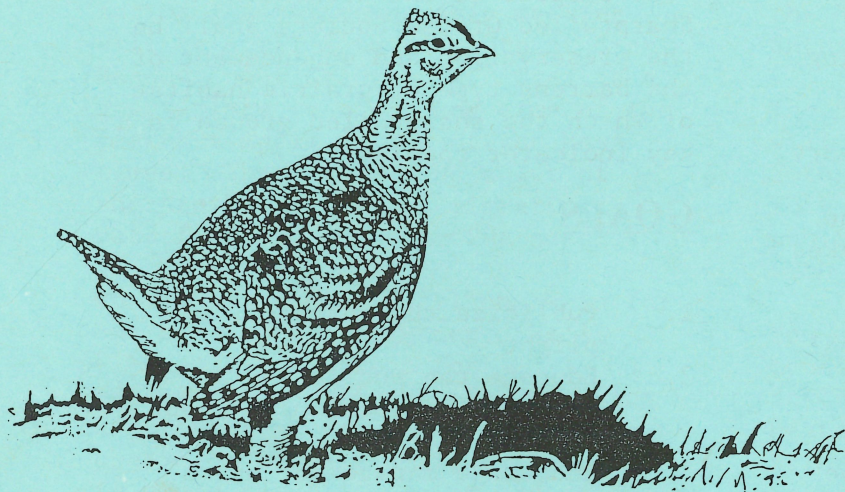


WISCONSIN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



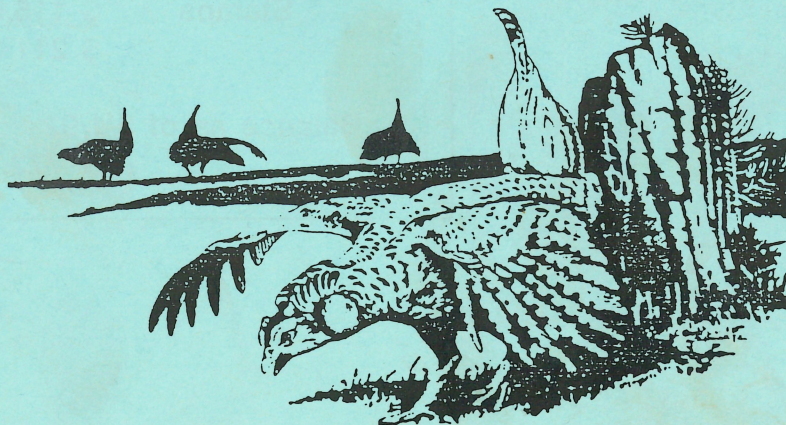
Volume 4

Spring, 1992

NAMEKAGON BARRENS BREAKTHROUGH

The DNR and Burnett County have been negotiating towards an agreement to secure the Namekagon Barrens for over a year. The area involved is owned by Burnett County and has been leased and managed by the DNR for 36 years. The DNR has made a purchase offer and various lease offers. At the most recent Burnett County Forestry Committee a compromise lease was agreed to. We hope that this lease will be approved by the full Burnett County Board.

WSGS members, as well as allies listed elsewhere in this newsletter, worked hard to encourage this action and should be proud of their efforts. Members testified for the Natural Resource Board and the Burnett County Board and dozens of letters and phone calls were sent. Certainly the plight of the barrens community statewide has been raised to a new consciousness level. We need to keep up the educational efforts on this and other areas.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Hope you all enjoy reading our great newsletter, which is only going to get better with age! I am very proud of our new organization and the enthusiastic people from all over the state, who are the driving force in our goals and ideals.

One of my favorite people in history is Benjamin Franklin, who is well known for some of his quotes. The one I like best is "Many hands makes light work".

I guess this philosophy is the real secret behind any successful endeavor. As in our club, if everybody does just a little, we will be successful. That could be getting one new member a year, coming to the annual meeting, or making a phone call, writing a letter when a hot issue is on the burner.

How about some "Letters to the Editor"? Healthy criticism is good, and this is your newsletter for you.

Those of you who didn't get to the August board meetings at Crex Meadows, missed out on some great BBQ chicken and a field trip around Crex Meadows.

If you missed the October board meeting, you missed out on some of Dave Evenson's home cooking, and a good camaraderie at the cabin.

In the future our board meetings and annual membership meeting in April will have a mix of the serious and the fun.

Hope to see you there,

Tom "Ziggy" Ziegeweid

PURPOSE

"The purpose of the Wisconsin Sharptailed Grouse Society shall be the preservation and enhancement of the barrens type of prairie habitat of which the sharptailed grouse is a key indicator species."

