

2016-2017 Bobwhite Quail Hunting Forecast

In areas where management has been applied to provide optimum nesting and brood rearing conditions, hunters might expect to see numbers as good as, or slightly better than last year. Availability of high quality habitat on intensively managed properties in east central, central and southwest Georgia will likely yield good numbers going into the fall. Several managers from properties with quality habitat reported seeing a good late hatch this year. Quality habitat occurs as a result of coupling heavy thinning and frequent prescribed burning of woodlands with management of fallow openings and/or incorporating fallow field borders, field corners and hedgerows into row crop fields. Early summer rainfall was adequate and evenly distributed enough to provide adequate cover under open canopied timber stands managed with a two-year fire frequency. While these early summer conditions were good for production, recent months have been unseasonably dry. These dryer conditions could present a challenge to bird dogs with less than optimal scenting conditions early in the season.

Public land quail hunters selected for an individual Quail Quota hunt through the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division, Quota Hunt System (www.gohuntgeorgia.com) can expect low to moderate densities of bobwhites on most areas unless selected for Di-Lane Plantation WMA where they can expect good quail numbers. For quail hunters not selected for a quota hunt but still interested in public land quail hunting opportunities, you can expect to find low to moderate densities of bobwhites at River Creek WMA, Elmodel WMA, Clarks Hill WMA, and Yuchi WMA.

Georgia Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) is continuing work on delivery of its Bobwhite Quail Implementation (BQI) Plan 2013-2023 which is designed around the goals and objectives of the National Bobwhite Quail Initiative 2.0. The BQI is focusing on bobwhite restoration across 7 priority landscapes, 4 of which have public land core habitats surrounded by private lands. The FL/GA Quail Coalition, consisting of a partnership between WRD, FL Wildlife Commission, Tall Timbers Research Station and Quail Forever continues its critical role in supporting bobwhite restoration in GA and FL.

The 2016-2017 season began statewide in Georgia, November 12, 2016 and runs through February 28, 2017. The daily bag limit is 12 birds per day. For more information on upland bird hunting in Georgia checkout the following link: [Upland Bird Hunting in Georgia](#)

2016-2017 Georgia WMA Quail Season Forecast:

Region	Wildlife Management Area	Quail Habitat Acreage	Hunting Forecast
3	Di Lane (<i>Quota</i>)	5,000	Good
5	Albany Nursery (<i>Quota</i>)	300	Fair
5	Chickasawatchee (<i>Quota</i>)	6,000	Fair
5	Elmodel	1,600	Good
5	River Creek	2,000	Fair
5	Silver Lake (<i>Quota</i>)	8,000	Fair