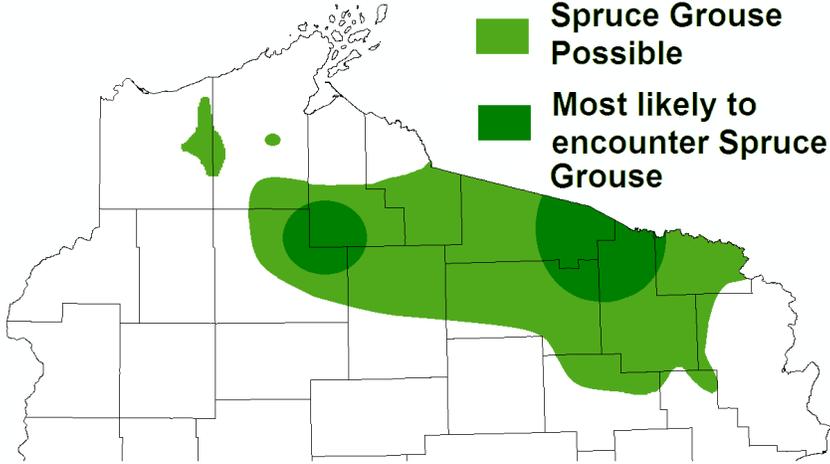


ATTENTION GROUSE HUNTERS!



If you plan to pursue ruffed grouse in coniferous forest in the northern two tiers of counties, please be aware of the possibility of encountering spruce grouse. **Spruce grouse are a state-threatened species, and no harvest is permitted.**

Spruce grouse are most often found in or near spruce and tamarack bogs (where ruffed grouse are less likely to occur, except for areas with alder), but spruce grouse also occur in upland conifers, especially jack pine. Spruce and ruffed grouse can occur together where upland conifers are adjacent to good ruffed grouse habitat. Spruce grouse lack the crest and dark tail band of ruffed grouse and are more likely to allow close approach by humans. Read on to learn to recognize both sexes of spruce grouse:



Photo credit: R. Brady

RUFFED GROUSE (sexes similar)

- * Crest on head usually obvious
- * Banded tail with thick black subterminal band and gray terminal band
- * No eye comb
- * Indistinct pattern on breast
- * Typically diagonal dark and white lines on flank
- * Gray and red color morphs occur
- * May freeze, but generally does not allow close approach

Grouse Identification Guide

<p>Ruffed Grouse</p> <p>1. Crest 2. Broad black band</p>	<p>Spruce Grouse - Female</p> <p>3. No crest 4. Horizontal barring 5. No broad black band</p>	<p>Spruce Grouse - Male</p> <p>6. Red eye comb and no crest 7. Black and white breast 8. Black with rust-colored tip</p>
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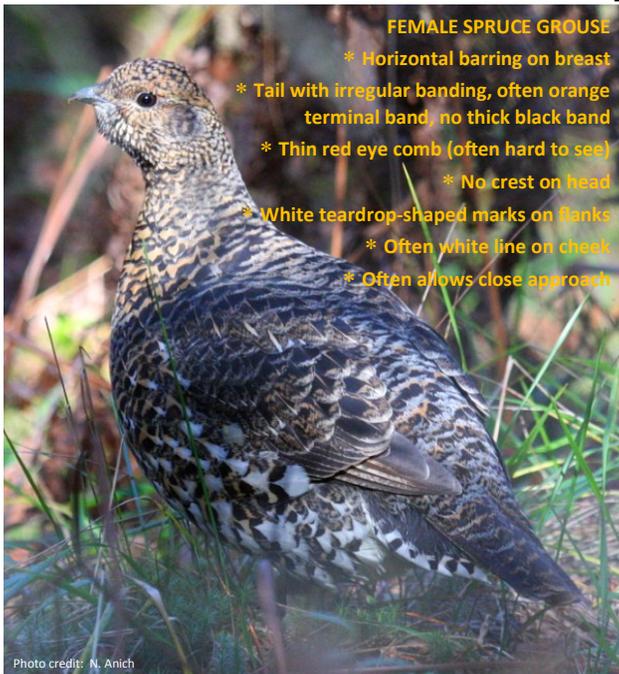


Photo credit: N. Anich

FEMALE SPRUCE GROUSE

- * Horizontal barring on breast
- * Tail with irregular banding, often orange terminal band, no thick black band
- * Thin red eye comb (often hard to see)
- * No crest on head
- * White teardrop-shaped marks on flanks
- * Often white line on chest
- * Often allows close approach



Photo credit: R. Brady

MALE SPRUCE GROUSE

- * Black and white on breast
- * Black tail with orange terminal band
- * Thick red eye comb
- * No crest on head
- * White outline on black throat
- * Often allows close approach