

Alberta Conservation Association's

Ring-necked Pheasant and Grey Partridge Hunting Forecast for

Alberta– Fall 2020

The survey methods have changed this year. We have reached out to the hunting dog community and asked for their assistance with gathering data. This has expanded the area of coverage as well as the time/kilometers surveyed, which will provide us with a broader perspective of what the hunting season should look like in Alberta. However, this change makes it difficult to compare this year's results with previous years. Volunteers were encouraged to survey areas throughout the entire province, meaning some surveys took place in areas with no pheasant populations. For this reason, we have spoke with the volunteers and adjusted the time/kilometers surveyed to correlate with the surveys that took place in pheasant habitat.

Our late summer upland surveys indicate rebounding counts for both ring-necked pheasants and grey partridge in 2020. Overall, we flushed 66 pheasants while covering 46 km over 18 hours of effort and 222 partridge while covering 90.67 km over 37.6 hours of effort. The dogs had 1.28 pheasant and 0.64 partridge flushes per hour (single or covey). Over the entire sample period, this equates to roughly 1.25 flushes of either partridge or pheasant per hour. If you are willing to put in the distance, 1.43 pheasants and 2.45 partridge were flushed for each kilometre walked.

Survey Results	Ring-necked Pheasant								
Survey year	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Distance Surveyed (km)	53.6	60	30	46	47	46	67	40.6	46
Total count	111	215	73	155	263	163	129	52	66
Flushes/hour	1.37	2.59	1.96	2.44	3.32	2.23	1.54	1.21	1.28
Birds/km walked	2.07	3.58	2.43	3.37	5.60	3.54	1.93	1.28	1.43

Figure 1: The red line between 2019 & 2020 is an indication of the new survey method.

Survey Results	Grey Partridge								
Survey year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Distance Surveyed (km)	53.6	60	30	46	47	46	67	40.6	90.67
Total count	354	420	397	292	159	214	151	56	222
Flushes/hour	1.37	1.59	3.53	2.15	0.83	0.96	0.82	0.42	0.64
Birds/km walked	6.6	7	13.2	6.35	3.38	4.65	2.25	1.38	2.45

Figure 2: The red line between 2019 & 2020 is an indication of the new survey method.

