



2016 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 2016. 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 are not as useful for predicting fall harvest for forest species such as mountain quail and ruffed grouse, because few of these species are detected during the summer surveys.

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. Despite lingering drought conditions, fall and winter precipitation was near normal resulting in better habitat conditions. Some areas received late season snow or rain near the peak of hatch which caused some chick mortality.

The Abundance Indices (birds/10 mi) for many of the most pursued species are above average. Chukars experienced the largest increase over last year and represented the best count since 2006. Statewide pheasant numbers were down, but most of this decline was because of low counts in Malheur County. Pheasants in the Columbia Basin held their own or increased slightly. Most of Oregon's pheasant harvest occurs in the Columbia Basin and northern Malheur County. California quail and ruffed grouse numbers remain above average statewide. Blue grouse populations remain below average. Though difficult to survey, forest grouse and mountain quail numbers appear to be down in western Oregon.

Species	Index	2016	2015	5yr Avg	10yr Avg	%change from 2015	%change from 5yr Avg	%change from 10yr Avg
Gray Partridge	birds/10mi	0.9	0.7	1.2	1.1	28.6%	-25.0%	-18.2%
	chicks/Ad	1.9	1.9	2.6	3.4			
Chukar	birds/10mi	32.4	23.7	16.7	17.1	36.7%	94.0%	89.5%
	chicks/Ad	2.7	3.1	2.4	2.2			
California Quail	birds/10mi	18.2	21.0	17.4	16.8	-13.3%	4.6%	8.3%
	chicks/Ad	2.1	1.8	1.6	2.0			
Mountain Quail	birds/10mi	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.0%	-20.0%	-20.0%
	chicks/Ad	4.7	5.0	4.1	3.9			
Pheasant	birds/10mi	3.4	4.5	3.4	3.5	-24.4%	0.0%	-2.9%
	chicks/Ad	3.0	2.7	2.8	3.0			
Ruffed Grouse	birds/10mi	1.2	1.3	1.2	0.9	-7.7%	0.0%	33.3%
	chicks/Ad	2.6	1.4	2.5	2.4			
Blue Grouse	birds/10mi	1.3	2.4	2.4	2.6	-45.8%	-45.8%	-50.0%
	chicks/Ad	1.7	1.1	1.8	1.6			
Turkey	birds/10mi	3.5	4.1	4.0	4.1	-14.6%	-12.5%	-14.6%
	chicks/Ad	1.7	1.4	2.0	2.0			
Mourning Dove	birds/10mi	13.4	14.2	12.1	12.3	-5.6%	10.7%	8.9%