



## 2011 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 2011. 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. Like last year, the cooler and wetter than average weather we experienced during spring and early summer 2011 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 crop harvests also made it more difficult to observe upland birds which may have resulted in an underestimation of abundance.

### 2011 Statewide Upland Game Bird Indices for Oregon.

Species	Year	Production Index (chicks/ad*)	Abundance Index (birds/10mi)
Gray Partridge	2011	4.7	2.6
	2010	3.8	1.7
	5yr Avg (2006-10)	3.4	0.9
Chukar	2011	2.8	15.9
	2010	2.3	13.5
	5yr Avg	1.8	17.4
California Quail	2011	2.4	19.2
	2010	2.2	16.2
	5yr Avg	1.9	16.4
Mountain Quail	2011	3.9	0.6
	2010	2.9	0.9
	5yr Avg	3.6	1.1
Pheasant	2011	3.5	2.3
	2010	3.4	3.7
	5yr Avg	3.2	3.6
Ruffed Grouse	2011	3.1	0.4
	2010	1.9	0.4
	5yr Avg	2.5	0.5
Blue Grouse	2011	0.6	3.4
	2010	0.7	5.0
	5yr Avg	1.2	2.5
Turkey	2011	1.7	3.3
	2010	1.3	2
	5yr Avg	2.2	3.8
Mourning Dove	2011	na	11.4
	2010	na	9.5
	5yr Avg	na	12.6

\* per hen for pheasants and turkeys