

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

*(*Tympanuchus phasianellus*)*



Central tail feathers are long and pointed. White outer tail feathers.

Males display with rapid foot stomping, tail rattling, and outspread wings. They bow while inflating a purple air sac.

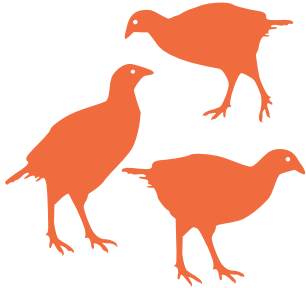
Clutch size: 10-13 eggs
Incubation: 23 days
Peak hatch: mid-June



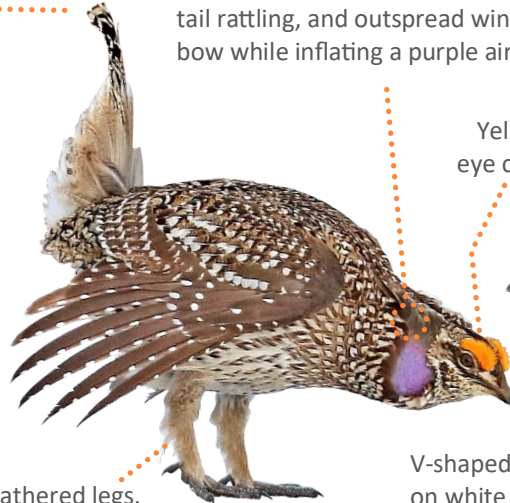
EGG



CHICK



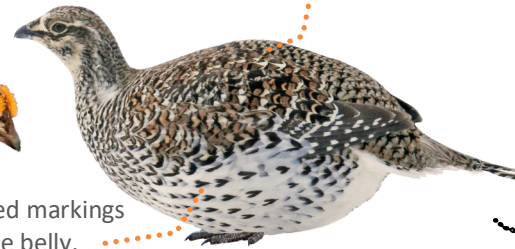
BROOD



Feathered legs.

MALE

Yellow eye comb.



V-shaped markings on white belly.

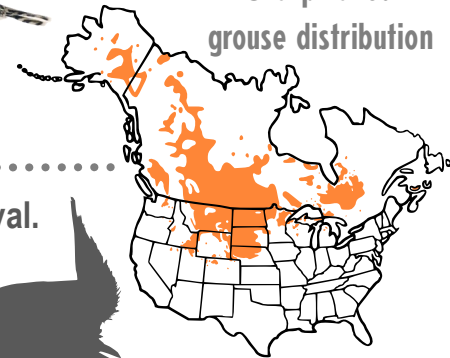
FEMALE

Sharp-tailed Grouse nest in open grasslands.



Sharp-tailed Grouse have adaptations for snowy environments, such as feathered nostrils and legs. Pectinate toes act like snowshoes and when it gets cold, sharpies burrow into snowbanks.

Sharp-tailed grouse distribution



What makes good habitat? Having easy access to food, water, cover, and space to support growth and survival.

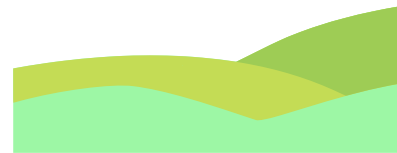
A SHARPTAIL SMÖRGÅSBORD

Like other upland birds, insects are important to young broods. As adults, Sharp-tailed Grouse are primarily plant eaters. Buds, berries, leafy greens, and seeds make up about 90% of their diet. Favorite wild foods include rose hips, wild plums, sumac, silver buffaloberry, and willow buds.



HOME, HOME ON THE RANGE

Sharp-tailed Grouse live in wide open grasslands mixed with tree and shrub cover. Males use short, grassy areas as communal lek sites or dancing grounds. Females nest in short to mixed grass cover, typically near shrubs and lead chicks to agricultural habitats for brood-rearing. Winter flocks gather in wooded riparian, wetland, and grassland areas. An individual needs at least 640 acres of quality habitat to provide food and cover requirements. Much more space is required to support an entire population.



20 TIMES PER SECOND LEKKING MALES STOMP THEIR FEET RAPIDLY.

6 SHARPTAIL SUBSPECIES BRUSHY BOGS, PRAIRIE PLAINS, AND SAGE-BRUSH STEPPE ARE GROUSE COUNTRY.

10 DAYS OLD CHICKS HATCH WITH DOWNY FEATHERS AND ARE ABLE TO FLY IN A FEW DAYS.

Pheasants Forever is dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education and land management policies and programs.

For more information visit pheasantsforever.org

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



1.) **True / False:** The Nebraska Sandhills provide quality grouse habitat.

2.) **True / False:** Young Sharp-tailed Grouse are insectivores.

3.) **True / False:** Both male and female grouse are "sharp-tailed."

4.) **True / False:** Sharp-tailed Grouse rely on corn for winter survival.

5.) **True / False:** Grouse chicks are flightless and featherless.



GOT HABITAT? Sketch nesting cover for the Sharp-tailed Grouse.