2019-2020

Nevada Chukar Forecast

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) conducted a series of chukar brood surveys across northern Nevada during August of 2019. This is the first year that NDOW biologists have performed ground count observations. Observations were previously conducted by air survey. These surveys provide upland game hunters with information on chukar productivity in various areas.

Overall, the 2019 surveys produced mixed results. Factors that contribute to chukar population numbers include: water availability, overall habitat conditions and insect availability. A total of 20 areas were surveyed; however, there were not enough birds observed in some of these locations to adequately estimate production.

Chukar Brood Survey Result Summary for 2019

County	Hunt Unit	Mountain Range	Total Birds	Young per Adult
Humboldt	032	Pine Forest	60	5.3
Humboldt	034	Black Rock	227	5.8
Pershing	041	Lava Beds	71	1.7
Pershing	041	Seven Troughs	108	3.5
Pershing	041	Kamma	51	3.6
Pershing	041*	Trinity	48*	3.0*
Pershing	042	Majuba	61	5.1
Pershing	042	Eugene	217	5.4
Pershing	043*	Humboldt*	37*	4.3*
Pershing	044*	East*	45*	8.0*
Pershing	045	Tobin	90	2.2
Pershing	046*	Sonoma*	21*	1.3*
Humboldt	051*	Santa Rosa*	0*	0.0*
Churchill	183-184	Clan Alpine	178	9.5
Mineral	202-205	Wassuk	116	5.8
Lyon	203-291	Singatse/Pine Nut	64	7.0
Elko	061-071*	Bruneau*	30*	14.0*
Lander	152*	Shoshone*	42*	5.0*
Lander	153*	Fish Creek*	19*	8.5*
Eureka	141*	Cortez*	34*	1.1*

*indicates sample size is too small to estimate production.

6.0 chicks (young) per adult are considered fair to good and 8.0 chicks (young) per adult are considered very good to exceptional. A sample size exceeding 100 total birds is a good estimate of production. Bird totals within the 50-100 realm should be viewed with caution.

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What to Expect for Chukar Hunting this Fall by County

Churchill County

Chukar numbers and productivity continue to be good in several mountain ranges in this county. Overall, productivity exceeded 9.0, so ranges such as the Clan Alpine and Stillwater Ranges should be worth investigating this year.

Elko County

It appears that winter mortality during 2019 reduced the population of chukars in Elko County. That being said, there may still be some areas in the southwestern portion of the county worth exploring. Hungarian partridge numbers appear to be up in this and other portions of the county.

Humboldt County

Overall numbers of birds in Humboldt County appear to be down this year. This is largely due to a very poor survey in the Santa Rosa Range (zero birds observed) and fewer birds observed in the Pine Forest Range. Moderate to good numbers of birds were observed in the Black Rock Range with fair to good production. Aerial bighorn surveys conducted in the Jackson Mountains indicated moderate numbers of birds.

Lander County

Sample sizes were small across the surveyed transects, but production appeared to be relatively good within the Fish Creek Range and moderate in the Shoshone Range. Hunting in Lander County is expected to be fair this season.

Lyon County

For those upland game hunters wanting to stick closer to the Reno, Carson and Gardnerville area, Lyon County should offer some improved opportunity compared to past seasons, especially around the East Fork of the Walker River and the Singatse Range near Yerington.

Mineral County

Mountain ranges within this county often get overlooked by chukar hunters, but bird numbers and productivity of 5.8 chicks per adult suggest that portions of the Wassuk and Gabbs Valley Range might be worth a look this season.

Pershing County

This area of the state appears to be a tale of three cities. Surveys conducted in the western portion of the county did not find much in the way of bird numbers, and thus, production. The situation improved in the central portion of the county with production averaging around 5.0 chicks per adult and should offer good hunting. Production tapered off in the eastern portion of the county with the exception of the East Range where productivity was estimated at 8.0 chicks per adult; however, this sample size (n=45) was less than adequate to truly obtain a reliable estimate.

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