

Northern Bobwhite

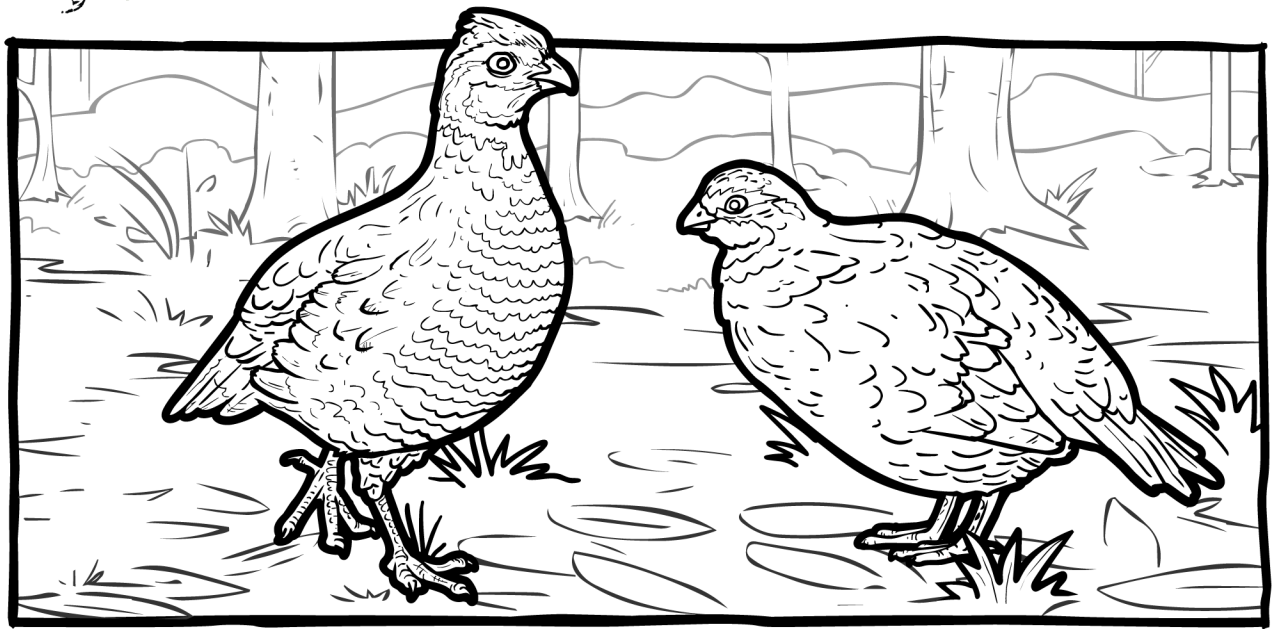
Northern Bobwhite *(Colinus virginianus)*

Instant ID

- A medium-sized, round-bodied bird with reddish brown coloration
- Males and females have different colors around the eyes and throat patch
- Males have a black-and-white striped face
- Average body length is 10 inches
- Lives up to six years

Native Niches

- Prefer to live in fallow agricultural fields and upland pine forest
- Found throughout most of Florida except for the lower Keys
- Need patches of different vegetation types for nesting, roosting, eating and escaping predators



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Favorite Foods

- Forage on the ground for seeds, insects, fruits and tender plants
- Eat mostly seeds in winter, with more insects eaten while raising young

Critter Characteristics

- Known as the “fire bird” because they thrive in fire-dependent habitats
- Live in groups of 10-30 called coveys
- Known for their whistle-like call, which sounds like their name

Population Protection

- Population has dropped between three and five percent each year due to habitat changes
- Prescribed fire is a safe way to apply a natural process, ensure ecosystem health and reduce wildfire risk

