2025
IOWA AUGUST ROADSIDE SURVEY

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2025 IOWA UPLAND WILDLIFE POPULATIONS

This report is a summary of the 2025 Iowa August roadside survey. Iowa DNR Enforcement and Wildlife Bureau personnel throughout the state conduct the survey each year during the first half of August. Individuals involved in this survey should be credited for their efforts to collect these data during the early-morning hours. This survey is partially funded by the Pittman-Robertson Act, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program.

The August roadside survey generates data from approximately 225, 30-mile routes on ring-necked pheasants, bobwhite quail, gray partridge, cottontail rabbits, and white-tailed jackrabbits. Counts conducted on cool mornings when the sun is shining, with heavy dew, and no wind yield the most consistent results. Comparisons between 2024 and 2025 are based on routes that are directly comparable between years (routes with no alterations and started with good dew). Long-term trends are based on all routes completed. The two factors that determine the abundance and distribution of upland game populations in Iowa are **weather** and **habitat.**

SUMMARY

Statewide, Iowa experienced an exceptionally mild winter, 4th least snowy winter in 138 years of records, followed by a normal spring. Iowa's weather model predicted pheasant numbers would increase based on these weather trends. This prediction was confirmed by the roadside counts which showed statewide pheasant numbers increased significantly (43%) compared to 2024. Total pheasant numbers showed increasing trends in all 9 survey regions, with statistically significant increases in total hens in 8 of the 9 survey regions, and significant increases in total chicks in 5 of the 9 regions. Bobwhites also showed a significant statewide increase with numbers doubling over 2024. Gray partridge showed a non-significant statewide increase (19%), while cottontail numbers showed a significant increase (41%) compared to last year. Exceptional overwinter hen survival is likely a key reason for the increases reported in 2025. Pheasant hunters should have good to excellent hunting this fall given the 2025 counts and hunters reporting harvesting around half a million roosters each of the past 2 years. Iowa's 2025 roadside count of 28 pheasants/route is the highest statewide count seen in the last 2 decades, thus a harvest of 600,000 – 700,000 roosters is expected this fall. Iowa celebrates its 100th year of pheasant hunting this fall, and it looks like hunters will have an exceptional fall in the Hawkeye state!!

2024-25 IOWA WEATHER SUMMARY

Iowa pheasant numbers increase with mild winters (less than 19 inches snowfall) followed by warm, dry springs (less than 6 inches rainfall). They decline with snowy winters (30 or more inches of snowfall) followed by cold, wet springs (8 or more inches of rainfall), and remain generally stable with average weather conditions, (winters with 20–30 inches of snow and springs with 6–8 inches of rainfall).

Table 1. Iowa 2024-25 weather.

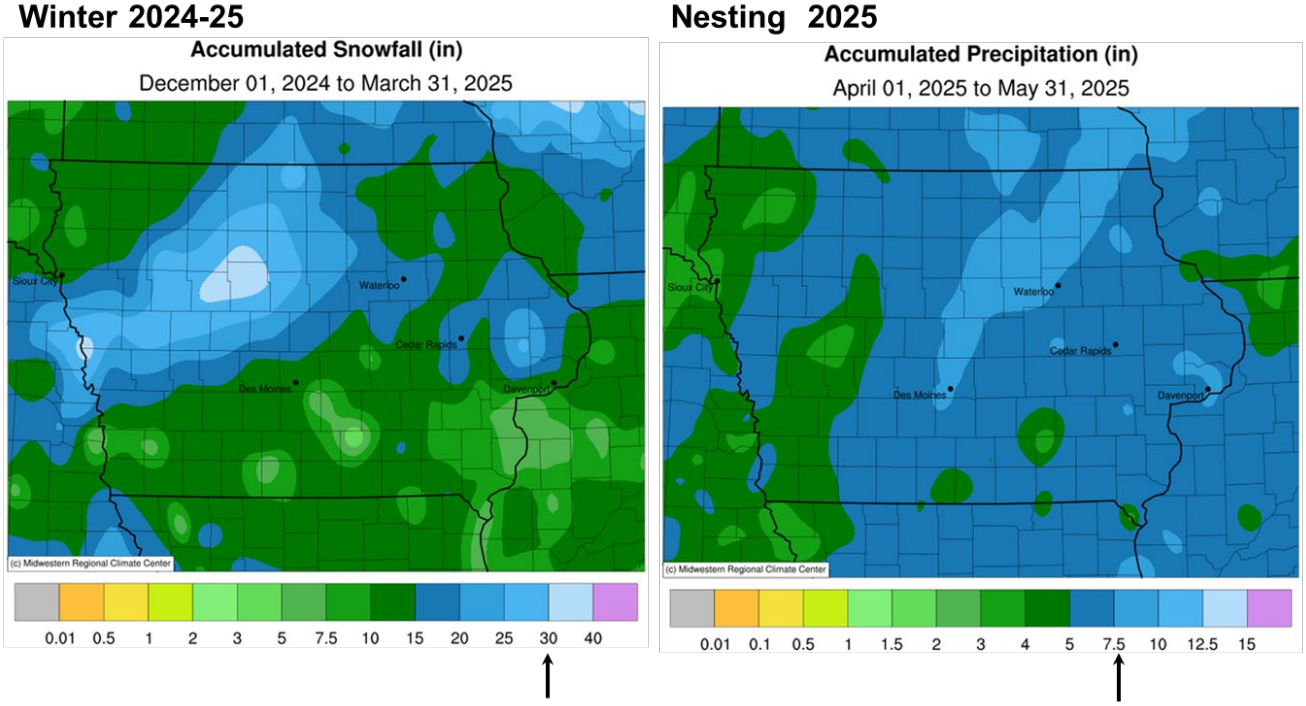
	Survey Regions									
Weather Variables	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	STATE
Winter Weather*										
Total Snowfall (inch)	11.4	15.3	12.4	18.2	13.6	12.2	11.1	9.1	9.3	**12.8**
*Departure***	*-15.2*	*-13.6*	*-16.9*	*-8.9*	*-11.6*	*-12.1*	*-10.3*	*-12.6*	*-13.5*	*-12.5*
Spring Weather										
Total Rainfall (inch)	6.7	6.8	6.5	5.2	6.7	8.1	4.7	6.6	9.6	**6.8**
Departure	*0.7*	*0.0*	*-0.7*	*-1.8*	*-0.5*	*0.9*	*-2.8*	*-1.0*	*2.1*	*-0.3*
Mean Temperature (F)	54	53	53	55	55	56	56	56	57	**54.9**
Departure	*0.0*	*-0.2*	*-0.7*	*-0.9*	*0.3*	*-0.1*	*-1.1*	*-0.3*	*-0.7*	*-0.4*

* Winter weather period (1Dec.-31Mar.) and spring period (1April-31May).

