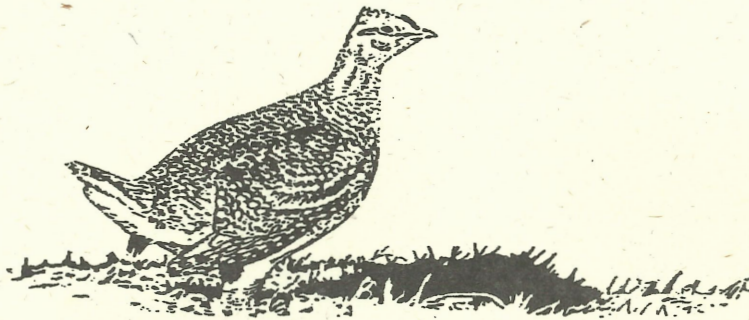


# WISCONSIN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Number 37

Winter 2003

## 2002 SHARPTAIL NUMBERS, PERMITS, AND HARVEST

By Jim Evrard

In the last newsletter, I discussed the effort to count the number of displaying male sharptails in the spring. What were the results of those efforts and how did the resulting numbers translate into the number of hunting permits issued and sharptails harvested in 2003?

A total of 457 displaying male sharptails were counted this past spring in 12 deer management units (2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 20, 24, 26, 30, 31, and 56). This was a 33% increase over the previous year's count, but since ruffed grouse in Wisconsin and both sharp-tailed and ruffed grouse declined in neighboring Minnesota, the increase in Wisconsin sharptails might have been due to increased efforts in finding and counting the birds.

Any deer management unit that has at least 25 displaying or dancing male sharptails can have a hunting season. Hunting permit numbers for that unit are based upon past success (the percent of permit holders that bag a sharptail) and a harvest not to exceed 25% of the projected fall sharptail population. These are conservative harvest regulations designed to prevent overharvest.

Using criteria for triggering hunting permit quotas, only Units 2, 8, 9, and 10 had sharptail hunting this fall.

Unit 3 had sufficient sharptails, but most of the birds were found in a area closed to sharptail hunting some years ago by DNR administrative rule to protect newly-transplanted sharptails in the Moquah Barrens Wildlife Area. The existing closed area must be eliminated before hunting can be reestablished in the Moquah Barrens.

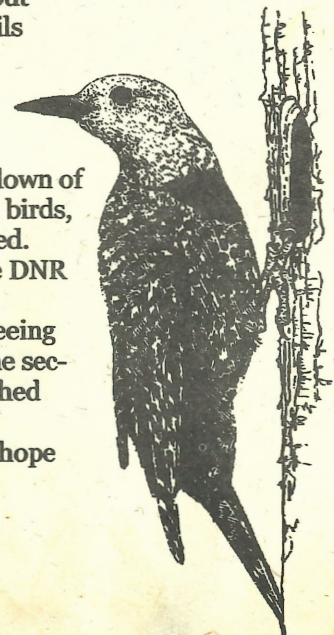
Unit 56 also had sufficient numbers of displaying males for a hunting season, but since most of the birds are on private land and an effort is underway to restore sharptails and their habitat on public lands in central Wisconsin, it was decided to continue the closed hunting season for that unit.

The resulting hunting permit quotas totaled 1,180 for Units 2 (540 permits), 8 (80 permits), 9 (250 permits), and 10 (230 permits).

Preliminary harvest figures were low with 45 sharptails registered. The breakdown of the harvest was Unit 10 (mostly Crex Meadows Wildlife Area) with 15 birds, Unit 2 - 14 birds, Unit 9 - 11 birds, and Unit 8 - 5 birds. These harvest figures are probably underreported. Some hunters either forget or ignore the requirement to send a registration form to the DNR in Madison after killing a bird.

I had a sharptail permit for Unit 10 and hunted in Crex Meadows four times, seeing only seven sharptails. However I hunted without a dog and wasn't able to hunt until the second week of the season. Even with those limitations, I had my opportunity when I flushed two birds in range but missed one.

