

THE ARTIFICIAL INCUBATION OF HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE EGGS  
at  
STATE GAME FARM

*Original  
returned to  
owner with  
note*

There is such a wide field in the Hungarian partridge branch of game bird propagation that the reader may feel as though there has been but little experimentation accomplished this year. However, each of the hatched groups has been placed on experiment and followed closely all through the rearing season.

In the breeding fields this season the adult hens were grouped with respect to their ages and also with respect to the methods used in rearing them in 1937. Four groups were made: 1. The "old" breeders, which were those selected from the 1937 breeding flock and retained for the 1938 breeding season; 2. The "incubator" breeders, which were hatched artificially in 1937 and reared in brooders; 3. The "young" breeders, which were hatched under hens and reared on the range fields by the bantam hens. The fourth group consisted of birds left over from the other three groups. The majority of the hens were from the "incubator" group, and most of the males were from the "young" group. The results of these four groups' production of chicks and hatchability of eggs can be noted in the chart.

The eggs were collected from two to four times a week, depending upon the rate at which the hens were producing. The eggs of each group were kept separate from the others and kept not longer than ten days before being placed in the hen-hatchery or the incubators. When they were incubated artificially, each group's eggs were set by themselves whenever possible, so that we might be able to determine which eggs hatched the best. We have decided that the "incubator" eggs hatched the best, and that the "young" eggs were the most infertile of those four groups.

Both the agitated-air and still-air incubators were used for all four groups of eggs. Whenever eggs were set in the forced-air machine they were transferred to the still-air for hatching. This change was made immediately after the last candling, on the twentieth day.

The eggs were turned five times a day, every four hours beginning at 6:00 a.m. The last turning was at 10:00 p.m. Candling was done twice; on the tenth or eleventh day the infertiles were removed. On the twentieth day the dead germs were discarded and the eggs made ready for hatching. From this day on they were sprinkled daily, even during the hatch, and were not turned after the middle of the twentieth day.

The eggs were incubated and hatched under varying temperature and moisture conditions. The table (1) shows the results obtained, and may serve as a basis for further investigation of the incubation requirements for the Hungarian partridge.

Walter F. Van Dine

IC

August 31, 1938

*Original returned  
with this note  
9-17-38  
My reaction  
Needs reworking as a  
good report clear conclusion  
and all the data. Too much  
omitted that is understood  
by germ farmers but not by  
detainers. H.S.P.*