

Fall Road Counts as Possible Indices of Spruce Grouse Numbers - Laurence Ellison,  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

In Alaska the spruce grouse (Canachites canadensis) exhibits the peculiar habit of appearing on graveled roads in early morning in fall, with the greatest number of birds coming out on clear frosty mornings in late October. The grouse are apparently on roads to take advantage of the readily available grit, and always cease coming out when the roads first become covered with snow. In 1965, standardized road counts conducted in four localities yielded mean values of 0.1 grouse to 13.7 grouse per 10 miles of road driven. The data suggest that roadside populations would have to change by at least 80 to 100 percent for the counts to detect the change. Past observations have suggested that roadside populations along a given road can fluctuate by 400 to 500 percent within 2 to 3 years.

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS  
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