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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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GAME MANAGEMENT INGENUITY THWARTS WILD HORSES  
BUT BOWS TO BEES IN ARIZONA

It took Arizona, it seems, to discover a situation which stumps the experts.

When occasion demanded small game management developed the ingenious "gallinaceous guzzler," and a rainwater catchment basin with a small underground reservoir, the number of quail and chukar partridges in arid habitat was boosted--

When big game managers saw the results of the small guzzler they used their ingenuity to develop "king-size guzzlers" for mule deer, desert bighorn sheep and other game animals--

When the wild horse began utilizing the king-size guzzlers to the exclusion of the bighorn sheep, big-game management ingenuity developed the type of fence which would let the sheep get to the water but keep the wild horses out--

But now that the honey bees have moved into some of the small guzzler environs the quail are frustrated and game managers are stumped.

Apparently competition between bees and quail for this type of waterhole is recent in origin and not wide-spread in operation. There are thousands of the little guzzlers throughout the western States but one State--Arizona--reports the problem to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Arizona game officials noticed bees around some guzzlers and at the same time noticed that the quail were staying a healthy distance away. Feeling that the matter needed study Arizona used some of its Federal Aid funds to pin down some definite information. It found that when hives were located within a mile of a guzzler the bee-use of the waterhole was such that more than half of the quail which came to drink stayed away from the water. But if the hives were three miles away the number of bees using the guzzler was so small that the quail completely ignored them.

The problem of bees versus quail at the waterhole is still unsolved and to date no "fence" has been devised which will let quail reach the water but keep bees away.

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