That is what makes hunting these trophy birds so interesting and enjoyable. I hope that 2003 brings increased numbers of birds and increased hunting opportunities.





## President's Corner:

By Jim Evrard

Some WSGS members might wonder what the organization does with the money collected for membership fees and the proceeds from the annual art raffle. A close reading of articles in recent newsletters will show that we are spending your money for habitat work and to spread the word about sharp-tailed grouse in Wisconsin.

I recently appeared on the outdoor show hosted by Dave Carlson of TV Channel 18, Eau Claire explaining the plight of the sharptail in our state. Dave used footage of sharptail hunting in North Dakota and Wisconsin along with sharptails dancing in the spring interspersed with my aging face and words of wisdom to present the story. Longtime outdoor writer and WSGS member Don Johnson was featured in the North Dakota segment.

You might have noticed the illustrations in the last newsletter. The illustrations represent organisms that share the sandy barrens habitat with sharp-tailed grouse. In Volume 36, the short-eared owl, spiderwort, thirteen-lined ground squirrel, meadowlark, prairie skink, northern pin or Hill's oak, hog-nosed snake, bee, deer fly, and badger were featured and are found in the pine and oak barrens of Wisconsin.



When the WSGS leads efforts to save the increasingly-rare barrens habitat, it not only helps ensure the future of sharp-tailed grouse, but also all the other plant and animals that share that habitat. With a name like the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, we might be accused of advocating single species management. This is a complaint of some conservation biologists and community ecologists. However, habitat management for sharptails is actually community management and encourages biological diversity and other similar concepts of new age biology. Habitat is the long-term solution for making sure sharp-tailed grouse remain a member of Wisconsin's fauna. And most of our efforts are directed towards preserving sharptail habitat. If sharptails do not have enough problems in Wisconsin, the Chronic Wasting Disease disaster is draining management funds from the field operations budgets of our DNR wildlife managers. The WSGS may have to step in and fund the vital spring surveys. Without this information, hunting seasons cannot be developed. While no spring surveys wouldn't be a total disaster, the long tradition of sharp-tailed grouse hunting in Wisconsin will end, at least temporarily. Hopefully, funds can be found to at least continue with the same level of management as we have seen in recent years.

## BOARD MEETING

The WSGS Board met at the DNR headquarters in Black River Falls on December 6. Board members present were Jim Evrard, Ed Frank, Blair Klein, and Tom Ziegeweid. The 'Father' of the WSGS, Dave Evenson, also attended the meeting. Tim Connolly, Bob Dries, and Paul Hayes were absent.

Acting Treasurer Evrard gave his report which included a check book balance of \$6,660.94 and a CD balance of \$2,027.83 for a total of \$8,698.77. Tim Connolly has consented to assume the duties of Treasurer in 2003.

The board discussed Frank's appearance before the Natural Resource Board regarding eliminating the free sharptail hunting permit application from the package received by patron license holders. Another item was the need to eliminate the administrative codes responsible for the sharptail hunting closed areas in the Moquah Barrens and the Douglas County Wildlife Area.

The impact of the CWD battle on the field budgets of the DNR wildlife managers was also discussed. It may be necessary for the WSGS to underwrite the cost of certain activities (mainly surveys) if no other funds are found.

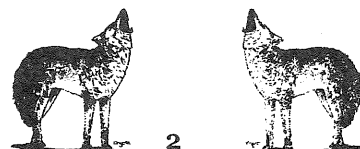
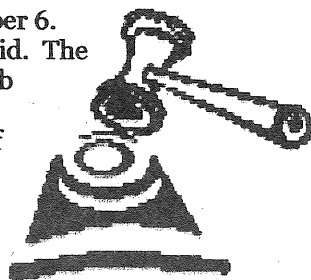
Ziegeweid gave a good report on preparations for the annual meeting. He has arranged for rooms, meals, and other arrangements needed for the meeting. Our art raffle will be continued.

