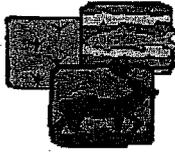




### Spring Distribution of Ring-Necked Pheasants Following Treatment of Wetlands with Rodeo Herbicide

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Federal and state resource agencies often use Rodeo aquatic herbicide to clear wetlands of dense stands of cattail (*Typha glauca*). The resulting increase in spatial heterogeneity usually improves avian diversity by attracting more species of breeding birds (e.g., waterfowl and terns). Dense stands of cattail, however, can attract and hold large numbers of wintering ring-necked pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus*). Pheasants often use upland cover adjacent to wintering wetlands for breeding. To assess the post-treatment effects of cattail reduction on pheasant use of adjacent uplands during spring, we applied Rodeo in August 1992 to Class IV wetlands > 2 ha in 4 study blocks (23 km<sup>2</sup>) in southeastern North Dakota; we kept 4 similar blocks as untreated references. Pheasant use was inferred from crowing calls counted during May. Crowing calls were directly correlated with grassland proportions in the study blocks and indirectly correlated with cropland proportions during pretreatment (1992-1993) and post-treatment (1994-1995) periods. Proportions of Class IV wetlands were not correlated with the number of crowing calls during pretreatment, perhaps contributing to our not detecting post-treatment effects on mean crowing calls. Extraordinary periods of precipitation during our 4-yr study may have influenced cattail densities in southeastern North Dakota more than the Rodeo treatments.



*62nd  
Midwest  
Fish and Wildlife Conference*

*December 5-8  
2000*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

The  
62nd  
Midwest  
Fish and Wildlife Conference

**ABSTRACTS**

*Published jointly by:*

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

*Division of Fisheries*

*Division of Wildlife*

*Division of Ecological Services*

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

*North-Central Region*

**University of Minnesota**

*Department of Fisheries and Wildlife*

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