

Farm Game Committee Reports to the Southeastern Section, The Wildlife Society.

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**ACTIVITIES OF THE FOREIGN GAME COMMITTEE
SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
1963 - 64**

Presented at the Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the
Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners
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By

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Chairman, The Foreign Game Committee

The life span of the Foreign Game Committee of the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society has been relatively short but it has been one of considerable activity. Five members* made up the original Committee formed in early 1963 and chaired by the late Herman J. Tuttle. The present Committee is composed of nine members,** including two ex-officio members. The writer was appointed chairman following the untimely death of Mr. Tuttle in January of 1964. Herman's contribution to this Committee was great and his passing was keenly felt by all who knew him.

The availability of exotic game species for introduction into Southeastern habitat through cooperative agreements with the Foreign Game Introduction Project of the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife gave impetus to the creation of this Committee. Previous to this time, the consideration of exotic species was contained in the provinces of the Farm and Forest Game Committees.

The objectives of the Committee are as follows:

1. To increase the efficiency, coordination, and integration of foreign game research throughout the Southeastern Region, attempting to eliminate as much duplication of effort as possible.

*Original Committee Members: Herman Tuttle, Joe Hardy, Jim Keeler, Robert Murry, and Lee Nelson.

**Present Committee Members: Joe Hardy, George Wint, Dennis Hart, Robert Murry, Jim Keeler, Glenn Chambers, Lee Nelson, Dr. Gardiner Bump (eo), and Ferd Sumrell (eo) (Secretary).

2. To determine research needs of exotic game. To define the problems and seek solutions.

3. To hold an annual meeting for the purpose of presentation, exchange, and discussion of research findings and experiences on all subjects related to the biology and management of introduced foreign game species. A report of this meeting is to be submitted to the Section and distributed to all interested individuals.

4. To serve as a clearing house of information on all aspects of foreign game introductions. The Committee will serve as distributor of progress reports of field studies and other pertinent literature to member states and to all interested individuals. It is felt that technicians can more efficiently conduct their studies and administrators can be assisted in wise decision-making by this continual enlightenment.

The following is a chronological listing of events and activities of the Committee from its founding to the present.

The first meeting was held in the vicinity of Richmond, Virginia on July 1 to 2, 1963 with four members and four guests attending. Discussions were held regarding the objectives, operation, and activities of the Committee. Techniques for measuring the relative abundance of pheasants on liberation areas were decided upon and methods of marking liberated birds were reviewed. Field trips included an early morning tour of the famous Sandy Point F-1 talischensis pheasant area where establishment has apparently been successful, a Japanese green pheasant release area, and the Virginia State Game Farm near Cumberland.

A 90-minute panel discussion was conducted on October 1, 1963 in the technical game session at the 17th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners at Hot Springs, Arkansas. Individual reports were presented by Committee members and two guests regarding the black francolin, bamboo partridge, red junglefowl, the blackneck pheasant group, Kalij and Japanese green pheasants, and various techniques applicable to studies of foreign game species. Printed copies of some of these reports were available to those wishing them. A short movie of Japanese green and blackneck pheasant breeding season activities taken in Virginia by Dr. Gardiner Bump was shown. A discussion period followed.

A summary of Committee activities was presented by Chairman Tuttle at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society, held in conjunction with the Southeastern Conference. The formal 1963 Committee Report was submitted.

In the ensuing months, copies of the annual Pittman-Robertson progress reports of foreign game studies in Alabama, Tennessee, and Kentucky were distributed.

In early April 1964, copies of the paper entitled "Various Techniques of Evaluating Exotic Game Bird Releases" by Joe W. Hardy* were distributed to member states. For those states doing research with pheasants, the Committee urged the adoption of the standard spring crowing-cock call count technique described in this report. It was felt that the adoption by the states of this method of obtaining cock population density indices would be very worthwhile since state to state comparisons of the data could then be made. At least three states were known to have changed already existing crowing count procedures to conform with those recommended by the Committee. Also included in this report was a recommended standard flush-count procedure for the determination of sex ratios and winter population density indices in exotic bird studies.

The second annual meeting of the Committee was held in Maryville, Tennessee on August 11, 12, and 13, 1964. Letters of invitation to

*This paper was presented during the Committee panel discussion at the 17th Conference of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners, Hot Springs, Arkansas—October 1, 1963.

participate were sent to member states and interested individuals. Eight of nine Committee members were present. In all, twenty-five persons attended. Conservation agencies from ten Section states were represented. In addition, the Indiana Department of Conservation, the Illinois Natural History Survey, and the Atlanta Regional Office of the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife were also represented.