Evrard reported continuing progress in preparing for the 2003 Prairie Grouse Technical Council meeting in Siren in late September despite a potential conflict with a meeting suggested by the North American Grouse Partnership. Prairie grouse genetics and implications was suggested as a major topic for the meeting.

Habitat projects discussed included management plans for the Chequamegon National Forest and the Northern Highland-American Legion and Brule River State forests and a potential land acquisition for Crex Meadows.

The terms of board members Dreis and Hayes expire in 2003 and potential nominees were discussed.

The Board will next meet in conjunction with the annual meeting in late April.



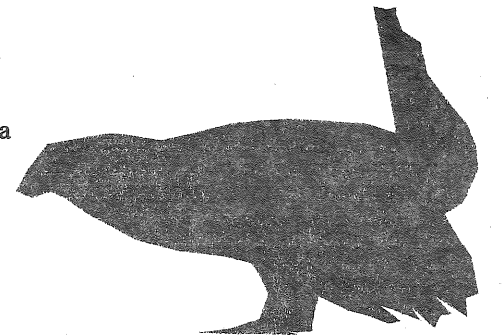
## ANNUAL ART RAFFLE

The WSGS will again offer a raffle of framed art prints of sharp-tailed grouse as a fund raiser. The first prize, as in past years, will be a sold-out, limited edition print by the late Owen Gromme, considered the Dean of Wisconsin wildlife artists. The beautiful colored print is titled, *Sharptails on the Rise*, and features 3 sharptails flushing (flying) in aspen parkland habitat.

The second prize will be a colorful limited edition print by artist Louis Raymer titled "Spring Dance at Crex". The scene is several sharptails dancing in a thinly-vegetated lek in the brush prairie of the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area.

The final prize is a black and white print of a displaying male sharptail drawn by Karen Smith. Ms. Smith is a long-time manager of the Longwood National Wildlife Refuge in northwestern North Dakota.

Tickets will sent in the next newsletter. Please buy them or and sell them to your friends and coworkers. The money raised by this raffle is the major source of funds for the WSGS.



## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WISCONSIN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE SOCIETY

The WSGS will hold its 2003 annual meeting on Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27 at the Paradise Shores Resort Hotel on Lake Holcombe. Lake Holcombe is located north of Cornell on Highway 27 (see enclosed brochure). You and your spouse, partner, sons, daughters, and friends are invited to our meeting. Put these dates on your calendar.

Paradise Shores is where the WSGS was organized in 1990. Our meeting there this year will be a return to our birthplace.

The business meeting will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 26 in Conference Room 412 of the resort hotel. After our business meeting we will enjoy a program featuring sharptails in our state and other related subjects.

Following the program, we will have a social hour and dinner in Conference Room 411.

A continental breakfast will be available in Conference Room 411 at 4 a.m. on Sunday morning, April 27. A breakfast coupon, given to each room holder, will be used to partially pay for the meal. Following breakfast, we will depart the hotel to census sharp-tailed grouse in and around the nearby Pershing Wildlife Area in western Taylor County.

Census teams will be assigned to specific areas to count male sharptails on their dancing grounds in the early morning hours. Following the census, we will again meet in Conference Room 411 at Paradise Shores for a census debriefing and an early lunch beginning at 10:00 am. The meeting ends following a soup and sandwich buffet lunch.

Registration Deadline is April 18, 2002. The registration fee of \$10 per person includes refreshments, breakfast subsidy, and conference room rentals. Payment must be made prior to the registration deadline. Lunch and dinner costs will be the responsibility of those attending the meeting.

A block of rooms has been reserved in the Paradise Shores Resort Hotel at a cost of \$55 per room for single or double occupancy. Please make your own room reservation by calling toll free 1-800-657-6476.

