
Leaflets provides information about food, cover, and other habitat needs for wildlife

The ground cover requirement for northern bobwhite includes as much as 70 percent open ground. That is to allow movement of small chicks and is only needed at that time of the quail's life cycle. The habitat is one of several included in the diverse needs of this popular bird.

It prefers shrubby or woody cover, such as American plum and dogwood, as protection from predators and adverse winter weather, but tall grasses and weed patches also serve as loafing cover.

The northern bobwhite eats a variety of food, from grasshoppers and flies to berries, soybeans, and ragweed seeds.

Find this and much more about the bobwhite's habitat needs in a leaflet produced cooperatively by the Wildlife Habitat Council and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Agricultural Wildlife Conservation Center (AWCC).

The leaflet is one of 34 that summarizes habitat needs for important fish and wildlife species or groups in the United States.

"We tried to include as much critical information as we could in a brief summary format," says Bob Johnson of the Wildlife Habitat Council.

Each leaflet includes general information on the species; its range; important food, water, and cover needs; and habitat management options and suggestions. The leaflet also has information on conservation practices that provides helpful habitat and lists conservation programs that provide financial assistance.

Among the species or wildlife groups with leaflets are American elk, American kestrel, amphibians and reptiles, bats, bobwhite quail, bog turtle, bull trout, butterflies, cutthroat trout,

eastern bluebird, eastern cottontail, grassland nesting birds, greater prairie chicken, invasive species, lesser prairie chicken, long-billed curlew, mountain plover, mourning dove, mule deer, native freshwater mussels, pollinators, prairie dog, rainbow trout, and ring-necked pheasant. Others include ruby-throated hummingbird, sage grouse, shorebirds, shrub-scrub birds, sharp-tailed grouse, swift fox, wading birds, wetland mammals, wild turkey, and wood duck.

The series also includes a dozen leaflets that explain the value, management, and assistance available to create or maintain specific habitats. Those habitat types include temporarily flooded wetlands, ecologically isolated wetlands, warm-water streams, warm-season grasses and wildlife, riparian systems, nesting structures, integrated pest management and wildlife, forests for fish and wildlife, farm pond ecosystems, early successional habitat, disturbance in habitat management, and cropped wetlands and wildlife.

The leaflets are excellent references for landowners or conservationists who want information about select fish or wildlife and their habitats, according to Bill Hohman, a biologist with the NRCS in Fort Worth, Texas. Hohman facilitated the leaflet development for the NRCS and says the individual leaflets can be viewed and printed from the AWCC Web site.

The AWCC, located in Madison, Mississippi, is a fish and wildlife technology development center.



Photo by Roger Hill



NRCS photo by Lynn Betts

Northern bobwhite (top); Riparian buffer (bottom)

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