



## 2024 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 2024. 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 fluctuations of upland game birds whereas weather and habitat conditions drive population trends. The winter of 2024-24 was mild with plenty of precipitation. Excellent carryover from the previous year means a strong nesting effort in most places. Biologist observations indicate this will be an above average season for most upland game bird species.

Chukar are having one of their best years in southeast Oregon, but did not achieve gains further north. Pheasant are coming off an better than expected year last year, so there should be healthy flocks in the remaining pheasant range. Difficult to survey, mountain quail seem to be steady. Early reports indicate a decline in forest grouse populations in western Oregon, but a strong showing in the Blue Mountains. California quail numbers will be excellent in southeast Oregon.

### 2024 Statewide Upland Game Bird Indices for Oregon

Species	Year	Production Index (chicks/ad*)	Abundance Index (birds/10mi)
Gray Partridge	2024	2.9	2.0
	2023	1.6	2.2
	5yr Avg	3.5	0.9
Chukar	2024	2.7	55.2
	2023	2.4	40.2
	5yr Avg	2.8	25.6
California Quail	2024	2.2	13.1
	2023	1.9	15.7
	5yr Avg	2.0	14.2
Mountain Quail	2024	6.1	0.1
	2023	3.8	1.3
	5yr Avg	3.7	1.0
Pheasant	2024	4.0	4.4
	2023	3.8	3.6
	5yr Avg	3.7	2.6
Ruffed Grouse	2024	*	*
	2023	0.3	0.2
	5yr Avg	2.3	0.4
Blue Grouse	2024	*	*
	2023	2.0	0.2
	5yr Avg	2.0	0.6
Turkey	2024	1.5	3.7
	2023	1.1	1.8
	5yr Avg	1.8	2.7
Mourning Dove	2024	na	19.3
	2023	na	14.1
	5yr Avg	na	14.1