

Landowners managing habitat for bobwhite quail can determine the effects of management activities by conducting a call count each year. The “bob-white” call of the male is heard for several months; however, peak calling generally occurs during early to mid June in the Southeast.

Establish permanent call count stations approximately ¼ mile apart at obvious locations such as fence corners, field corners and road crossings. Mark locations of call count stations on an aerial photograph for future reference. Conduct the call count for three days during peak calling, and between sunrise and 8:30 a.m. Do not conduct the count on rainy days and days with wind speeds greater than 10 mph. Inclement weather conditions may affect calling and your ability to hear the “bob-white” call.



To standardize the call count, arrive at the first station at sunrise, wait one minute to allow vehicle disturbance to settle, then listen for five minutes and record the number of quail you hear making the “bob-white” call. Continue until all stations are monitored. After completing the call count, calculate the average number of calling quail heard per station. Try to be consistent when conducting the count in subsequent years so population performance can be determined and management activities adjusted as needed.

Photo Credit: Paul T. Brown



**This information is provided by the Alabama Forestry Commission**

For more information please visit: [www.forestry.alabama.gov](http://www.forestry.alabama.gov)