

2009 Oregon Upland Game Bird Production Inventories

Following are the results of the upland game bird production inventories collected by ODFW biologists during the summer of 2009. When considered collectively, these indices are generally a good predictor of fall populations for some of the popularly hunted species such as pheasant, California quail, and chukars.

The abundance index (Birds/10 miles) was generally up from 2008 across eastern Oregon. For example, the number of chukars counted on the surveys in 2009 were up 70 to 80% over 2008, but remain below the recent 5-year average. Pheasants were up about 50% as compared to 2008 and are near the 5-yr average. Surveys for California quail indicated mixed results but overall numbers were up as compared to 2008 and are approaching the recent 5-yr average.

Upland game bird numbers can fluctuate greatly from year to year. These short-term population fluctuations can often be attributed to weather, such as an extreme winter, an excessively cool and wet period during the hatch, and periods of drought which reduce the abundance of food and cover. During Spring 2009, much of eastern Oregon received significant precipitation. The timing of the precipitation events were not ideal to maximize grass and forb growth and also avoid the peak hatching period, but overall, the birds appeared to benefit.

Pheasant Production Inventory						
District/field office	2009			Previous 5-Yr Avg. (2004-08)		
	Mileage	Chicks/Ad	Birds/10mi	Mileage	Chicks/Hen	Birds/10mi
Baker	0	3.7		53	4.0	0.7
Wallowa	10		1.0	6		0.7
Union*	0			79	3.7	2.0
Grant	0			35		0.4
Umatilla	224.4	3.6	10.0	225	3.8	8.4
Heppner	166	2.8	3.9	165	3.5	3.6
Northeast Total	400.4	3.5	7.2	563	3.7	4.8
Mid-Col	241	4.6	2.6	241	3.4	1.9
Deschutes	0			0		
Ochoco	165		0	165	0.0	0.1
Klamath	0			0		
Lake	0			38	5.0	0.9
Harney	20	0	0.5	12	1.5	0.8
Malheur	203.5	3.5	6.5	201	3.4	10.8
High Desert Total	629.5	3.8	3.1	657	3.3	4.1
E. Oregon Total	1029.9	3.6	4.7	1220	3.6	4.4
W. Oregon Total	0			0	5.6	
Statewide	1029.9	3.6	4.7	1220	3.6	4.4

Chukar Production Inventory						
District/field office	2009			Previous 5-Yr Avg. (2004-08)		
	Mileage	Chicks/Ad	Birds/10mi	Mileage	Chicks/Ad	Birds/10mi
Baker	100.3	6.1	53.8	104	4.9	39.8
Wallowa	193	3.6	4.8	193	1.6	3.8
Union	0			0		
Umatilla	224.4	7.3	2.6	127	2.4	8.3
Heppner	166	1.8	10.8	165	2.8	19.7
Grant	168	9.6	4.4	148	6.2	6.7
Northeast Total	851.7	4.3	11.1	737	3.4	13.8
Mid-Col	150	2.1	10.5	150	2.0	20.5
Deschutes	0			0		
Ochoco	63	2.5	14.0	63	2.0	16.1
Klamath	0			0		
Lake	0			85	4.0	3.6
Harney	73	1.7	43.3	73	1.7	127.2
Malheur	140.5	2.5	32.1	150	2.6	73.2
High Desert Total	426.5	2.1	23.7	521	2.0	47.4
Statewide	1278.2	2.7	15.3	1259	2.4	27.7

Hun (Gray Partridge) Production Inventory						
District/field office	2009			Previous 5-Yr Avg. (2004-08)		
	Mileage	Chicks/Ad	Birds/10mi	Mileage	Chicks/Ad	Birds/10mi
Baker	0			64	5.7	3.4
Wallowa	193		0	193	4.8	1.1
Union	0			96	1.9	2.5
Umatilla	224	6.7	1.8	234	5.2	0.5
Heppner	166	2.8	4.8	163	4.8	5.4
Grant	0	5.5		141	5.5	0.9
Northeast Total	583	3.8	2.0	891	4.5	2.1
Mid-Col	391	0.0	0.1	391	1.3	0.2
Deschutes	0			0		
Ochoco	100		0	100	0.0	0.1
Klamath	0			0		
Lake	0			0		
Harney	0			0		
Malheur	0			75		0.2
High Desert Total	491	0.0	0.1	566	1.0	0.2
Statewide	1074	3.5	1.1	1457	4.1	1.3

