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A. Vincent Carver
Mississippi State University

Loren W. Burger Jr.
Mississippi State University

Leonard A. Brennan
Tall Timbers Research Station

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EVALUATION OF TWO MARKING METHODS FOR 1-DAY-OLD NORTHERN BOBWHITE CHICKS

A. Vincent Carver
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, PO Drawer 9690, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762

Loren W. Burger, Jr.
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, PO Drawer 9690, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762

Leonard A. Brennan
Tall Timbers Research Station, 13093 Henry Beadel Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32312-0918

ABSTRACT

We compared survival, weight gain, and mark retention of wing bands (n = 50), passive integrated transponders (PITs) (n = 50), and leg bands proportional to the chicks size (control) (n = 50) on 1-day-old northern bobwhite (Colinus virginianus) chicks. A repeated measures, generalized complete randomized block ANOVA of the weekly gain in weight showed no difference in the chicks growth (p > 0.05). Survival was similar between marking methods (wing band, PITs, leg band, and control). Retention of bands during the twelve-week pen study were equal but 4% of PITs were destroyed when adult birds were recovered after harvest. We concluded that wing bands may be the most practical method of marking 1-day-old bobwhite chicks.


1 Present address: Tall Timbers Research Station, 13093 Henry Beadel Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32312-0918.