

CONCLUSIONS

The results derived from this six-year investigation of survival rates and factors affecting population dynamics of liberated pen-reared Reeve's pheasants were most discouraging and indicated that establishment of this species in Kentucky is not possible.

Releases totaling 7,674 birds were effected at seven study areas. It was felt a sufficient number of birds were liberated for an adequate test. The experiment was conducted at different levels of elevation and under various habitat conditions and yet the end results were negative.

It is believed that excessive mortality and a limited reproductive capability were probably the most important factors influencing the survival. The known reproduction of ten broods during the tenure of the study was only negligible and was not considered of sufficient magnitude to maintain a population. The initial post-release mortalities were not excessive, as compared with data obtained from other Kentucky studies involving introduced foreign game birds, but the declining number of post-release observations and the diminishing number of reports from surrounding areas indicated a rather rapid decline in population.

Dispersal did not appear to be excessive since the greatest known movement did not exceed twelve miles.

An extremely high occurrence relationship of post-release observations in mixed hardwood stands indicated a preference of Reeve's for this habitat type.

Future introductions of this pheasant in Kentucky is not recommended.

COMMITTEE REPORT FARM GAME COMMITTEE

The S. E. Association of Game and Fish Commissioners
and

The S. E. Section of the Wildlife Society
New Orleans, Louisiana
September 25-27, 1967

During the past 10-15 years the Farm Game Committees have discussed numerous problems confronting game managers, administrators, sportsmen, etc. A detailed resume of the previous discussions and recommendations was made at the 1965 fall meeting.

Prior to 1966, the Farm Game Committee usually consisted of 3-5 members that were selected by the committee chairman; the chairman being appointed by the President of the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society, to serve for a two-year period.

In 1966, the method of selecting committee members was changed so that the director of each southeastern state could appoint a member to the committee. At the same time, all directors were informed that they would receive copies of all correspondence mailed to their respective committee members so as to keep them advised of the committee's activities. This arrangement was readily accepted by the directors.

The 1966 committee chose one topic, "landowner incentive" or fee hunting of farm game, as the principal discussion subject for the fall meeting in Asheville, North Carolina. The information obtained from questionnaires sent to all committee members, along with pertinent remarks made at the committee meeting in Asheville, is included in the 1966 Proceedings of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners.

In the spring of 1967, each director was asked again to appoint a member for the Farm Game Committee. All 1966 members were re-appointed for this year. Having assumed that the "landowner incen-

tive" problem would eventually be solved by initiative of local sportsmen, the committee members were asked to participate in two separate endeavors this year. These requests involved:

1. An assimilation of literature published on farm game by personnel of member states, excluding those papers published in the Proceedings of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners.
2. Suggested topics for discussion at the Farm Game Committee meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.

At the Farm Game Committee meeting yesterday, September 25, 1967, the committee members unanimously adopted a resolution to revise and edit the "List of Farm Game Publications" for inclusion in the 1968 Proceedings of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners fall meeting. The revised publication list will include only technical papers on farm game published by personnel of member states in magazines, transactions, etc., other than those papers that are included in the Proceedings of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners Conference.

The committee also recommends that the membership of the Farm Game Committee hereafter be established in the same manner as during the past two years with the game and fish director of each state being allowed the prerogative to appointing a member to the committee. The chairman of the Farm Game Committee, to be appointed by the President of the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society, may appoint additional members from other agencies as deemed necessary.

The suggestions for topics to be discussed at the fall meeting of the Farm Game Committee included items from both management and research areas. Generally speaking, these included such topics as landowner incentive, government subsidies for farm game management, leasing of privately owned land for farm game hunting and farm game research needs; all of which have been discussed and re-discussed by most of the previous farm game committees. After prolonged discussion of the various problems concerning farm game, it was generally agreed that these problems are being compounded and the need for research in certain areas is needed more than ever. Specific recommendations include the need for research to determine how much more of the farm game can be harvested and means through which more farm game can be produced in certain types of habitats.

The concluding recommendation of the present Farm Game Committee was that future members of this committee be thoroughly informed of all current and future government subsidy programs that can be utilized to promote more and better hunting of farm game species.

Respectfully submitted,

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(COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S NOTE: At a meeting of the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society, September 26, 1967, in New Orleans, Louisiana, the recommendation that the game and fish directors of each state be allowed the prerogative of appointing committee members was tabled.)