



2012 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 2012. 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 very little to do with the annual population fluctuation of upland game birds and weather conditions have everything to do with it. Weather across the state was variable with some areas very wet during June (early brood-rearing) and others exceptionally dry.

In general, upland game bird populations are expected to be similar to, or better than last year, with near average numbers. Improvements in forest grouse and mt. quail were observed in western Oregon, and pheasants are up in E. Oregon. Overall chukar indices were down slightly from last year, but primary areas (such as Malheur Co.) had bird numbers similar to 2011.

2012 Statewide Upland Game Bird Indices for Oregon.

Species	Year	Production Index (chicks/ad*)	Abundance Index (birds/10mi)
Gray Partridge	2012	2.8	1.3
	2011	4.7	2.6
	5yr Avg (2007-11)	4.1	1.5
Chukar	2012	1.2	13.8
	2011	2.8	15.9
	5yr Avg	2.2	13.5
California Quail	2012	1.5	19.0
	2011	2.4	19.2
	5yr Avg	2.0	15.7
Mountain Quail	2012	4.8	1.2
	2011	3.9	0.6
	5yr Avg	3.6	0.9
Pheasant	2012	1.9	4.7
	2011	3.5	2.3
	5yr Avg	3.4	3.4
Ruffed Grouse	2012	2.0	0.8
	2011	3.1	0.4
	5yr Avg	2.6	0.5
Blue Grouse	2012	1.1	3.2
	2011	0.6	3.4
	5yr Avg	1.1	2.9
Turkey	2012	1.6	2.5
	2011	1.7	3.3
	5yr Avg	2.1	3.2
Mourning Dove	2012	na	13.5
	2011	na	11.4
	5yr Avg	na	11.9

* per hen for pheasants and turkeys