

Western Birds

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Guzzler and Spring Locations, Scouting Updates,
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Digital Back Issue List

Vol. 13, No. 6, Jan. 2020

UPDATED! Special West Mojave Compendium Issue: This is an expanded and updated West Mojave Special Issue with all of the 50 guzzlers in Barstow to Apple Valley region. It includes locations of two guzzlers never mapped before and includes updated information on the guzzlers originally mapped in the first West Mojave issue, Vol. 7, No. 4-5, and some guzzlers mapped in Vol 13, No. 1, Vol. 12, No. 5, and Vol 7, No. 5-6. It also has updated information on all the hunter-conservation groups keeping Southern California guzzlers repaired and filled.

Vol. 14, No. 1, May 2020

Map and information on the four guzzlers in southeastern Imperial County near the Colorado River and north of Interstate-8. All 19 of the springs in the West Mojave (a follow-up to Vol. 13, No. 6) are listed in this issue with notes on hunting them. A plea to bird hunters to help define lost quail range and water sources in California with a form to submit information to help address the problem.

Vol. 14, No. 2, August 2020

Guzzlers and springs on Opal and Black mountains north of Hinkley and Highway 14 revisited with updates on hunting the region and current conditions. Information and map to two big game drinkers in Eastern Sierra Nevada off Highway 395 near the town of Walker. Information on fire and rainfall databases, Nevada guzzler map book, Utah guzzlers, and Arizona guzzler map book. Lastly a plea to fill out lost water and quail habitat reports.

Vol. 14, No. 3, August 28, 2020

Dove Special Update. News from all of the public land hunting areas in the region. New map of added fields at the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve in Blythe. News of possible COVID impacts on dove opener. Cliff McDonald obituary. Dove banding information.

Vol. 14, No. 4, October 2020

Upland Bird Forecast: Good news. Quail Calling primer. Map and detailed information for 12 guzzlers on the Chuckwalla Bench just south of Interstate 10 and north of the bombing and gunnery range. Finding and using fire maps for your hunting and updated guide information.

Vol. 14, No. 5, December 2020

New COMPENDIUM ISSUE: A complete guide to all of the 24 springs and guzzlers across the Chuckwalla Bench along the Bradshaw Trail from Palo Verde to Indio. Includes information from Vol. 9, No. 6 and Vol. 14, No. 4 (previous issue). Latest information on if quail need surface water to survive. Story on Sonoran pronghorn coming to Chuckwalla Bench.

Vol. 14, No. 6, March 2021

Special issue with maps and GPS coordinates to 21 guzzlers in the extreme southwest corner of Utah between Mesquite, Nev. and St. George, Utah. Story on five small game guzzlers being converted to big game drinkers (for Sonoran pronghorn primarily, but also deer and bighorns). Coordinates provided for four. Information on two additional big game drinkers south of I-10 just before Blythe.

Vol. 15, No. 1, August 27, 2021

Dove Opener Issue: Last minute forecast and update for all of the popular public spots mapped in previous year's dove issues. How we have a 15-bird dove limit. Six guzzlers north of Vidal Juntion along Highway 95 mapped. How many shots per dove do you use?

Vol. 15, No. 2, October 2021

Upland bird forecast: Dismal. Map and information on Piute Spring in the extreme eastern end of the Mojave Preserve off Highway 95 north of Blythe. Also three guzzlers in this regon mapped. Western states upland bird forecast with links to more information. Brief information on some upland hunting

podcasts that are available.

Vol. 15, No. 3, July 2022

Revisiting all of the 17 guzzlers in Cajon Pass. Issue contains detailed hunting information, updates on the guzzlers' status, and maps and GPS locations in this big issue. Also updated information on the four Juniper Flats-Bowen Ranch area guzzlers and the springs in this area east of Hesperia. Information on a bill that threatens the Pittman-Robertson Act wildlife funding.

Vol. 15, No. 4, August 28, 2022

Annual Dove Opener Issue: This is the 2022 roundup of what to expect at all of the popular dove hunting areas across Southern California and the Colorado River, along with updated maps, where needed, to augment past dove issues. USFWS dove population data, and a story on Lake Perris opening for dove opener. Latest, up-to-the-minute information on steel shotshell availability across the region.

Vol. 15, No. 5, October, 2022

Annual Upland Forecast Issue: Grim News. The bleak Southern California region-by-region breakdown of 2022 production and how prospects look for this season from the Eastern Sierra to the Carrizo to the Colorado River and all across the Mojave Desert. Also, brief information on all the Western states' upland bird forecast. Data on local rainfall and how it affects gamebird production. Some info on more podcasts and reader-caught mistakes.

Vol. 15, No. 6, June, 2023

Piute Spring: Off the beaten path

UPDATED! Special Red Mountain Region Compendium Issue: Remaps and provides precise coordinates for all 71 of the guzzlers in the Rand and El Paso mountain ranges south of Ridgecrest and Inyokern. The area covered is on both sides of Highway 395 but east of Highway 14. It also has news and updates on waterfowl hunting at Lake Perris State Recreation Area and San Jacinto Wildlife Area.

Vol. 16, No. 1, July, 2023

Maps and GPS coordinates for 12 big game guzzlers in the Maricopa Mountains in Arizona west of Phoenix, and two other big game drinkers north of I-10 along the Central Arizona Project canal. Information on mountain quail research that needs hunters' help, and scouting for quail and chukar with a rifle and collecting a few cottontails.

