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Foreward

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FOREWORD

This symposium was conceived in 1970 when several interested persons in Oklahoma independently thought of getting landowners, sportsmen, academicians, businessmen, legislators, and wildlife managers together to discuss improvement of living conditions for bobwhite quail in the state. Although Oklahoma has one of the greatest bobwhite populations in the country, the bird's numbers here are diminishing along with decreasing habitat quality wrought by the universal problem of intensifying land-use practices. Broad public understanding is needed to cope with this trend; unification of quail enthusiasts behind a feasible educational program is an important first step.

During several informal discussions about the proposed conference, we evolved the more ambitious plan of holding a national meeting to fully air current problems and management philosophies from all parts of bobwhite range. Our goal would be maximum exchange of ideas and opinions, and for bobwhite enthusiasts from as wide a variety of backgrounds as possible to congregate and become better acquainted and learn ways to help each other. We realized that the entire range of topics concerning bobwhite could not be covered within the limitations of one meeting, so we asked for supplemental papers to be published in the proceedings and proposed that subsequent meetings be held regularly in the future to provide further exchange of information.

In retrospect, the symposium achieved much of what we hoped for. A notable exception was that we did not attract as many laymen as desired, thus the attendants included a large proportion of professional wildlife workers. We hope that future organizers of conferences will give special emphasis to attracting landowners and other citizens who have great influence on the welfare of bobwhite quail.

Several personnel of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, and the Oklahoma State University provided skillful, dedicated assistance in planning and conducting the meeting. The secretarial staffs of the Oklahoma State University Research Foundation and the Oklahoma Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit were extremely helpful in preparing the final manuscript and in having the proceedings printed.

Several nationally prominent individuals provided worthwhile suggestions that helped us considerably in forming the program. They deserve much of the credit for whatever good we achieved. Any shortcomings are strictly my responsibility.

John A. Morrison, Chairman
Program and Publications Committee