

Pheasant and Grey Partridge Hunting Forecast for Southern Alberta– Late Summer 2017

Website Summary

Our late summer surveys indicate average numbers of pheasants and below average for grey partridge. Dogs and handlers walked approximately 46 km in some of the best habitat the South has to offer. Our surveys include large coulee systems that harbour a mix of native and tame grasses, fruit bearing shrubs, creek, and cattail sections, which are often bordered by crop land. The flush rate for pheasants is down from last year and very similar to the results we saw in 2015. The flush rate for partridge has increased from last year's numbers but well below the norm for flushes per hour walked. Overall we flushed 163 pheasants and 214 partridge in just 22 hrs. The dogs were busy with 2.23 pheasant flushes and 1 partridge flush per hour (single or covey). Averaged over the entire sample period this equates to roughly 3.18 flushes of either partridge or pheasant per hour. That's a flush every 18 minutes. Looked at from a different angle, we flushed 3.54 pheasants and 4.65 partridge for each km walked. So buy your licenses, grab your shotguns, and get ready as this year promises to be a good year for upland gamebird hunting in Southern Alberta.

A big thankyou goes out to all the volunteers, and ACA staff that helped pull this year's survey together!

Survey results	Ring-necked pheasant						Grey partridge					
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Distance Surveyed (km)	53.6	60	30	46	47	46	53.6	60	30	46	47	46
Total count	111	215	73	155	263	163	354	420	397	292	159	214
Flushes/hour	1.37	2.59	1.96	2.44	3.32	2.23	1.37	1.59	3.53	2.15	0.83	0.96
Birds/km walked	2.07	3.58	2.43	3.37	5.60	3.54	6.6	7	13.2	6.35	3.38	4.65