

## The Occurrence of *Salmonella Pullorum* in Blue Scaled Quail in the Oklahoma Panhandle

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In the early spring of 1954, the Oklahoma Game and Fish Department trapped 99 Blue Scaled Quail (*Callipepla squamata pallida*) from Cimarron County, Oklahoma. The exact location of the trap site was not recorded; however, it was known that these birds came from two different locations. Both trap sites were at headquarters of ranches. It has been found by field investigators that the scaled quail regularly use ranch headquarters as an important part of their covey range. In many instances cattle feed lots furnish the main feeding area for scaled quail. These sites were also frequented by domestic poultry, most of which had been raised on the ranches.

When the birds arrived at the Oklahoma State Game Farm at El Reno, they were isolated in order to determine whether or not they were diseased. During this period they were blood tested for *Salmonella* infection. The method used for testing for the rapid whole blood test, using Poly-valent "K" antigen. Blood was drawn from the brachial vein of the wing, where it is superficially exposed on the underneath side. This is the same method used in testing poultry.

Twelve positive reactors were found. These were re-tested on the opposite wing and were again found to be positive.

The positive reactors were taken to the Oklahoma A. and M. College Department of Veterinary Pathology for laboratory tests. The tests were made under the direction of Dr. A. L. Malle, D. V. M., who made the necessary tests and verified our findings as *Salmonella pullorum*.

On Dr. Malle's recommendation, the remaining group of birds were tested every thirty days until all positive reactors were eliminated. One or two were questionable in each following test, until the fourth showed all birds free from the infection.

All reactors or questionable reactors were destroyed and cremated. The eggs from all of this group testing, both positive and negative, were destroyed by cremation until the last test, in which all birds tested were negative.