



2015 Oregon Upland Game Bird Production Inventories

Hunters in most areas should see a noticeable increase in upland game birds over 2014. Following are the statewide results of the upland game bird production inventories collected by ODFW biologists during the summer of 2015. When considered collectively,

these indices are generally a good predictor of fall populations and harvest for some of the popularly hunted species such as pheasant, California quail, and chukars. These indices don't work as well for some of the forest species such as mountain quail and ruffed grouse.

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 dry conditions persisted across much of Oregon resulting in fair habitat conditions, significant rainfall did occur in many areas of eastern Oregon during mid-May which may have helped. In western Oregon, where water is not a limiting factor, the drier weather was likely a benefit for upland game bird production.

The Abundance Indices (birds/10 mi) are up for most upland game birds compared to last year. And even for those species where the numbers are not up (e.g. mt. quail) biologists believe production was better than indicated by the surveys. Most of Oregon's pheasant harvest occurs in the Columbia Basin and northern Malheur County. California quail numbers increased statewide and most chukar areas also saw increases except Malheur County and lower Deschutes. Continued improvements in forest grouse and mountain quail populations were observed in western Oregon.

2015 Statewide Upland Game Bird Indices for Oregon.

Species	Year	Production Index (chicks/ad*)	Abundance Index (birds/10mi)
Gray Partridge	2015	1.9	0.7
	2014	2.8	0.8
	5yr Avg (2010-14)	2.9	1.4
Chukar	2015	3.1	23.7
	2014	3.0	17.1
	5yr Avg	1.8	14.8
California Quail	2015	1.8	21.8
	2014	2.3	14.5
	5yr Avg	1.6	20.8
Mountain Quail	2015	5.0	0.8
	2014	2.3	1.0
	5yr Avg	3.0	1.0
Pheasant	2015	2.7	4.5
	2014	4.0	2.3
	5yr Avg	2.1	4.0
Ruffed Grouse	2015	1.3	1.3
	2014	3.4	1.7
	5yr Avg	1.8	0.5
Blue Grouse	2015	1.1	2.4
	2014	1.8	2.2
	5yr Avg	0.9	2.8
Turkey	2015	1.4	4.1
	2014	2.7	4.9
	5yr Avg	1.2	3.1
Mourning Dove	2015	na	14.3
	2014	na	11.8
	5yr Avg	na	12.0

* per hen for pheasants and turkeys