

# The Scattergunner's Drug

Crazy Quail is an addiction with no cure...and that's a good thing.

**OK, IMAGINETHIS:** You're standing at a firing line, shotgun at the ready, and plenty of shells at hand. Suddenly, a clay target appears, and zooms off. Then another, and another, and another!

They're going away, coming at you and crossing from both right and left, at varying angles. And they never stop. You shoot at them all. The shotgun barrel is red hot, your hand is blistered, and your thumb is worn raw from stuffing shells into the magazine. And you're having the time of your life.

A pipe dream? Nope, this is Crazy Quail, a portable, automated target-delivery system that is limited only by your imagination (and pocketbook). Every now and then, a product or company comes along that is simply mid-blowing, and Crazy Quail is one of them.

It was started in 2013 by Barry Bourdage and Bob Butterworth, and the impetus was the usual: need. Bob and Barry and several other shooters were happily blazing away at clays. The target pullers were girls from a local high school. Well, the kids eventually had the indignity to graduate and go away to college. What to do?

Bob and Barry's main business was in the high-tech field, i.e., developing websites, managing medical records and what-not. They figured that there ought to be a way to electronically control the traps that throw clay targets. There wasn't one available, so they did what any red-blooded American entrepreneur would do: they invented one.

This doesn't sound easy, and indeed it wasn't. First, the software had to be developed from scratch, then hardware on the throwers had to be developed, tested, and modified, and made to do what the controller told it to do (no small task). Several iterations (and personal additions) were required, but finally, at the 2013 SHOT Show, the first Crazy Quail unit was unveiled.



The reception was overwhelming, considering all the technical and mechanical work that went into it. They sold 12 systems in just four days. From this beginning, Crazy Quail has grown into a dynamic and flourishing business with six employees and enough orders to keep them very busy.

All Crazy Quail target-throwing systems are totally user-controlled via special software apps for either an iPhone or Android device. This unique software allows the user to change the speed, direction, and rapidity with which the targets are thrown, and it is done wirelessly, and long range. How long, you ask? How about 500 yards!

Get this: One device can control up to 256 throwers. They can be made to throw targets in sequence or simultaneously, throw a certain number of targets

in a set number of seconds, or whatever combination the user wants. It is also important to note that if the shooter is having trouble with a certain presentation, he/she can just "tell" the unit to throw the same target over and over until they get it right.

Crazy Quail systems come equipped with MEC traps, the industry standard; or if the buyer has his own traps, they can be used. Most systems come mounted on appropriately sized trailers so they're easily portable, and all are battery powered. About the only maintenance required is to the mechanical components, i.e., the trailer, mounting frame, and the traps themselves.

Crazy Quail systems come in several configurations, from the (relatively) small, to the admittedly grandiose. The smallest is the "Mini," which has a multi-

stack MEC trap mounted on a large metal base. It can be had as a stand-alone unit, or trailer-mounted. The Mini rotates 360°, and a “power tilt” feature can be added for even more diabolical fun.

Crazy Quail’s initial offering was the “Quad,” and is still extremely popular. The Quad has four traps mounted on a metal trailer frame made of galvanized steel, so it’s completely at home outdoors. The base rotates 360° and with the wireless control, you can throw targets in virtually unlimited presentations, so this is a natural for tuning up for bird seasons.

New for 2018 is what’s called the “Duo Loco.” This behemoth comes on a 12-foot, 7,000-pound GVW trailer. The Duo Loco has two Mini units on it, and is available with Power Tilt and Wobble, so the targets can simulate just about any flight pattern or difficulty level.

But the Crazy Quail guys never rest. Their latest setup is known as the “Covey.” It has four Mini units mounted on an appropriate trailer, has motorized tilt and roll, a gateway controller, and the mobile app. If you can’t do it with this big boy, you probably don’t need to do it.

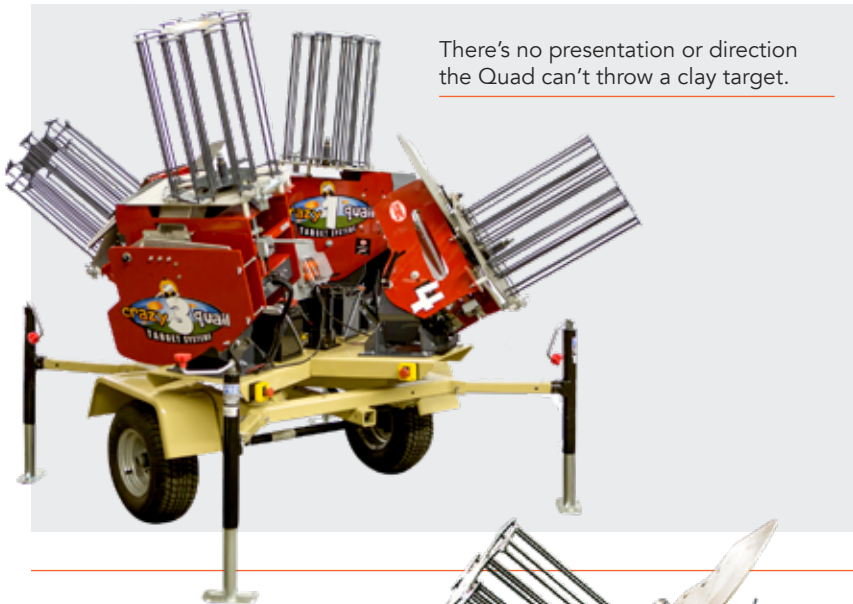
All this complex technology doesn’t come cheap, but the convenience and the fact that you can literally throw any type of target you want tempers the pain on the pocketbook somewhat. A complete summary of the price structure is on the Crazy Quail website, but here are some examples. Prices for a Mini range from \$4,600 (no trailer), \$20,500 for a trailer-mounted Quad, to \$32,000 for the Covey. While well-heeled shooters usually spring for the Mini, shooting clubs and ranges go for the Quad, Duo Loco, or Covey. The shooters’ fees for the use of the unit, plus sales of ammo, will soon amortize the cost of the device, after which the system is profitable.

I have shot the Crazy Quail game numerous times, and I have to tell you, it is simply amazing. You shoot and shoot and shoot until you think you can’t lift the gun or stuff another shell in the magazine. Then another bird appears and the gun instantly comes up, assuming a life of its own, and all you can think about is blasting it out of the sky

The Duo Loco comes with a 7,000-pound open trailer so you can tow targets to any location.



There’s no presentation or direction the Quad can’t throw a clay target.



The Crazy Quail Mini is a smaller, more affordable version of the original Crazy Quail with the same 360-degree rotating ability to throw clays.



before the guys on either side of you hits it! All other shotgun games simply pale in comparison.

But I must caution you: Crazy Quail is very addictive. Try it once, and you’re hooked. You’ve been warned! \*