



2017 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 2017. 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 reliable for 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. Last year's winter weather which included deep persistent snow cover caused high mortality in some areas reducing the breeding populations. Some areas received late season snow or rain near the peak of hatch which also caused some chick mortality, but overall the proportion of young in the population for most species was above average due to good habitat conditions.

Chukar abundance saw sharp declines in some areas such as northern Harney and Malheur counties and into NE Oregon. Chukars appeared to do better in the southern parts of Harney and Malheur counties and held their own or increased in the Columbia Basin. Statewide pheasant numbers were similar to last year and showed some improvement in Malheur County. Most of Oregon's pheasant harvest occurs in the Columbia Basin and northern Malheur County. Blue grouse populations remain below average but will be similar to last year. Though difficult to survey, forest grouse and mountain quail numbers appear to have improved in western Oregon.

2017 Statewide Upland Game Bird Indices for Oregon.

Species	Year	Production Index (chicks/ad*)	Abundance Index (birds/10mi)
Gray Partridge	2017	3.4	0.5
	2016	1.9	0.9
	5yr Avg (2012-16)	2.1	0.9
Chukar	2017	3.6	12.0
	2016	2.7	32.4
	5yr Avg	2.3	20.0
California Quail	2017	2.0	11.3
	2016	2.1	18.2
	5yr Avg	1.9	17.1
Mountain Quail	2017	3.6	0.9
	2016	4.7	0.8
	5yr Avg	4.3	1.0
Pheasant	2017	3.4	3.2
	2016	3.0	3.4
	5yr Avg	2.7	3.6
Ruffed Grouse	2017	2.4	0.7
	2016	2.6	1.2
	5yr Avg	2.4	1.3
Blue Grouse	2017	2.0	1.3
	2016	1.7	1.3
	5yr Avg	2.0	2.0
Turkey	2017	3.4	2.7
	2016	1.7	3.5
	5yr Avg	2.0	4.0
Mourning Dove	2017	na	12.0
	2016	na	13.4
	5yr Avg	na	12.5

* per hen for pheasants and turkeys