



Greater Prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*)

Size: Head and body length, 40 - 45 cm; wingspan, 56 - 66 cm **Weight:** Males, 0.9 - 1.2 kg; females, 0.75 - 0.95 kg **Habitat:** Primarily mixed and tall-grass prairie **Surviving number:** Estimated at 460,000 mature individuals



Photographed by Wendy Shattil and Bob Rozinski

WILDLIFE AS CANON SEES IT

Room to boom. Male greater prairie-chickens establish booming grounds during breeding season, where they announce their prowess through vocalizations produced via their bright orange neck sacs. To impress females, they also strut and “flutter jump,” flapping their wings and jumping with a whoop, cackle or whine. Females, who usually visit more than one booming ground prior to mating, lay clutches of about a dozen eggs

in bowl-shaped nests lined with dry grass and feathers. But as their native prairies are converted to crop land, they are feeling the squeeze. Populations have fallen by 90% in the last 40 years.

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