

2014 August Roadside Quail Survey Summary

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The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has conducted annual roadside surveys in August and October since 1990 to index quail populations across Oklahoma. The survey provides an index of annual population fluctuations. Observers report the number of quail seen to provide an index of quail abundance (number of quail seen per 20 mile route) and reproductive success. Currently, ODWC employees run 84, 20-mile routes in all counties except Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties. Larger counties including Beaver, Ellis, LeFlore, McCurtain, Osage, Pittsburg, Pushmataha and Roger Mills Counties have two routes.

The 2014 August roadside quail survey show the statewide quail index is still down 35 percent from the 24 year average (Table 1). Even so, the statewide index is up 50 percent from the 2013 August survey. The average number of quail seen per route increased in most regions (Northeast, Northcentral, Northwest, and Southwest). Declines from the previous survey year were seen in the Southeast and Southcentral regions. Of the birds seen in 2014, 93% were reported as either $\frac{3}{4}$ grown or full grown.

Weather is a critical factor in quail and other ground nesting bird productivity. Even though some areas of the state experienced a severe late freeze, most of Oklahoma had a cold, but dry winter. Spring and summer rains and fewer days above 100 degrees Fahrenheit improved nesting conditions and insect availability in a majority of the state. Habitat and weather conditions were favorable for early nesting attempts as most quail seen, were at least $\frac{3}{4}$ to full grown. The increase of rainfall during the summer increased vegetative cover along the roadways which can restrict the visibility of quail during the survey period, especially in the eastern one-third of the state.

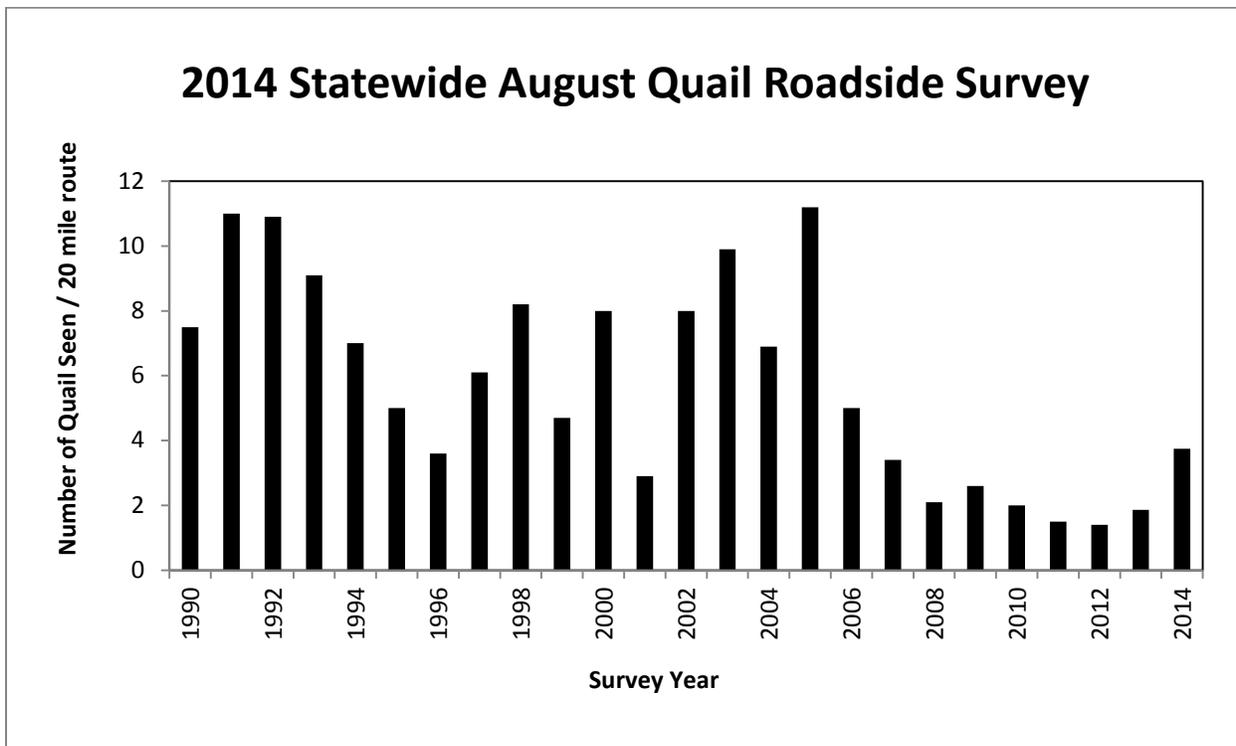
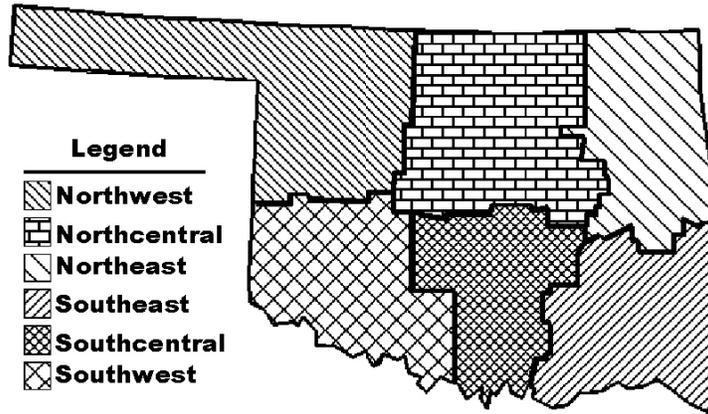
The October Roadside Quail Survey will provide important information in determining any additional nesting attempts (third attempts and re-nests) and clarity about this falls population and season outlook.

