

Results: Average weights and gains, in ounces, are presented in Table I.

Groups A and C were very closely matched as to average weight and gain, particularly during the first three weeks of the experiment, and ended up less than an ounce different in average weight.

Groups B and D were matched within 0.1 ounce at the beginning of the experiment but Group D failed to gain quite as rapidly and finished up 4.3 ounces lighter in average weight than B.

Table II presents feed consumption records for all groups. As is evident from the table, yellow pellets were not preferred by any of the groups over the other two feeds. All groups except D preferred the 3/32" pellets to the other feeds offered. During the last 3 weeks of the experiment, Group D ate more of the 3/16" broiler pellets.

Some data of interest emerge from the feed table. For one thing, there is a positive though imperfect relationship between total feed consumed and amounts and percentages of yellow pellets consumed. Group A consumed more feed and more yellow pellets (both absolutely and on a percentage basis) than the other groups. D ate the least feed and the second smallest amount of yellow pellets. Subtotals of the two types of broiler mash show that the groups ate more nearly similar amounts of broiler mash (there is about an 8000 gram difference between the lowest and highest groups on this basis and a 16000 gram difference between the lowest and highest in total feed consumption). This may mean that the yellow pellets were eaten in addition to the other feed and thus led to greater total feed intake than would have occurred if the yellow pellets had not been offered. This finding, if true, means that the yellow pellets, even though not preferred to the other feeds, were fulfilling one function of the desirable dessert pellet.

Study of the grams per bird figures for the last week of the experiment reveals that in all groups except A there was an increase in the amount of yellow pellets eaten, while the amounts of other feeds eaten did not increase. While Group A did not eat more yellow pellets per bird during this week, their consumption of the other feeds dropped relatively more than was the case with the yellow pellets. This was a week of thawing temperatures after several weeks of freezing weather. It may be that the moisture content of the yellow pellets increased during this week, softened them, and thus made them more palatable to the birds.<sup>3</sup> This finding may relate to some of the data collected in our Experiment 7 on hardness of the various feeds.

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<sup>3</sup> The pellets, along with the bulk of the other feeds, were stored in a loft where the temperature dropped below freezing during the cold weeks.