

PHEASANT BREEDING RISES FAST IN STATE

Irradiation Is Tripling Output, Game Superintendent Says at Sportsmen's Show

LOSSES OF EGGS SLASHED

Plan Results in Larger Birds When the Season Is Opened and Increases Chicks

By LINCOLN A. WERDEN

An unexpected visitor to the National Sportsmen's Show at Grand Central Palace yesterday revealed some pertinent facts regarding pheasant production under New York State supervision.

The young man with the crate of eggs proved to be Gardiner Bump, State Superintendent of Game, who had made a special trip to the show. The eggs were not to be placed in the incubator that has attracted such interest during the past two days, but rather to be ground up as food for the six hens and one male pheasant that are penned in a section of the exhibit.

Bump gave an "inside story," as he described it, about the use of irradiation and what it meant to sportsmen of the State in general.

"The success of irradiation," he began, "means that we don't have to feed forty to fifty thousand eggs back to the pheasants at ten cents apiece."

Period of Loss Reduced

Explaining further, Bump said that the end of the normal egg-producing period, previously somewhere around July 20, had been advanced to the first of July. Inasmuch as it is too late to incubate pheasant eggs after June 20, the period of loss now is restricted to approximately ten days, from June 20 to July 1.

Translated into game birds, Bump asserted that this means that the State not only can liberate larger birds when each Fall season arrives but also can stock preserves with 5,000 more pheasant chicks than before.

"This research also permits us to send out from ten to fifteen thousand more pheasants chicks than we had been doing," he continued. "Irradiation makes some of our game farms look like Broadway at night. Although the pheasant breeders still have a curfew, they are put under lights from March 1 until the middle of May. The time varies from fifteen minutes to a maximum of three hours, in addition to the regular hours of daylight."

But even though the pheasant production under State supervision has been tripled as a result of this method, Bump is not perturbed over a possible superabundance in the future.

"They'll never become as plentiful as barnyard chickens, because history shows us that man or nature usually takes care of any surplus," he said.

Canada Sees Good Year

None of the exhibitors from Canada believes that the war will affect tourist travel from the United States. Maurice Hebert of Quebec, David Griffiths of New Brunswick and Len Hughes of Ontario said they expected that Canada would enjoy one of the best seasons in years, judging from bookings already received from sportsmen and travelers.

Donn Fendler of Rye, the youngster who was lost on Mount Katahdin, Maine, for nine days and eight nights, was a guest of the Pine Tree State. Victor Moore, the actor; the Freeport High School band and Mayor Robert Patterson led a Freeport delegation to the show last night.