



2010 Oregon Upland Game Bird Production Inventories

Following are the statewide results of the upland game bird production inventories collected by ODFW biologists during the summer of 2010. 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.

Upland game bird populations can vary greatly from year to year. Generally, hunting has very little to do with the annual population fluctuation of upland game birds and weather conditions have everything to do with it. The cooler and wetter than average weather we experienced during spring and early summer 2010 extended through the early brood-rearing period which likely hurt initial reproduction.

However, these same weather conditions resulted in very good habitat conditions across much of the state with improved cover and forage. Surviving broods and a strong re-nesting attempt will compensate for the wet spring. The taller vegetation and delayed harvests also made it more difficult to observe upland birds which may have resulted in an underestimation of abundance.

2010 Statewide Upland Game Bird Indices for Oregon

Species	Year	Production Index (chicks/adult*)	Abundance Index (birds/10miles)
Gray Partridge	2010	3.8	1.7
	2009	3.9	1.2
	Previous 5yr average	3.9	1.0
Chukar	2010	2.3	13.5
	2009	2.7	15.1
	Previous 5yr average	2.2	23.4
California Quail	2010	2.2	16.2
	2009	2.2	14.2
	Previous 5yr average	2.1	18.4
Mountain Quail	2010	2.9	0.9
	2009	4.5	0.9
	Previous 5yr average	3.2	1.2
Pheasant	2010	3.4	3.7
	2009	3.7	4.3
	Previous 5yr average	3.6	4.6
Ruffed Grouse	2010	1.9	0.4
	2009	3.4	0.6
	Previous 5yr average	2.6	0.6
Blue Grouse	2010	0.7	5.0
	2009	1.8	3.7
	Previous 5yr average	1.4	2.1
Turkey	2010	1.3	2.0
	2009	2.9	3.2
	Previous 5yr average	2.2	4.6
Mourning Dove	2010	na	9.5
	2009	na	17.6
	Previous 5yr average	na	13.0

* per hen for pheasants and turkeys