

**Apparent lead poisoning in a wild Bobwhite.**—This note reports a Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) which apparently died in the wild from lead poisoning following ingestion of lead shot. The bird was found dead along a brushy fencerow bordering a harvested cornfield about one-half mile west of Stephen A. Forbes State Park, a public hunting area, near Omega, Marion County, Illinois, on 17 December 1964. Autopsy of the fresh and intact carcass revealed no gunshot wounds nor any other obvious cause of death. The

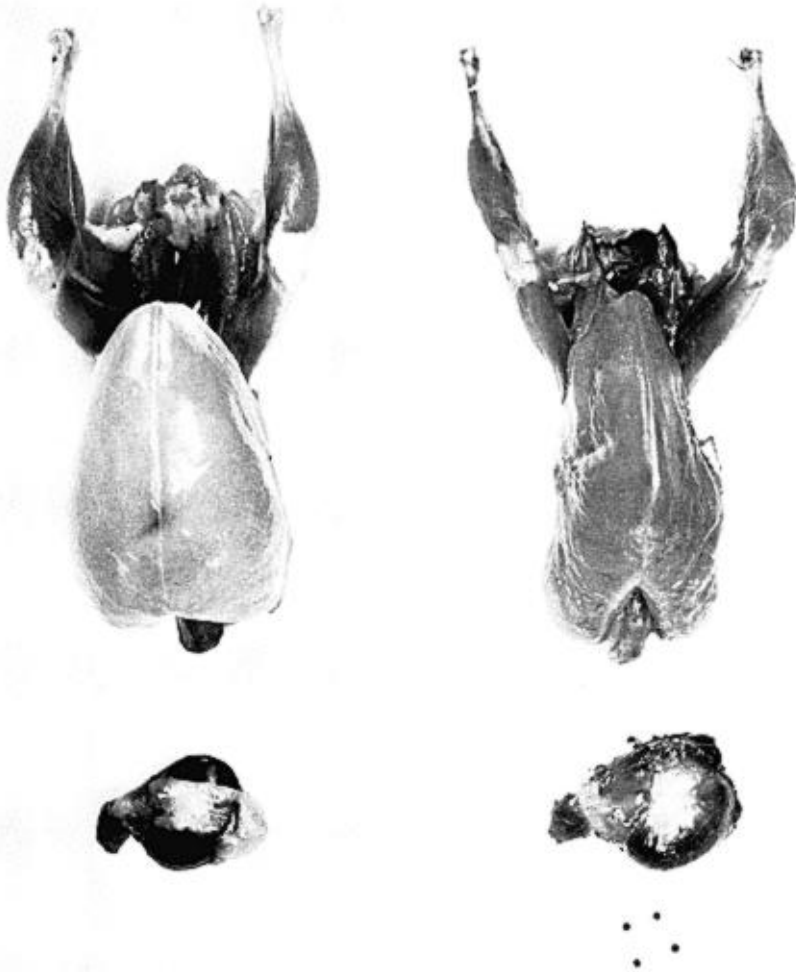


FIG. 1. Normal (left) and apparently lead-poisoned (right) Bobwhites and their respective gizzards. Photo by Wilmer D. Zehr, Illinois Natural History Survey.

quail probably died on 16 December, during an influx of cold weather. The bird, a juvenile female, was presumably a member of a nearby covey from which a second juvenile female, considered to be normal, was collected on 17 December 1964. Both quail had completed their postjuvinal molting.

Although both had well-filled crops and gizzards containing weed seeds and cultivated grains, plus grit in the gizzards, there were four lead shot in the gizzard of the quail found dead. The emaciated condition, enlarged gizzard, and discolored (dark red-lavender) flesh of the bird with the lead shot, which weighed only 130 grams, was in sharp contrast to the normal bird, which weighed 171 grams (Fig. 1). The shot were eroded to a diameter of about 1.5 mm or about the size of No. 11 shot.

Lead poisoning among waterfowl is well known but is rarely observed among gallinaceous birds. In New Mexico, Campbell (1950. *J. Wildl. Mgmt.*, 14:243-244) found a dead Scaled Quail (*Callipepla squamata pallida*) with 13 lead shot in its gizzard. Among wild pheasants, reports of lead poisoning are also rare (Hunter and Rosen, 1965. *California Fish and Game*, 51:207).

Stoddard (1931. "The Bobwhite Quail: its habits, preservation and increase") reported that a single shot pellet retained in the gizzard is sufficient to cause death from lead poisoning among penned quail up to 41 days of age and that one adult Bobwhite from Texas, which was liberated in Florida, died with two lead shot in its gizzard. Mortality of quail from ingested shot could conceivably reach significant proportions on intensively hunted areas without being noticed. As shown by Rosene and Lay (1963. *J. Wildl. Mgmt.*, 27:139-142) dead quail are rarely found in the wild, due to rapid decomposition, scavenging animals, and the density of their habitat.—RONALD L. WESTMEIER, *Section of Wildlife Research, Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois, 7 December 1965.*

**Ring-necked Pheasant moves newly hatched young.**—On 5 June 1954, at Metropolitan Beach, Macomb County, Michigan, I discovered a nest of the Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) in which six of the ten eggs had hatched—apparently within the last few hours. The female ran some distance away through the tall grass and disappeared from sight. When I returned to the nest about two hours later all of the young were gone, leaving four unhatched eggs. I looked carefully through the grass to see how far the young had scattered, as some of these were still not dry at the first observation. About 25 feet away I found all of the young in a hastily scratched and wallowed depression around which tangled grass stems had been gathered. Under normal circumstances the female would probably not have tried to lead the young away from the nest until sometime the next day. Whether the female would have continued incubation on the remaining four eggs after removing the young is doubtful. I moved the unhatched eggs and placed them in the cavity under the young. In the late afternoon, before leaving the area, I returned to find the young still at their last location. None of the unhatched eggs had yet been hatched. I was unable to return to the place later, and hence did not learn what the final outcome was. I have found no reference to this behavior in the literature on this species.—WALTER P. NICKELL, *Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, 22 November 1965.*

**Ring-necked Pheasants hatch in nest of Blue-winged Teal.**—On 26 June 1954 near Metropolitan Beach, Macomb County, Michigan, I found the nest of a Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) containing 11 eggs. In the same nest were two of the smaller olive-brown