



THE GAMEBIRD FOUNDATION

Promoting habitat protection and responsible wildlife management

CHICK RAISING CHECKLIST

- Brooder – A weathertight temperature control enclosure to house the chicks for their first 4 weeks. See our typical brooder design or similar.
- Heat lamps - color red or other controllable heat source. You should have 2 lamps spread out so the birds don't pile up. The chicks have to be kept at 95 degrees for the first week and then drop the temperature about 5 degrees per week after that. The temperature should be read below the heat lamps.
- Chick/Poultry Waterer – For the first week the waterer must not be so large that chicks can get into the water and get soaked or drown. After two weeks multiple 1 gallon poultry waters are advised and need to be checked daily and filled with fresh water.
- Poultry Electrolytes – It is recommended that electrolytes be added to the chick water for the first week or more.
- Feeder system – A poultry feeder system is recommended so that the chicks have easy access to the feed but can minimize waste.
- Chick Feed – Medicated chick feed with 30 percent protein must be fed to the chicks for the first 4 weeks. The Gamebird Foundation will typically source the chick feed for chick raisers. After 4 weeks a ground gamebird maintenance feed can be used but higher protein feed helps the chicks to develop and reduce cannibalism. If available The Gamebird Foundation will help provide feed.
- Bedding – Clean and dry bedding of chopped straw or wood chips must be maintained.
- Soft Release Pen – After 4 weeks the chicks should be allowed to go into a soft release pen or flight pen. There are many examples of flight pen design. The pen should have netting over the top with a maximum 1-inch opening size. The top should be soft so that the birds do not get hurt when they fly into it.

Recommended Items:

- Thermostat Heat Lamp Control: Available from Amazon or other online source INKBIRD ITC-306T is a programmable heat controller that the heat lamps can be plugged into. The controller can be mounted outside the brooder so that the temperature can be monitored without opening the brooder.
- Netting: Poultry netting can be sourced locally or online. Mann Lake is a possible source.
- Blue Coat – Treating a bird that is being pecked on can be done with a medicated solution like Blue Coat or similar. It covers the red pecked area with a strong blue dye so the other birds will stop.
- Brood Block – Putting a Brood Block in the flight pen will give the birds another outlet for pecking other birds.