California (valley) Quail Production Inventory						
District/field office	2009			Previous 5-Yr Avg. (2004-08)		
	Mileage	Chicks/Ad	Birds/10mi	Mileage	Chicks/Ad	Birds/10mi
Baker	100.3	3.7	1.7	134	2.7	12.3
Wallowa	363	3.1	7.1	363	2.2	5.2
Union	0			83	2.2	22.2
Grant	156	2.9	19.6	185	3.4	31.3
Umatilla	224.4	2.5	5.0	225	2.0	14.4
Heppner	166	2.1	8.1	165	2.6	17.9
Northeast Total	1009.7	2.7	8.2	1154	2.6	15.0
Mid-Col	391	1.8	15.3	391	2.4	25.0
Deschutes	0			0		
Ochoco	222	1.9	8.1	222	1.7	22.8
Klamath	0			0	5.6	
Lake	0			302	3.1	7.2
Harney	93	4.2	20.1	93	2.5	23.7
Ontario	344	1.5	34.6	352	1.5	37.4
High Desert Total	1050	1.8	20.5	1360	1.9	23.8
E. Oregon Total	2059.7	2.1	14.5	2514	2.2	19.8
W. Oregon Total	95	1.8	0.0	188	1.7	0.8
Statewide	2154.7	2.1	13.8	2703	2.2	18.4

Mourning Dove Inventory					
District/field office	2009			Previous 5-Yr Avg. (2004-08)	
	Mileage	Birds	Birds/10mi	Mileage	Birds/10mi
Baker	0			120	12.5
Wallowa	0			363	2.5
Union	0			58	12.4
Grant	178	176	9.9	222	10.9
Umatilla	224.4	600	26.7	135	27.3
Heppner	166	448	27.0	166	23.5
Northeast Total	568.4	1224	21.5	1064	11.7
Mid-Col	391	598	15.3	391	15.3
Deschutes	0			0	
Ochoco	222	293	13.2	222	13.1
Klamath	0			0	
Lake	0			353	1.3
Harney	266	171	6.4	106	3.5
Ontario	458	1255	27.4	600	20.9
High Desert Total	1337	2317	17.3	1672	13.3
E. Oregon Total	1905.4	3541	18.6	2712	12.7
W. Oregon Total	0	0		114	0.3
Statewide	1905.4	3541	18.6	2827	12.2

Ruffed Grouse Production Inventory						
District/field office	2009			Previous 5-Yr Avg. (2004-08)		
	Mileage	Chicks/Ad	Birds/10mi	Mileage	Chicks/Ad	Birds/10mi
Baker	0			0		
Wallowa	253	3.7	0.6	253	2.7	0.5
Union	0			0	0.3	
Umatilla	0			0		
Heppner	98	2.0	0.3	0	3.0	
Grant	117	1.8	1.0	64	1.7	2.6
Northeast Total	468	2.5	0.6	317	1.9	0.9
Mid-Col	0			0		
Deschutes	0			0		
Ochoco	0			0		
Klamath	0			0		
Lake	0			0		
Harney	0			0		
Ontario	0			0		
High Desert Total	0			0		
E. Oregon Total	468	2.5	0.6	317	1.6	0.9
W. Oregon Total	95	3.6	0.4	564	2.5	0.3
Statewide	563	3.5	0.6	882	2.3	0.5

Blue Grouse Production Inventory						
District/field office	2009			Previous 5-Yr Avg. (2004-08)		
	Mileage	Chicks/Ad	Birds/10mi	Mileage	Chicks/Ad	Birds/10mi
Baker	0			0		
Wallowa	253	1.5	7.6	253	1.0	6.0
Union	0			0		
Grant	79	0.0	0.3	40	1.0	4.8
Umatilla	0			0		
Heppner	98	0	0.0	23	5.0	0.0
Northeast Total	430	1.5	4.5	316	1.0	5.4
Mid-Col	0			0		
Deschutes	0			0		
Ochoco	0			0		
Klamath	0			0		
Lake	0			0		
Harney	0			0		
Ontario	0			0		
High Desert Total	0			0		
E. Oregon Total	430	1.5	4.5	316	1.0	5.4
W. Oregon Total	95	2.6	0.0	564	2.4	0.1
Statewide	525	1.8	3.7	880	1.3	2.0