



2022 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 2022. 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 chukar. These indices are not as reliable for forest species such as mountain quail, ruffed grouse, and blue 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 whereas weather and habitat conditions drive population trends. The winter of 2021-22 was mild and did not have an impact on upland game bird populations, but heavy spring precipitation and cold temperatures likely impacted early nesting success and brood survival. Oregon's long-term drought continued, despite the spring rains, and there were bouts of extreme summer heat.

Chukar continue to be a bright spot in the numbers, with a strong showing across their range. Pheasant numbers were down but production was better than predicted. Difficult to survey, forest grouse and mountain quail may be benefitting from some post-fire habitat in the Cascades. California quail turnout was below average, after a very strong showing last year.

2022 Statewide Upland Game Bird Indices for Oregon

Species	Year	Production Index (chicks/ad*)	Abundance Index (birds/10mi)
Gray Partridge	2022	2.3	0.5
	2021	4.1	0.7
	5yr Avg	3.8	0.7
Chukar	2022	3.4	23.0
	2021	2.2	21.6
	5yr Avg	2.9	20.3
California Quail	2022	1.9	11.7
	2021	1.6	15.7
	5yr Avg	2.1	14.4
Mountain Quail	2022	4.0	1.1
	2021	3.2	1.0
	5yr Avg	3.3	0.8
Pheasant	2022	3.7	1.3
	2021	2.9	2.7
	5yr Avg	3.5	3.7
Ruffed Grouse	2022	2.6	1.0
	2021	1.9	0.5
	5yr Avg	2.7	0.4
Blue Grouse	2022	1.1	0.9
	2021	1.4	0.7
	5yr Avg	2.1	0.9
Turkey	2022	2.1	2.6
	2021	1.7	4.0
	5yr Avg	2.4	3.1
Mourning Dove	2022	na	12.3
	2021	na	13.0
	5yr Avg	na	14.2