

Outdoor Iowa
News Release
of
Iowa Fish and Game Commission
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PRAIRIE CHICKENS IN IOWA

The office of the Iowa Fish and Game Commission received a number of reports from pheasant hunters who had noted flocks of the prairie chicken or pinnated grouse, particularly in northwestern Iowa. An effort was made to determine the extent of the distribution of these "chickens" during the present winter.

The regular wintering flocks, that enter Iowa from Minnesota and the Dakotas, were first seen in October. Since then flocks have been observed in most of the northern and western counties. In the vicinity of Round Lake in Clay County a flock of nearly two hundred prairie chickens has been noted.

The present breeding colonies of the prairie chicken in Iowa are widely scattered and in rather small numbers. Nesting birds have been found in Clayton, Wayne and Lyon Counties. There have been other reports which may refer to nesting pairs or may be wintering birds noted late in the spring.

It is expected that the retention of an increasing number of these winter migrant chickens as nesting birds will follow in the present waterfowl restoration program.--Philip A. DuMont, Des Moines, Iowa.