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■ CONCENTRATES

## RESEARCH

**DDT and PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) reduce estrogen concentration in ring doves,** thereby causing them to produce thin-shelled eggs, reports Dr. David B. Peakall of Cornell University. Dr. Peakall gave 200 female ring doves small doses of DDT or PCB, 10 p.p.m., in their feed for three weeks. He suggests that the chlorinated hydrocarbons activate normally dormant hydroxylase enzymes in the liver, causing hydroxylation of the steroid estrogen rings and making them more readily excreted. The sex hormones regulate use of calcium by ring doves and other birds. Lower estrogen concentration causes lower deposition of calcium, and thus thinner eggshells, jeopardizing hatching and endangering bird life.



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