



2013 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 2013. 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 little influence over the annual population fluctuation of upland game birds and weather conditions have everything to do with it. From late winter through spring of 2013, extremely dry weather persisted across much of SE Oregon which was poor for habitat. However, in western Oregon, where water is not a limiting factor, the drier weather was likely a benefit for upland production.

Some areas of the state saw upland game bird populations increase and other areas saw decreases. Continued improvements in forest grouse and mt. quail were observed in western Oregon, and pheasants appear up in the mid-Columbia Basin, despite statewide decreases. Overall chukar indices were down from last year, particularly for Malheur Co. and NE Oregon, but other areas saw slight increases, e.g. Harney Co. and the middle part of the Columbia Basin. Overall, most populations saw decreases as compared to last year.

2013 Statewide Upland Game Bird Indices for Oregon.

Species	Year	Production Index (chicks/ad*)	Abundance Index (birds/10mi)
Gray Partridge	2013	0.8	0.5
	2012	2.8	1.3
	5yr Avg (2008-12)	3.9	1.4
Chukar	2013	1.5	11.1
	2012	1.2	13.8
	5yr Avg	2.2	13.3
California Quail	2013	1.5	11.5
	2012	1.5	19.0
	5yr Avg	2.0	16.0
Mountain Quail	2013	3.9	1.1
	2012	4.8	1.2
	5yr Avg	3.7	0.9
Pheasant	2013	2.3	3.1
	2012	1.9	4.7
	5yr Avg	3.0	3.5
Ruffed Grouse	2013	3.4	0.8
	2012	2.0	0.8
	5yr Avg	2.6	0.6
Blue Grouse	2013	2.3	1.9
	2012	1.1	3.2
	5yr Avg	1.2	3.3
Turkey	2013	2.1	4.6
	2012	1.6	2.5
	5yr Avg	2.0	2.7
Mourning Dove	2013	na	8.9
	2011	na	13.5
	5yr Avg	na	12.3

* per hen for pheasants and turkeys