



PHEASANT HABITAT

in Nebraska

Pheasants have long been a favorite among hunters and landowners in Nebraska. Unfortunately, over the last 60+ years, pheasant populations have been declining. A major challenge for conservation is finding ways to balance the need for suitable habitat for pheasants and other wildlife within an agriculturally dominated system.

Our research aims to help managers strategically target land for conservation so that every acre conserved will have the maximum benefit for pheasants.

ACOUSTIC MONITORING

Acoustic monitors are becoming a popular alternative to traditional bird surveys. These monitors are small, non-invasive and allow us to collect data on pheasants and other species over long periods of time.

This year we set up 30 monitors across northeastern Nebraska from March to June. These monitors were scheduled to record from two hours before sunrise until three hours after sunrise, the period that male pheasants tend to be crowing during the spring mating season.

LONG-TERM GOALS

1. Study pheasant crowing patterns

Counting male pheasant crows is one of the best methods we have for monitoring populations, but to get accurate counts it is important to know when crows are most likely.

2. Improve landscape connectivity

There is more to pheasant habitat than adding patches of grassland, we also have to consider how pheasants will move amongst patches.

3. Increase habitat functionality

We can do this by ensuring that every acre of land conserved has the maximum benefit to wildlife, including pheasants.

AT A GLANCE

- **8,210** Hours of audio
- **4,382** Pheasant calls heard
- **383** Highest number of crows heard in one day

Scan the QR code to learn more about our research

