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Quail
of a
tale

Game birds seen in
downtowns in Texas

Ronald W. Erdrich Abilene Reporter-News
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

ROTAN — Quail in downtown Abilene?
Mitchell Riggs knew something was up when stories like that began to reach him. As the operations manager at the Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation, his job involves tracking populations of the game bird.
But quail walking around Big Country towns? That’s out there.
“It’s weird. We’ve heard reports of birds in downtown Snyder, in Roby, Aspermont and Paducah,” Riggs said.
The research ranch conducts roadside surveys of quail during the first three weeks of September each year, driving two 10-mile routes on the east and west side of the property.
“Essentially we’re just counting as many birds as we see on those routes, and then we figure out how many birds we see per mile,” Riggs explained.

An autumn drive

The countryside out here is slightly rolling at times, topped with low bluffs dotted by a sprinkling of cedar trees in the rockier heights. Elsewhere there’s patches of mesquite separated by wider stretches of grasses, low shrubs and prickly pear cactus.
Quail stand about 6 to 7 inches tall

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Editor’s note

This is the first of a two-part series on the state of quail in the Rolling Plains. The area encompasses much of the Big Country, goes down to about San Angelo in the Concho Valley and also includes the Wichita Falls area in North Texas.

RONALD W. ERDRICH/REPORTER-NEWS

Where
to vote in
Tom Green County

Rosanna Fraire
San Angelo Standard-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

The November 2025 special elections are here. Here’s where to vote on Tuesday in Tom Green County.
Texans will once again head to the polls for a say in 17 constitutional amendments, including increased property tax exemptions for homeowners, a pledge of billions of dollars for water infrastructure and a ban on inheritance taxes.
Residents of Wall ISD will also vote on a proposition.
Voting will be available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at these locations:
• Angelo Bible Church, Lobby, 3506 Sherwood Way
• Belmore Baptist Church, Fellowship Hall, 1214 S. Bell St.
• Calvary Baptist Church, Fellowship Center, 2401 Armstrong St.
• Christoval Community Center, Multi-purpose room, 20022 Main, Christoval
• Concho Valley Transit District, Bus Depot, Annex Building, 506 N. Chadbourne St.
• San Angelo First, Fellowship Hall, 1442 Edmund Blvd.
• Grape Creek Community Center, Gene Marsh Board Room, 8207 U.S. Highway 87 N.
• Keating Paint & Body, reception

See VOTING, Page 2A

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