



## 2019 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 2019. 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. A major snow event brought the state out of drought conditions in late March. Spring conditions were cool and wet, bringing widespread flooding in certain drainages. Despite questionable hatching conditions, production was up in most species, though abundance was down, indicating some overwinter mortality. Habitat conditions on the ground are phenomenal, thanks to regular precipitation, and a minimal wildfire season.

Chukar abundance was up in Harney and Malheur counties, but down in the Columbia Basin. Pheasant numbers were down after an excellent year in 2018, though production was improved. Difficult to survey, forest grouse appear to be down, though early hunt reports show promise in both eastern and western Oregon. Mountain quail numbers were strong, particularly in the Rogue District. California quail production was excellent this year with large broods sighted in Klamath, Lake, Harney, and Malheur counties.

### 2019 Statewide Upland Game Bird Indices for Oregon.

Species	Year	Production Index (chicks/ad*)	Abundance Index (birds/10mi)
Gray Partridge	2019	4.7	0.4
	2018	2.5	1.8
	5yr Avg (2014-18)	2.5	0.9
Chukar	2019	3.2	15.6
	2018	2.6	24.8
	5yr Avg	3.1	22.0
California Quail	2019	2.5	11.6
	2018	1.9	16.2
	5yr Avg	2.0	16.2
Mountain Quail	2019	3.7	0.8
	2018	2.0	0.4
	5yr Avg	3.5	0.8
Pheasant	2019	3.6	2.0
	2018	2.4	7.2
	5yr Avg	3.1	4.1
Ruffed Grouse	2019	4.0	0.1
	2018	2.5	0.6
	5yr Avg	2.5	1.1
Blue Grouse	2019	1.7	1.0
	2018	0.9	1.1
	5yr Avg	1.5	1.6
Turkey	2019	1.9	1.6
	2018	2.3	4.3
	5yr Avg	2.3	3.9
Mourning Dove	2019	na	13.8
	2018	na	13.3
	5yr Avg	na	12.9

\* per hen for pheasants and turkeys