GOALS

- 1. Publicize the sharptail's plight
- 2. Educate the public and resource professionals about sharptails
- 3. Encourage management of sharptail habitat
- 4. Promote both hunting and non-hunting recreational use of sharptails
- 5. Influence both state and local decisions that will benefit sharptails and other barrens species

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Treasurer's Report | |
| Balance Brought Forward | |
| 8/15/91 | \$844.35 |
| Income | |
| Dues | \$ 890.00 |
| Donations | \$ 250.00 |
| | \$1140.00 |
| Expenses | |
| Printing | \$ 93.00 |
| Stamps | \$ 116.00 |
| | \$ 211.00 |
| Balance as of 3/1/92 | |
| | \$1773.35 |

WSGS SPRING MEETING

After last year's freak snow storm on our meeting date we'll try to schedule a better date. This year's spring general membership meeting will be April 24th and 25th at Crex Meadows near Grantsburg. Crex is a great place to visit any time of the year but April is one of the best times. There should be a lot of sharptails as well as migrating waterfowl and other native species.

On Friday evening we'll check in for our evening get together. We'll take up a collection for refreshments. If you wish to bring a stick of sausage or a hunk of cheese or another delicacy I'm sure it would be welcome. We had some great offerings last year. We'll also get organized for the morning surveys.

The Crex dancing ground blinds have been reserved for us for Saturday and Sunday early mornings. There is also the potential to see dancing sharptails on foot or from your car. After breakfast and warming up we'll go back out on Crex again to field tour with Jim Hoefler, the Crex Interpretive Biologist. After a noon meal we will have our meeting. We have invited Minnesota SGS to join us and we hope to have a report from their organization. We would also expect a report on the status of the Moquah transplant and we will have our business meeting.

Saturday afternoon is the end of the formal meeting. You may wish to explore Crex or Fish Lake W.A. or the Namekagon Barrens on your own on Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

The DNR Prairie Grouse Committee will be meeting on Friday, April 24th at Crex preceding our meeting. This meeting will be open to the public so if you come early you may wish to sit in.

You have several choices for housing. The Youth Camp bunkhouses at Crex will be open. These are heated, bare bones accommodations. Bring your sleeping bag if you plan to go this route. The local motel is the Wood River Inn just west of Grantsburg on Highway 70. This is a modern motel with large rooms with adjoining restaurant and indoor pool (\$3.00 charge per person). We have spoken for a block of rooms there. If you intend to go to the motel please make your own reservations as soon as possible and tell them that this is in conjunction with the WSGS. Their number is 715-463-2541 and their rates are 44.26 per double.



Edition size: 900
Image size: 16" x 20"
Spring Dance at Crex
By Louis Raymer

SHARPTAIL VIEWING SITES

Every spring the sharptails return to traditional dancing grounds for their mating activities. Many of these grounds have long histories of use, while others may be more transient. Wildlife managers and others try to monitor these dancing grounds to keep a handle on populations. Some of these areas have blinds set up for the public to view this fascinating display.

If you do go sharptail watching, plan to be in the blind before daybreak and stay until the birds leave, often three or four hours later. Dress warmly, it's a little less active than ice fishing and about as cold! Bring your camera, tripod if you wish, and binoculars. Medium length telephotos are usually pretty good. Bring a notebook and pencil so you can keep notes that will be useful to the biologists.

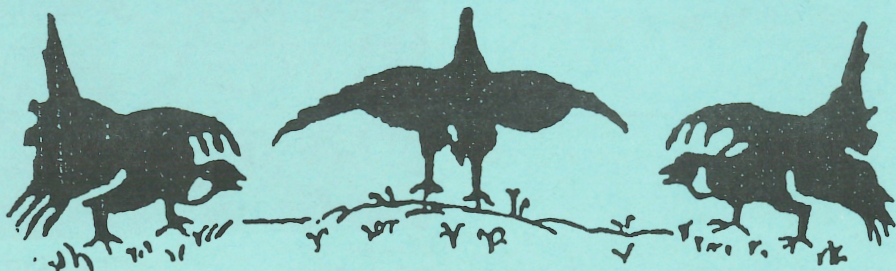
The sharptails are active from late March to early May. Some of the more popular sites have a lot of interest and reservation systems. In any event, you should call the manager and find out the local scene. The manager may be able to steer you to a better spot.

