

How to Make Money Raising Chukar Partridge



by Carl G. Kline, MBA

Foreword

The chukar partridge comes from Central Asia. It has rapidly become a leading game and food bird in the United States since an early release was made in California in 1932. The demand for this gentle and easily raised bird has grown swiftly since that time. Chukars are now being used on shooting preserves; in restaurants; for dog training and trials; for stocking; and for most other uses made of game birds. Some shooting preserves report the demand for chukar by hunters, is equal to that of the Ringneck Pheasant. Several states have been raising and releasing chukars for years. Most large game bird breeders now raise them to satisfy a rapidly growing demand.



Copyright 1979, 2002 by Carl G. Kline - All Rights Reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher. *Published in the United States by:* NCR, Inc. 3939 Eagle St. #306 San Diego, CA 92103

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STARTING WITH CHUKARS	3
BREEDING STOCK	4
SELECTION OF BREEDING STOCK.....	4
SEXING CHUKARS.....	4
CARE OF BREEDING STOCK.....	5
CAGE CONFINEMENT OF BREEDERS.....	5
BREEDING RATIOS.....	5
RECOMMENDED GROUP SIZE	6
CHANGING BREEDERS	6
ARTIFICIAL LIGHT TO INCREASE EGG PRODUCTION.....	6
EGGS	8
CARE AND STORAGE OF EGGS.....	8
INCUBATION	8
TYPES OF INCUBATORS	8
USING THE INCUBATOR.....	9
VENTILATION	10
CANDLING EGGS.....	10
CAUSES OF POOR HATCHES	11
CHUKAR CHICKS	12
TYPES OF BROODERS.....	12
BROODING CHUKAR CHICKS	13
USING THE FLOOR STARTING SYSTEM	14
REARING CHUKARS	15
FEED GUIDE BY AGE	15
WIRE FLOORED PENS	16
PREVENTING ESCAPE.....	17
WING CLIPPING.....	17
PINIONING	18
BRAILING.....	18
TAPING	18
DO'S AND DON'TS.....	18
DEBEAKING AND CANNIBALISM	19

DISEASE AND PARASITES	21
PREVENTION AND CONTROL.....	21
BLACKHEAD.....	22
PARASITES	22
ECTOPARASITES	23
COCCIDIOSIS.....	23
CHUKAR RELEASE PROGRAMS	24
TYPE OF RELEASE AREAS.....	24
RECALL	24
MARKETING TIPS	25
SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	26
AGENCIES	26
BOOKS	26
PERIODICALS	26
ASSOCIATIONS	27
WEB SITES.....	27
APPENDIX	28
SAMPLE BUDGETS.....	28
RELATIVE HUMIDITY TABLE	30
INCUBATOR FUMIGATION TABLE	31
PEN FOR BIRDS SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS.....	31
PEN FOR BIRDS EIGHT TO FOURTEEN WEEKS.....	31
FLIGHT CONDITIONING PEN 14 WEEKS OR OLDER.....	32
FEED CHART BY INGREDIENT	32
NUTRITION.....	33
SOURCES OF INCUBATORS.....	34
RECYCLING CHUKAR BREEDERS.....	35
FEED FORMULAS	36
HATCHING TROUBLE SHOOTING	38
Q & A: CONTAMINATION OF HATCHING EGGS.....	39
RECIPES	41

RAISING CHUKAR PARTRIDGE



STARTING WITH CHUKARS

Most game bird farms will sell you breeding stock, eggs, or day old chicks. However it is more economical to start with chicks or fertile eggs if only one or two groups are planned for the season.

Buy with care whether you select eggs, day old chicks, or mature breeding stock. Before buying, consider the reputation of the farm and seller, history of the parent flock, conformation of the bird to the particular characteristics of chukars, and uniformity of chicks, eggs, or mature stock. Are the birds blood tested for pullorum and other diseases? Has the seller been in business for a long time? Evidence of the sellers having been in business for several years and having a good disease prevention program is often evidence of a good quality product.

Whatever way you choose to start raising chukars, be prepared. Read this publication and any others available to thoroughly familiarize yourself with the techniques and methods of raising this very interesting and beautiful bird. Get your equipment, pens, and other facilities ready. Line up a source for feed, medications, and other necessary items. Have an idea of what you intend to do with your birds at what point. Plans and planning are fun and do not have to be inflexible.