

Nocturnal activity and vocalization by a Ruffed Grouse.—At approximately 02:00 EST on 11 November 1973 a Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) was observed moving actively through the woods in bright moonlight, and emitting a soft, murmuring vocalization. The observation was made in the oak-hickory woods atop Falls Ridge in Montgomery County, Virginia. The night was clear and cold (ca. 30 °F), and a full moon illuminated the forest floor. The observer was camping when awakened by the continuous, low, throaty, purring noise and the rustling of leaves made by the Ruffed Grouse, which was then about two meters away. The grouse apparently made a slight detour around the observer and continued to make its way along the crest of the ridge.

Bump et al. (1947, *The Ruffed Grouse: life history, propagation, management*, New York State Conserv. Dept., p 186) make reference to Ruffed Grouse budding "well into the evening when the moon was bright." Rue (1973, *The world of the Ruffed Grouse*, Philadelphia, Lippincott, p. 130) has observed Ruffed Grouse feeding on cold, moonlit, winter evenings as late as 21:00. Drumming behavior by Ruffed Grouse is commonly performed at night (for example Sawyer, as cited in Bent 1932, U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 162: 145; Rue, op. cit.: 130).

Vocalizations known to be produced by Ruffed Grouse either do not have the same acoustic qualities or surrounding circumstances of the sound heard on this occasion. Bent (op. cit.: 157) refers to a sharp "quit-quit" sound indicating nervousness and given while walking on the ground. Bump et al. (op. cit.: 99) describe a rising "perrck" that the Ruffed Grouse uses as an expression of "curiosity." Ruffed Grouse produce a variety of vocalizations when communicating with others (Bent, op. cit.: 157; Bump et al., op. cit.: 99; Rue, op. cit.: 39), but the grouse observed in this instance was apparently a solitary bird. VINCENT J. LUCID, *Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Science, Division of Forestry and Wildlife Resources, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia* 24061. Received 18 February 1974, accepted 24 February 1974.

NEBBA MIST NETS

Although costs of mist nets have gone up again because of inflation in Japan, NEBBA is not increasing its prices in response. We hope that the dollar will remain strong with respect to the Japanese yen and that costs will stabilize at the present level. Because of the world petroleum situation, we are experiencing very long delays in getting our orders filled in Japan. There may be short supplies of some net types this year, so banders are urged to make purchases early. Address orders and inquiries to *Mist Nets, Manomet Bird Observatory, P. O. Box O, Manomet, Mass.* 02345.