



2025 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 2025. 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 and spring of 2025-26 was generally wetter than average due to a weak La Niña event. Unfortunately, spring nesting conditions appear to have been less than optimal, but there will be good carryover from the previous year of high production. Biologist observations indicate this will still be a good season for hunting upland game birds, but they will not be as abundant as last year.

Chukar are down from last year's peak, but the decline is less pronounced in the Baker and Malheur districts. Pheasant are also down in both production and abundance. Best bets for pheasant will be the Umatilla, Heppner and Malheur districts. California quail abundance is up, driven by gains in the Malheur District and long-term increases in the Harney District, though overall production is down. While hard to detect, mountain quail abundance does appear to be in the rise, driven by gains in the southwest districts. Poor detection of forest grouse in the survey makes this an unreliable predictor of fall populations.

2025 Statewide Upland Game Bird Indices for Oregon

Species	Year	Production Index (chicks/ad*)	Abundance Index (birds/10mi)
Gray Partridge	2025	1.4	1.0
	2024	2.9	2.0
	5yr Avg	3.2	1.2
Chukar	2025	0.9	40.6
	2024	2.7	55.2
	5yr Avg	2.7	33.5
California Quail	2025	1.3	12.9
	2024	2.2	10.7
	5yr Avg	2.1	14.0
Mountain Quail*	2025	2.9	2.2
	2024	4.5	1.8
	5yr Avg	3.9	1.2
Pheasant	2025	2.3	3.5
	2024	4.0	4.4
	5yr Avg	3.8	3.1
Ruffed Grouse*	2025	4.5	0.2
	2024	0.0	0.8
	5yr Avg	1.5	0.5
Blue Grouse*	2025	3.4	1.5
	2024	2.0	0.2
	5yr Avg	2.0	1.2
Wild Turkey*	2025	1.5	1.6
	2024	1.5	3.7
	5yr Avg	1.7	3.1
Mourning Dove	2025	na	18.1
	2024	na	19.3
	5yr Avg	na	15.3

*Low sample size