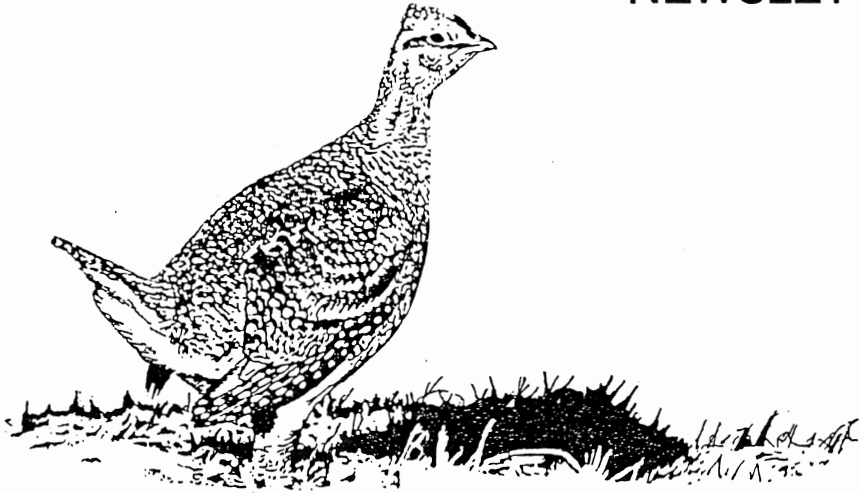


WISCONSIN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Volume 9

December, 1993

DUES NOTICE

We started WSGS a few years ago, with a fall newsletter and most people paid dues that fall or winter. This put many charter members on a calendar year membership basis. As we have grown, we now have members coming on board at any month of the year. So we're going to have to rely on you to pay your dues when they come up. But we will remind you via your mailing label when they're due!

You will probably find a month-year combination on your mailing label. This is the date your membership expires, usually

12 months after you last paid. If you have a 92 or 93 date we'd appreciate your renewing now. A few of you won't have a date listed. This means either that you have not yet sent us any money but we think you're a hot prospect to join, or that you are a complimentary member (adjacent state SGS director, journalist).

Please send your dues in now while you're thinking of it. Dues and donations are the only way this small young organization

PRAIRIE GROUSE SYMPOSIUM

The Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society is sponsoring a grouse symposium on February 24, 1994 at UW Memorial Union, Madison. Wisconsin's native grouse, including the prairie chicken, sharp-tailed grouse, ruffed grouse and the spruce grouse, will be the subject of the symposium. Information on the life history, status, and management of the four grouse species will be presented.

WSGS members interested in attending the symposium should contact either Bill Vander Zowen, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - WM/4, Box 7924, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921 or Bruce Bacon, Department of Natural Resources -Ranger Station, 3291 State House Circle, Mercer, WI 54547 for more information.

1994 ANNUAL MEETING

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

A. Tax Exempt Status:

We are now a genuine, bona fide, tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)3. As I read our determination letter, the only thing that really matters is the first paragraph. The rest is bureaucratic garbly-gook. What they are saying in more (not less) words is that we're in business as long as we do what we say we want to do in our goals. We can all pat ourselves on the back for this monumental "Triumph of Will". They (IRS) have the legal onus to send us that report 90 days after our advance ruling period expires 12/31/96.

B. State Tax Exempt Status:

We now need to get out "ES" number from Wisconsin Department of Revenue. We will send that in ASAP so we have our ES number for spring meeting. It should fly through fast.

C. Display Board:

Our display board is on the road right now in northern Wisconsin. Thanks to Ray Kiewit and others in the USFS at ranger stations in Washburn and Park Falls. I took board to Washburn via a hunting trip around October 23rd. Roy and I set it up in Washburn Ranger Station where it sat for a few weeks. Then they moved it to the bank lobby in Washburn. It's now at Ranger Station in Park Falls. I plan on picking it up via ice fishing trip before the first of the year.

When I get it back I want to take it to the Milwaukee area, and hopefully get it into some of the nature centers that Tom Jancoski has connections with.

On February 5th The Nature Conservancy is sponsoring a one day workshop on "Northern Wisconsin Communities" at UW-SP College of Natural Resources. TNC called me last week and invited us to come down and set up our display board. Linda Parker from Park Falls USFS told them about it. It seems this display really sells itself. We are invited to participate in the meeting.

Maybe we can put display board back at Sandhill from Stevens Point to be displayed until our April annual meeting.

I WILL GIVE YOU ALL A CHALLENGE TASK - "FIND PLACES TO DISPLAY BOARD" - anywhere in the state. I will take it around as much as feasible in my travels.

We will want to be represented at Wisconsin Grouse Seminar in Madison also. I plan on being there with board.

D. Pine Barrens Workshop Ad Hoc Committee Meeting:

We are having a meeting this winter to go over data and ideas generated at Pine Barrens Seminar in September. I plan on attending this meeting as myself and Duane Kick are on the "Recreational Group" Ad Hoc Committee.

Tom Ziegeweid

P.S. Don't forget to cheer for the Badgers on January 1st!



Our WSGS clan will again meet at the Sandhill Outdoor Skills Center, this year on April 15th - 16th. We enjoyed their hospitality last year and hope that many of you can attend this centrally located site. More details in the spring newsletter.

