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PRODUCTIVE QUALITIES OF THE POPULATION OF PHEASANTS (PHASIANUS COLCHIUS COLCHIUS) IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY

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Abstract

The present paperwork presents partial results regarding productive performance of birds from the order Galliformes genus Phasianus, Phasianus colchicus colchicus species from Bihor county. Researches were conducted in three private breeders both in Oradea and the Bihor County. There were analyzed in total 203 samples of the population of pheasants, ie 28 males and 175 females. Parameters studied refers to productive indices namely: the numeric production of eggs and laying curve; quality of eggs intended for hatching; eggs weight; mineral shell thickness; format index, Haugh index. Average annual production of eggs was situated at 37.8 eggs / pheasant, a value quite small for the species studied (potential 45-50 pcs.).Biological control of incubation was conducted at two different times (on days 6 and 23) during the 25 days of embryonic development. After completing the 25 days of embryonic development chicks hatched came under quality classes according to weight, their overall appearance and their vitality.

Key words: Dynamics, incubation, eggs, Haugh index, fertility, hatching

INTRODUCTION

Pheasant is spread all over Europe, both in the natural environment, in hilly ground and plain, but also in specialized breeders, intended for the meat production or of hunting effectives reunification.

In the west side of the country, and namely in Bihor County there are pheasant populations in small flocks in the households of race birds breeders. These farmers appreciate the high quality of the meat which is tender and juicy but also the value of these birds as specimens for exhibition. Also the County Forestry Department has a number of pheasant farms in which are obtained youth to continuous populate forest areas.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study only presents data collected from private breeders. In this way the study was performed in the following breeders, namely: in farm C1, 64 heads (5 males and 55 females), farm C2, 81 heads (11 males and 70 females), farm C3, 58 heads (8 males and 50 females).

Biological material used being represented by birds of both sexes at different ages (hatching juvenile period, reaching sexual maturity in active breeding period).

Were used the following materials and working devices: technical and analytical digital balances, calipers, Petri plates and flat glass plates, small incubators (50-200 eggs / series) portable ovoscope, camera, computer equipped with spreadsheet software, depending on the experimental method addressed.

The results obtained were compared with the reference values in the literature (Sauveur, B., 1988; MG Usturoi, 1999; Vacaru-Opriş I. et al., 2002).

Thus experimental data obtained were centralized and statistically processed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Measurements concerning egg weight recorded values of 28.9 ± 1.0 g at the onset of laying, 31.0 ± 1.1 g at peak of laying, 31.4 ± 1.4 g in plateau phase, ie 32.1 g towards the end of laying cycle. The largest eggs were produced by females in the population C2, and the smallest by those from population C3. The measured values fell within the requirements specified in the literature (29-35 g) for proper weight hatching eggs (Figure 1).



Fig.1. Dynamics of the eggs weight, in the studied farms females

For the format index, values oscillated in the range 74.0 to 74.8% and uniformity of populations was good to medium (v = 8.8 to 10.6%). The best internal quality of the eggs rated in terms of Haugh index it was

observed birds in the loft 2 in all phases of laying. Overall, the values were close to the average standard (77 U.H.) (Figure 2).



Fig.2. Dynamics of shape index, during laying period, in the pheasant females from the 3 studied populations

The hatching fluctuated depending on the time of the laying period within the limits of 65.8% (beginning of laying) and 69.6% (peak of laying). The best performance was obtained by C2 population, which reached even74.0 hatching at the beginning of laying.

CONCLUSIONS

Phasianus colchicus colchicus specimens of species existing in private farms in Bihor county was characterized by average annual production of eggs stood at 37.8 eggs / pheasant, a value quite small for the species studied (potential 45-50 pcs.).

The efficiency of breeding sector, hatching process was analyzed in terms of fertility (74.3%) and hatching (67.2%). Hatcher value is below the average standard (70%), which requires the taking of all technological measures to remedy the situation in incubation (Dodu M., 2010).

The breeding prospects of common hunting pheasant flocks in particular farms are uncertain, especially because most of the existing herd is kept strictly under control by state pheasant farms, which produce most of the biological material necessary for the repopulation of the hunting capital.

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