** Departures calculated using thirty year NOAA average from 1961-1990.

The 2024-25 winter statewide snowfall was half normal at only 12.8 inches for the entire winter (Table 1). The state climatologist reported the winter of 2024-25 was the 4th least snowy winter in 138 years of records. Snowfall was below normal in all regions, except part of the Central region which had a localized area of over 30 inches of snowfall (Table 1, Figure 1). Snowfall totals were below normal for every winter month. These conditions likely led to exceptional overwinter female survival, for all small game species, across the state. The peak nesting season months of April and May of 2025 were uneventful and right at historic means (Table1, Figure 1). Warm temperatures in March and April likely led to earlier than normal nesting for pheasant, bobwhite, and gray partridge. Field staff reported the first pheasant brood May 12th, which was about 2 weeks ahead of typical first brood reports. Iowa's 2-year drought broke in June and July with rainfall well above (+82%) the thirty-year normal for those months, with July recorded as the 2nd rainiest July in state history. This likely impacted re-nesting and chick survival, but was late enough that most first nest attempts were minimally impacted. In summary, the weather of 2024-25 can be summed up as an exceptional winter followed by a normal spring. The Wildlife Bureau's weather model predicted an increase in the statewide pheasant population based on these weather patterns. The 2025 roadside counts confirmed an increase in pheasant populations from last year.

Figure 1. Iowa 2024-24 snowfall and rainfall summary. Normal winter snowfall is 25 inches, while normal nesting season rainfall is 7 inches.



Arrows denote important thresholds for Iowa, snowfall (≥30") and rainfall (≥8"). Precipitation below these values trend toward increased pheasant populations in Iowa or decreased pheasant populations if above these values.

UPLAND HABITAT TRENDS IN IOWA

The influence of habitat changes on upland populations are more gradual than the impacts of annual weather. The effects of habitat change are only evident after looking at multiple years of surveys. Information from the USDA shows that between 1995 and 2025 Iowa lost 2,942 square miles of potential pheasant habitat (Table 2). This habitat was a mix of small grains, hay, and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres. To put this loss in perspective, 2,942 mi^2 is a strip of habitat **10 miles wide** that would stretch from Omaha to Davenport.

The CRP has become critical for Iowa pheasant populations with the loss of small grains and hay lands to corn and soybean production.

The 2018 Farm Bill increased the CRP program from a 24 million acre to a 27-million-acre program. Nationally, USDA reports 16.2 million acres enrolled in traditional CRP, as of June 2025, the lowest in program history. As of June 2025, Iowa has 1.67 million acres enrolled, with 727,000 acres of Iowa entire enrollment expiring by fall of 2027, this equates to 44% of Iowa's CRP in the next 3 years! ***Iowa will cease to be a major pheasant hunting state if the CRP is significantly diminished.*** Opportunities to enroll additional land into CRP in Iowa are declining. The 2018 Farmbill changed rental payments so landowners do not receive fair market rent for their land, which had reduced interest in the program. The CRP is a federal USDA program, thus folks who value CRP for pheasant habitat should visit with their elected congressional representatives. In 2025, Iowa had 2.74 million acres of potential pheasant habitat (Table 2). Grassland habitat acres within Iowa are near an all-time low, with reliable records dating back to 1901.

Table 2. Trends in Iowa habitat and total habitat loss from 1995 to 2025, data from USDA

Year	Hay Acres	Small Grains Acres	CRP Acres	Total All Habitat Acres
1995	1,700,000	260,000	2,199,360	4,159,360
2000	1,700,000	198,000	1,598,662	3,496,662
2005	1,600,000	140,000	1,917,574	3,657,574
2010	1,200,000	80,000	1,637,130	2,917,130
2015	1,160,000	72,000	1,484,593	2,716,593
2020	1,160,000	73,000	1,702,068	2,935,068
2025	1,000,000	73,000	1,670,377	2,743,377
	Acres of Habitat Lost 1995 vs 2020			-1,882,684
	Square Miles of Habitat Lost 1995 vs 2020			-2,942

The DNR's walk-in hunting program, Iowa Habitat and Access Program (IHAP), is funded through a combination of the USDA grants and DNR license dollars. Most IHAP sites are typically private CRP lands where the DNR has provided incentives to landowners to manage habitat for wildlife in exchange for public hunting access. Iowa DNR has over 30,000 acres in this program. For a list of IHAP sites or information about enrolling visit http://www.iowadnr.gov/ihap.

SURVEY CONDITIONS

The August roadside survey yields the most consistent results on mornings with heavy dew, no wind, and sunny skies. Research by Dr. Klonglan at Iowa State University in the 1950s showed the number of pheasants counted on mornings with medium dew averaged a third fewer birds than routes run on a morning with heavy dew. Heavy dew conditions require good soil moisture in late July and early August. During this year's survey, staff reported 192 routes (89%) started with a heavy dew verses 169 routes (78%) in 2024. Staff reported sunny starting conditions on 87% of routes in 2025 versus 76% last year. The US Drought Monitor showed no drought across Iowa in early August of 2025 and very similar to conditions in 2024. Conditions the first two weeks of August were very good for conducting counts.

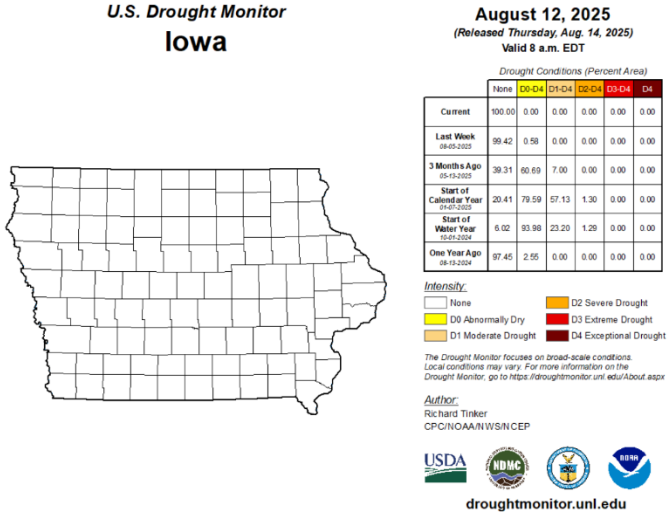


Figure 2. Early August drought map of Iowa.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT

Statewide: This year the statewide pheasant index of 28.1 birds/route represents a significant increase over last year's estimate of 19.7 birds/route (Table 3, Figure 3) and is the highest statewide index Iowa has seen in over 2 decades dating back to 2005. This year's statewide pheasant population is 41% above the 10-year trend

(Table 4). Iowa research indicates overwinter hen survival, brood survival, and nest success are the major factors influencing annual changes in pheasant numbers. Statewide, the total cocks and hens counted on routes were significantly higher than 2024, suggesting exceptional overwinter survival (Table 3). Total chicks reported was also significantly higher, however, statewide data on chicks/brood (measure of chick survival) and age ratios (chicks per adult hen – measure of overall hen success) were statistically lower than last year, suggesting from an overall statewide perspective that nest success and brood survival were lower in 2025 compared to 2024 (Table 3). These data suggest that while wetter weather in June and July likely impacted chick survival and some re-nesting, these declines were more than offset by the much larger number of nests this spring, the result of many more hens surviving the winter than normal. Past telemetry research in Iowa shows overwinter hen survival averages around 60-65%, but can exceed 90% in mild winters. This year's counts match up well with the weather Iowa experienced over the past year. Total pheasants and chicks were significantly higher in half the survey regions and all regions showed double digit percentage increases in both indicators, except for the Central region, the only region that showed no change in pheasant numbers or chicks from 2024.

