

Sandhill Veterinary Services

Veterinary Care for Game Birds, Commercial Poultry and Pigeons



JUNE 2104

SUBMISSION REVIEW

A 'submission' is a single bird or distinct batch of birds of the same age or type. These figures do not include faeces samples submitted for coccidial oocysts counts and worm egg counts.

Total Game Birds Examined	683	Total Number of Submissions	182
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PHEASANTS

PARTRIDGES

Age	Number of submissions		Age	Number of submissions
1 – 7do	29		1 – 7do	1
8 – 14do	22		8 – 14do	1
2 – 4wo	28		2 – 5wo	2
4 – 7wo	53		5 – 7wo	29
7wo +	3		7wo +	12
Adults	2		Adults	0
TOTAL:	137		Total:	45

PHEASANTS:

0-7 day old Pheasant Chicks: The majority of chicks seen up to five days old had yolk sac infections and beyond that age cases of enteritis became more frequent. This season has seen an increase in the number of chicks with generalized bacterial infections not obviously related to yolk sac infections with E.coli being isolated in the majority of cases.

8-14 day old Pheasant Chicks: Enteritis was again the most common finding in birds seen in this age group. Only one batch of chicks tested positive for Rotavirus infection. Clinical coccidiosis was seen in two batches of chicks at just 14 days old with coccidial oocysts being detected in birds as young as 10 days old. In one batch of chicks with generalized bacterial infection the causal organism was identified as Salmonella typhimurium.

2-7 week old Pheasant Chicks: The cases of Mycoplasmosis first seen in May in 3wo birds continued to cause problems. An additional case was detected in early June and we are now aware of three others cases all of which originate from the same parent flock on the same game farm. We are not able to identify the game farm other than to say it is not in our area. This outbreak of disease has not appeared to respond to a wide variety of drugs so following treatment additional cases have continued to occur. Several houses of infected birds have been culled but the latest communication suggests that the game farm is now trying to claim that they are not responsible for the problem.

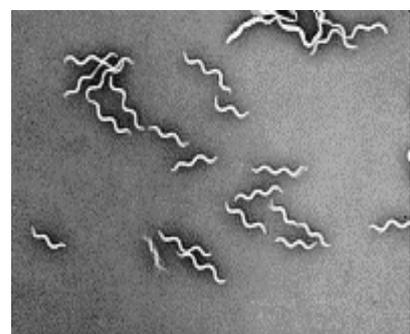


Although the Mycoplasma problem has taken up a great deal of our time, the majority of clinical cases seen in this age group had enteritis with clinical coccidiosis being detected in 20% of submissions. The earliest identification of Spirochaetosis (Hexamita) was on 2nd June and the youngest birds in which it was identified were just 3 weeks old.

PARTRIDGES:

0-5 week old Partridge Chicks: The few problems seen in very young chicks related to poor chick quality with Yolk Sac Infection and generalized bacterial infections being the primary findings. No cases of clinical Coccidiosis were seen in June in birds under five weeks old.

5-7 week old Partridges: Coccidiosis was the most significant findings in birds in this age group. Generally levels of motile protozoa were much lower in partridges than in pheasants. The first case of birds with Caecal Spirochaete Bacteria present was seen in 42 day old birds on 7th June but no further cases were seen during the month.



Spirochaete Bacteria

GROUSE: We have seen young grouse from a number of moors with a similar history of broods of chicks containing one or two chicks that are much smaller than the others and these poor chicks not able to fly. No one single condition has been identified in all the birds.



We have had one case of a chick with Cryptosporidiosis, one with high levels of coccidial oocysts and a significant Trichostrongylus worm burden and one with severe enteritis which had high levels of motile protozoa but the clinical significance of the protozoa was uncertain. Blood samples taken from the birds gave negative results for louping-ill. All the chicks seen were less than six weeks old after which surviving chicks were reported to be in good health.

Grouse chick with Cryptosporidiosis.

Richard Byas M.R.C.V.S. July 2014