

Area Pheasant Crop Out Of Slump

This state's hunters shouldn't count their game chicks before they hatch in the spring, but southern Michigan's pheasant population may soon pull out of its three-year slump.

That's the cautiously optimistic hope being held out by Donald W. Douglass, chief of the Conservation Department's Game Division.

He says that if the birds get a break from the weather during the rest of the winter and throughout the crucial spring nesting, they could start recovering in 1968.

BUT DON'T GET your hopes too high, pheasant hunters. Suitable cover for these birds has seriously shrunk in the southern farm country, so pheasants won't bounce back as high as 10 or 24 years ago, even under the best weather conditions.

Douglass underscored his remarks by urging the state conservation commission to avoid such "unwise" action as closing the pheasant hunting season, getting back into the program of artificial pheasant stocking, or supporting a return of the fox bounty.

The Department's game chief reported that the downward trend among these birds has shown up in a 12-state area of the Midwest where the combined ringneck kill plunged from 10.5 million in 1961 to 0.5 million in 1966.

Also working against the birds in recent years has been a second element, the short-term factor of the weather which is believed to have upset the pheasants' spring nesting pattern and thus hurt their hatching success.

This factor, unlike the land-use trend, is subject to improvement. As it takes a turn for the better, pheasants should rebound up to the point that available food and cover allow them, reported Douglass.

HE STRESSED THAT there is no evidence that foxes have been responsible for the low pheasant populations, adding that bounties on these predators have proven both ineffective and costly.

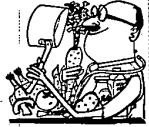
Douglass also said it would be an empty gesture to close the pheasant season, noting that it has been proven that the rooster birds cannot be shot out.

He added that put-and-take stocking of pheasants wasn't the answer, either, because artificial releases do not build up the birds' populations and they cost far too much in terms of their returns to hunters.



TELEVISION SETS have the attention of Fred Medawor, owner of the Don-Lor Center, who has just taken over the ownership of Colorland TV, 33666 Five Mile Road in Livonia. He's shown inspecting one of the many sets available at Colorland.

Doctor In The Kitchen



by W.W. Bauer, M.D. Consultant, National Dairy Council

This is where you and I came in. No one knows exactly when young mothers started worrying about toddlers that seem to have no appetite. Certainly there is no sign that they are about to stop worrying.

So, let's haul out the old record and crank up the player --or-- the memory--because you've heard all this before. My typewriter can do this almost as if it were a computer. All right, mother, you are saying, "If you're so smart, why don't you give us some answers, if there are any!"

THERE ARE some answers. At the risk of adding to the anxieties of mothers who have already become scared of their children by reading too much child psychology, I'll begin by saying that, in most instances, maternal worries are needless.

No youngster with normal intelligence will starve when there is food to be had. But he may not always want to eat when, or what, or as much as his mother thinks he should.

BEFORE HE was born, baby grew by taking nourishment from his mother's blood; the eating problem was there. She had to eat qualitatively for two, to be sure baby got the nutrients he needed, but she had to watch her weight at the

same time. Now baby is here, and he nurses or takes his bottle until he is old enough to hit up and feed himself. So far, no problem.

DURING THESE phases, baby has grown prodigiously. Before birth he grew from a microscopic cell to a seven-pound or better infant. In his first six months, he generally doubles his weight, which is pretty good growing, but not nearly as fast as the prenatal pace. In his second six months, he increases his weight, as a rule, by only 50 per cent. After the first year, his rate of growth is slower and slower until he gets his first growth spurt between the third and fifth years. He needs proportionately less food than he did as a baby.

The toddler doesn't eat as much because he doesn't need to.

IF MOTHER accepts this fact, the problem evaporates. If not, it gets worse, the harder she tries to overcome it. All sorts of devices, from conning to punishment, from bribes to deprivations, are useless.

The harder mother tries, the more stubborn the child becomes--because a new factor enters the picture. Peter before has Junior had so much attention, so much solicitude, so much concern, and he loves to

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