

but lack the edging of the outer vane found in *douglasii*; the color of these feathers is intermediate, but there are vermiculations as in *douglasii*.

Ridgway and Friedmann (1946. *U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 50, Pt. 10) give average wing lengths of 118.8 and 111.3 mm for male Scaled and Douglas Quail, respectively. The frayed wing of the hybrid measures 116.8 mm. It is not possible to take other measurements accurately from the mounted specimen.

Members of the genus *Lophortyx* have 12 rectrices, whereas *Callipepla* has 14 (Ridgway and Friedmann, op. cit., 264, 275). The hybrid has 14 rectrices.

The overall aspect of this hybrid Scaled  $\times$  Douglas Quail is not particularly like either parental form. The length of the crest gives the bird a *Lophortyx*-like appearance. From a dorsal view, excluding the head and neck, the hybrid looks rather like a female Scaled or Gambel Quail. Ventrally, except for the breast, the resemblance is to a female California Quail.

Although young quail are generally not proficient in calling, efforts to that end by this bird resulted in the call of the Douglas Quail. There was no sign of the typical Scaled Quail action of throwing back the head when calling.

We wish to thank Dr. Ralph J. Raitt for constructive comments on this paper.—RICHARD C. BANKS, *Natural History Museum, San Diego, California*, AND LEWIS WAYNE WALKER, *Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson, Arizona*, 6 April 1964.

**Aggressive behavior of hen pheasant while protecting chicks.**—Young Ring-necked Pheasants were captured on 5, 6, and 7 July 1963, in Lucas County, Ohio. On every occasion of capture the chicks cheeped loudly and the hen would circle me at a distance of 40 to 100 feet. The cheeping of the chicks stimulated a clucking from the hen although she remained concealed.

On 13 July 1963, I had occasion to see an adult hen pheasant with several chicks. When alarmed, the adult bird ran under some nearby bushes and gave a loud squawking call. The young birds at first cheeped loudly and scattered, but upon hearing the hen give this signal they immediately crouched and remained quiet for about a minute. The hen ceased squawking and the chicks soon started to move about as if searching for her, cheeping loudly. Two of the chicks were captured and promptly began struggling and cheeping in a louder, more drawn-out manner. The hen pheasant then flew directly at me and braked herself to land about 4 feet away, squawking throughout the performance. She then circled me, making short rushes and retreats. Her feathers were ruffled, especially along the capital and spinal tracts, and she continued to make clucking and squawking sounds.

After the pheasant had continued her demonstration of charging and retreating for perhaps 3 minutes, I made a quick movement as if to capture her. She flew approximately 40 feet into a thicket but continued squawking.

The chicks were released and observation from nearby revealed that within 5 minutes the hen returned to the spot where she had left her chicks and all of them apparently were soon together with her.

The aggressive behavior of this hen pheasant might well be very effective in obtaining at least temporary release of a chick captured by a predator. The initial element of surprise at seeing a large ball of feathers hurtling straight toward the head coupled with the loud squawking would perhaps cause the retreat of a less determined predator. Thus, the mock attack might be adaptive in providing survival of more chicks.—LARRY C. HOLCOMB, *Department of Biology, The University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio*, 21 March 1964.