

and, it is said, should the better half be taken away, never remarries. A hen quail just outside the Oakland house fence was eaten by a rattlesnake. The cock remained there, single, two seasons, although charmers in quantity piped their notes a few hundred feet away.

An abundance of quail in a suitable country depends on four main factors—food, cover, water and, probably, grit. This last is important only in a delta section like Oakland, where a morning search after a pebble for rasping a turkey call ended in breaking up a scythe stone; and food might perhaps be modified to winter food. Bebies with us do not break up before May, and they find then a plentitude of grass and insects everywhere. During the winter months in the south, quail live principally on pine mast, but lespedeza, "benny" wild helianthus, in fact any suitable sized weed seed, is acceptable.

On plantations lately grazed by cattle, birds practically disappear—no cover.

Quail can stand a *short* cold spell, with snow, better than many other genera. They roost always in a close circle, heads out, in patches of low stubble, and remain there, dormant, until the weather improves or starvation scatters them.

Artificially increasing stock is a fascinating but little understood subject. It is only within a year or so that hatching in confinement has succeeded at all. The mere dumping of unmated birds in pairs or quantity seems a waste of time. At Camden thousands of quail were imported from the west without permanent results, and we ourselves have often tried the thing on a smaller scale.

Beyond dispute, at the beginning of the breeding season, the strongest cock left by the sportsmen drives away all rivals, whistles a mate provided he is a young bird, and then, with the tenacity of the anglo-saxon, pre-empts such territory, be it one or twenty acres, as seems necessary for the welfare of his family, defending this while life lasts against all trespassers. The writer firmly believes that by judicious planting and observance of the other conditions, his majesty will be contented with merely enough land to secure happiness, leaving the extra room gained for new comers. But much better authorities say not, he wants what his father, grandfather, and great grandfather owned. Certainly at the Oakland Club we find, year after year, only the same bebies, though food has been provided, vermin trapped and a breeding stock carefully preserved.

What comes of the vast surplus thus driven away is an enigma. Quail are undoubtedly migratory in the small isotherms between northern and sub-temperate regions. Probably