

Your answers to some of the most asked prairie-chicken questions

Q: What is an Attwater's prairie-chicken?

A: A chicken-sized bird that inhabits native coastal prairie habitat. Actually a grouse, this bird was once very numerous throughout coastal grasslands of Texas and southwest Louisiana. Today, fewer than 100 individuals remain.

Q: Why did Attwater's prairie-chicken numbers decline?

A: Like most species in trouble, the long-term decline of Attwater's prairie-chickens is due to habitat loss. Today, less than 1 percent of the once expansive coastal prairies that the Attwater's call home remain in relatively pristine condition. As the prairie became more fragmented, factors such as catastrophic weather, parasites, disease, inbreeding, fire ants, and other factors became increasingly important in their adverse impacts on prairie chicken populations.

Q: What is being done to help them out?

A: Drastic intervention is needed in the short-term to prevent the impending extinction of this critically imperilled bird. To that end, an aggressive captive-breeding program is under way to provide birds for release

into the wild to bolster dangerously small populations. A long-term solution will require strategic restoration of prairie habitat within the prairie chicken's historic range. Plans

are to accomplish this restoration through a combination of partnerships (several already under way) with willing landowners and acquisition of key habitats.

Attwater's

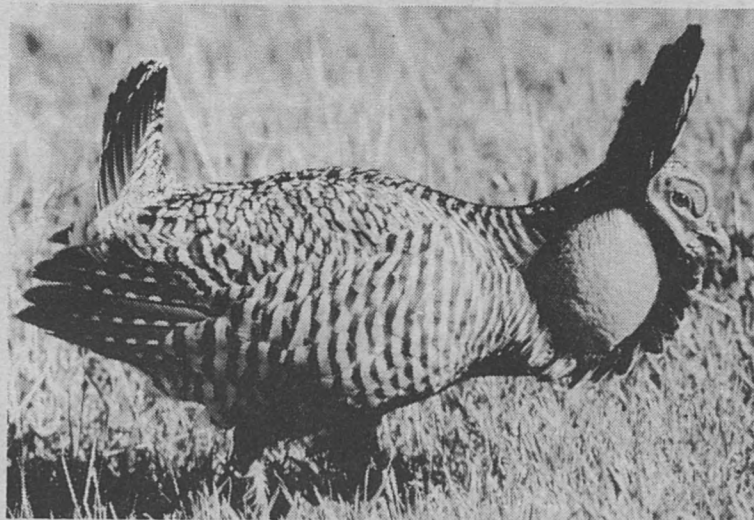
Continued from Page 9

sembling that of someone blowing across the open neck of an empty bottle.

On a calm morning, these "booming" sounds can be heard up to a mile away. Old-timers have reported that the deep booming calls once reverberated

from the prairies with such force and monotony that those with sensitive eardrums would be in pain.

The Attwater's unique dance is believed to have been mimicked by some American plains Indians who incorporated it into some of their dance routines.



ATTWATER'S PRAIRIE-CHICKEN

AUSTIN GROCERY

Homemade Country Sausage

505 East Main

Eagle Lake, TX 77434

(409) 234-2574 • (409) 234-2733

THE BAUMGART AGENCIES

Where The Agents Make the Difference!

205 E. Main
Eagle Lake
(409) 234-2619

1127 Bowie
Columbus
(409) 732-2808

COLUMBUS EYE ASSOCIATES COLUMBUS OPTICAL CO.

Your Complete Eye Care Specialists Since 1953

100 Sweetbriar, Columbus • (409) 732-5771

108 N. Washington, La Grange • (409) 968-3953

503 S. Faires, Flatonia • (512) 865-3525

131 Main Street, Sealy • (409) 885-0665

Toll Free 1-800-460-3937

R.J. Lowe, M.D. • T.M. Hovis, M.D.
A.G. Nayar, M.D. • Cybele Woon, M.D.

patients seen by appointment



SINCE 1953

COLUMBUS EYE ASSOCIATES, P.A.