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Foreword

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FOREWORD

The National Quail Symposium Proceedings are a project of the National Bobwhite & Grassland Initiative (NBGI), the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative Technical Committee (NBCITC, formerly known as the National Bobwhite Technical Committee, NBTC), and the NBCITC Science Subcommittee.

The Quail 8 National Quail Symposium and the 23rd Annual Meeting of NBTC were held as a joint quail conference in 2017 in Knoxville, Tennessee. Following the success of that meeting, the Missouri Department of Conservation, University of Missouri, and USDA Forest Service submitted a letter of intent to host the Quail 9 National Quail Symposium and 28th Annual Meeting of NBCITC as a joint quail conference and were awarded the opportunity in 2018. With the addition of representatives from the National Bobwhite & Grassland Initiative, National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative Technical Committee, Quail Forever/Pheasants Forever, and Clemson University, a steering committee was formed to launch the Joint Quail Conference in Springfield, Missouri, August 1–5, 2022. This is the second time the National Quail Symposium and NBCITC have met jointly.

The steering committee also committed to publishing and making available the Quail 9 Proceedings at the Joint Quail Conference, something which had been done only twice before. Like previous proceedings of the National Quail Symposia, this proceedings is published as the National Quail Symposium Proceedings in the Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange (TRACE), the University of Tennessee's Open Access repository. This publicly accessible archive features research and creative work by scholars and researchers. The Quail 9 National Quail Symposium is following the trend in scientific publishing and with this volume will publish the proceedings online only, available at <https://trace.tennessee.edu/nqsp/>. A new feature of this proceedings is that all articles and abstracts in the proceedings have a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), which is a unique and never-changing string assigned to online (journal) articles, books, and other works. DOIs make it easier to retrieve and cite articles and abstracts. Publication of the proceedings prior to the symposium required tremendous effort by the authors, associate editors, and editorial assistant. We especially thank Cynthia Moser for copyediting submissions and Kari Finkler for the publication design and layout. All manuscripts and abstracts went through a peer review and revision process prior to publication. The proceedings is an opportunity to publish contributions that may not be suitable for other scientific outlets, but nevertheless the editors want to ensure the work is presented clearly and accurately and makes appropriate inferences.

The Joint Quail Conference is a gathering of approximately 250 participants consisting of managers, researchers, and educators focused on quails, related species, and the ecosystems in which they occur. The Quail 9 National Quail Symposium includes 61 scholarly contributions presented in

oral presentations or poster presentations. The plenary session focuses on the benefits of adaptive management for quail conservation with presentations by Dr. Lenny Brennan and Dr. James Martin providing a western and eastern perspective. Dr. Martin also presented on the state of the northern bobwhite in 2022. Since the conference is being held in Springfield, Missouri, there are also presentations by Kyle Hedges and Dr. Frank Thompson on the Southwest Missouri quail study, which occurred nearby. Following the plenary session, there are concurrent sessions on bobwhite restoration, translocation, western quail, bobwhite ecology, quail physiology, population estimation, and hunting. Species covered include northern bobwhite, scaled quail, Montezuma quail, masked bobwhite, and the long-tailed wood-partridge. The conference concludes with a stimulating presentation by Fidel Hernández: The Evolution of Quail Research: Trends in Themes, Cognitive Extent, and Lexical Diversity.

Many contributed to the excellence and timeliness of the proceedings. We are particularly indebted to those listed in the Acknowledgments, Editorial Committee, Reviewers, and Committee sections.

—*Frank R. Thompson III, Editor in Chief and David Hoover, Steering Committee Chair*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Quail 9 proceedings and symposium required many people to be successful. At this writing, 5 weeks before the symposium, some key people could be missed in the proceedings' acknowledgments, and similarly, institutional contributions in some cases will not be finalized until after Quail 9. Final formal recognition of individuals and institutional contributors will be announced at the meeting and published in the program and on the symposium website. The formal roles of many of the following recognized individuals, and their affiliations, are listed in the Joint Quail Conference Committees page.

Quail 9 is part of a series that began in 1972. The location in Missouri resulted largely from the encouragement of Dr. Thomas Dailey, Chair of the Quail 8 National Quail Symposium Technical Committee. Early on, we relied on the guidance of Tom until the Steering Committee was fully formed and operational, and we benefited greatly from the participation of returning steering committee member Penny Barnhart. Before we even agreed to host the conference, we engaged Erica Lovercamp, from the Conference Office, University of Missouri Extension; we would not have attempted this meeting without her help. Erica and her staff took care of all the meeting logistics. Dr. Mitch Weegman was an early steering committee member and Co-Editor but departed those roles because of his move to the University of Saskatchewan; we thank him for his important early efforts. The implementation of the Joint Quail Conference, including preparation and follow-up business, was made possible by a dedicated team of individuals under the leadership of the steering committee (see Committees section for details), which

included Erica Lovercamp, Lisa Potter, Jef Hodges, Casey Bergthold, Frank Loncarich, Penny Barnhart, Kyle Hedges, and Frank Thompson. The production of the proceedings and management of the editorial process in TRACE was assisted by Molly Foley. Cynthia Moser copyedited all submissions and Kari Finkler did the design and layout of the publication.

Funding for Quail 9 was procured through the efforts of many committee members. Institutional support of Quail 9 was essential to the publication of the proceedings and a high-quality experience for symposium participants. At this writing, not all contributions have been secured, so final recognition of contributors will occur at the event and be published in the program and on the symposium website. Quail 9 was built on the funding foundation provided through both in-kind contributions and cash from the Missouri Department of Conservation, University of Missouri, USDA Forest Service, National Bobwhite & Grassland Initiative, the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative Technical Committee, and Quail Forever/Pheasants Forever. Sponsors also included Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Arkansas Game and Fish, National Bobwhite & Grassland Initiative, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Roundstone Seed, Truax Company, Clemson University College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Life Sciences, Missouri Prairie Foundation, Hamilton Native Outpost, Pure Air Native Seed, Bamert Seed, Bass Pro/Cabela's, Cedar Creek Farm, Lotek, Lick Skillet Seeds, Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, Project Upland, Larry P. O'Reilly and Family Foundation, and Family Center Farm and Home.

—*Frank R. Thompson III, Editor in Chief and David Hoover, Steering Committee Chair*