

Have You Seen this Bird?



Male Lesser Prairie-Chickens have a unique breeding display. Each spring, male prairie-chickens congregate on traditional breeding grounds, or leks, to display and make vocal sounds (“booming”) to defend their territory and attract females for mating. Males establish their territory and court females by displaying bright yellow eye combs, inflating red air sacs, and by flutter jumping, cackling, and foot stopping.

Conservation in New Mexico

Most of New Mexico’s rangelands are privately owned, therefore the success of conservation efforts relies on the commitment, cooperation, and coordination of private landowners, land users, and public agencies to protect and manage habitats for Lesser Prairie-Chickens.

IF YOU SEE THIS BIRD PLEASE CONTACT:

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or email me at dawn.davis@state.nm.us

Please provide details of the **date**, **location** (if possible include GPS coordinates), and **number of individuals seen**. Your information is valuable and will help ensure the continued survival of this unique grassland bird.

Any information collected from private lands is strictly confidential and is subject to the State Game Commission Regulation 19 NMAC 33.4.

Lesser Prairie-Chickens are game birds that inhabit rangelands dominated by shinnery oak or sand sagebrush in 5 states within the southern Great Plains. Although the Lesser Prairie-Chicken was once abundant in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico, populations have declined by >90% since the early 1900s. In New Mexico, Lesser Prairie-Chickens occupy less than 50% of their former range. Loss and degradation of grassland habitat due to drought, improper grazing practices, land development, and conversion of native grasslands to cropland have contributed to their decline.

We Need Your Help

Eastern New Mexico supports a large proportion of the remaining populations of Lesser Prairie-Chickens, so we all have an important opportunity to ensure conservation of the grasslands that support this icon of the High Plains.



Lesser Prairie-Chickens are distinguishable from other game bird species by their short, rounded tail, stocky, oval shape, barred plumage, and dark eye stripe. When flushed, prairie-chickens will cluck as they take flight.