For more information, contact Jim Evrard (715)463-2446

(cut on dotted line and return with fees)

### REGISTRATION - 2002 WSGS ANNUAL MEETING

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone: ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to survey sharptails Sunday morning \_\_\_\_\_

(yes) (no)

Make check/money order (\$10/person) payable to: Wisconsin  
Sharp-tailed Grouse Society

Send form and payment to: Jim Evrard, WSGS

630 N. Pine St.  
Grantsburg, WI 54840



## DNR ASKED TO CHANGE HUNTING PERMITS

By Jim Evrard

Past-President Ed Frank again asked the DNR to eliminate the sharptail hunting permit application from the various applications automatically sent free to patron license holders. Frank attended the September Natural Resources Board meeting in Grantsburg and presented the request on behalf of the WSGS. He has made the same request several times previously, but it had been denied.

Removing the free application from the patron license and charging a fee, should eliminate a large number of people who now apply and receive the hunting permit but never hunt. This denies hardcore sharptail hunters opportunities to hunt the birds.

In 1997, when sharptail hunting permits were first issued with a \$3 application fee, 319 hunters applied. When the free application was later included in the patron license package, the number of applications jumped to 3,983! Since it was free, many patron license holders applied, thinking it might be sometime they might try. In fact, thousands of applications are made for permits in deer management units where no permits were available!

Frank told the Board that the present permit system is not working. Ed testified that the pool of applications would probably be cut by at least 50% if the application was removed from the patron license package. And those who spend money for the hunting permit will be more likely to hunt sharptails than those who now receive a free permit. Frank said those two factors will probably improve the reliability of the quota and harvest system considerably.

The \$3 application fee will also provide needed money for DNR's wildlife managers who are desperately short of funds due to the Chronic Wasting Disease disaster.

Natural Resources Board member Herb Behnke agreed with Frank, but a board decision was put off until their December meeting when they review the DNR's proposals for 2003 legislative changes. The Board did approve the proposal at that meeting and Ed was told that the Wildlife Management staff in Madison agreed with his proposal and will support it. If the proposal goes into effect, sharptail hunters in the future will have a better chance drawing a limited hunting permit than they do at the present time.

## CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE AND SHARPTAILS

By Jim Evrard

As you all know, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been found in Wisconsin's deer herd and threatens its future existence. Much has been written about CWD and how it can impact deer numbers,



Wisconsin's economy, and the DNR's budget. What hasn't been told is how CWD is affecting management of sharp-tailed grouse in our state.

I published an article in Wisconsin Outdoor News in November about a conversation I had with Pete Engman, manager for the Glacial Lake Grantsburg Wildlife Management Complex (Crex Meadows, Fish Lake, Amsterdam Sloughs, and Danbury wildlife areas). The point of the article was substantial funds to fight CWD had been taken from wildlife management's field operations.

Engman said he was told to prepare for a 60% reduction (later reduced to 50%) in segregated funds (money from hunting license, permit, and stamp sales) from his field operations budget. This reduction, in effect, would cease nearly all wildlife management activities. There would be no money to operate trucks, tractors, bulldozers, and other equipment. There would be no money to buy supplies like seed, fertilizer, tools, etc. There would be no money for training, travel, and other personnel matters. All temporary employees would be laid off. And there would be no money for wildlife surveys including the spring counts of displaying sharptails on DNR-managed properties.

No sharptail surveys means no sharptail hunting! It is as simple as that. Quotas of sharptail hunting permits are triggered by counts of displaying male sharptails by deer management unit. Although, the WSGS has been supplying some volunteer sharptail surveyors or counters the past few years, it is the DNR crews that count the bulk of the sharptails and coordinate the surveys.

Critical sharptail habitat management will also cease. The most critical habitat management technique that would be lost would be prescribed burning. Fire is the major tool that creates and maintains sharptail habitat in Wisconsin. Fire keeps trees at bay and controls brush in sharptail habitat. A secondary sharptail habitat management tool is mowing, which will also cease with the CWD-mandated funding losses.

