



2021 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 2021. 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 2020-21 was mild and likely did not have an impact on upland game bird populations. Lack of precipitation continued throughout the summer, coupled with bouts of extreme heat statewide. In general, production effort was down, but upland birds were less impacted by the drought than expected.

Chukar continue a strong showing through much of their northern and central range but are down in the southeast. Pheasant numbers were down but better than expected in the Columbia and Mid-Columbia Basins. Difficult to survey, forest grouse are likely down in eastern Oregon and early reports indicate good populations in the Coast and Cascade ranges. Mountain quail numbers appear to be on average in southwestern Oregon. California quail production was below average, but over populations are strong.

2021 Statewide Upland Game Bird Indices for Oregon.

Species	Year	Production Index (chicks/ad*)	Abundance Index (birds/10mi)
Gray Partridge	2021	4.1	0.7
	2020	5.0	0.4
	5yr Avg (2015-19)	3.4	0.8
Chukar	2021	2.2	21.6
	2020	2.9	27.6
	5yr Avg	3.0	22.5
California Quail	2021	1.6	15.7
	2020	2.3	16.4
	5yr Avg	2.2	15.0
Mountain Quail	2021	3.2	1.0
	2020	3.9	1.0
	5yr Avg	3.6	0.8
Pheasant	2021	2.9	2.7
	2020	4.3	3.4
	5yr Avg	3.6	3.9
Ruffed Grouse	2021	1.9	0.5
	2020	2.5	0.2
	5yr Avg	2.8	0.6
Blue Grouse	2021	1.4	0.7
	2020	3.1	0.4
	5yr Avg	2.0	1.0
Turkey	2021	1.7	4.0
	2019	2.1	3.2
	5yr Avg	2.4	3.0
Mourning Dove	2021	na	13.0
	2020	na	17.6
	5yr Avg	na	14.3

* per hen for pheasants and turkeys