

Collecting and Recording Harvest Data

Texas Quail Index

Summary: Age and sex of quail harvested during hunting season will be recorded to assess reproductive success.

Purpose: To ascertain the age structure of the quail population over years. The ratio of subadult:adults (juveniles:adults) is an indicator of reproductive success. A bag consisting of 70% or more subadults suggests a good quail year.

Materials:

1. Example photos of adult and sub-adult wings (provided)
2. Example photos of males and females (provided)
3. Data sheets (provided)
4. Pocket notebook (to record field notes)

Schedule: November through January

Helpful websites on aging/sexing:

Bobwhites (<http://wildlife.tamu.edu/publications/TAEXWildlife/WILDPUBS/A074.PDF>)

Blues (<http://wildlife.tamu.edu/publications/TAEXWildlife/WILDPUBS/A002.PDF>)

Procedure:

1. Determine hunting effort by recording number of hours hunted per day afield.
2. Record number of coveys flushed. A group of quail must be at least 6 birds before it should be considered a covey.
3. Determine sex of each bird collected.
4. Collect, or examine on-site, one wing from each bird to determine age (sub-adult or adult). If wings are collected for later examination, collect the right wing from roosters (*Right - Rooster*) and left wing for hens.
5. Compute (a) number of coveys flushed and (b) number of quail bagged per hour of hunting effort. Record information on Harvest Data sheet provided.
6. Fax this sheet to D. Rollins. Maintain a copy for your files.