The Quail Season Outlook is posted on www.wildlifedepartment.com the last week of October.

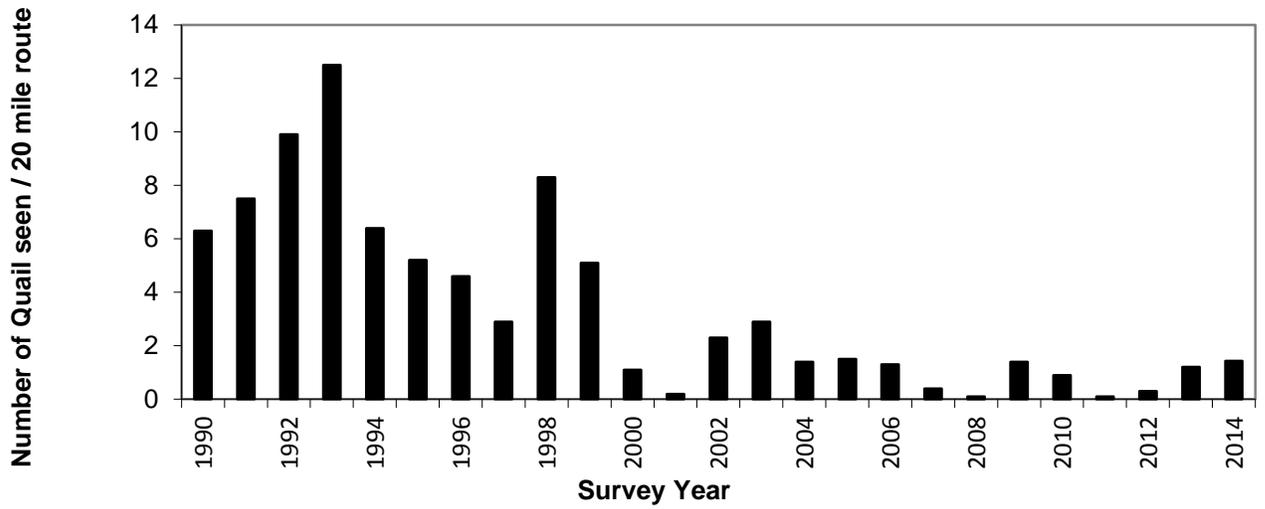
	Previous 24 year Average	2013 Average	2014 Average
Statewide	5.74	1.88	3.75
Northeast	3.41	1.21	1.43
Northcentral	3.22	0.27	3.40
Northwest	7.82	1.93	7.60
Southeast	4.70	0.08	0.00
Southcentral	2.31	0.92	0.62
Southwest	13.84	7.58	13.84

Table 1. Average number of quail seen per 20 miles during the August Quail Roadside Survey.

