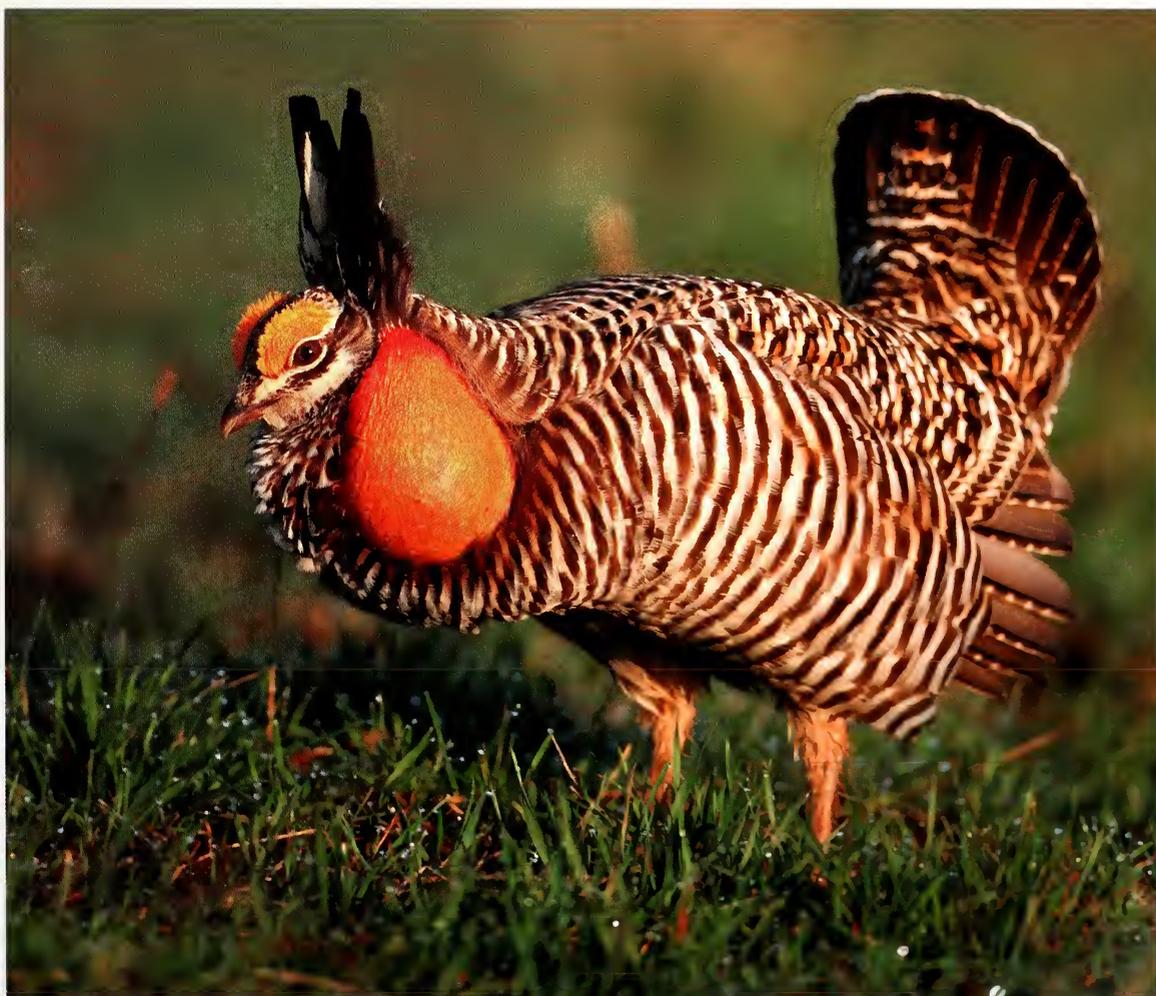




Proceedings
of the
Indiana Academy of Science



VOLUME 118

2009

NUMBER 2

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INDIANA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

The *PROCEEDINGS OF THE INDIANA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE* is a journal dedicated to promoting scientific research and the diffusion of scientific information, to encouraging communication and cooperation among scientists, and to improving education in the sciences.

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Cover: The greater prairie chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) is a widespread species of the Great Plains. Once common in Indiana and Illinois, it now persists only at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area in Jasper County, Illinois. The bird was extirpated in Indiana in the 1970s. Located on Illinoisian till in southeastern Illinois, Prairie Ridge covers nearly 1100 hectares, and supports over 500 species of vascular plants, and provides important habitat for dozens of species of nesting and migrant birds. See related paper on page 120 in this issue. (*Photo courtesy of Richard Day/Day-break Imagery; Alma, Illinois*)

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Publication date: 29 December 2009

This paper meets the requirement of ANSI/NISO Z39.48-1992 (Permanence of Paper).