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The drowning of Bobwhites in a large reservoir.—Establishment of the causes of natural mortality in animal populations is a vital but perplexing problem. The following observations illustrate a dramatic, but probably not unusual demise of Bobwhite (Colinus virginianus) living in proximity to a large reservoir.

A covey of 20 Bobwhites was found drowned in Bull Shoals Reservoir, Arkansas, 11 October 1966, by the writers while engaged in limnological studies. Evidently these birds mistakenly landed in the water when confused by a dense early morning fog. They were first observed at about 09:00 when visibility was poor. Examination of several of the birds showed no rigor mortis, bright clear eyes, but no body heat. The water temperature was 68°F and the air temperature 38°F.

Approximately 10 miles from the location of the covey, a single drowned Bobwhite was observed about 200 yards from shore. This bird was fresh but stiff. The time was then 11:30, the fog had burned off and the air temperature had risen to 75°F. One-half hour later 20 bodies, now stiff, were re-examined floating in the water about 50 yards off a small point. Scavengers at the scene included three Crows and three Turkey Vultures.

Discussion with two fishing guides disclosed that on three occasions over a 10-year period they had rescued groups of four to ten live Bobwhites from the reservoir under similar conditions.

Arkansas-Missouri Ozark impoundments are frequently shrouded in dense morning fogs in the fall, resulting from slow cooling combined with windless nights and bowl-type basins. The surrounding hardwood-covered ridges do not support dense Bobwhite populations, but the scattered coveys are attracted to shoreline areas where annual plants are dominant and tree growth is held in check by infrequent fluctuations in water level. Although the breadth of this area between the top of the flood control pool and the top of the normal power pool is limited, its edge effect is large. At Bull Shoals it amounts to 740 shoreline miles, or to an area about one-half that of the 45,440-acre reservoir itself. Thus it can be seen that the potential for Bobwhite drownings under such circumstances is large whereas the chance of observing such occurrences is small.—

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Renesting by Barn and Great Horned Owls.—In late March 1968, a pair of Barn Owls (Tyto~alba) was found nesting in a cavity in the side of a 10 m deep irrigation ditch six miles northeast of Fort Collins, Larimer County, Colorado. Activities inside the shallow hole could be observed from the opposite bank. A spring snow storm accompanied by strong north winds partially filled the cavity with snow on 3 April. When I visited the site on 4 April, five eggs were visible half covered with snow. One adult was standing near the clutch in the 3 m \times 0.5 m \times 0.5 m hole. I returned on 10 April to observe an adult, assumed to be the female, apparently brooding while the original eggs were scattered about the cavity floor. On 20 April, I climbed to the nest