



ATTENTION: SOUTHERN ARIZONA QUAIL HUNTERS

Recovery efforts for the endangered masked bobwhite quail continue in southern Arizona. Captive breeding and reintroductions have been successful in and around the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. As a result, game management units 36A, 36B and 36C have recently been occupied by the endangered masked bobwhite quail.

As with all hunted wildlife, each hunter is legally liable and responsible for knowing their target before shooting. While Gambel's quail and scaled quail are notably different, Mearns' quail and masked bobwhite quail share similarities in appearance and behavior.

It could be difficult to determine the difference between these two species when flushed.

While the Gambel's, scaled and Mearns' species are legal to take per the Arizona Hunting Regulations, the masked bobwhite quail is federally protected under the Endangered Species Act. Killing a masked bobwhite quail is a violation of A.R.S. 17.309.A.10 and could result in license revocation (A.R.S. 17-340), a minimum civil assessment of \$8,000 (A.R.S. 17-314) and additional federal fines, fees and jail time.

KNOW YOUR TARGET.

Key tips on how to identify each species, including the endangered masked bobwhite quail.

GAMBEL'S

Male: Their faces are black in color with a white outline. The head of the males will have a red or rust-colored cap with a black topknot. A black patch is located on the lower stomach. Main coloration is a slate gray on the back and wings with cream colored feathers on the underside. The sides of the bird will also have a red or rusty patch with white streaks.



Female: Overall having a slate gray color with cream-colored feathers on the underside. Still exhibiting a black topknot. The sides of the bird will also have a red or rusty patch with white streaks.

MEARNS'

Male: Light brown colored cap with black and white swirl-like markings on the head. The center of the chest is chocolate or cinnamon brown with the iconic black and white polka dot pattern extending up the sides of the males. The backs of the males are a black, brown, and cream mottled pattern, with the underside of the bird around the legs being black in color.

Female: Predominantly brown in color with the backs of the females looking like males, having a brown and cream mottled pattern.



SCALED



Male and Female: Both are similar in appearance. Both sexes are predominantly light blue-gray and brown in appearance with a dominant scaling pattern located on the neck and chest of the bird continuing down the stomach. The head is a light brown color with a lightly blond colored topknot often resembling a piece of cotton, giving them their other name of "cotton-tops."

MASKED BOBWHITE (Endangered and Federally Protected)

Male: Black head that can have a thin white stripe running across the eye. Body is orange in color with the back of the bird having a brown, cream and white mottled pattern.



Female: Head being similar to a female northern bobwhite. Predominantly brown in color with the back of the bird having a brown, cream and white mottled pattern. The front of the female has a black and white checkerboard pattern running down the length of the bird. The bill is brown-black.