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Abstracts

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

DISPLAY BY APPARENT HYBRID PRAIRIE-CHICKENS IN A ZONE OF GEOGRAPHIC OVERLAP

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Abstract. Greater (*Tympanuchus cupido*) and Lesser (*T. pallidicinctus*) Prairie-Chicken are thought to be historically and presently allopatric. We documented an area of approximately 250 000 ha in western Kansas characterized by leks with displaying males of both species. Display booms unlike typical Greater or Lesser Prairie-Chickens were heard and recorded at nine mixed leks. Spectrograms of these vocalizations contained elements of Greater and Lesser Prairie-Chicken booms, and comparisons suggested intermediate similarity. Males giving these booms had additional novel characters as well as novel combinations of Greater and Lesser Prairie-Chicken characters, and might represent the first case of hybridization in the wild.

Key words: display, Greater Prairie-Chicken, hybridization, lek, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, sympatry.