



Plains Sharp-Tailed Grouse
(*Tympanuchus phasianellus jamesii*)



Photo Source: Steven Walling, Wikipedia.org



03-0207-11



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Plains Sharp-Tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus jamesii*)

Federal status: Not listed
Colorado status: Endangered

Sharp-tailed grouse closely resemble prairie chickens except that sharp-tails have a pointed tail, and the air sacs on the neck of the male are purple. Birds are 15 to 20 inches in length. Adult males have a yellow comb over their eyes and a violet display patch on their neck. Males weigh an average of just over 2 pounds and females average about 5 ounces less.

Habitat: This species inhabits rolling hills with scrub oak thickets and grassy glades. Brushy sites with scrub oak, serviceberry and willow provide critical winter shelter and food sources. Typically, this grouse occupies medium to tall grasslands for courtship and nesting. The species occurs in 32 Colorado counties, excluding primarily south-central and southeastern parts of the state.

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