TRUMPETER SWAN DECOY REARING PROJECT

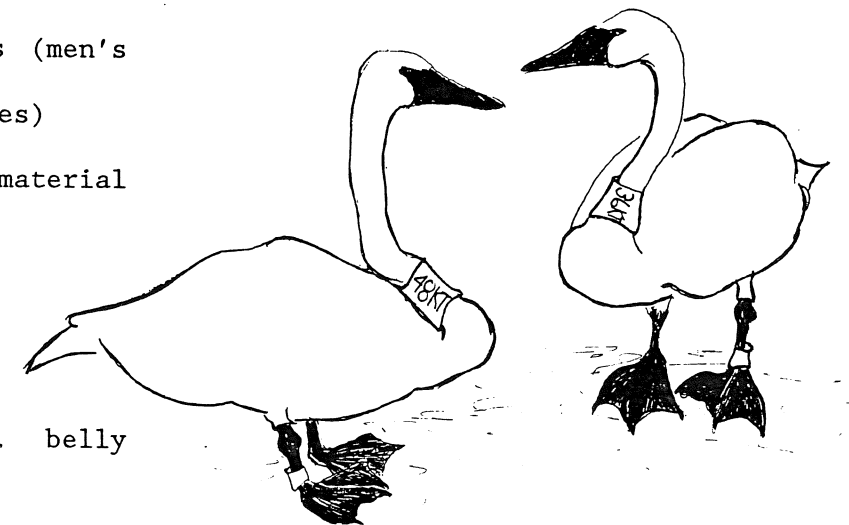
This isn't exactly sharptail stuff but it's a worthy cause that we can help sponsor. The original swan rearing was done on Crex Meadows, and now has spread to other properties.

The Trumpeter Swan Decoy Rearing Project is successfully attempting to reintroduce wild trumpeter swans back in Wisconsin. The following items are used in the field by the swan "moms," and these "moms" could really use some help replacing worn out equipment. Donations of new or used items are appreciated and will be used to help bring back this marvelous bird to Wisconsin's wetland.

"C" and "AA" batteries -- for flashlights and tape recorders, respectively
3 Maglight flashlights (for checking broods)
5 gallon propane tanks
bunge cords
camouflage long sleeve tee-shirts (men's sizes)
camouflage rain jackets (men's sizes)
camouflage scarves
Hide 'm Hunter die-cut camouflage material to cover blinds
canoe paddles
canoe
chicken wire
citronella candles
duct tape
engineer field notebooks
fisherman's float tubes (a.k.a. belly boats)
garden rakes
insect repellent
magnum goose decoy heads - erect position
men's waders -- sizes 7 and 8 especially
mosquito head nets

Realistic (Radio Shack) tape recorders, model CTR-24
3-minute continuous loop cassette tapes
Realistic (Radio Shack) Amplified Speakers, catalog number 40-1323
speaker wires (2 male ends, 6 or 12 feet long, for above speakers)
work gloves - leather

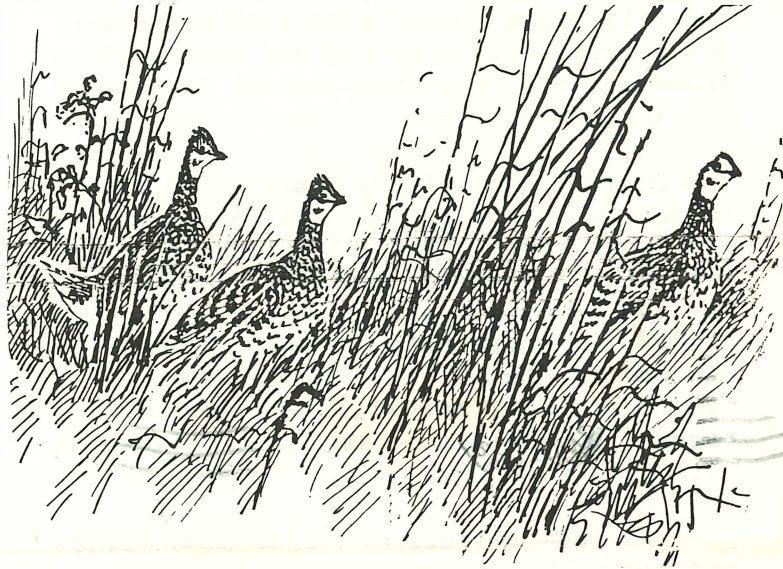
The Trumpeter Swan Recovery Program is sponsored by the Natural Resources Foundation (NRF) of Wisconsin. Donations for the program should be made to the NRF. Call Barb Barzen (608/266-1430) or Sumner Matteson (608/266-1571) to make arrangements to drop off large items. Small items (and cash donations) can be sent to the Bureau of Endangered Resources, Department of Natural Resources, 101 South Webster Street, Madison, WI 53702-0001. Donations are tax deductible.



PUBLIC EDUCATION ON SHARPTAIL HABITAT

You've read in the President's Column about what's going on with the display board. If you haven't seen it, try to do so. It's a nice piece of work. Ever since this organization started we've talked about an explanatory brochure that tells why these barren places are important and who we are. Tom Davis, outdoor writer and WSGS board member, has taken on this brochure development task. He has obtained most of the photos necessary and has written up a first draft. We are distributing this draft to board members for editing, or to any other member who would like to help. Tom has also secured a promise of some layout time from Wisconsin Trails, for which we are thankful.

This operation, both display and brochure, will not be cheap but it is at the very heart of WSGS goals. We plan to apply for a Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation grant of \$1,000 to cost share this project and stretch our dollars a bit farther.



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

