

## SHARP-TAILED GROUSE DANCING IN JANUARY

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On 31 January 1987 at 0845 h, four Sharp-tailed Grouse were observed roosting in a tree at the northeast corner of the Last Mountain Lake Wildlife Management Unit. We stopped to take some photographs, and when the engine

was stopped we could hear more grouse. Several grouse were found dancing on a lek. The mild weather (0°C) may have contributed to this early occurrence of breeding behavior, and we assumed that the grouse roosting in the tree were females watching the dancing males.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sharp-tailed Grouse have been observed dancing at all times of the year during suitably warm weather. Although the males are observed displaying it is not known whether the female become receptive and begin to search out the males.



*Sharp-tailed Grouse dancing*

*Wayne Shiels/Four Winds Prairie Photography*





Short-eared Owl near Saskatoon

Wayne Shiels/Four Winds Prairie Photography