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Office of Information, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

REAPPEARANCE OF QUAIL DISEASE.

Washington, D. C.

Owing to the prevalence

of quail disease among quail imported from Mexico at the ports of New York^{N.Y.} and Eagle Pass, Texas, during the past month, the Department of Agriculture has suspended issue of further permits for entry of these birds this season. Quail in shipments actually en route to the United States on January 20 will be admitted to quarantine, but no further entries will be authorized. Most of the States now have such stringent game laws that it is practically impossible to purchase quail even for propagating purposes in the United States and dealers have sought quail elsewhere, especially in northwestern Mexico where quail occur in abundance, but Mexican quail on arrival at destination are frequently found infected with quail disease. So fatal is this disease that when it once appears most of the birds which are exposed to it die within a few days. In one shipment of 196 quail which recently reached New York only three birds survived the voyage, and in another of about 160 birds, more than two-thirds of the number died shortly after arrival. More than one-third of all the Mexican quail imported last year died within a few months. To guard against spread of quail disease live quail purchased for propagation should be kept under observation for two or three weeks and should not be liberated if infected with disease. The Department desires to ascertain the result of experiments which have been made in importing quail this year and will be glad to receive information as to the condition of the birds and as to how many have died in any locality where the quail have been introduced.

Before next season the Department will hold a public hearing in Washington, D.C., for the purpose of determining whether or not further permits for importation of quail from Mexico will be issued, at which various questions connected with the importation of quail will be carefully considered. Ample notice of this hearing will be given later in order that those who are interested may arrange to be present or to submit written statements.

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