Overall, pheasant hunters in the Hawkeye state should expect Iowa's 100th year of pheasant hunting to be a very good season, with counts higher in every region in 2025. The NW, NC, NE, WC, C, and SE regions show the best overall densities, however, hunters in all regions should see more birds in 2025. Six (NW, NC, NE, WC, C, SE) of the 9 survey regions reported pheasant averages of 20+ birds per route (Table3/Figure5) and should offer good to excellent hunting. Pheasant hunting last fall in the Hawkeye state was very good with a harvest of 464,000 roosters, the second highest total harvest since 2007. Given this year's statewide index of 28 birds per route, Iowa pheasant hunters should harvest approximately 600,000 to 700,000 roosters this fall (Figure 3). As of early September, Iowa's corn crop was maturing rapidly, if this pattern continues into October, Iowa could see an early crop harvest, with most fields harvested and plowed by the pheasant opener. Hunter success is usually very good on openers where most crops have been harvested.

Northern Regions: Total pheasants counted in all northern regions showed double digit increases from 39-69% compared to last year, and all 3 regions showed significant increases in total hens and chicks compared to 2024 (Table 3, Figure 5). Counts in all three regions are above their 10-year averages, and all 3 regions were at or close to their long-term means (Table 3). The NW region averaged 55 birds per route which was the highest density of any region in 2025, while the NE and NC regions averaged 34 birds/route respectively (Table 3). Counts in the NW region were the best seen in 25 years, counts in the NC region the best seen in 17 years, and the NE region count was the best seen in 27 years! All 3 regions should offer good to excellent pheasant hunting, particularly around public and private lands with good winter habitat. Better counts in NW came from, Clay, Emmet, Dickinson, Palo Alto, and Osceola counties. Butler, Hancock, and Kossuth counties reported better numbers in the NC region, while the NE region reported the best counts in Bremer, Chickasaw, Howard, and Winneshiek counties (Figure 6).

Central Regions: Similar to the northern regions, counts in all 3 central regions showed upward trends in 2025, but not as large as seen in northern regions (Table 3, Figure 5). All 3 regions showed more adult roosters and hens than 2024 suggesting good overwinter survival, however, average brood size and young per adult hen were generally lowest in these regions, suggesting late summer rains were more impactful in the central third of the state compared to other regions (Table 3). The WC region was the only other region reporting over 30 birds/route in 2025, with 31 birds/route (Figure 5). The EC region showed the largest increase within the region in 2025 with counts increasing 31% (Table 3). At 17.4 birds/route this year's count in the EC region is the best seen in 17 years (Table 4). All 3 regions should offer good to excellent hunting this fall where good quality pheasant habitat exists (Figure 6). The WC region reported better counts in Calhoun, Ida, and Sac counties. The Central region reported good bird numbers in Boone, Hamilton, and Webster counties, while the EC region reported better numbers in Benton, Iowa, and Jones counties (Figure 6).

Southern Regions: Counts in all 3 southern regions showed significant double-digit increases compared to 2024, however the mean birds per route in the SW and SC are still the lowest in the state (Table 3 & Figure 5). Counts in all three regions were 22-55% above their 10-year means, with counts in the SE region 14% above their long-term mean (Table 4). Counts in the SC region were the highest seen in 7 years, while counts in the SE

region were the best seen in a decade (Table 4). Hunters should see better bird numbers in all 3 regoins compared to 2024. Some of the better counts in 2025 came from Henry, Jefferson, Louisa, Union, and Washington counties (Figure 6).

BOBWHITE QUAIL

Iowa's statewide bobwhite quail index more than doubled (+123%) from last year with 1.1 quail per route in 2025 compared to 0.47 quail per route in 2024 (Table 3, Figure 4), and brood sightings were also statistically higher in 2025. This year's statewide quail index is 15% above the 10-year average and just 19% below the long term mean (Table 4). This is Iowa's highest statewide quail index since 2018. Similar to pheasants, the very mild winter likely led to excellent overwinter hen survival leading to large increases in breeding hens this spring and an excellent number of nests. Counts increased significantly in the SW and SC regions, while counts in the SE, WC, and EC regions also showed increases (Table 3, Figure 5). The SW region reported the best overall quail numbers in 2025, followed by the SC and WC regions respectively (Figures 5, 6). Better counts in 2025 came from Audubon, Harrison, Monona, Montgomery, Lucas, Taylor, and Wayne counties (Figure 6). Hunters should focus quail hunting were there is a good mix of shrubs, ag fields, and weedy habitat.

GRAY PARTRIDGE

The 2025 statewide gray partridge count increased 19% when compared to 2024, however, because of variability across the state, large increases and decreases, the change was not significant (Table 3 & Figure 4). Gray partridge prefer the wide-open and treeless agricultural lands of the northern two-thirds of the state. Typically, partridge numbers increase following mild winters and when spring/summer precipitation is well below normal. The wet weather in June and July likely impacted partridge reproduction. This year's counts showed significant upward trends in the NW and NE regions. The NC, C, and EC regions reported non-significant increases, meaning there was no consistent trend in gains verses losses among routes within these regions. The WC region reported significantly fewer partridge in 2025 compared to 2024 (Table 3, Figure 5). This year's statewide estimate is -5% below the 10-year mean and -47% below the long term mean (Table 4). The NW, NC, NE, and C regions reported the best densities in 2025 all averaging 3 to 4 partridge/route (Figure 5). Better counts in 2025 came from Buchanan, Butler, Dickinson, Emmet, Fayette, Mitchell, O'Brien, and Palo Alto counties (Figure 6).

COTTONTAIL RABBIT

Staff reported an average of 7.3 rabbits per 30-mile route in 2025, which represents a statistically significant increase from the 2024 estimate of 5.2 rabbits per 30-mile route (Table 3, Figure 4). Cottontails remain very abundant in Iowa with this year's count the highest since 2014. Regionally, rabbit numbers showed statistically significant increases in the NC, NE, SC, and SE regions, with relatively stable to increasing numbers in other regions (Table 3 and Figure 5). Cottontails typically increase following mild winters with good moisture during spring and summer, thus given Iowa's mild winter and wet summer in 2025, it was a very good year for rabbits! The statewide cottontail index is above both the 10-year and long-term averages (Table 4). Cottontail hunters can expect good to excellent hunting across most of the state this fall. Staff reported the best cottontail numbers in the SC and SE regions this year, with good numbers also reported in the SW, EC, WC, and NE regions (Figure 5 and 6).

