

1972

Sidelights of the N.B.Q.S.

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National Bobwhite Quail Symposium

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Recommended Citation

Jarrell, Howard R. (1972) "Sidelights of the N.B.Q.S.," *National Quail Symposium Proceedings*: Vol. 1 , Article 43.

Available at: <https://trace.tennessee.edu/nqsp/vol1/iss1/43>

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SIDELIGHTS OF THE N.B.Q.S.

The National Bobwhite Quail Symposium was attended by 320 scientists, wildlife managers, wildlife commission members, newspapermen, bird dog trainers, game farm operators, fieldtralers, and laymen interested in the ecology and management of quail. Conferees came from as far as Maine and California but the heaviest attendance was from the southeastern United States. There was much more information presented than could possibly be absorbed during the three and one-half days of the Symposium. Therefore, these proceedings should provide a most valuable reference work for the state of the art as it existed in 1972.

The success of the Symposium was due to the efforts of a number of individuals and organizations. First, of course, was the excellence of the technical presentations. Dr. John Morrison and his program committee deserve the thanks of all for organizing the program and obtaining the most knowledgeable and competent speakers of the nation. The papers were well prepared and to the point and the discussions were lively and stimulating but the Symposium also provided an opportunity for many individuals who knew each other 'only on paper' to make face-to-face contacts and to exchange ideas on current theories and research findings.

Apart from the technical proceedings, there were numerous other activities most worthy of mention. Mr. George Wint, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, arranged an outstanding exhibit of wildlife paintings and wood carvings, which included paintings valued up to \$20,000 and superb wildlife wood carvings. Though Mr. Wint is most widely known as an outstanding wildlife biologist, his creative talents also place him in the front rank of wildlife artists.

The field dog event, narrated by William F. Brown, editor of The American Field, included champion bird dogs of five popular breeds. English Setters--Johnny Crockett, and Susan Crockett; Irish Setters--Clancy O'Ryan and Saturday Night Zeke; English Pointers--Oklahoma Palidon Polly, and Crossmatch; German Short Hair Pointers--Albrecht's Tena Hi and Albrecht's Cassy Elheinie, and the Brittany Spaniels--Brandy's Bullet and Sno Fun Mac were shown on game before an enthusiastic assemblage. An excellent Retriever Demonstration featured Black Labradors shown by Dr. Roy Stonecypher and Mr. Dick Cook.

We are indebted to the Harper Ranch for providing the quail used in the field dog demonstration and to Mr. Delmar Smith and his two fine sons, Tom and Rickey for handling the bird field chores. Mr. E. B. (Bud) Epperson, Judge Lee West and Dr. Dorwin Hawthorn shared with the group their vast knowledge of bird dog performance.

Following a Hawk and Falcon Demonstration, Mr. Addison Warner, president of Imco Dog Food Company was host for a social reorientation hour and barbeque. In addition to providing the food and refreshments, he constantly enlivened the proceedings with his wit and wisdom.

Mr. Jim Lewis, Oklahoma Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, and Mr. Tommy Hines, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, took a

group of about thirty interested early-risers to a nearby prairie chicken booming ground for the spectacular spring rites of the greater prairie chicken. The event was so enjoyable that an additional group went out each morning of the Symposium. This was the first opportunity that many had had to observe wild prairie chicken at first hand.

Mr. Irvin Bollenbach, prominent Oklahoma cattleman, hosted the conference field trip at his ranch, near Kingfisher, where we also were treated to a barbecue served by the Grand National Quail Hunt Club of Enid, Oklahoma. The field trip was concluded with a tour of the Canton Wildlife Management Area under the guidance of Clark Derdyne and Frank Carl, Wildlife Biologist of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

The ladies program, arranged by Mrs. Phyllis Luebke and Mrs. E. B. Epperson, included visits to the Gilcrease and Philbrook Museums in Tulsa, the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, and to the home of OSU President and Mrs. Robert B. Kamm in Stillwater.

And then, there were the myriad services performed by graduate and undergraduate wildlife students of the Department of Zoology, who turned on the switches, drove the cars, collected the money, and generally sweated and strained as a labor of love. May they all achieve their lifetime ambition which is generally not a whole lot more than seeing that this old planet survives and that its wildlife gets a fair shake.

Howard R. Jarrell
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National Bobwhite Quail Symposium