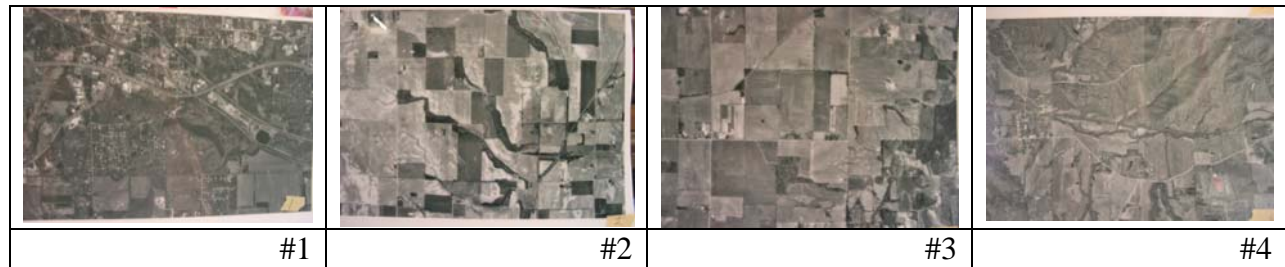


Aerial Photos from 2003 CDE



(see larger print of photos, enclosed)

*** Notes from the critique ***

Critique by Chair: Dave Osborne and Brian MacGowan. Other judges that listened to aerial photos reasons – Warren Gartner and Jonathan Ferris

Note: these were difficult photos to judge.

White-tail deer, 4-3-2-1, splits 5 -1-1-1 (Brian MacGowan)

- looking at interspersal 4-5-6, is an edge species – like a different succession stages, looking at #4 – you do have a big chunk of forested habitat, but notice a lot of little draws, a lot of forest/shrub and agricultural areas mixed in. #3 was next primarily due to the forested part – in #3 the field sizes were much smaller than in #2. IT really depends on what part of the state you are from – depending on what you look at as quality deer habitat - these little small patches of woods can hold a lot of deer in #3. People in the SE would look at #4 as quality deer habitat
- #2 had large field sizes, a large area with no cover
- #1 was pretty good, from the standpoint of had a lot of succession stages 4, 5, 6, and area that was urban, and a large area that we felt was probably a cemetery, with a highway, urban area, some people might argue that this would be the second place and it could be argued but the judges felt that the development moved it to the bottom. The last 3 were only 1 apart because they could be argued.

(Dave Osborne)

- One of the things that I always try to pick up on is sets of reasons. So many participants try to spend all their time trying to remember what numbers they chose and very little on why.
- Its not about remembering 3-2-4-1 or 1-3...oh, man I messed up...You get yourself bogged down on that.
- You should talk about reasons in pairs of top & bottom. If you want to look at some sample reasons look at the livestock reasons.

Example reasons:

I am going to give you as set of reasons on Northern Bobwhite. I placed Northern Bobwhite 3-2-4-1. I felt that these 4 photos for Northern Bobwhite quail that we had an easy bottom that was #1.

#1 fell to the bottom for several reasons. First, it was very urbanized. There were not a lot of ag fields or areas in there that I felt were conducive for nesting cover or survivability of chicks. One of the possible reasons that I mention survivability would be many homes with cats, predators that would hamper reproductivity of Bobwhite quail.

I had a pair at the top, #3 & #2 that were very close. There were not a lot of differences in the amount of habitat or the amount of proper types of habitat in successional stages 2, 3, & 4. So I felt it was close at the top but I put #3 over 2 because the field sizes were smaller which would give a little more edge effect and a little bit more on the amount of habitat for bobwhite quail.

#4 ended up being my third place. 4 had the best overall cover as far as woods and edge but I felt the large block of forest in this photo hampered it for Bobwhite quail in that area. Therefore, those are the reasons that I placed this class 3-2-4-1.

Thank you very much, do you have any questions.

Comments:

- That would be how I would give reasons.
- Some of you decided to wear hats or glasses. Judges need to see your eyes. Hats and sunglasses should be left with your notes.
- Work on your reasons. Some of you might have livestock reasons tapes you could watch.
- Think about structure. In addition, do not fret on the exact numbers. A lot of you get the numbers out and then stopped.
- Cuts for Northern Bobwhite were 1-1-1-5. We thought you should definitely put #1 at the bottom. We felt that the top 3 could be argued any way you want to. In SE Indiana, I caught more quail 4 than I would on 3 or 2. That is because in that part of the country all the little edge fields and all those valleys are where the quail live. Someone from northern IN you are going to pick 3 & 2 over 4 because that is what you are used to.

Notes for the other species: (Dave Osborne)

Great Horned Owl – 4-1-3-2: larger size of trees, larger avail of cavities. Do very well in urban settings. (cuts 1-4-1) – should have definitely had a top and bottom pair.

Eastern gray squirrel – 4-1-3-2, best natural habitat in 4, but sometimes in urban areas populations can be very high so 1 is close. (cuts 1-5-1)

Eastern Bluebird – 1-4-2-3 (cuts 1-4-2) – needs cavities, many edges, will probably find a lot of supplemental housing in urban areas, because that is where bluebird houses sell.

Eastern Cottontail 4-1-2-3 (cuts 3-3-2)

Coyote 4-1-2-3 (cuts 2-2-2)

Do well anywhere, looked at available of other species, did not cut the class very hard. We felt you could make a good argument for any. Basically, coyotes need a trashcan and a bush and can survive in urban areas on rodents, cats, & small dogs.

Large mouth bass 1-4-3-2 simply on the amount of surface area of waters, ponds, lakes, & rivers (cuts 5-3-2). #1 had a large lake in the middle.

Look at the photos as a whole, look for those habitat types, remember anywhere you have an edge you will have more successional stages. The more edge that you see, the more of all those earlier successional stages you will have.

Q about photo #4 – the upper part is probably fairly young. We do not have a lot of mature, old growth forest in IN) What you are looking for is larger trees, more like cauliflower, that will have cavities. Smoother texture is younger, bumpier, more like cauliflower tends to be larger trees and here the climax species is? Beech- Maple