Male bobwhite on fence during a 2025 roadside count. D Chafa

Table 3. Mean numbers of wildlife observed per 30-mile route on the August roadside survey in 2024 and 2025. Only directly comparable routes are used for statistical comparisons.

		RINGNECKED PHEASANTS								BOBWHITE QUAIL		GRAY PARTRIDGE		RABBITS	
REGION	n	TOTAL PHEASANT	COCKS	HENS W/O BROODS	HENS W/ BROODS	HENS	CHICKS	CHICKS/ BROODS	AGE RATIO	TOTAL BIRDS	COVEYS	TOTAL BIRDS	COVEYS	EASTERN COTTONTAIL	WHITETAILED JACKRABBIT
Northwest	29														
2025		55.2	6.2	3.6	7.5	13.2	37.9	3.82	2.79	0.10		3.55	0.24	3.1	
2024		32.6	4.1	2.1	4.3	7.5	22.2	4.06	2.82	0.11		3.50	0.36	3.3	
% CHG		**69%**	**53%**	**71%**	**74%**	**76%**	**71%**	-6%	-1%			**1%**	**-33%**	-7%	
Northcentral	27														
2025		34.0	4.5	2.8	4.8	8.6	22.0	3.71	2.46			3.33	0.37	4.3	
2024		24.5	3.2	1.8	3.3	6.2	16.3	3.54	2.54			2.38	0.31	2.4	
% CHG		39%	**42%**	**55%**	**46%**	**40%**	**35%**	5%	-3%			40%	19%	**79%**	
Northeast	21														
2025		34.0	3.2	1.4	3.7	7.6	25.6	4.09	3.23	0.05		3.71	0.48	7.4	
2024		23.9	3.3	1.2	3.1	5.1	16.3	4.14	2.99			1.33	0.05	4.2	
% CHG		42%	-3%	20%	22%	**47%**	**57%**	-1%	8%			**179%**		**75%**	
West Central	24														
2025		31.2	3.8	2.3	4.1	7.3	21.0	4.16	2.55	1.96	0.13	0.13	0.00	6.3	0.08
2024		26.0	3.0	1.7	3.7	5.9	17.5	4.13	3.11	1.54	0.13	1.79	0.21	7.0	
% CHG		20%	23%	32%	11%	**23%**	20%	1%	-18%	27%	0%	**-93%**	**-100%**	-9%	
Central	28														
2025		23.1	3.0	1.6	3.2	6.1	15.3	3.41	2.45	0.04		3.21	0.36	5.9	
2024		22.8	2.6	1.4	2.9	5.0	15.9	4.61	3.49			2.61	0.32	5.2	
% CHG		2%	12%	21%	12%	22%	-4%	**-26%**	**-30%**			23%	13%	12%	
Eastcentral	22														
2025		17.4	2.0	1.2	2.1	4.4	12.1	3.79	2.76	0.68	0.05	1.55	0.18	8.7	
2024		13.3	1.3	0.6	1.6	2.9	9.8	4.27	3.60	0.05	0.00	1.20	0.10	5.9	
% CHG		31%	**60%**	97%	31%	**50%**	23%	-11%	-23%			29%	80%	48%	
Southwest	16														
2025		7.9	1.9	0.8	0.9	2.1	4.3	3.17	2.21	4.50	0.31			7.1	
2024		3.9	1.1	0.3	0.5	0.9	2.1	3.06	2.44	1.81	0.06			5.0	
% CHG		**102%**	83%	**200%**	88%	**127%**	**102%**	4%	-9%	**149%**	417%			41%	
Southcentral	24														
2025		9.4	1.8	1.8	0.8	3.1	5.0	3.69	2.20	2.92	0.17			14.2	
2024		5.6	1.2	0.4	0.7	1.3	3.4	3.54	2.29	0.83	0.04			7.6	
% CHG		**67%**	50%	349%	19%	**144%**	50%	4%	-4%	**252%**	325%			**88%**	
Southeast	24														
2025		27.8	4.3	1.1	3.8	5.5	18.6	4.38	3.68	0.71	0.04			10.3	
2024		14.8	2.2	0.7	1.9	3.0	10.0	4.39	3.33	0.42	0.00			6.5	
% CHG		**88%**	**100%**	61%	**97%**	**84%**	**85%**	0%	11%	69%				**60%**	
Statewide	215														
2025		28.1	3.6	1.9	3.7	6.8	18.9	3.82	2.72	1.05	0.07	1.85	0.19	7.3	0.01
2024		19.7	2.5	1.2	2.6	4.4	13.3	4.06	3.01	0.47	0.02	1.56	0.17	5.2	
% CHG		**43%**	**40%**	**62%**	**42%**	**52%**	**42%**	**-6%**	**-10%**	**123%**	**250%**	19%	12%	**41%**	

BOLD numbers indicate a statistically significant change from the previous year ($P < 0.10$, Wilcoxen Signed Rank Test).

Table 4. Historical upland wildlife numbers from the August Roadside Survey. Numbers represent the average number of animals counted on 30-mile routes[a].

