

# Identification Notes for wildlife law enforcement

CATEGORY: BIRD

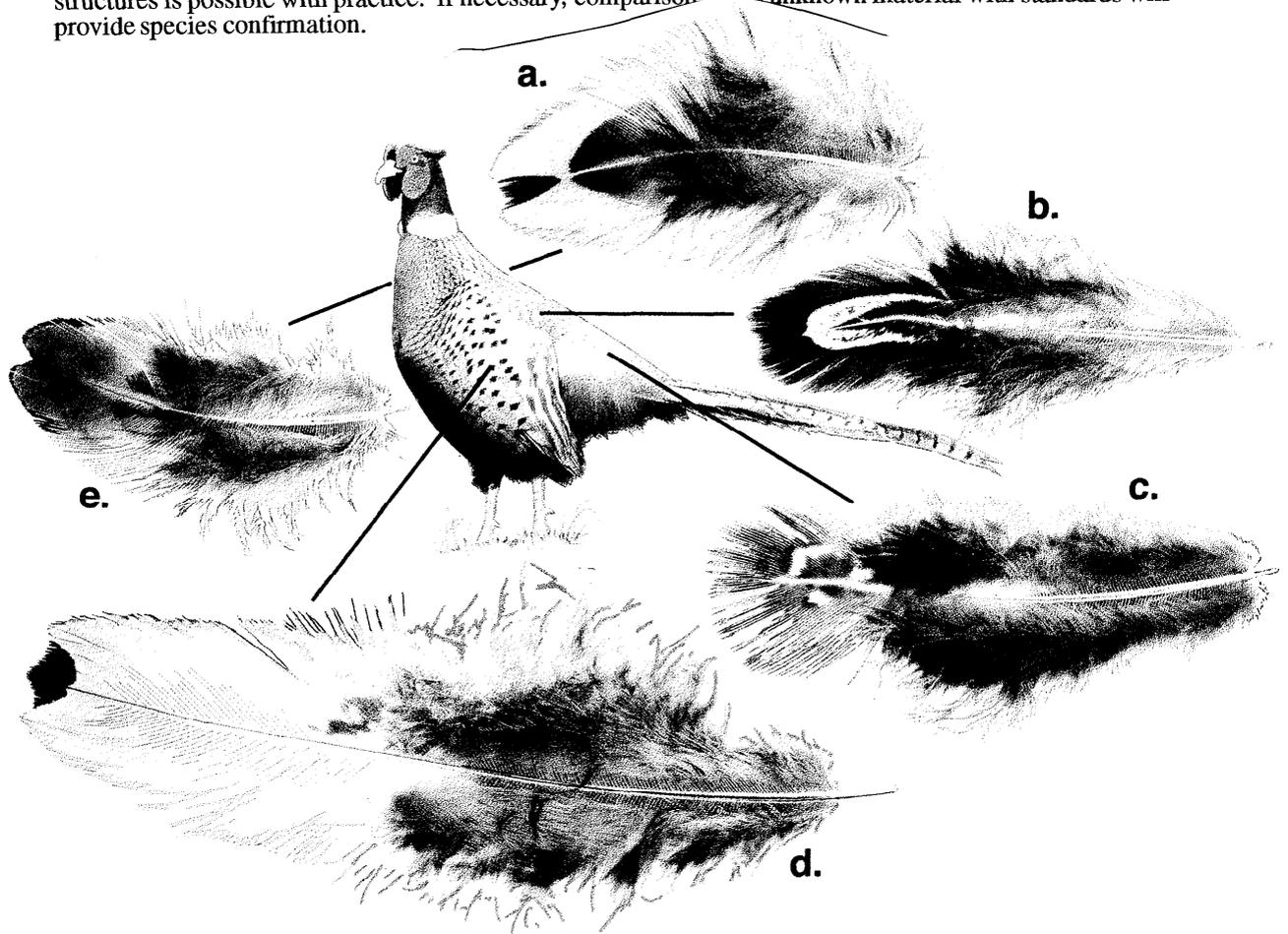
Scientific Name/s: *Phasianus colchicus*

Common Name/s: Ring-necked Pheasant

## Recognizing the body feathers of male Ring-necked Pheasant

The colorful body feathers of male Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) are adapted to attract a mate. These brilliant feathers are also attractive to people and are often used to adorn crafts and artwork.

The color and pattern of the feathers vary with position on the body of the bird. Recognition of these variable structures is possible with practice. If necessary, comparison of the unknown material with standards will provide species confirmation.



### Description:

Feathers, although variable in color, generally exhibit some iridescence. The feather tips are rounded, squared or cleft in shape. Pennaceous portions are described below:

- a. upper back: golden, margins and tip marked with dark blue iridescence
- b. mid-back: base golden with black markings, delineated by distinctive black loop, tipped in russet with pinkish iridescence
- c. lower back: base golden with black markings, moss green to blue at tips
- d. flank: golden, tipped with a dark blue iridescent marking
- e. breast: russet with violet-pink iridescence, emarginated in iridescent black or dark blue

REFERENCE: Sabo, B.A. 1996. Feather morphology. IDentification Note B-96-1.

Identification Notes and other Lab information available at:

<http://www.lab.fws.gov/for-lab.htm>