



10

must read articles

NEWS VIDEO TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE INTERNET A&E LIFE SPORTS BUSINESS

TRENDING King Mohammed VI Europe Elche Woolliest Sheep Toto Wolff Affordable Care Act Country Ottawa Fungus Assad

0

Like

Share

Blood-sucking parasite and quail decline connection

BY TIM SANDLE YESTERDAY IN ENVIRONMENT

LIKE THIS ARTICLE

In the summer of 2010, the Rolling Plains of West Texas expected a bumper crop of quail. By October, they nearly had vanished. A new study shows the cause to be a blood-sucking parasite.

4

Share

2

1 COMMENT

LISTEN

PRINT



As part of the analysis, researchers necropsied hundreds of birds throughout a 19-million-acre area of land. The **results of the study** show that the deaths were caused by a large numbers of parasitic eyeworms.

The research uncovered that the eyeworm can range in size from about an eighth of an inch to the diameter of a penny. Once inside the birds, the parasites move freely from eye to eye through the sinus cavity, where they suck the blood of the birds, mate and release eggs. The parasitic nematodes (*Oxyspirura petrowi*) **ingest blood from the quail** and feed predominantly in ducts behind the eye, where they can cause severe inflammation and edema from their feeding activities.

TOP NEWS LATEST NEWS



Europe sees five possible sites for first-ever comet landing

Like Share 1



King of Morocco mistaken for people smuggler off Ceuta shores

Like Share 8



Man drowns after trying to rescue boy from river

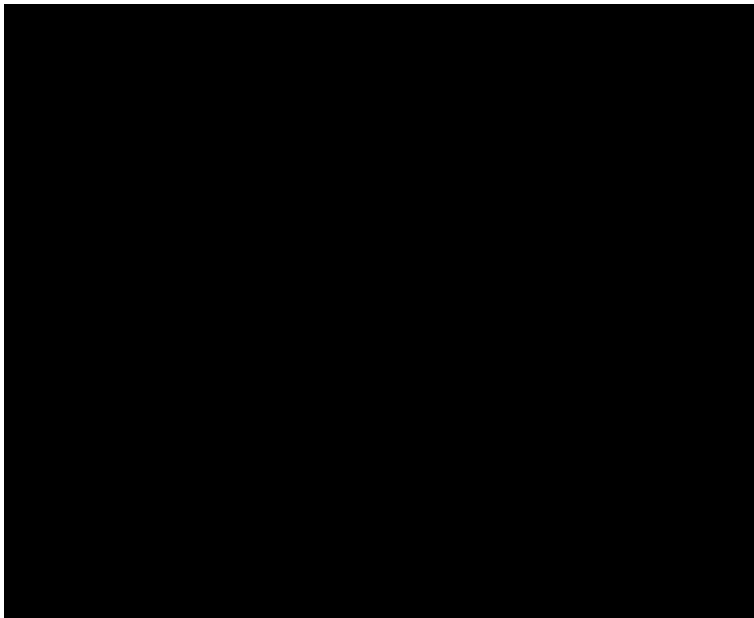
Like Share 0



Op-Ed: Putin uses army to manipulate oil prices

Like Share 1

The source of the infection is considered to be crickets. Scientists think that by eating crickets infected with eyeworms, quail were actually swallowing a poisoned pill. Eggs from eyeworms in quail would be left behind in the birds' feces, which in turn would be eaten by more crickets.



The study was carried out by The Institute of Environmental and Human Health at Texas Tech University. The study was part of multi-million-dollar Operation Idiopathic Decline and it was funded by the private Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation. **Operation Idiopathic Decline** began in 2011. The three-year project aimed to discover what might have caused the massive die-off on the Rolling Plains.

The findings have been **published** in the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*, in a paper titled "Evidence of an *Oxispirura petrowi* Epizootic in Northern Bobwhites (*Colinus virginianus*) Texas, USA".

□ LIKE THIS ARTICLE |

□ **NEXT UP:** New GNC Probiotic Melts Fat Like Butter □

More about [parasite](#), [eggs](#), [quail](#)

More news from 

Promoted Content From The Web: □

Parasite



The iPhone 6 may come with a special chip just for measuring your health

Like Share 0



Will the US have an alliance of necessity with Syria's Assad?

Like Share 3



Women need testosterone, a new study reports **SPECIAL**

Like Share 0



'World's woolliest' sheep found 6 years after escaping

Like Share 6



This nail polish changes colors when it comes in contact with a drugged drink

Like Share 3



International Go-Topless Day sees women bare breasts in 50 cities

Like Share 50



Gaping 30 metre wide sinkhole appears in Durham and gets bigger

Like Share 5



Major online games providers hit by DDOS attacks

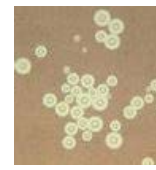
Like Share 0

Anyone's Arrest Record Is Now Viewable Online

New GNC Probiotic Melts Fat Like Butter

"Discount Site" Sells Apple Products For \$20-\$35

Testosterone Booster Takes GNC By Storm



Schoolgirl scientist identifies source of deadly fungus

Like Share 2



President Hollande demands his government resign

Like Share 1



Robbers foiled in 'Ocean's Eleven' style bank job in Elche, Spain

Like Share 6



Little Big Town to launch headlining tour with Brett Eldredge

Like Share 119

Little-Known Way To Pay Off Mortgage

Controversial Diet Pill Deemed "Too Effective"

Journalist Exposes Where iPads Sell For Under \$25

Why You're Probably Overpaying For Ebooks

Social Comments (0)

Digital Journal Comments (1)

Comment using... (Facebook social plugin)

Facebook social plugin for Digital Journal showing 39,423 likes and a grid of user avatars.

- Corporate: Contact Us, About Us, Jobs, Media Center, Advertise, Leaderboard & Achievements, Investors & Partners, Board of Advisers

- Help & Support: Help Center, Frequently Asked Questions, Editorial Guidelines, Terms of Use, Privacy Policy, Code of Conduct

- News Links: Latest News, Live Events, News Alerts, Digital Journal Mobile, Global Press Releases, 24-7PressRelease.com