	PHEASANTS										BOBWHITE QUAIL	GRAY PARTRIDGE	EASTERN COTTONTAIL	WHITETAILED JACKRABBIT
YEAR	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	STATE	STATEWIDE	STATEWIDE	STATEWIDE	STATEWIDE
1962	84.2	104.6	98.0	81.7	70.6	32.3	52.4	12.0	7.4	61.1	0.70	0.89	6.0	0.38
1963	135.8	110.3	99.5	94.2	65.0	47.1	123.1	23.2	18.2	78.7	1.08	0.91	7.9	0.41
1964	96.4	137.8	109.9	92.9	54.5	53.9	92.6	26.3	18.2	75.4	1.33	0.79	7.6	0.52
1965	45.4	67.5	47.7	64.7	35.5	43.9	97.6	44.4	21.5	49.6	2.25	0.48	8.1	0.35
1966	43.5	75.3	57.5	58.4	49.3	63.9	144.1	40.7	17.1	56.6	2.29	1.30	10.3	0.35
1967	31.0	56.8	57.2	42.4	53.2	58.6	108.3	38.8	21.1	49.1	2.10	0.66	7.5	0.60
1968	38.0	56.0	56.6	53.5	52.2	64.3	127.4	38.7	19.7	52.7	2.06	0.68	7.4	0.28
1969	18.8	44.7	62.5	42.2	57.6	57.2	77.9	44.2	25.2	45.5	2.60	0.38	6.3	0.31
1970	39.2	53.0	59.6	56.1	87.8	91.7	129.1	63.8	40.5	66.2	2.95	1.66	4.4	0.15
1971	34.6	45.2	49.0	66.2	82.6	104.3	101.6	49.7	48.4	62.0	2.64	1.44	5.4	0.35
1972	37.9	44.6	61.0	61.4	73.2	88.6	112.3	54.3	25.8	59.6	2.26	1.92	5.5	0.30
1973	47.0	56.9	65.4	66.3	88.7	103.5	72.4	54.3	30.2	65.8	2.54	1.87	5.8	0.20
1974	46.6	53.2	52.5	60.5	40.0	55.9	90.1	49.6	16.8	49.7	2.11	1.82	4.1	0.07
1975	10.5	28.7	52.3	34.3	43.2	64.3	51.0	45.4	27.4	38.8	1.98	1.98	3.2	0.11
1976	14.8	42.2	68.1	44.8	54.9	75.4	61.7	49.2	28.7	48.2	2.19	2.14	6.4	0.11
1977	26.9	44.2	86.7	56.9	50.8	78.5	75.1	44.3	24.4	51.7	2.69	4.70	4.3	0.08
1978	36.3	26.1	68.8	67.8	50.5	63.2	76.7	45.5	30.5	49.7	1.87	3.73	6.2	0.14
1979	40.1	29.6	44.8	49.4	39.2	39.6	80.9	51.5	21.8	42.4	0.66	5.59	3.6	0.16
1980	51.2	61.7	81.2	98.7	72.2	63.5	82.1	68.9	37.2	67.0	2.05	8.81	4.2	0.15
1981	66.4	53.5	83.6	92.9	57.8	72.9	97.1	57.8	35.2	65.9	2.60	8.08	7.8	0.31
1982	26.7	27.9	38.9	55.5	23.1	20.9	41.6	47.7	19.3	32.3	0.79	4.21	6.4	0.10
1983	9.6	12.8	21.7	21.6	13.3	25.3	42.6	51.1	27.5	23.7	1.44	2.65	6.8	0.05
1984	8.8	11.1	19.2	22.1	14.4	24.5	23.8	38.5	26.4	20.6	0.66	4.22	5.6	0.08
1985	21.6	28.0	36.4	40.0	32.7	26.0	59.2	72.6	42.0	38.9	1.37	9.75	7.4	0.07
1986	27.5	20.4	48.2	31.2	24.8	29.0	49.7	65.2	27.2	34.8	1.42	9.62	7.7	0.12
1987	40.2	36.8	59.7	61.4	41.1	33.2	58.5	64.2	39.0	46.8	2.70	14.93	8.6	0.12
1988	33.6	35.0	45.1	60.8	29.6	26.0	45.7	49.8	29.8	38.1	1.96	19.00	4.5	0.17
1989	25.3	36.5	52.1	69.9	57.1	35.3	38.6	40.0	39.0	43.2	1.91	17.27	5.4	0.22
1990	34.3	49.4	63.9	57.9	44.3	24.7	44.5	31.7	27.3	41.2	1.48	8.75	9.2	0.19
1991	37.3	45.3	48.8	77.6	41.6	33.3	61.2	49.4	41.6	46.8	1.34	4.59	5.5	0.07
1992	24.4	50.5	30.5	44.0	42.1	37.8	29.4	23.6	34.2	35.8	1.07	3.58	6.0	0.14
1993	15.8	21.4	15.2	55.2	23.8	25.0	34.3	24.0	28.1	25.9	0.96	0.85	5.5	0.03
1994	45.0	74.1	33.3	83.3	55.6	67.8	47.3	46.0	56.7	56.9	1.58	6.17	6.3	0.15
1995	26.0	63.2	37.6	44.7	54.3	54.3	43.7	27.8	43.2	44.6	1.37	2.47	7.0	0.06
1996	54.7	61.8	29.5	45.2	49.8	59.4	29.8	19.5	28.2	43.4	0.51	2.37	6.2	0.09
1997	46.1	62.0	41.2	37.3	54.7	47.4	31.7	28.8	41.3	44.8	0.77	5.10	4.9	0.10
1998	74.2	56.7	43.1	33.9	49.6	53.9	18.1	15.7	41.7	44.6	0.72	6.42	5.1	0.09
1999	42.7	33.6	21.6	19.5	37.9	36.0	17.5	12.9	27.0	29.1	0.57	2.83	5.9	0.06
2000	60.6	33.3	14.9	29.0	50.3	37.0	25.5	19.3	22.0	34.3	0.57	2.53	6.4	0.03
2001	22.4	16.0	6.2	8.4	22.0	19.0	12.0	7.3	4.6	13.9	0.29	1.90	3.8	0.05
2002	47.0	42.9	13.6	32.0	49.9	32.0	15.7	11.7	22.6	31.7	0.39	2.82	5.3	0.03
2003	81.2	67.3	20.7	36.1	61.2	35.6	29.3	21.8	28.2	44.9	0.89	2.76	8.8	0.03
2004	54.4	34.4	19.0	21.5	35.6	24.4	24.9	19.6	24.4	29.7	0.93	2.12	8.1	0.03
2005	63.5	42.3	25.3	32.0	49.9	25.9	28.9	12.6	23.5	35.1	0.69	2.79	6.2	0.02
2006	48.3	36.1	18.4	23.7	36.8	20.4	20.3	9.0	20.0	27.0	0.82	2.01	6.4	0.05
2007	41.3	35.0	20.1	26.0	36.2	25.0	12.8	5.6	19.8	25.8	0.81	1.62	4.3	0.02
2008	49.4	25.4	9.1	21.2	18.6	7.4	5.7	4.4	5.3	17.5	0.45	1.03	6.3	0.00
2009	35.5	16.6	2.6	23.5	19.1	9.3	10.0	4.8	10.1	15.4	0.72	1.17	5.0	0.01
2010	29.6	16.2	4.7	8.8	11.7	5.3	6.1	1.8	6.6	10.8	0.33	0.93	3.1	0.00
2011	11.1	7.3	2.4	5.5	10.2	5.9	6.3	2.9	4.7	6.6	0.22	1.15	2.2	0.02
2012	16.3	10.9	1.3	3.5	12.3	6.3	4.4	4.0	5.4	7.8	0.36	1.47	2.0	0.01
2013	14.3	9.0	2.7	5.2	7.1	4.2	2.5	4.4	6.3	6.5	0.36	0.81	5.1	0.01
2014	29.3	18.1	2.6	20.8	19.9	13.0	6.5	9.8	19.8	16.3	0.86	2.13	7.8	0.03
2015	42.4	22.5	8.1	23.6	36.4	16.7	11.3	8.2	27.8	23.2	1.42	3.26	7.2	0.02
2016	33.0	24.1	11.2	20.5	30.9	15.4	8.7	7.8	22.2	20.4	1.65	2.76	5.2	0.01
2017	25.8	15.1	5.3	13.0	22.7	12.0	6.8	5.8	15.5	14.4	1.11	1.99	5.4	0.01
2018	25.9	18.1	13.1	22.7	37.4	12.2	8.7	12.3	22.2	20.2	1.37	2.09	6.8	0.02
2019	23.3	20.9	12.8	26.4	27.3	9.1	7.3	6.8	12.3	17.0	0.84	1.35	5.7	0.01
2020	28.5	22.9	24.4	25.4	20.9	13.6	7.3	6.4	28.2	20.0	0.72	1.90	5.2	0.01
2021	28.8	30.6	19.7	31.6	25.5	10.3	4.9	8.3	10.3	19.7	0.39	2.00	4.3	0.01
2022	31.5	26.7	16.0	29.2	22.4	13.3	4.9	6.6	12.6	18.9	0.82	1.71	4.5	0.00
2023	38.3	28.3	26.9	27.3	25.6	10.1	12.7	8.3	13.3	21.9	0.74	2.42	4.6	0.02
2024	32.1	23.7	23.9	26.1	21.8	13.3	3.6	5.2	14.8	19.2	0.48	1.49	5.3	0.00
2025	55.2	34.0	34.0	31.2	23.1	17.4	7.9	9.4	27.8	28.1	1.05	1.85	7.3	0.01
Statistics:														
10 Year Avg.	32.2	24.5	18.7	25.3	25.8	12.7	7.3	7.7	17.9	20.0	0.9	2.0	5.4	0.0
Long-term Avg.	39.2	40.6	37.6	42.5	40.7	37.4	44.8	28.7	24.5	37.1	1.29	3.51	5.91	0.12
Percent Change from:														
10 Year Avg.	71%	39%	82%	23%	-10%	37%	9%	22%	55%	41%	15%	-5%	34%	27%
Long-term Avg.	41%	-16%	-10%	-27%	-43%	-54%	-82%	-67%	14%	-24%	-19%	-47%	24%	-92%

