



Colorado Science and Engineering Fair

2025 Individual Project Abstract Form

Please print 2 copies of the completed form. Sign both copies, keep 1 for your notebook and submit 1 copy to your Regional Fair Director with your other paperwork.

Title of Project: The Great Quail Query

Finalist's Name: Finnley Reitz

School and City: Lamar Middle School, Lamar, Colorado

Sponsor's Name: Ashley Roseberry

Category: Animal Sciences

Division: Junior (grades 6 - 8)

Abstract (250 words or less):

Quail are small upland game birds related to grouse. There are two types of quail in Southeast Colorado and Southwest Kansas: Bobwhite quail (*Colinus virginianus*) and Scaled quail (*Callipepla squamata*). The main population driver of both Scaled quail and Bobwhite quail is nest success. It is important for everyone to be aware of the main predators of quail nests to help manage their populations.

Since it is so important to help maintain our quail population, my project focused on figuring out what the main predators of Bobwhite quail and Scaled quail nests in the sandsage habitat are. My hypothesis was that Bullsnares will be shown to be the most common nest predator of scaled and bobwhite quail nests in the sandsage habitat of Southeast Colorado and Southwest Kansas. According to my results my hypothesis was incorrect. The main nest predators, according to my research, were cotton rats and wood rats. Throughout my project I worked with a Terrestrial Biologist from Lamar, Colorado. He works on protecting different species of birds throughout Southeast Colorado and assisted me while doing my experiment. In conclusion, my hypothesis was rejected because my results show that rodents, not bullsnares, were the main nest predator for quail in the sandsage habitat.

I hereby certify that the above statements are correct and the information provided in the Abstract is the result of one year's research. I also attest that the above properly reflects my own work.

Finalist's Signature:

Date:

In addition, all students must complete the ISEF Student Checklist (1A), Research Plan, Approval Form (1B), and Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1), and any other ISEF forms required for this type of project. See the International Rules and Guidelines for form requirements. Return COPIES of all of these forms to your Regional Fair Director with you Finalist Verification/Permission Form. **A signed copy of this form must be included in your notebook.**