Vol. 16, No. 2, August 28, 2923

Annual Dove Opener Issue: In-person scouting information from the Colorado River Indian Trips (CRIT) Reservation south of Parker in Arizona, including maps and details of a whitewing dove hotspot on sudan fields. Also scouting information from Blythe, Cibola, the Imperial Valley, and the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Current public land hunting maps, and the latest from the USFWS on dove numbers.

Vol. 16, No. 3, October 16, 2023

Annual Upland Bird Forecast Issue: Detailed information by region on this year's quail and chukar hatch and where the hunting will be best for the 2023-24 season. Rainfall gauges across Southern California tell the story on the hatch. Commentary on how and why it takes at least two years of good rain to create good quail numbers. A Last Page story on hunting with old Labradors.

Vol 16, No. 4, November, 2023

New COMPENDIUM ISSUE: A special issue covering all 46 guzzlers in the greater Scodie Mountain region of the southern Sierra Nevada with 13 quad maps and GPS coordinates for all the guzzlers. The area covered is all the public land between Highway 14 on the east, Lake Isabella on the west, Jawbone Canyon on the south and Freeman Canyon (Highway 178) on the north). Information on the DFW limiting access to the Canebrake Ecological Reserve for no reason.

JIM MATTHEWS
EDITOR & PUBLISHER

New Subscriber Form

If you want to subscribe with this special offer, choose the FREE back issues you want from the detailed list. I've highlighted the issues in with the most guzzlers. Fill out this form and e-mail or snail mail it back. Or simply call 909-887-3444 with a credit card number, and we can do the whole thing over the phone.

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	BACK ISSUE	S AVAILABL	\boldsymbol{E}	
☐ Vol. 13, No. 6	☐ Vol. 14, No. 1	☐ Vol. 14, No	o. 2	☐ Vol. 14, No. 3
☐ Vol. 14, No. 4	☐ Vol. 14, No. 5	☐ Vol. 14, No	0.6	☐ Vol. 15, No. 1
☐ Vol. 15, No. 2	☐ Vol. 15, No. 3	☐ Vol. 15, No	o. 4	☐ Vol. 15, No. 5
☐ Vol. 15, No. 6	☐ Vol. 16, No. 1	☐ Vol. 16, No	o. 2	☐ Vol. 16, No. 3
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2024 Quail Calls & Pricing

Jim Matthews Signature Calls are available for all species of quail in the United States — valley, Gambel's, scaled, mountain, Mearn's, and bobwhite quail. For valley, Gambel's, and scaled quail, the calls are made with rubber bands as the "reed," and a single call may be used for all three species because of tonal overlap. They are available in stick and chamber call designs. Mountain, Mearn's, and bobwhite quail are whistle calls, with the mountain and Mearn's quail using the same pitch whistles, while the bobwhite quail are higher pitched.

The custom line of calls features nice hardwoods and top-shelf fit and finish. The Heirloom custom line features better grade woods with more color, grain, and figure. Wood upgrades are available in this line along with other features that increase the cost and appeal of the call. The Legacy custom line is our multi-species quail call, featuring whistles and rubber band calls for hunter-specified species.

Call pricing is below. *There is a \$15 per-order ship*ping fee added to these prices.

The Custom Line

Custom Stick Calls

This is a basic rubber band call that will last a lifetime. It will work for valley, Gambel's, and scaled quail. Many hunters never feel the need for anything more. They are made in limited batches each year, announced on my social media sites and Etsy store when completed.

Custom Chamber Calls \$100

This rubber band call has a sound chamber built into the call to give it more resonance and versatility. When blown from the opposite side, it is like a stick call. This gives the call two different voices. I jokingly call these "the perfect call." I try to always keep some in stock. They are usually made species-specific. In other words, they are made and tuned for valley, Gambel's, or scaled quail, but the call will work for all three species when used by experienced callers. **Custom Whistle Call**

This is a whistle call made for bobwhite quail, Mearn's quail, or mountain quail that will last a lifetime. The mountain quail call will also work for Mearn's quail. They are made from nice grade wood.

The Heirloom Line

Heirloom Chamber Calls

\$120

This is the everything-custom rubber band call. It has figured and/or richly colored wood and often have unique shapes, sizes, and features. They are truly one-of-a-kind calls that will last several lifetimes.

Heirloom Whistle Call

\$120

This is the heirloom version of the whistle call with higher grade wood, often with contrasting wood caps. Wood is often collected in the field (without a price upgrade), or it can be made with wood supplied by the customer.

The Legacy Line Legacy Two-Way Call

\$240

These custom calls feature a rubber-band chamber call combined with a whistle call for situations where two species may be encountered on the same hunt. They are usually made with valley and mountain quail calls in the same piece, but I have made other combinations, including some three-way calls. This line of calls are mostly made to order, but I usually make a small handful each year for inventory, but they are usually sold the day they are posted on my social media and Etsy pages

Call Options
Additional custom options are available on all three call lines. These are some popular options and how much they add to the cost of the custom call:

Leather Lanyard plus \$20 Shotgun Shell Head plus \$40 per shell plus up to \$100 Wood Upgrades, Laminates, Field-Cut Knot and/or Crack Fill (usually brass) plus \$20-\$50

Call Jim Matthews for more information or to place an order.

\$80