



# DISKING FOR UPLAND BIRDS



**Biology Job Sheet TX-8**

**February 1986**

Most upland birds and several species of mammals utilize weed seed as a part of their diet. Almost any soil disturbance will encourage the growth of weeds. This is especially true in the more sandy soils.

## SELECTING AREAS TO DISK

- Erosion Control**      Select only those areas that will not be subject to erosion.
- Location**              Select areas near protective cover (no further than 150 ft.).
- Shape**                  Disked areas should be designed to create as much edge as feasible. For example, a rectangular shape is better than a square. An eight to ten foot wide disked strip around the edge of a pasture works well. Odd areas and corners in pastures or fields are satisfactory.
- Size**                     Several small disked areas, 1/4 to 2 acres are more satisfactory than one large disked area.
- Number of  
Disked Areas**            To maximize food for game birds such as quail, disked areas should total about two acres per each 25-30 acres of quail range.
- Fencing Disked  
Areas**                    If disked areas are within pastures that are grazed by livestock especially sheep and goats, it is desirable to fence the disked areas when possible.
- Time of Disking**        Disking operations should take place in the spring before March 1.
- Frequency of  
Disking**                  Do not disk the same strip more frequently than every two years. When possible select enough strips that will satisfy habitat needs if one-half are disked each year. This will enable rotation of disking.