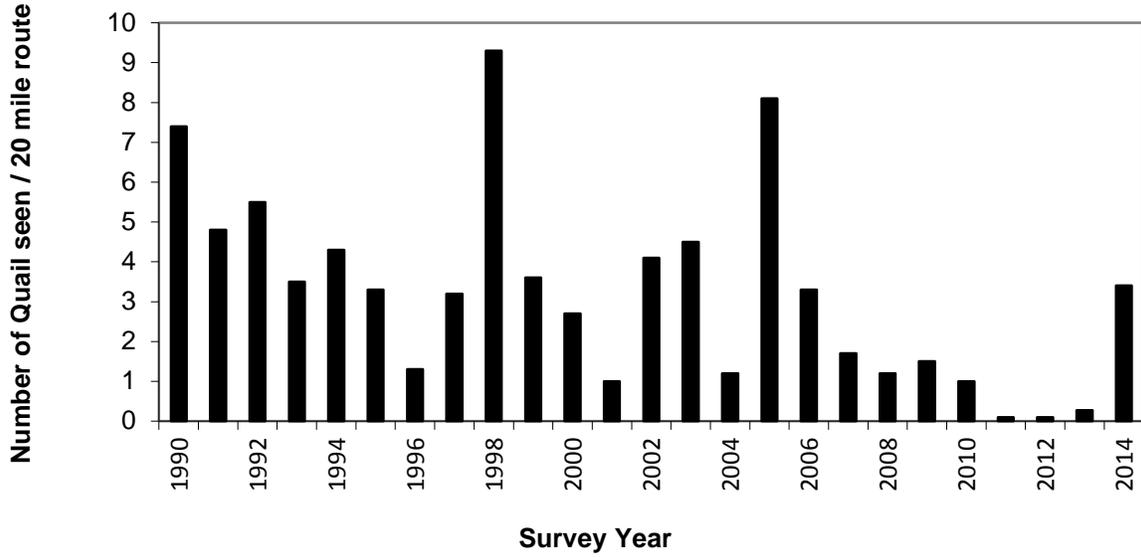
Figure 1. Regional Boundaries for the Quail Roadside Survey



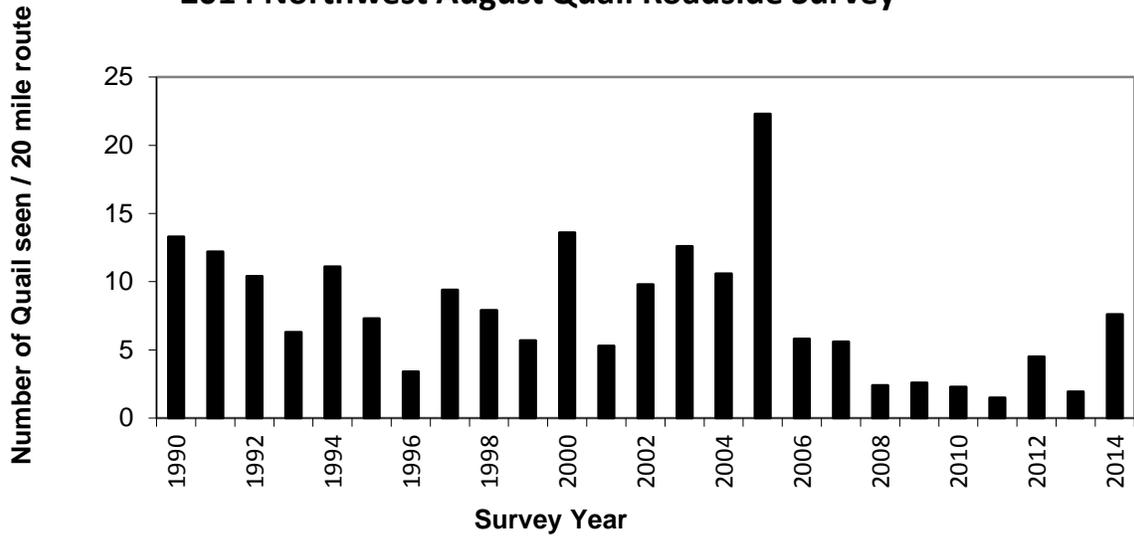
2014 Northeast August Quail Roadside Survey