What is needed is strong leadership by Wisconsin's governor and legislature to insure there is adequate funding for wildlife management in the state. The cost of fighting CWD should be borne by all citizens of Wisconsin, not just the hunters. Additional federal funds would temporarily solve the problem, but the long range solution is additional funding sources for the DNR's wildlife management program. Missouri has dedicated a small part of its sales tax (1/8 of 1%) that has provided more than adequate funds for wildlife management. This is difficult time to discuss additional funding due to the looming state budget deficit of \$2-4 billion dollars (the cost of just one or two stealth bombers!), but something has to be done to prevent the collapse of wildlife management in Wisconsin.

Contact the governor and your legislator and ask that additional funds be found for the DNR wildlife management program. The future of Wisconsin's sharp-tailed grouse is at stake.

## PROGRESS ON THE HABITAT FRONT

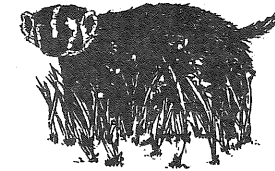
WSGS has been involved in efforts to save sharp-tailed grouse habitat since the group's formation more than ten years ago. We were first involved in the struggle to renew the long-term DNR lease of the Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area from Burnett County. Your present officers have also provided written and oral testimony advocating sharp-tailed grouse habitat in the management plans of various federal, state, and county properties in Wisconsin including the Chequamegon National Forest (Ed Frank), Necedah National Wildlife Refuge (Tom Ziegeweid and Jim Evrard), Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest (Ed Frank), and Powell Marsh Wildlife Area (Ed Frank).

Bob Dreis and Jim Evrard have been providing input into the writing of the ten-year management plan for the Brule River State Forest. The south end of the forest had been a pine barrens at one time, noted for its good sharptail numbers. However, natural forest succession and pine plantations have nearly crowded out the sharptail. The latest version of the plan dedicates about 600 acres on the forest's southeastern boundary as permanent barrens habitat with more acreage within the forest for "moving barrens" created by clear-cuts.

This is not large enough for sharptails but represents a new and good trend in the management of our state forests. In the past, timber production was the main state forest objective regardless of the reason for the creation of the public property (protection of rivers such as the Brule, St. Croix, and Flambeau, etc.). Today, forest managers are more enlightened and wood production is only one of the forests' objectives. The forest managers have a difficult time trying to balance the various public demands since there are "publics" that advocate no-cut, old growth forests in all areas of all state forests.

The Brule River State Forest also contains a proposal to acquire 25,000-acre block of Mosinee Paper Company land adjacent to the south boundary of the forest. The industrial forest now provides habitat for sharptails thanks to an outbreak of jack pine budworm. Salvage clearcuts of the insect-killed trees created huge openings that the sharptails colonized. But the area has been large replanted to furrowed red pine, spelling the eventual doom of sharptails in that area.

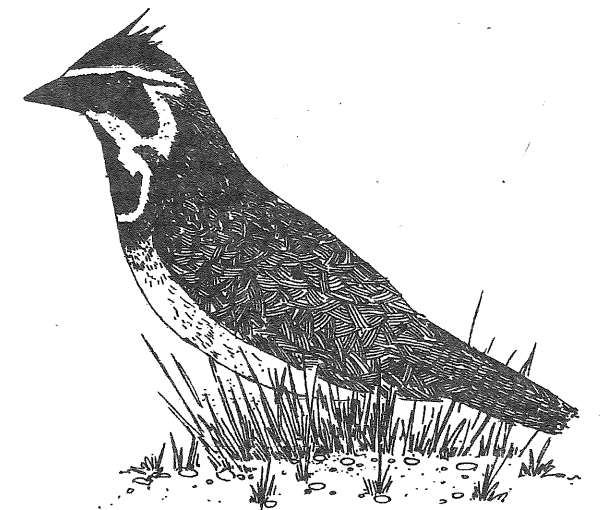
State ownership of the block of industrial forest land would provide more enlightened management of the landscape and ensure a future for sharptails in that area.



