

QUAIL FEEDERS ATTRACTIVE TO MANY KINDS OF BIRDS

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Artificial feeders operated in quail management studies at the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge near Decatur, Alabama, proved attractive to a number of species of birds and mammals. A list of birds observed at the feeders was compiled during a 2-year period (1952-1954). It is presumed that such birds as wrens and warblers were attracted by the insects that frequented the feeders and not by the cracked corn provided.

Thirteen feeders were placed in ground cover at various places on 652-acre Flint Creek Island and were operated from February, 1952, through December, 1954. The area for a distance of about 3 feet around the feeders was kept free of vegetation during the second year of the study by treating the ground with polybor-chlorate. Birds in general made extensive use of the corn, but they did not make much use of the commercial turkey feeds substituted for the corn at the end of the study. The cost of cracked corn used amounted to \$0.79 per feeder per month. A maximum of 6 gallons of corn was taken from one feeder in one month. This is about twice the average monthly feed utilization and is the result of heavy feeding by squirrels at feeders located in a squirrel habitat. In general, the most feed was taken from January through July, with the least amount used in October and November.

The study area was managed primarily for geese by Refuge personnel. The feeders were used by Research Unit personnel in an attempt to determine their value for quail. The population of quail on the area was not increased by supplying artificial feed. The winter carrying capacity remained low during the study, roughly 10 to 12 quail per 100 acres.

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USE OF QUAIL FEEDERS BY BIRDS AT FLINT CREEK ISLAND

Species and Relative Use*	Season of Use
Bobwhite quail, <i>Colinus virginianus</i> , 3	All year
Mourning Dove, <i>Zenaidura macroura</i> , 3	All year
Flicker, <i>Colaptes auratus</i> , 2	All year
Blue jay, <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i> , 2	All year
Crow, <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i> , 2	All year
Tufted titmouse, <i>Parus bicolor</i> , 2	Mostly winter
Carolina wren, <i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i> , 1	Fall
Mockingbird, <i>Mimus polyglottos</i> , 3	All year
Brown thrasher, <i>Toxostoma rufum</i> , 3	All year
Yellow-throat, <i>Geothlypis trichas</i> , 1	Summer
English sparrow, <i>Passer domesticus</i> , 3	All year
Meadowlark, <i>Sturnella magna</i> , 2	Mostly winter
Red-wing, <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> , 2	Spring-summer
Rusty blackbird, <i>Euphagus carolinus</i> , 2	Fall
Cowbird, <i>Molothrus ater</i> , 2	All year
Cardinal, <i>Richmondia cardinalis</i> , 3	All year
Blue grosbeak, <i>Guiraca caerulea</i> , 1	Spring
Indigo bunting, <i>Passerina cyanea</i> , 2	Spring-summer
Towhee, <i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i> , 3	All year
Savannah sparrow, <i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i> , 1	Winter-fall
Grasshopper sparrow, <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> , 1	Summer
Slate-colored junco, <i>Junco hyemalis</i> , 3	Winter
Chipping sparrow, <i>Spizella passerina</i> , 1	Winter
Field sparrow, <i>Spizella pusilla</i> , 3	All year
White-crowned sparrow, <i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> , 3	Winter-spring
White-throated sparrow, <i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i> , 3	Fall-winter
Fox sparrow, <i>Passerella iliaca</i> , 1	Fall-winter
Swamp sparrow, <i>Melospiza georgiana</i> , 1	Winter-spring
Song sparrow, <i>Melospiza melodia</i> , 1	Fall-winter-spring

*Indicated degree of relative use: rare—1, occasional—2, common—3.