Sandhill Veterinary Services

Veterinary Care for Game Birds, Commercial Poultry and Pigeons

MAY 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	335	Total Number of Submissions	69 Incl 2 x duck

PHEASANTS

Age	Number of submissions
1 – 7do	28
8 – 14do	11
2 – 4wo	9
4 – 7wo	1
7wo +	0
Adults	8
TOTAL:	57

PARTRIDGES

Age	Number of submissions
1 – 7do	4
8 – 14do	0
2 – 5wo	5
5 – 7wo	0
7wo +	0
Adults	1
Total:	10

PHEASANTS:

Adult Pheasants:

The number of submissions in May was lower than earlier in the year. Mycoplasmosis was the most frequent condition seen affecting a wide range of breeding flocks and the incidence of infection was higher than last year. Testing showed some of these flocks to have concurrent Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale (ORT) infection. Visceral gout due to Coronavirus infection was seen in a number of flocks and individual cases of Blackhead and Erysipelas were seen earlier in the year but in neither flock was mortality excessively high.

Adult hen pheasant with Mycoplasmosis.

0-7 day old Pheasant Chicks: Initially the early chicks were generally of good quality but by the third week of May the number of submissions rose sharply and the primary finding was Yolk Sac Infections with many chicks also being well below target weight. The overall impression was that the bacteria isolated (primarily E.coli) were sensitive to a wider spectrum of antibiotic than in previous years.

8-14 day old Pheasant Chicks: Enteritis was the most common finding in birds seen in this age group. None of the samples submitted and reported in May for Rotavirus infection gave positive results. Two batches of chicks with generalized bacterial infections were seen in this age group – in both cases the bacterium isolated was E.coli.

2-7 week old Pheasant Chicks: Clinical coccidiosis was seen in birds from 21do and this year clinical cases in pheasants were seen before any clinical cases were detected in partridge chicks. Affected pheasant chicks had both intestinal and caecal coccidiosis. Bacterial enteritis was a common condition seen in these birds in this age group but no cases of Spironucleosis were seen in May.

Two cases of Mycoplasmosis were seen in May - one in 23do birds and one in 26do birds.

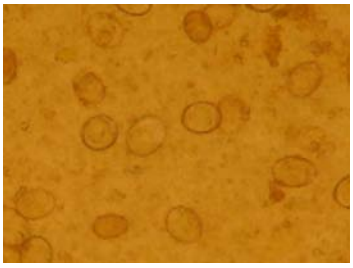
Overall more cases of Mycoplasmosis were seen in breeding flocks this spring and several cases of Mycoplasmosis in relatively young pheasants between 23do and 5wo have already been seen in the practice originating from a variety of breeding flocks.

Chick showing signs of Mycoplasmosis

PARTRIDGES:

0-7 day old Partridge Chicks: All the partridge chicks of less than 5do seen by the practice had Yolk Sac Infection and in two batches of birds this appeared to be related to the birds failing to eat. Overall partridge chick quality appeared to be better than in 2013. One unusual case of 5do birds dying of ascites (water belly) was seen. No infectious cause was detected in the birds and the origin of the problem (hatchery, transport or farm) was not identified.

2-5 week old Partridge Chicks: Coccidiosis was seen in two submissions with both batches of birds being over 30do.

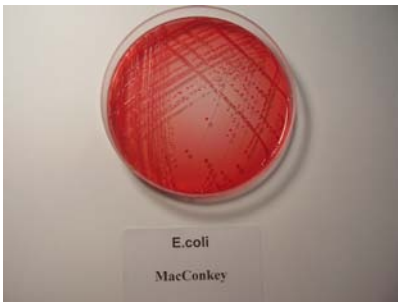


Coccidial oocysts seen under the microscope

There were also two cases of the birds smothering – this was most likely due to the birds panicking due to some external noise such as a predator outside the house.

DUCKS: Two batches of young ducklings were seen at the practice – both showed signs of Yolk Sac Infection and Bacterial Septicaemia with E.coli being isolated from both submissions.

E.coli bacteria growing on a culture plate



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