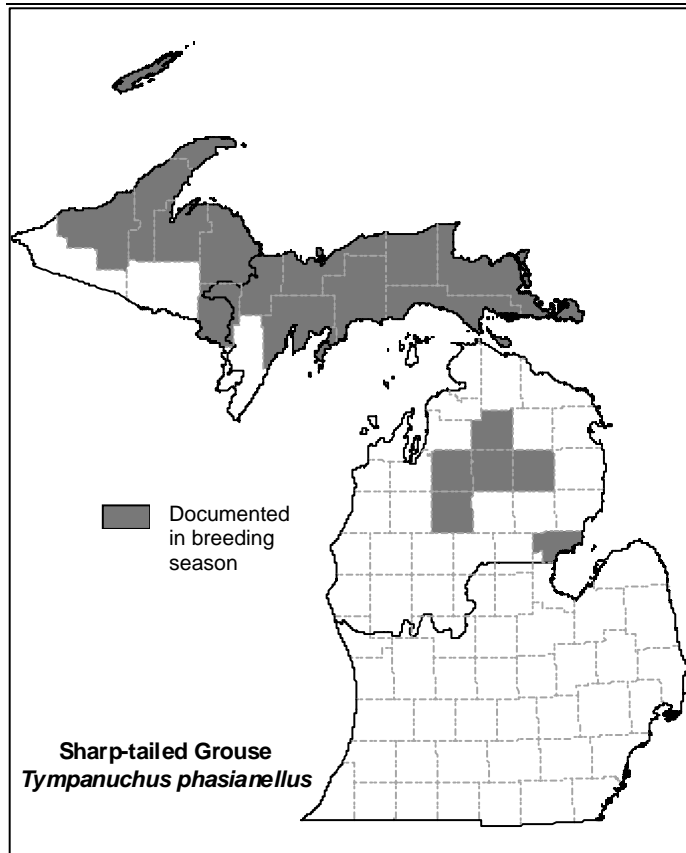


# BIRDS



## Sharp-tailed Grouse

(*Tympanuchus phasianellus*)

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE:** Sharp-tailed Grouse were first documented in the 1880s around the old mines on Isle Royale; their origins are unknown, but it is suspected they entered from Minnesota or Ontario. Small numbers of birds from Wisconsin or Minnesota may have occasionally emigrated to the Upper Peninsula earlier, but there is little evidence of a significant population prior to the 1920s when its natural expansion was fostered by wildfires and logging. This was followed by several decades of stocking of wild-trapped birds into the Eastern Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Peninsula. Through the 1960s and 1970s, populations decreased, and currently birds are rare outside of the Upper Peninsula. The Sharp-tailed Grouse is currently designated as a species of special concern.

**ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE FEATURES:** prairie; idle/old field; hayland; pasture; row crop; fence row; savanna; lowland shrub; upland shrub; dry conifer; forest opening; bog; inland emergent wetland; fen; ephemeral wetland; river/stream/riparian/floodplain corridor; snag/cavity; large contiguous natural landscape

**ASSOCIATED THREATS:** conversion to agriculture lands; altered fire regime; fragmentation; grazing & mowing patterns; incompatible natural resource mgmt; industrial/residential/recreational development; forestry practices; non-consumptive recreation; other biological interactions (predation by birds and mammals); pesticides & herbicides; removal of wildlife; social attitudes