

URBAN WILDLIFE CHRONICLES EGUIDE



CALIFORNIA QUAIL

HOW TO SPOT ME?

- Look in grassy edges, brushy parks, gardens, and open urban spaces—often near the ground or low perches.
- I'm a round-bodied bird with a distinctive forward-facing plume or "topknot".
- Watch for my bobbling walk, and listen for our "chi-ca-go!" calls echoing through the shrubs.

DID YOU KNOW?

California Quail are highly social, often forming tight-knit coveys that sleep and forage together. They're ground nesters, and both parents help care for the young—who are able to run soon after hatching! Their feather plume isn't just for looks—it's made of six overlapping feathers that bob as they walk.

HOW TO PROTECT ME?

- Leave undisturbed brush piles and shrubs—we use them for cover and nesting.
- Keep cats indoors, especially during breeding season when our young are vulnerable.
- Avoid using rodenticides or pesticides—these can move through the food chain and harm us.

REFLECTION PROMPT

What community helps you feel safe, seen, and supported—and how do you care for one another?



JOIN THE COMMUNITY

Use the hashtag #UrbanWildlifeChronicles
Scan to follow & share your sightings!

