

RUFFED GROUSE

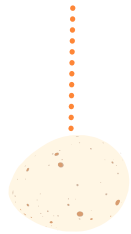
(Bonasa umbellus)



Ruffed Grouse have a variety of color phases including red, gray, brown, and intermediate gray.



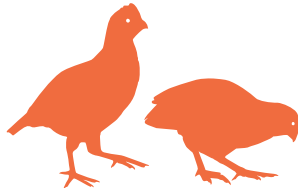
Clutch size: 9-14 eggs
Incubation: 24 days
Peak hatch: late-May to early-June



EGG



CHICK



BROOD

Shorter tail with incomplete band. One spot on rump feather.

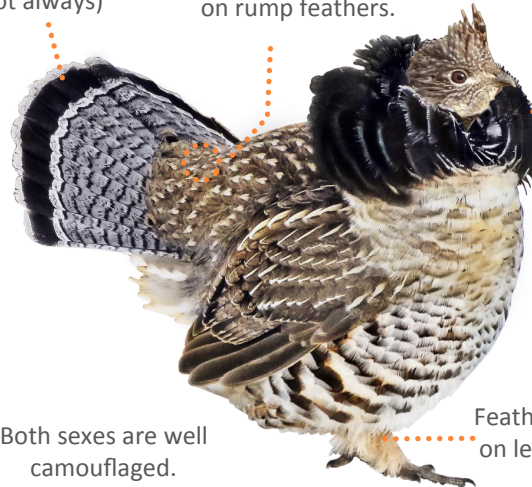


FEMALE

Complete, dark band. (not always)

Two light dots on rump feathers.

Both sexes are well camouflaged.

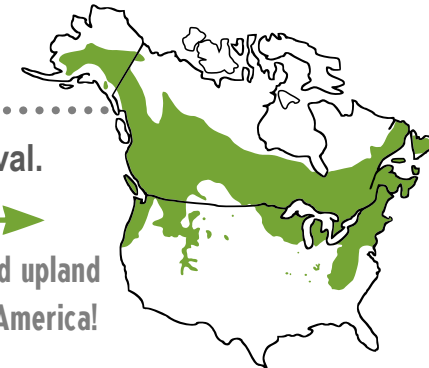


MALE

Raised ruff feathers.

Feathers on legs.

Drumming logs are the site of spectacular spring displays. Males beat their wings in rapid succession, creating mini sonic booms.



What makes good habitat? Having easy access to food, water, cover, and space to support growth and survival.

BUGS, BERRIES, AND BUDS

Young grouse eat protein-rich insects during the first few weeks of life.



As adults, tree buds and catkins are the Ruffed Grouse's main food sources. When available they feed on wild berries, acorns, seeds, and green vegetation. In winter, you'll find grouse in the upper canopy of aspen trees, feeding on buds and catkins.



FOREST HABITATS FOR ALL SEASONS

Ruffed Grouse live in forests interspersed with young to old stands of trees. Young forests (5-15 years old) provide ideal conditions for food and cover: dense saplings, fruit-bearing shrubs, and leafy ground cover. Ruffed Grouse typically nest at the base of pole-sized or larger trees and frequent mature aspen stands in winter. To sustain grouse habitat, forest managers use periodic regeneration cuts to provide multiple age-classes of trees in close proximity.



➔ The most widespread upland game bird in North America!

6-8 THOUSAND STEMS OPTIMAL TREE DENSITY PER ACRE FOR GROUSE HABITAT.

10 YEAR CYCLE RUFFED GROUSE POPULATIONS HAVE SHORT-TERM FLUCTUATIONS.

40 MILES PER HOUR AVERAGE AIRSPEED VELOCITY. GROUSE FLY SHORT DISTANCES.

Pheasants Forever is dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education and land management policies and programs.

For more information visit pheasantsforever.org

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



1.) **True / False:** Gray-phased grouse are males and females are red.

2.) **True / False:** Insect abundance is important for brood-rearing.

3.) **True / False:** Ruffed Grouse have adaptations for cold climates.

4.) **True / False:** During spring, grouse sing to attract mates.

5.) **True / False:** Logging activities can benefit Ruffed Grouse.



GOT HABITAT? This Ruffed Grouse could use some food and cover.

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