



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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CHUKAR AND HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGES RAISED BY BREEDERS THROUGHOUT U.S.

The growing demand for supplementary plantings of many species of game birds, particularly exotic species, is evident from a recent survey conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service, which shows that 544 game-bird breeders handle ring-necked pheasants, 267 raise chukars, a southern Asiatic fowl and 64 raise Hungarian partridges, a report to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes revealed today.

Next to the pheasant, which has become naturalized and has done exceptionally well in some agricultural areas, the Hungarian and chukar partridges have become the most popular of the nonnative species among sportsmen. Results of the Service's study have been issued as a mimeographed leaflet, BS-159, entitled "The Hungarian and Chukar Partridges in America," which is available to the public upon request.

Basic information is necessary before liberations of birds are made, Service officials asserted. They pointed out that more than \$1,000,000 has already been spent in the introduction of the Hungarian partridge alone, and most of these plantings ended in failure.

It is believed, however, that as a general rule returns will be more satisfactory if sportsmen and conservation agencies give more consideration

to the improvement of the environment of native game than if they seek a solution by indiscriminate liberation of artificially propagated foreign species. There are, of course, exceptional circumstances, and efforts should be made to establish the most desirable game, whether native or exotic, in unoccupied areas.

In the leaflet, biologists review the history of the chukar and Hungarian partridges since these species were introduced in this country. Results of the liberations are summarized by States.

Only 11 States are credited with successful plantings of Hungarian partridges in the wild. In four States, Hungarian liberations have been partly successful, and in 5 States the status of the birds is uncertain. Unsuccessful liberations of Hungarians were made in 22 States.

The chukar partridge liberations are said to be "apparently" successful in only 7 States, all of which are west of the Mississippi River.

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