If you're really interested in this sport there are always dancing grounds that are not the sure thing, but were active in the past and may be active again. Biologists run out of time to check all their territory. The Michigan Sharp-tailed Grouse Association has taken on this searching out of uncertain or unknown dancing grounds as a project. It would be good if WSGS could do the same. Again, ask the local manager if you are interested. Wisconsin has a lot of territory in Bayfield, Ashland, Price, Wood, and Jackson Counties among others that should be searched out.

| Area | County | Manager | Phone (715) | Blinds |
|-------------------|---------|------------------|-------------|--------|
| Namekagon Barrens | Burnett | Pat Savage | 635-4091 | Yes |
| Crex Meadows | Burnett | Jim Hoefler | 463-2896 | Yes |
| Kimberly Clark | Price | Cliff Wiita | 762-3204 | |
| Riley Lake | Price | Norm Weiland | 762-2461 | |
| Pershing | Taylor | Frank Vanacek | 532-3911 | Yes |
| Wood County | Wood | Mike Zeckmeister | 884-2437 | Yes |

Extensive Searching

| | |
|--|----------|
| Price, Sawyer, Rusk, Taylor - Cliff Wiita | 762-3204 |
| Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Iron - Fred Strand | 372-4866 |
| Wood, Jackson - Mike Zeckmeister | 884-2437 |



| | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------|----|------------|
| Anderson | Myron | Rt 4 Box 74 | Ashland | WI | 54806 |
| Anderson | Myron | Rt 4 Box 74 | Ashland | WI | 54806 |
| Anderson | Ray | 7420 Cty Road MM | Amherst Junction | WI | 54407 |
| Anderson | Ray | 7420 Cty Road MM | Amherst Junction | WI | 54407 |
| Anderson | Chet & Eloise | R 2 Box 338 | St. Croix Falls | WI | 54024 |
| Babcock | Cratis | 1030 S 11th Ave | Wausau | WI | 54401 |
| Bahr | Rod | 1615 8th Street | Menomonie | WI | 54751 |
| Balzer | Buzz | Box 68 | Cashton | WI | 54619 |
| Banks | Bob | Star Route Box 2493 | Solon Springs | WI | 54873 |
| * Behnke | Herbert | Box 68 | Shawano | WI | 54166 |
| Bennett | Keith | N7821 1090th St | River Falls | WI | 54022 |
| Berg | Bill | 1234 Cty Road 10 | Bovey | MN | 55709 |
| Bergstrom | Tim | 3010 N. 21st | Superior | WI | 54880 |
| Biller, D.V.M. | Ray | R 1 Box 165 | Balsam Lake | WI | 54810 |
| Bonaguidi | Dan | 349 Cambridge Road | Des Plaines | IL | 60018 |
| Braker | Nancy | 333 W Mifflin St #107 | Madison | WI | 53703 |
| Bronk | Donald | 224 W Randolph St | Wausau | WI | 54401 |
| Bublitz | Don | R 1 Box 1208 | Lake Nebagamon | WI | 54849 |
| Campbell | Arnold | 16785 W Hearthside Dr | New Berlin | WI | 53151 |
| Cane | Tom | 740 Third Street | Wausau | WI | 54401 |
| Carlson | William A. | 402 W Wabasha St | Duluth | MN | 55803 |
| Castellano | Ray | Box 194 | Milltown | WI | 54858 |
| Clausen | David | R 2 Box 328 B | Amery | WI | 54001 |
| Clemetson | John | RFD Box 3121 | Long Grove | IL | 60047 |
| Cole | Rodney | 3156 View Road | Madison | WI | 53711 |
| Cook, II | Andrew | 2306 Old Plank Rd | De Pere | WI | 54115 |
| Coppersmith | Michael J. | 6326 W National Ave | West Allis | WI | 53214 |
| Cramey | Michael | Box 336 | Foxboro | WI | 54836 |
| Cutright | Noel J. | 3352 Knollwood | West Bend | WI | 53095 |
| David | Peter | P.O. Box 9 | Odanah | WI | 54861 |
| Davis | Harlan | 1305 Morningside Dr | Sioux City | IA | 51106 |
| Davis | Tom | 7241 Hwy 57 | Bailey's Harbor | WI | 54202-9106 |
| Dessecker | Dan | P.O. Box 2 | Rice Lake | WI | 54868 |
| Dreis | Bob | 632 Smith St | Spooner | WI | 54801 |
| Dunsmoor | Gary | R 2 Box 2324 E | Spooner | WI | 54801 |
| Eaton | Charles | 3816 North Shore Drive | Eau Claire | WI | 54703 |
| Eckstein | Ron | Box 576 | Rhineland | WI | 54501 |
| Eisele | Tim | 129 South Segoe Road | Madison | WI | 53705 |
| Eldred | Gary | 4192 Sleepy Hollow Rd | Boscobel | WI | 53805 |
| Ellis | Harold N. | P.O. Box 92362 | Anchorage | AK | 99509 |
| Engle, DVM | Tim | P.O. Box 476 | Clear Lake | WI | 54005 |
| Epperly | Dave | P.O. Box 211 | Solon Springs | WI | 54873 |
| Evenson | Dave | Box 1115 | Cumberland | WI | 54829 |
| Evrard | Jim | 630 N Pine St | Grantsburg | WI | 54840 |
| Ferrando | John | R 1 Box 355 | Ashland | WI | 54806 |
| Frank | Ed | 1205 Ellen Ave | Madison | WI | 53716 |
| Gavin | Stephen | 7788 Riverside Road | Verona | WI | 53593 |
| Girolamo | Tom | 517 Washington Avenue | Stevens Point | WI | 54481 |
| Goltz | Tom | 1630 N 1st Ave | Wausau | WI | 54401 |
| Granica | Martin | 2816 Cty Rd G | Glenwood City | WI | 54013 |
| Gregg | Larry | Box 220 | Park Falls | WI | 54552 |
| Hahn | Pete | W7382 CTH E | Phillips | WI | 54555 |
| Hamerstrom | Fran | Rt 1 Box 448 | Plainfield | WI | 54966 |
| Hansen | Ron | Park Point Drive | Balsam Lake | WI | 54810 |
| Hansen | Glenn D. | N 7379 810th St. | River Falls | WI | 54022 |
| * Hanson | Ronald | 416 Park Drive | Balsam Lake | WI | 54810 |
| Hart | Tim | 124 Homecroft | Superior | WI | 54880 |
| * Helland | Stan | Box 410 | Wisconsin Dells | WI | 53965 |
| * Henderson | Rich | 2845 Timber Lane | Verona | WI | 53593 |
| Hennessey | Fred | R 1 Box 460 | Gordon | WI | 54838 |
| Hepner | Bill | P.O. Box 445 | Washburn | WI | 54891 |
| Hoefler | Jim | 10549 Blomgren Road | Grantsburg | WI | 54840 |
| Hunt | Dick | 309 Birchcrest Road | Horicon | WI | 53032 |
| Jabar | Alan | N 8475 Douglas Street | Ripon | WI | 54971 |
| * Jacobs | Helen | 2220 E. Newberry Blvd. | Milwaukee | WI | 53211 |
| Jebens | Harold | Box 370 | Phillips | WI | 54555 |
| Johanik | Joe | Box 237 | Bayfield | WI | 54814 |
| Johansen | Mike | R 1 Box 728 | Gordon | WI | 54838 |
| Johnson | Michael R. | P.O. Box 367 | Grantsburg | WI | 54840 |
| Johnson | Don | 1209 10th Ave | Menomonie | WI | 54751 |
| Jonas | Ken | Courthouse Room 102 | Neillsville | WI | 54456 |
| Jones | Wes | Box 37 | Shell Lake | WI | 54871 |
| Joppa | Jay | P.O. Box 131 | Phillips | WI | 54555 |

