

exotics. Exotics are unlikely to be introduced into a region by federal agencies unless the states involved express a desire for them. Some states lack adequate legislation to control the introduction of exotics by clubs and individuals. Even with authority though, it is often difficult for a state administrator to prohibit an importation and some state administrators apparently feel that it is expedient, at times, to encourage the importation of exotics. Decisions in matters of this kind are usually made at the administrative level; biologists often become informed of the situation when they are ordered to make the importation. A few states appear to have abandoned hope of being able to manage their native game birds and are searching for an exotic that can satisfy the demands of the hunter without management. In this respect, it appears possible that it is one thing to introduce Chukars into the southwest but quite another to introduce an Eurasian quail into the southeast where, presumably, it is supposed to multiply in those ". . . areas (which) have been so altered by man that the native species no longer exist in sufficient numbers to provide hunting" but avoid those areas still occupied by the native bobwhite.

The importation of exotic game birds—and mammals—will continue. The successful introduction of these exotics will alter the ecology of the regions involved, whether for better or for worse will depend upon one's point of view. The writer suggests, however, that adequate study and control of these importations is woefully lacking at state and local levels. Expediency does not appear to be an adequate substitute for study in guarding against the importation of diseases and the possible deleterious effects of hybridization (particularly when subspecies of indigenous forms are imported from other states) or the possibilities of ecological maladaptation. It is furthermore respectfully suggested that, when importations of exotics are being contemplated, the desires and advice of biologists and conservation organizations other than those directly concerned with hunting might well be given consideration by both federal and state agencies.—ROBERT A. PIERCE.

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