



## 2014 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 2014. 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. Though improved over 2013, dry conditions persisted across much of Eastern Oregon resulting in just fair habitat conditions. In western Oregon, where water is not a limiting factor, the drier weather was likely a benefit for upland game bird production.

Abundant indices for all species of upland game birds are up over last year with the exception of pheasants and mt. quail. Pheasant production appeared to be above average at 4 chicks/hen, but abundance indices suggest the pheasant population continues to decline. **Most of Oregon's pheasant harvest occurs in the Columbia Basin and northern Malheur County.** In southeast and south-central Oregon drought conditions persisted but areas did see more precipitation during the critical January through April time period than last year and bird populations, especially chukars, seemed to respond. **Continued improvements in forest grouse populations were observed in western Oregon.**

### 2014 Statewide Upland Game Bird Indices for Oregon.

Species	Year	Production Index (chicks/ad*)	Abundance Index (birds/10mi)
Gray Partridge	2014	2.8	0.8
	2013	0.8	0.5
	5yr Avg (2009-13)	3.4	1.4
Chukar	2014	3.0	17.1
	2013	1.5	11.1
	5yr Avg	2.0	13.9
California Quail	2014	2.3	14.5
	2013	1.5	11.5
	5yr Avg	1.9	15.9
Mountain Quail	2014	2.3	1.0
	2013	3.9	1.1
	5yr Avg	3.8	0.9
Pheasant	2014	4.0	2.3
	2013	2.3	3.1
	5yr Avg	2.8	3.6
Ruffed Grouse	2014	3.4	1.7
	2013	3.4	0.8
	5yr Avg	2.8	0.6
Blue Grouse	2014	1.8	2.2
	2013	2.3	1.9
	5yr Avg	1.2	3.1
Turkey	2014	2.7	4.9
	2013	2.1	4.6
	5yr Avg	2.1	3.2
Mourning Dove	2014	na	11.8
	2013	na	8.9
	5yr Avg	na	14.5

\* per hen for pheasants and turkeys