Management plans for the Governor Knowles State Forest and the Black River State Forest will be written in the future and we plan to be active advocates for sharptails in the two properties. We also plan to become involved in the rewriting of the management plans for the county forests in sharptail range and will continue to monitor management of federal lands in Wisconsin that could benefit sharp-tailed grouse.

On another front, the WSGS has been involved in an effort to acquire additional sharptail habitat for the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area. A tract of 320 acres adjoining Crex had been owned for years by Consolidated Paper Company who attempted to manage it for pine pulpwood production. The paper company gave up after two or three attempts at planting red pine that was only partially successful. The block has several large openings that are still used by sharptails. A minimum of habitat management would return the block to prime sharptail habitat.

Jim Evrard and Blair Klein were working on a proposal to acquire the land when the DNR submitted the tract for federal endangered species acquisition (Karner blue butterflies and timber wolves), but the federal funds have not yet been granted. Meanwhile, a Finnish company, Stor Enso, bought Consolidated and its timber holdings. Stor Enso then announced it would sell its entire 300,000-acre timberland in Wisconsin preferably to one owner. Luckily, the Plum Creek Cattle Company, a holding of Burlington Northern Railroad Company, bought the property. They plan to manage the property for timber, but seem to be receptive for offers to buy some of their more isolated properties especially for conservation purposes. Jim and Blair will continue to pursue the idea of adding the tract to Crex.





## EARLY WISCONSIN SHARPTAIL RESEARCH

Eighth in a series by Jim Hale

In 1952 the Wisconsin Conservation Department published a 35-page appraisal of sharptail status in our state titled "Sharptails into the Shadows?". The authors were Frederick Hamerstrom, Francis Hamerstrom and Oswald E. Matson. Their sharptail studies were part of a larger grouse research project financed with both state and federal funds.

This long report included discussions of historical and current habitats, plus predictions of the future and suggestions for management. The following paragraphs are quoted to describe Wisconsin sharptail habitat and hunting in the early 1950s:

"Most of Wisconsin is a forest region; the sharptail is not a forest bird. What wildland sharptail habitat there is depends upon those openings which have escaped natural re-invasion by trees or artificial plantations. There are few such openings left. In general they are of 5 sorts:

Hard burns on relatively poor soils; for example, the Brule Barrens in Douglas County. Some of the larger sharptail areas are on old burns. Lumbering – especially clear cutting – has often made sharptail range, but since the slashings have so commonly been burned over in the past, we have lumped cut-over and burned-over together.

Abandoned farm clearings; for example, along Highway 64 in the town of Ackley, Langlade County. Abandoned clearings generally occur as a thin scattering; there are very few (if any) areas in which they are grouped closely enough to make a large block of habitat.

Frost pockets. These are usually depressions in upland soils (in contrast to bogs or marshes) often bowl-shaped, and usually small – sometimes an acre or less in size – and irregularly distributed; occasionally they are much larger and appear to be almost level "flats". Their cover is mainly grass and a few especially frost-hardy low shrubs. Old stumps may be present, but the characteristic feature is the absence of invading young trees.... Most of the bowl-shaped frost pockets that we have seen in Wisconsin are individually too small or too isolated to hold a sharptail covey, but where they are clustered together or occur along with other openings, they may contribute a great deal. The sharptail opening which lies south of Siphon Creek in Vilas County is a good example. Frost seems to be decisive in preserving the open quality of much of the Namekagon Barrens in northeast Burnett County, even on some of the large fairly level upland

