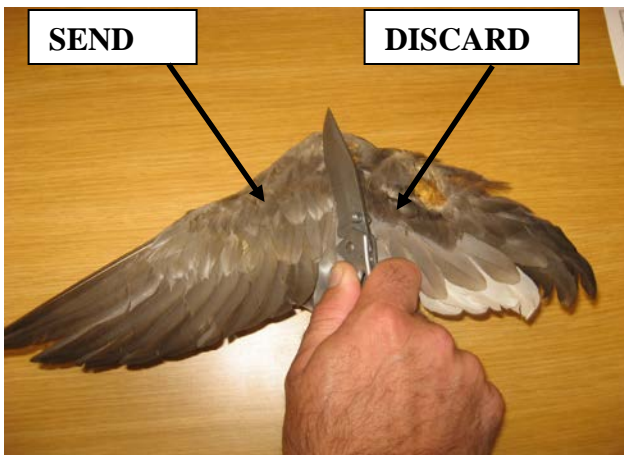


## Collection and storage protocol for hunter collected sharp-tailed grouse wings.

It is imperative that we have as precise information as possible regarding the location of the bird. Please make sure that the correct form is attached to the correct bird.

1. Cut the wing at the radius and ulna joint (See photo below for depiction).
2. Sex birds by looking at tail feathers; See photos below (if not certain of sex do NOT record it).
3. Staple or permanently attach the harvest information form directly to the tip of the wing.
4. Store wings in paper envelopes at all times.
5. Do not let wings sit in a hot vehicle for any length of time. Wings may be **temporarily** stored in a cooler with ice in the shade. Do not let them go cold, hot, cold, hot etc. If you do not have a cooler and will continue hunting, place the wings under the vehicle or in any other spot (away from dogs) with constant shade.
6. **DO NOT STORE THE WINGS IN A REFRIGERATOR OR FREEZER AT ANY TIME!**
7. If wings cannot be sent immediately they can simply be stored in an office environment as long as they are in a dark and dry place with relatively constant temperature. **Preferably ship the wing or wings the next day or as soon as possible.** This will help ensure a higher quality sample.
8. Mail the wings to **Eric Nelson** at the address below:

Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources  
Animal Damage Program  
1601 Minnesota Drive  
Brainerd, MN 56401



Cut primary section of wing at wing joint and send primary section.



Central tail feathers from male and female sharptails. The coloration of these feathers is an indicator of sex. The four feathers on the left came from females. Note the alternating buff-black horizontal striping. The four male tail feathers on the right show more white, and the striping pattern is more vertical and not as consistent as on the female feathers.

Photo from Upland Game Identification, North Dakota Game and Fish



Pulling away the feathers that cover a grouse's tail reveals another way to tell males from females. The feathers on either side of center on the female (left) are mottled. The same feathers on a male (right) are white on the ends and silvery-gray closer to the body.

Photo from Upland Game Identification, North Dakota Game and Fish

**Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources 2014 Sharp-tailed Grouse Wing Collection.**

Date of harvest: / / Collector: \_\_\_\_\_(Optional)

Sex (only circle one if certain of the sex, see handout): **Male Female** Land Ownership: **Public Private**

State of Collection: \_\_\_\_\_ County of Collection: \_\_\_\_\_

Township/Range/Section: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Example: T152N R38W S21

GPS Location if Possible (in UTM): \_\_\_\_\_

**Habitat Notes:** Please circle the best description of the habitat in which the bird was harvested. Feel free to add a brief description to better describe the habitat.

CU- Cultivated Field UG = Undisturbed Grass BG= Bog PA= Pasture (grazed)

HY= Hayland (cut or mowed) BL= Brushland or Shrub ST= Stubble from small grains or row crop

Staple This End

----- Cut here -----

**Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources 2014 Sharp-tailed Grouse Wing Collection.**

Date of harvest: / / Collector: \_\_\_\_\_(Optional)

Sex (only circle one if certain of the sex, see handout): **Male Female** Land Ownership: **Public Private**

State of Collection: \_\_\_\_\_ County of Collection: \_\_\_\_\_

Township/Range/Section: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Example: T152N R38W S21

GPS Location if Possible (in UTM): \_\_\_\_\_

**Habitat Notes:** Please circle the best description of the habitat in which the bird was harvested. Feel free to add a brief description to better describe the habitat.

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Staple This End