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Jordahl | Harold | 21 South Segue Road |
| Keegan | Shirley & Mike | 8764 Hudson Road |
| Keir | Jim | Box 100 |
| Khalar | Donovan | Box 347 |
| Kick | Duane | P.O. Box 578 |
| Knight | Joe | 1519 Frederic Street |
| Koch | Jack | Box 220 |
| Kooiker | Paul | P.O. Box 141 |
| Lally | Roche | 1832 Norton Road |
| Lang | Lyman | Box 367 |
| Larson | Vern & Muriel | 335 Poygan Road |
| *Lawin | Thomas | Box 280 |
| Lecher | Rick | Rte 1 Box 735 |
| Lindeman | Wade | Box 431 |
| Martenson | Leo | 1861 Memorial Drive |
| Martin | Mark | W7468 Prairie Lane |
| McConaughy | Tom | 1325 15th |
| McCormick | Gary | 7739 Schaller Road |
| McDonough | Randy | 2117 A 9 1/2 St |
| McPaul | Pat & Sue | 2900 Rib Mountain Drive |
| McKeever | Peter | 1045 E Dayton St Room 209 |
| Merkel | Keith | 201 N. Ash |
| Moss | Bruce | Box 3058 |
| Nelson | Edward J. | P.O. Box 305 |
| Niemuth | Glenn & Ellen | P.O. Box 40 |
| Niemuth | Neal | 1019 Harney |
| Onchuck | Dale | 135 N Lake Ave |
| * O'Melia | Donald | Box 797 |
| ↓ Pukaite | Constance | 11453 N. Riverland Rd. |
| Pullman | Fred | 31 Patten Dr. |
| Randall | Mark | 1424 Division Street |
| Reilatz | Ronald J. | P.O. Box 476 |
| Ratzlaf | Terry | 513 Jefferson Street |
| Richard | Julius | P.O. Box 396 |
| Richardson | Jerry | Box 217 |
| Romoser | Bill | 931 E. Hazel |
| Saaski | Willard | Star Route Box 29 |
| Savage | Pat | Box 160 |
| Schaaf | Michael | 4606-26 Lake Road |
| *Schneider | Neal | Box 71 |
| Shambaugh | Walter & Sheila | Box 11 A |
| Shurts | Jim | 2811 Chamberlain Ave |
| Solsrud | Jerry | 1539 Milwaukee Street |
| Stanek | Barry | R 1 Box 316 |
| Strand | Fred | R 1 Box 126 A |
| Swedenberg | Rex | 11423 Johnson Circle |
| Swedenberg | Dan | 12 Wildhurst Road |
| Swedenberg | Jim | 4400 Margaret Circle |
| Szumal | Frank | Box 102 |
| Tesky | Lowell | P.O. Box 188 |
| Thatcher | David | 6034 N 38th |
| Toepfer | John | Box 387 |
| Tucci | Craig | 4171 Mallard Lane |
| Ubbelohde | Fred | R 2 Box 325 |
| Uihlein | David | P.O. Box 1008 |
| Umland | G. V. | 4171 Mallard Lane |
| Umland | Noel | 4696 Faust Lake Road |
| Umland | Mike | 4703 Hwy 8 East |
| Van Ornum | Ken | R 1 Box 198 |
| Vanacek | Frank | W8945 Hwy 8 |
| Vander Zouwen | Bill | Box 7921 |
| Verch | Dick | 906 Ellis Ave |
| Vogl | Mike | 1430 Longwood Ave |
| Wallin | Ken | R 3 Box 826 |
| Whiteside | Mike | 5820 Lynch Bridge Rd |
| Wiita | Cliff | Box 220 |
| Wilde | Jonathan | R 1 |
| Wilson | Dugan | 1378 County Road J |
| Wilson | Dan | Box 319 |
| Wilson, D.V.M. | J. B. | 302 Bering St W |
| Wiskowski | Lee | 622 1st St S |
| Wordingham | George | 9643 N Dalewood Lane |
| Ziegeweid | Tom | 2950 E Wellington Dr |

| | | |
|----------------|----|------------|
| Madison | WI | 53705 |
| Woodbury | MN | 55125 |
| Friendship | WI | 53934 |
| Solon Springs | WI | 54873 |
| Washburn | WI | 54891 |
| Eau Claire | WI | 54701 |
| Park Falls | WI | 54552 |
| Grantsburg | WI | 54840 |
| Duluth | MN | 55803 |
| Grantsburg | WI | 54840 |
| Omro | WI | 54963 |
| Bloomer | WI | 54724 |
| Gordon | WI | 54838 |
| Minocqua | WI | 54548 |
| Sturgeon Bay | WI | 54235 |
| Arlington | WI | 53911 |
| Houlton | WI | 54082 |
| Verona | WI | 53593 |
| Cumberland | WI | 54829 |
| Wausau | WI | 54401 |
| Madison | WI | 53703 |
| Marshfield | WI | 54449 |
| Spooner | WI | 54801 |
| Minong | WI | 54859 |
| Stetsonville | WI | 54480 |
| Laramie | WY | 82070 |
| Phillips | WI | 54555 |
| Rhineland | WI | 54501 |
| Mequon | WI | 53092 |
| Little Compton | RI | 02837 |
| Stevens Point | WI | 54481 |
| Merton | WI | 53056 |
| Oconto | WI | 54153 |
| Minong | WI | 54859 |
| Ashland | WI | 54806 |
| River Falls | WI | 54022 |
| Iron River | WI | 54847 |
| Spooner | WI | 54801 |
| Danbury | WI | 54830 |
| Janesville | WI | 53545 |
| Stone Lake | WI | 54876-9533 |
| Madison | WI | 53705 |
| Delafield | WI | 53018 |
| Gordon | WI | 54838 |
| Iron River | WI | 54847 |
| Bloomington | MN | 55437 |
| Tonka Bay | MN | 55331 |
| Mound | MN | 55364 |
| Ashland | WI | 54806 |
| Winter | WI | 54896 |
| Milwaukee | WI | 53209 |
| Fort Toten | ND | 58335 |
| Rhineland | WI | 54501 |
| Balsam Lake | WI | 54810 |
| Germantown | WI | 53022 |
| Rhineland | WI | 54501 |
| Rhineland | WI | 54501 |
| Rhineland | WI | 54501 |
| Marengo | WI | 54855 |
| Ladysmith | WI | 54848 |
| Madison | WI | 53707 |
| Ashland | WI | 54806 |
| Elm Grove | WI | 53122 |
| Grantsburg | WI | 54840 |
| Siren | WI | 54872 |
| Park Falls | WI | 54552 |
| Belleville | WI | 53508 |
| River Falls | WI | 54022 |
| Centuria | WI | 54824 |
| Milltown | WI | 54858 |
| Ladysmith | WI | 54848 |
| Mequon | WI | 53092 |
| Eau Claire | WI | 54703 |