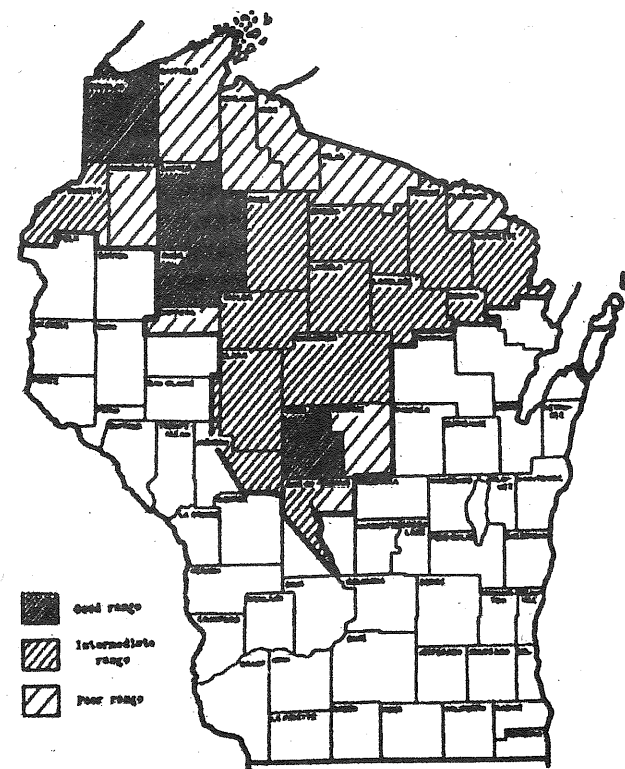
Off-site aspen. On low, poorly drained soils, aspen often dies before maturing, with producing even pulpwood. Such areas are more common in the central counties; they have generally been burned, drained, or both. In their early stages, off-site aspen stands make good sharptail habitat. Now, however, most of these areas have grown up, lost their openness, and are losing or already have lost their sharptails.

Open bogs (leatherleaf) and marshes, such as the Powell Marsh in Vilas and Iron counties, and a number of Oneida County bogs, often harbor sharptails...."

"....In all of northern Wisconsin we have found not one single place of uniformly excellent wild-land habitat as large as a township in size; we know not a single township or even moderately-good wild-land range with an even chance of being equally productive five years from now, if the present trend continues. The present agricultural frontier, which is now the best sharptail range (....good examples are present in northeastern Rusk County in the town of Big Falls and Dewey, and in southern Sawyer County from Radisson and Ojibwa to the county line) is being cleaned up and converted to static farmland much faster than new frontiers are appearing.... How much longer will it be before the present pioneer-farming areas are completely tamed and cleaned up of course is uncertain, but it may not be more than 10 to 20 years."

"....The openings and brushlands so necessary to the existence of sharptails are being crowded out by the natural process of plant succession and by the man-made processes of plantings and fire protection. The skill of the hunt for this trophy bird is also yielding. The Moquah Barrens in Bayfield County, for example, were once a hunter's paradise. Few birds are now taken in this area...."

"The map of the state shows the counties which produced birds for the hunter's bag during the 1951 hunting season. However, this by no means indicates that good stands of sharptails are found throughout the area open to hunting (shaded area only); rather, spots of favorable sharptail habitat area scattered about each of these counties. This is true even in the four counties – Douglas, Sawyer, Rusk, and Wood – which are classed as 'good' sharptail habitat.... What will be their future ten years from now?"



## WSGS RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

In late September, WSGS President Jim Evrard and wife Shirley and WSGS Board Member Blair Klein traveled to Bismarck, North Dakota to accept the Wildlife Society's Group Achievement Award at the group's annual meeting. Past winners of the award include the National Wild Turkey Federation and the National Audubon Society among others. The Wildlife Society is the national organization of the nation's professional wildlife managers, researchers, and educators.

WSGS member, Jim Hale, nominated the WSGS for the award in 2001, but was unsuccessful. Hale tried again in 2002 with a more extensive nomination and this time the WSGS was given the award. Thank you Jim for your efforts!

The Wildlife Society Award has been incorporated into the WSGS display board currently in our new permanent home, the Crex Meadows Wildlife Education and Visitor Center in Grantsburg. The award given to the WSGS in 2001 by the Wisconsin Conservation Congress has also been incorporated into the WSGS display. When in the Grantsburg area, stop and visit our new home and view our display.



