

Ring-necked Pheasant and Grey Partridge Hunting Forecast for Southern Alberta– Late Summer 2018

Website Summary

Our late summer upland surveys indicate below average counts for ring-necked pheasant and grey partridge in 2018. We worked with volunteers and trained dogs to search in some of the best habitat the South has to offer. The survey sites include large coulee systems that harbour a mix of native and tame grasses, fruit bearing shrubs, creek, and cattail sections, often bordered by crop land. The flush rate for pheasants is down from last year and similar to the lows we saw in 2012. The flush rate for partridge is also down and the lowest we've observed since initiating these surveys in 2012. Overall, we flushed 129 pheasants and 151 partridge while covering 67 km over 29 hours of effort. The dogs had 1.5 pheasant and 0.8 partridge flushes per hour (single or covey). Averaged over the entire sample period this equates to roughly 2.3 flushes of either partridge or pheasant per hour. There are still birds out there but the effort between flushes was greater than normal. If you're willing to put in the distance we flushed 1.93 pheasants and 2.25 partridge for each km walked.

In many locations this past winter was the worst seen in over 30 years. After a severe winter and late wet spring its no surprise that counts are lower than previous years. With some hard work and dedication wild birds can still be found. You also have the opportunity to focus efforts on pheasant release sites distributed from Peace River to Medicine Hat. Visit the ACA web site to plan your hunts at over 40 sites. So, buy your licenses, and start making plans your fall hunts.

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

Survey Results	Ring-necked Pheasant							Survey Results	Grey Partridge						
<u>Survey year</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Survey year</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Distance Surveyed (km)	53.6	60	30	46	47	46	67	Distance Surveyed (km)	53.6	60	30	46	47	46	67
Total count	111	215	73	155	263	163	129	Total count	354	420	397	292	159	214	151
Flushes/hour	1.37	2.59	1.96	2.44	3.32	2.23	1.54	Flushes/hour	1.37	1.59	3.53	2.15	0.83	0.96	0.82
Birds/km walked	2.07	3.58	2.43	3.37	5.60	3.54	1.93	Birds/km walked	6.6	7	13.2	6.35	3.38	4.65	2.25