a Values do not match those in Table 3/Figure 5 because historical data is based on ALL routes completed, whereas values in Table 3/Figure5 are calculated between only directly comparable routes.

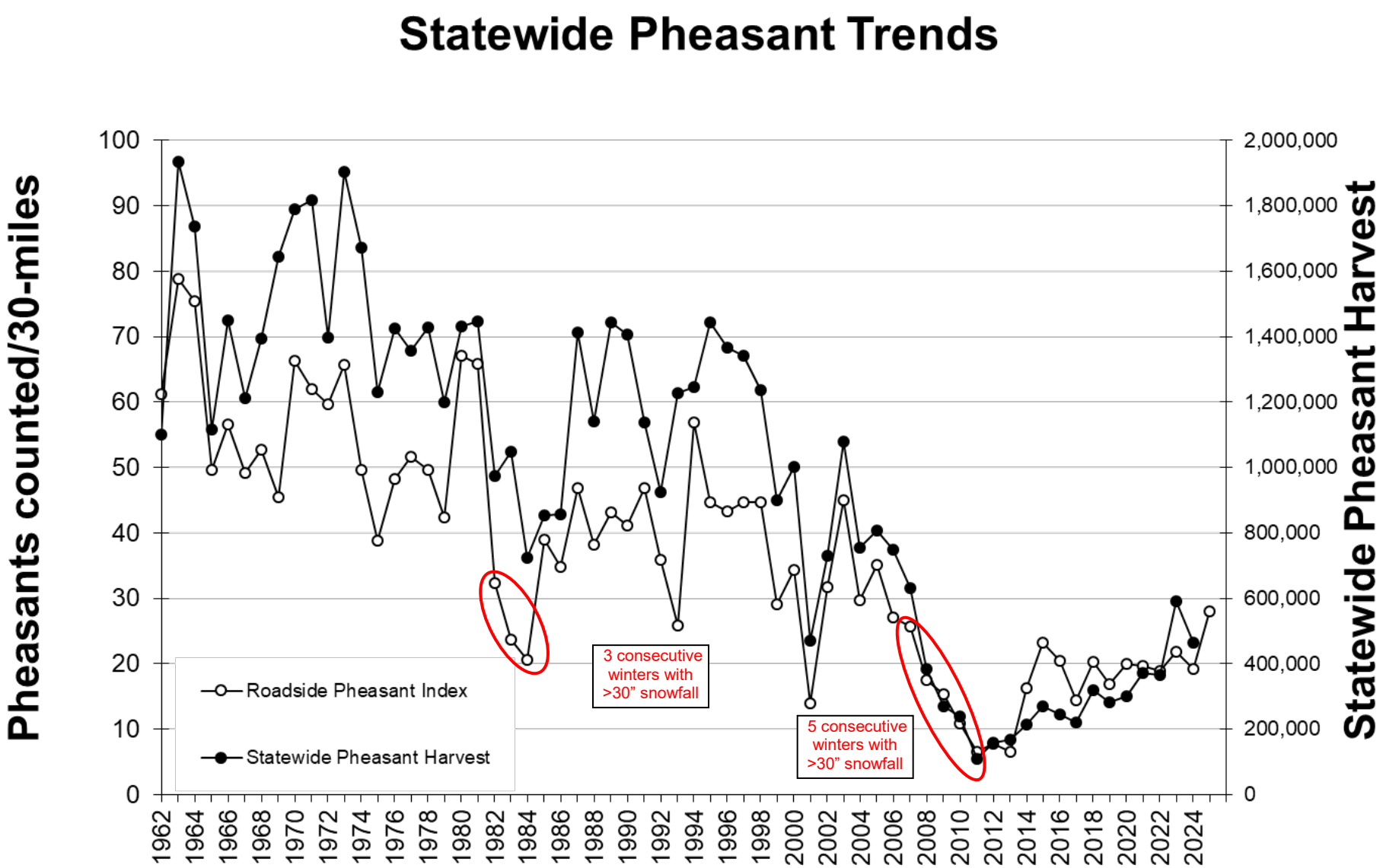


Figure 3. Mean number of pheasants counted on 30-mile August roadside survey routes, statewide, 1962-present compared to total statewide pheasant harvest.