A committee business meeting was held on August 11. Among other items of business acted upon, the Committee decided to continue to distribute progress reports of foreign game studies to persons and agencies on our mailing list. The Chairman was assigned the task of distributor. It was felt that the introduction of non-migratory ducks into the territory covered by the Section may prove beneficial and a resolution to this effect was enacted. The following question was posed and discussed. After a species has definitely become established on a research area, is it a private or State responsibility to continue to make releases until the species is established in all suitable habitat statewide? A sub-Committee consisting of Robert Murry, Dennis Hart, and Jim Keeler as Chairman was appointed to study the matter and come up with recommendations for consideration by the full Committee. Plans for the 1964 Report were formulated and it was decided to have another Committee meeting in conjunction with this meeting in Clearwater, Florida in October to take up any items of business needing action. The 1965 annual meeting is scheduled to be held in south Louisiana during the black francolin breeding season.

A report on pheasant follow-up studies in Missouri, featuring color slides, was presented by Glenn Chambers on the evening of the 11th. This was followed by a presentation on Illinois pheasant studies by William Anderson. A short movie on nightlighting of pheasants was shown.

The formal Workshop began at 8:00 A.M. on August 12. The following five sessions made up the morning program:

A Possible Census Method for the Black Francolin—Ray Palermo and Robert Murry.

Report on Red Junglefowl Introductions in Alabama—James Keeler.

Report on Japanese Green Pheasant Introductions in Virginia—Dennis Hart.

Some Game Farm Techniques and Problems—George Wint.

Discussion of Items Pertinent to Introductions of Foreign Game Birds—Joe Hardy.

Discussions followed each of the presentations. A tour of the facilities at the Tennessee State Game Farm at Rutledge was conducted in the afternoon. An evening session included the presentation of a paper entitled "A Summary of Some Techniques Used and Associated with Foreign Game Bird Introductions" by Glenn Chambers. Status reports of the various foreign game species by the state representatives concluded the day's activities.

August 13 began with a before-breakfast tour of an area near Madisonville, Tennessee where a number of Iranian pheasants (*persicus* x *ringneck*) had been liberated up to 1961. One brood consisting of three chicks was observed along with an adult cock and three adult hens. A trip to the Tellico European wild hog area ensued. Pen-reared hogs were viewed at the area headquarters and a wild animal was observed in one of the project's live traps. This area is also potential Kalij pheasant habitat. The annual meeting was concluded with a short summing-up session conducted by the Chairman.

The Committee is indeed grateful to the field personnel and officials of the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission for providing the necessary meeting and other facilities, for conducting the various interesting and enlightening field trips, and for the warm hospitality shown. It was all great!

It was initially planned to summarize the Workshop sessions in this paper. However, this plan was deemed unnecessary since the 1964 Committee Report will be in the form of a "Proceedings" and will be available to all who wish a copy. This publication will contain the formal papers presented at the Workshop plus summaries of the discussions. The minutes of the business meeting will also be included. It is hoped that this publication will be forthcoming in the very near future. Persons desiring a copy, who are not on our mailing list, should contact the Chairman.

The Foreign Game Committee stands ready and willing to serve the Southeastern Section in all matters pertaining to exotic game introductions. To assist with the introductions of desirable foreign game species in all suitable habitats in the most efficient manner is our main objective. The ultimate and hoped for result is the provision of additional and more varied hunting opportunity for our sportsmen.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

At Raleigh

DON W. HAYNE, *Professor*

At the spring meeting of the Dove Committee, the Statistics Project promised to examine the possible usefulness of the uncontrolled or haphazard dove counts for predicting fall populations, especially with regard to Kentucky. We have done this. Using a different method than that employed in a report by Sam Harbo, we come to approximately the same conclusion, that there may be some possible usefulness here in this state. The picture does not look as promising in other states. We find that for Kentucky one can apparently do a good job of predicting September populations from data of August and before, and further providing that one can guess the month in which the population will peak. This last information of course is difficult to get, so that at present all one can do is to make a conditional statement such as "if the population peaks in August, the September population will be thus and so; if it peaks in September then it will be this other figure." Work is being continued on this project, summarizing the work done thus far into a report to be made to Kentucky, and further investigating whether any similar statements can possibly be made from the data of July and before.
