

**ABSTRACTS FOR *CONDOR* 103(3) AUGUST 2001**

**SHORT COMMUNICATIONS**

**OCCURRENCE OF GREATER SAGE-GROUSE X SHARP-TAILED GROUSE  
HYBRIDS IN ALBERTA**

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*Abstract.* Two distinct grouse were regularly observed at two Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) leks in both 1999 and 2000 in southeastern Alberta. Physically and behaviorally, the birds exhibited characteristics of both Greater Sage-Grouse and Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*), suggesting they were hybrids. DNA analyses of blood and feather samples indicated that both birds were males with Greater Sage-Grouse mothers and thus, fathers that were likely Sharp-tailed Grouse.

*Key words:* Alberta, DNA, Greater Sage-Grouse, hybrid, Sharp-tailed Grouse

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