Statewide Upland Game Trends

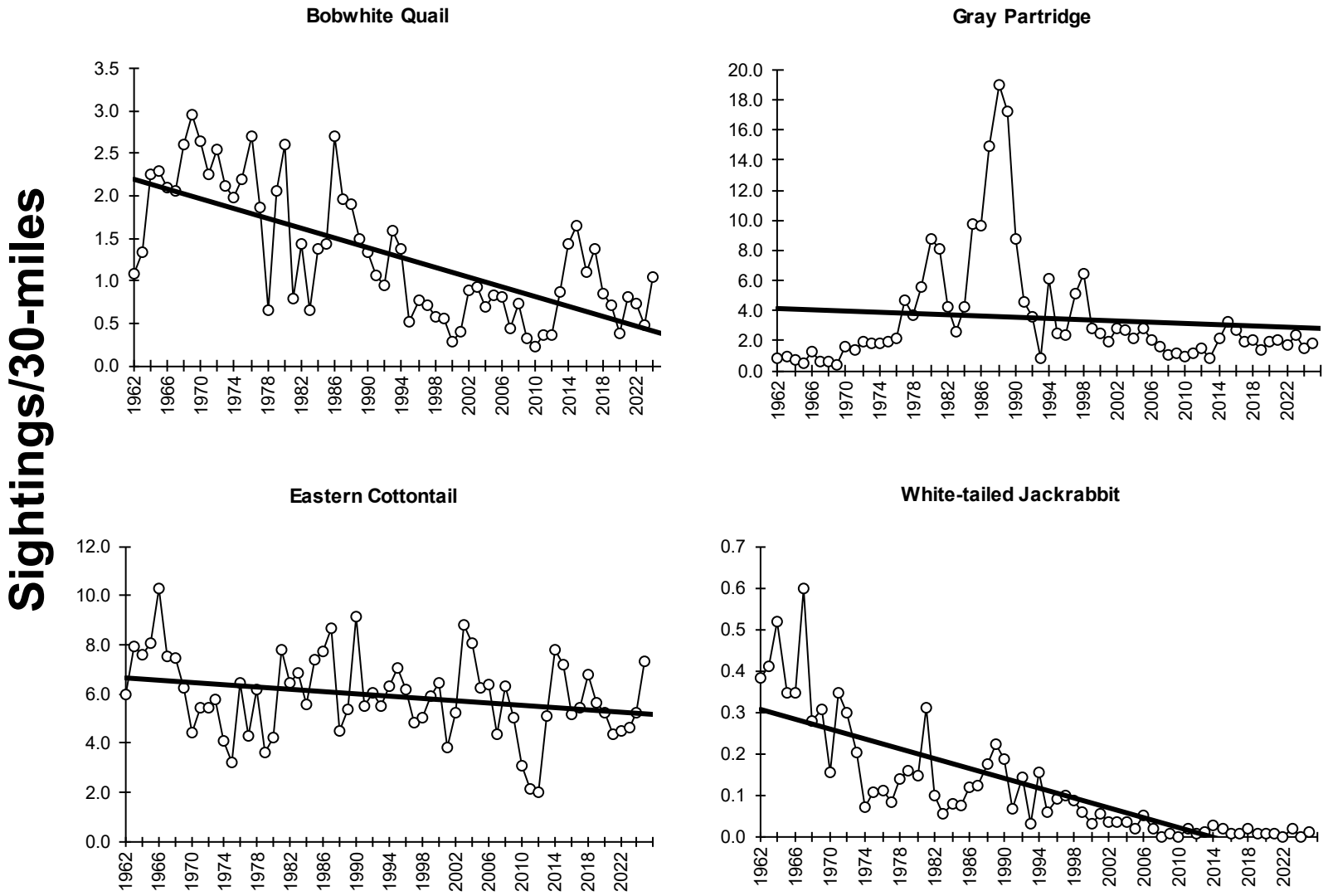


Figure 4. Mean number of quail, partridge, cottontails, and jackrabbits sighted per 30 mile route on the August roadside survey, statewide, 1962 to the present.

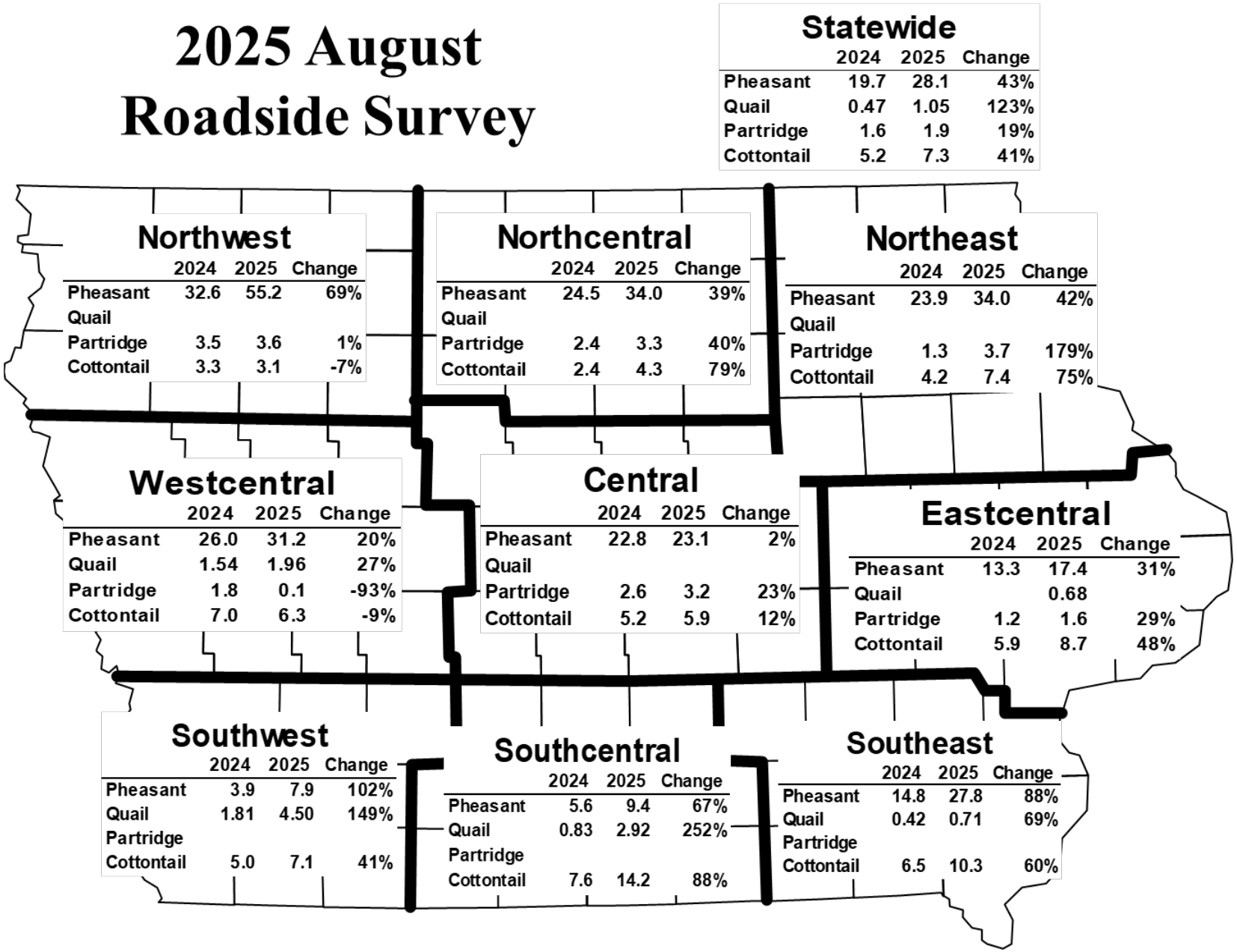
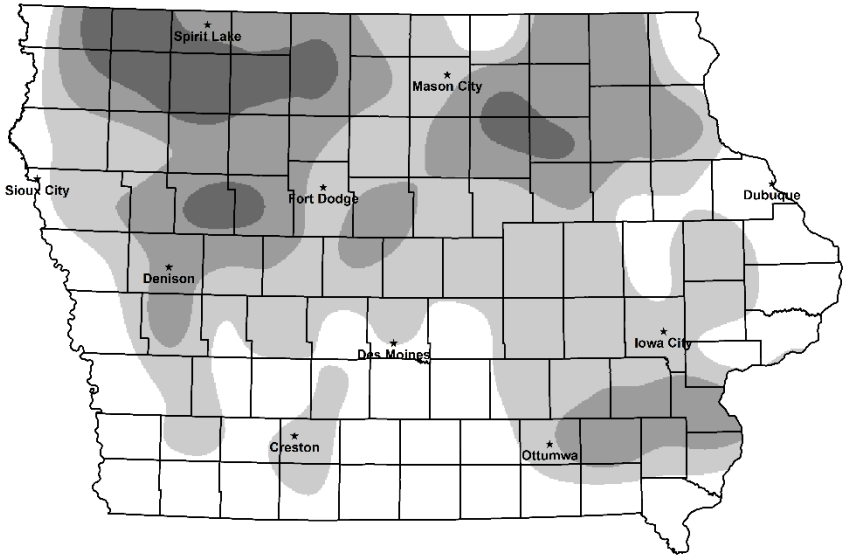


