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Wildlife Records from Mail Carriers in April

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NEBRASKA Gm Com Fed Aid in Wldlf Rstratn Act 50Stat917
Proj 15-R Quarterly Prog Rprt. Pages 13-14.
July 1 1947. (mimeo).

Results, page 13.
Table on page 13: pheasant, quail, prairie chicken, sharp-tailed grouse, hungarian partridge, chukar partridge.
Table on page 14: Pheasant, quail, prairie chicken, sharptailed grouse, hungarian partridge, chukar partridge.
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WILDLIFE RECORDS FROM MAIL CARRIERS IN APRIL

By Levi L. Mohler

608 mail carriers kept records of game birds seen during the week of April 21 - 26. This was the eighth time that mail carriers have cooperated on a statewide basis. April counts were omitted in 1946 but comparisons are made below of 1945 and 1947 data.

The mail carriers' work provides an inexpensive method of getting extensive statewide observations, and informational bulletins returned to the carriers are of definite value as a public relations step. (Many of the carriers send in long letters, in addition to the card form, and in a number of instances they have reported information useful to the law enforcement division in following up local game law violations.)

Results

Carriers saw an average of 113 pheasants per carrier in the April counting week of 1945, and an average of 75 pheasants per carrier in the April count of 1947, or about two thirds as many birds this year as two years ago.

608 carriers, driving approximately 178,752 miles, recorded the following for the six-day count:

Species	Total Birds Seen	Number of Carriers	Per cent of Carriers Seeing Each Species	
			April, 1945	April, 1947
Pheasant	45,770	588	95%	96%
Quail	964	151	22%	25%
Prairie Chicken	779	38	8%	6%
Sharp-tailed Grs.	435	21	3%	3%
Hungarian Partridge	19	4	1%	---
Chukar Partridge	6	1	1%	---

The following table contains some data not shown above, including a breakdown of pheasant data by sexes, and 1945 data for comparison:

	April, 1945	April, 1947
Carriers reporting	687	608
Miles driven (approximate)	201,978	178,752
Cock pheasants	45,250	27,789
Hen pheasants	28,951	17,645
? Sex	3,335	336
Pheasant sex ratio	156M:100F	157M:100F
Quail	1,597	964
Prairie Chickens	1,962	779
Sharp-tailed Grouse	1,360	435
Hungarian Partridge	75	19
Chukar Partridge	41	6
Total Game Birds	82,571	47,973

A spring blizzard in the counting week was probably responsible for the large numbers of pheasants of unknown sex seen in 1945, and it may have influenced the observations of chickens and grouse by encouraging concentrations at that time.

Twenty carriers saw no game birds at all during the 1947 spring count. These twenty were from eastern and southeastern counties as follows:

Dakota	1	Cass	3
Burt	1	Otoe	1
Douglas	1	Johnson	3
Sarpy	1	Nemaha	3
Lancaster	2	Richardson	4

(County totals are recorded on a master sheet after each mail carrier count, but this data is not included in the quarterly report . It is available to any department official, or employee, at the Lincoln office.)