research by Tall Timbers.

Quail habitat also supports numerous other species including some species of concern like Bachman's sparrow, gopher tortoise, indigo snake, red-cockaded woodpecker, native milkweeds, and other grassland and woodland species. To monitor quail populations and their response to habitat improvements, BQI conducts various surveys for a suite of species that use habitats similar to bobwhite. These surveys help inform management and harvest decisions and we are seeing positive trends in bobwhite populations.

Average # Birds Counted on Monitored Sites



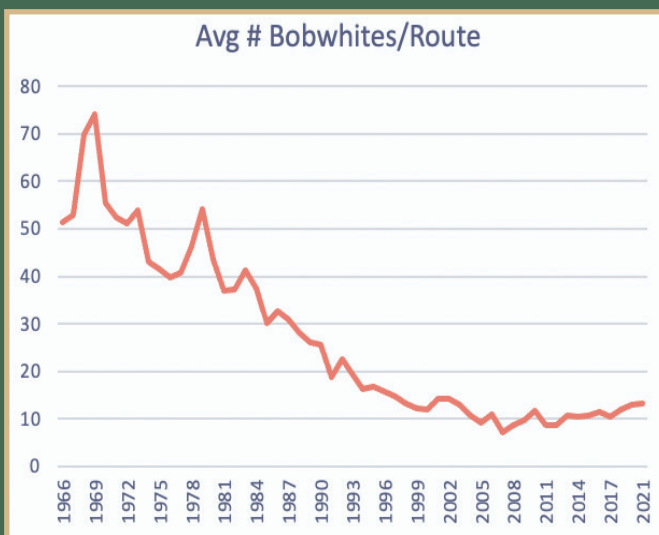
DID YOU KNOW?

Georgia is over 90% privately owned and more than 80% of Georgians are interested in wildlife and support funding wildlife education and habitat management programs?

What is BQI? Georgia Department of Natural Resources Bobwhite Quail Initiative

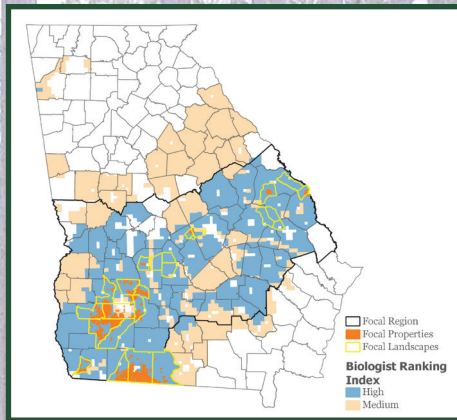
To address the decline in bobwhite quail populations, the **Bobwhite Quail Initiative** was formed in 1999 for the establishment and management of grassland-forb habitat for bobwhite quail, songbirds and other wildlife species across and around working farms and forestlands. Restoration of early successional habitats not only benefits wildlife species but improves water quality, reduces soil erosion and can enhance local economies by stimulating hunting and wildlife viewing.

Since 2020 BQI has provide technical assistance to almost 1500 landowners, covering over 475,000 acres. And since 2013, BQI has hosted more than 30 youth quail hunts on private properties thanks to generous donations by our cooperators. Each year field days and workshops are organized by BQI biologist to provide education to the public on how to manage their properties for various wildlife, how to identify songbirds and plants, and other habitat topics. Biologists also assist partner agencies with their events, attend wildlife festivals, speak to community groups and schools, and provide educational materials for the public. An update to the Northern Bobwhite Quail Management in Georgia booklet was published in 2020 and is available at <https://georgiawildlife.com/bobwhite-quail>.



Analysis of Breeding Bird Survey data estimates that Georgia's bobwhite quail have declined by more than 70% since the survey began in 1966.

Improve Quail Habitat on Your Property



The Bobwhite Quail Initiative and Quail Forever provide free technical assistance to landowners interested in restoring bobwhite habitat.

To find the biologist near you:

visit

<https://georgiawildlife.com/bobwhite-quail>

or call

229-420-1183

Or scan the QR Code below:



The “Support Wildlife” vehicle tag helps finance the BQI program. \$20 of every license plate sold goes to fund BQI biologists and financial assistance programs to promote conservation, restoration, and enhancement of the bobwhite quail population and the habitats upon which they depend on public and private lands in Georgia.