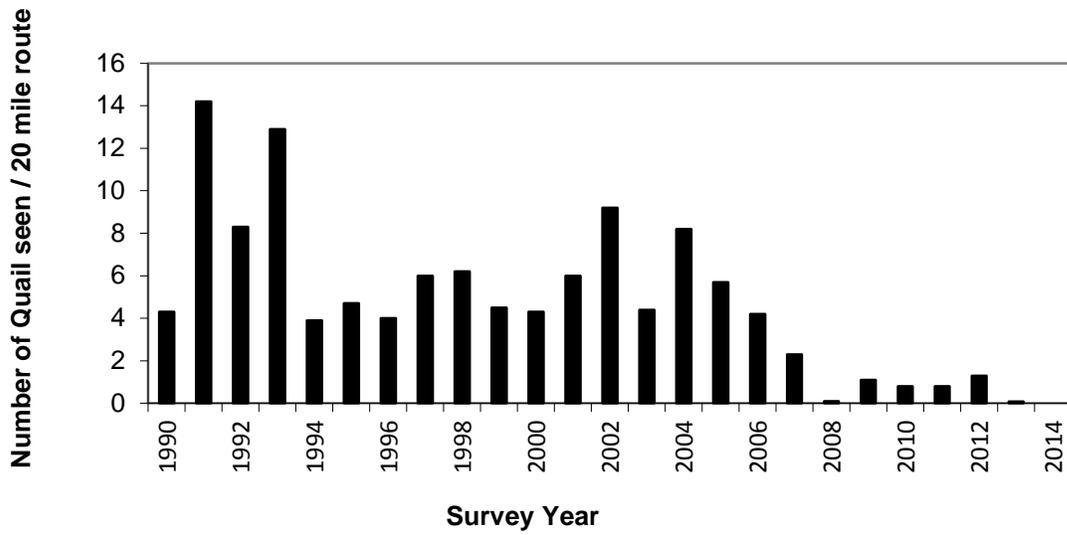
2014 Northcentral August Quail Roadside Survey



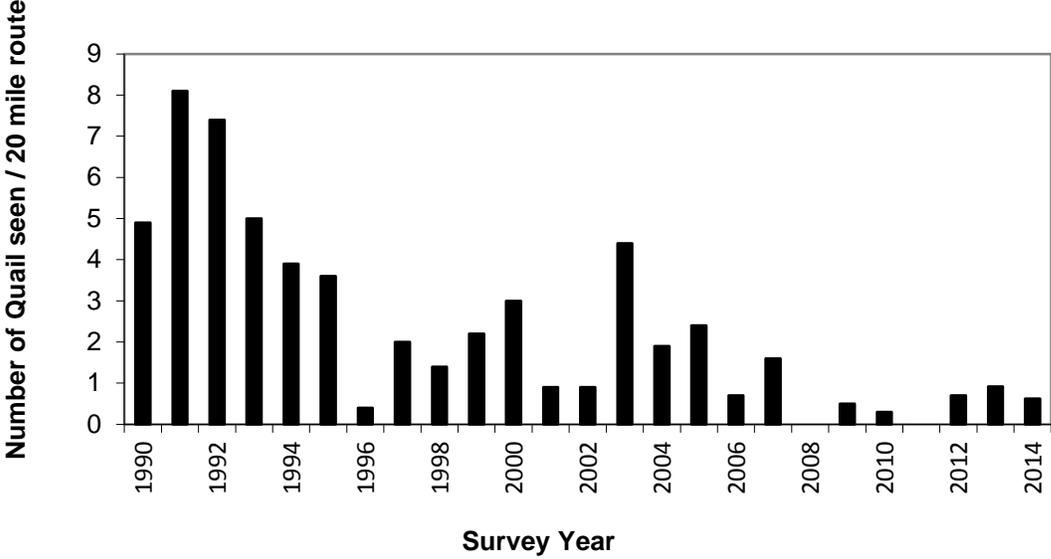
2014 Northwest August Quail Roadside Survey



2014 Southeast August Quail Roadside Survey



2014 Southcentral August Quail Roadside Survey



2014 Southwest August Quail Roadside Survey