FRIENDS AND ALLIES

The Sharp-tailed Grouse Society is certainly not the only group in Wisconsin that cares about prairie grouse and their habitats. We have a lot of friends, most of whom pre-date us. We've gained a lot of members from some of these groups. While we certainly want to retain your membership, you may want to consider joining one or more of these groups as well.

The grand daddy groups in prairie grouse management are the Society of Tympanuchus Cupido Pinnatus (STCP) and the Dane County Conservation League (DCCL). These groups started in the mid 50's. Through purchase of lands in central Wisconsin they saved the prairie chicken as part of Wisconsin's wildlife. They continue to be active today in the management of these central Wisconsin grasslands and other projects.

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO) is a statewide organization with interest in all birds and their habitats. Grassland birds are of concern to many people within WSO as they continue to see the loss of grassland habitats. WSO

publishes a quarterly report The Passenger Pigeon of research studies and bird observations throughout Wisconsin.

Friends of Crex is just what it sounds like. This organization is made up of people who love Crex Meadows and help out monetarily and in person with management and education efforts at Crex Meadows. Since such a big part of the Crex Meadows story is the upland brush prairie habitat, we obviously have a lot in common.

The Southwest Prairie Enthusiasts (SWPE) is a group based in southwestern Wisconsin but with statewide interests in prairie plants and prairie restoration.

The Nature Conservancy is a national organization with a Wisconsin Chapter. TNC buys and preserves rare habitats. They are known for being able to make deals happen without a lot of red tape. They also publish an excellent magazine that goes to members.

ADDRESSES

Friends of Crex
Box 367
Grantsburg, WI 54840

SWPE
Gary Eldred (Pres.)
4192 Sleepy Hollow Road
Boscobel, WI 53805

TNC
Peter McKeever
(Director)
333 W. Mifflin St., Rm.
107
Madison, WI 53707

STCP
Bernard Westfahl (Pres.)
930 Elm Grove Road
Elm Grove, WI 53122

DCCL
Don Hammes (Pres.)
Box 952
Madison, WI 53701

Wisconsin Society for
Ornithology
Sam Robbins
14 S. Roby Road
Madison, WI 53705

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

In this newsletter you will find a list of charter members who signed up in the first year of our organization. Take a look through it and you may find some names of neighbors or friends that you didn't realize shared this common bond. In the future we will keep you up to date with new members. Thanks again to Neil Niemuth for keeping track of our membership and providing mailing labels.

Most of our members are paid up on their dues. If our records show you not to be paid up you will find a D on your mailing label. Dues are \$10.00 per year. Each newsletter is mailed to various prospective members. We would welcome your membership also.

SHARPTAIL PERMIT REQUIRED

The DNR, as well as most sharptail hunters, realize there are not many sharptail hunters out there, and not many birds taken. But how many is that? This fall we will find out. In order to hunt sharptails hunters will have to get a report card before hunting. If you are successful you then will need to mail in a report.

Report cards will certainly be available from Madison DNR and probably from many DNR District or field stations especially in areas where hunting takes place. Look for news releases and ask when you buy your small game license.

Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society
P.O. Box 1115
Cumberland, WI 54829