Jim Evrard receives the award from TWS President Diana Hallet. Blair Klein is on the right.

## Volunteers Needed for Sharptail Survey

The WSGS, in cooperation with the DNR, will again count displaying sharp-tailed grouse throughout Wisconsin this spring. This will be the third statewide count.

Volunteers are needed to assist DNR biologists in censusing some of the managed properties and to count the birds in areas not covered by the DNR. The census period is from early April to mid-May. The biologists will provide maps of census areas and the forms and instructions for the survey. The WSGS agreed to recruit volunteers and help in the survey where possible.

The DNR will be the permanent repository for the survey data collected. The information will be used to determine the distribution and numbers of displaying sharptails. This information is needed each year to set the number of hunting permits available in the fall.

Last year 14 WSGS members volunteered to census sharptails. I spent two mornings searching the Brule River Barrens for sharptails. Members of other interested groups such as the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, will be also asked to volunteer for this effort.

If you enjoy roaming Wisconsin's wild open landscapes in early spring mornings when the earth and its creatures become alive after a long, cold and snowy winter, you will enjoy counting sharptails. You'll also have the satisfaction of knowing that you personally have contributed to learning more about this unique bird. I also plan to sample some of the other outdoor activities available in Wisconsin in the spring since sharptails are counted in the early morning hours, leaving the rest of the day for fishing or other activities.

Volunteers for this worthy effort should contact me:

Jim Evrard:

630 N. Pine St.

Grantsburg, WI 54840

(715)463-2446

evrardsc@grantsburgtelcom.net

## 2003 PRAIRIE GROUSE TECHNICAL COUNCIL MEETING



Wisconsin will host the 25<sup>th</sup> Prairie Grouse Technical Council (PGTC) meeting from September 30 to October 2. The PGTC is a group of researchers, managers, and academics involved and interested in the welfare of prairie grouse (prairie chickens, and sharp-tailed and sage

grouse) in North America. The group meets every other year in locations ranging from Texas to Canada.

The WSGS is a co-sponsor of the meeting that will take place at The Lodge resort hotel in the village of Siren in Burnett County. The 3-day event will feature scientific paper sessions, meals typical of northern Wisconsin, and an all day tour of the Northwest Pine Barrens with stops at the Moquah Barrens, Douglas County, Namekagon Barrens, and Crex Meadows wildlife areas.

The theme of the meeting will be "From bogs to barrens to the central sands, Wisconsin's unique prairie grouse range". A major discussion item at the scientific sessions will be island biogeography including implications of habitat fragmentation and resulting genetic isolation for prairie grouse.

There will be a website created shortly that will have more information about the meeting including costs and contacts for registration and lodging. Specific information will be made available in the next WSGS newsletter.

## CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

Check your mailing label for the expiration date. If your membership has expired (anything dated 2002 and earlier), please renew. We've been sending the newsletter to those members who are up to two years delinquent in paying their dues, but rising printing and postage costs are forcing us to purge our mailing list. Membership funds are important to carry out our programs benefiting Wisconsin's sharp-tailed grouse so renew your membership today.



**PLEASE CHECK THE DATE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL BELOW  
TO DETERMINE WHEN YOU SHOULD RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP:**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street/PO Box \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to volunteer for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Directors  
\_\_\_\_\_ Bird Censusing  
\_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter  
\_\_\_\_\_ Annual Meeting  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other  
\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dues (Regular - \$10, Supporting - \$25, Contributing - \$50,  
\$100 Sustaining, \$200 Sponsor)  
(Dues are fully tax-deductible)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ WSGS Logo Decal (\$1.50)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Four-color Cloth Patch (\$3.50)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Deluxe Green Corduroy Cap with Logo (\$14.00)  
(all prices include postage and handling)

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO:**  
Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, PO Box 367, Grantsburg, WI 54840

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WSGS  
Box 367  
Grantsburg, WI 54840

Expires 4/1/2003