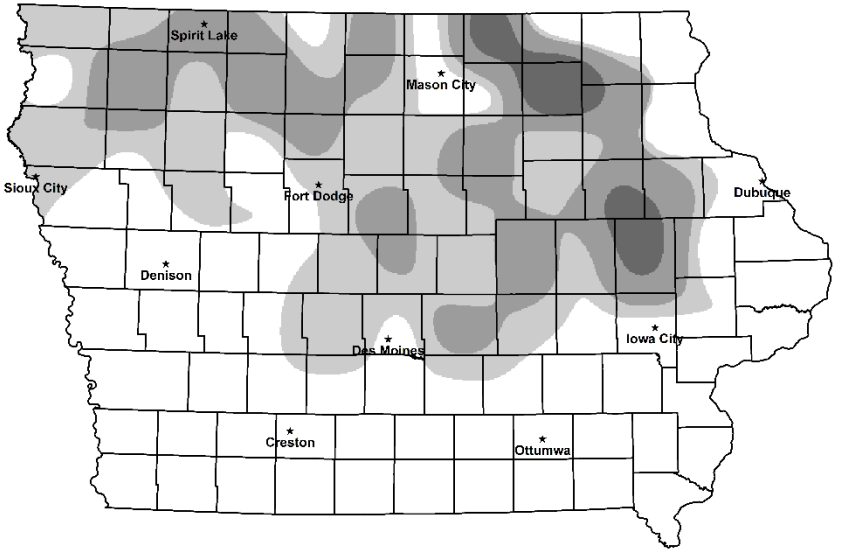
Figure 5. Numbers indicate the average number of animals counted on 30-mile routes in each region (e.g., the northwest region counted an average of 55.2 pheasants on survey routes in 2025). Data from 215 of 225 comparable returned surveys.

2025 GAME DISTRIBUTION

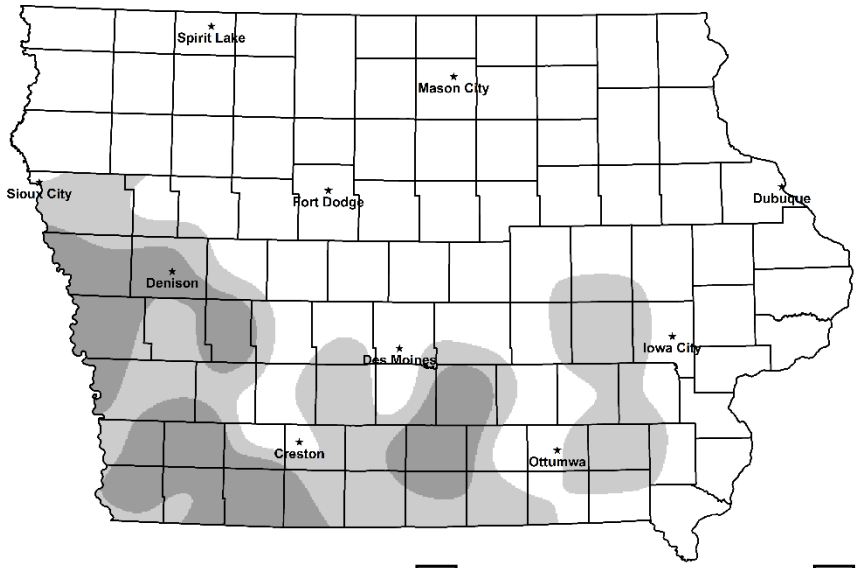
PHEASANT



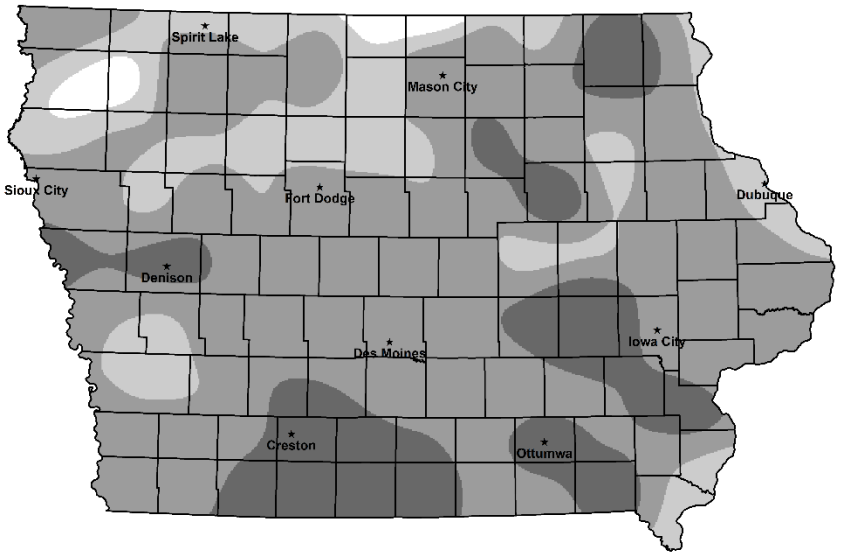
GRAY PARTRIDGE



QUAIL



COTTONTAIL



EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR POOR

Figure 6. Iowa small game distribution maps represent generalized game abundance. There can be areas of low game abundance in regions with "high" counts and vice versa.