

2015 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 2015 August roadside quail survey show the statewide quail index is up 7.1 percent from the 26 year average (Table 1). The statewide index is up 63.4 percent from the 2014 August survey and up 230 percent from the 2013 survey. The average number of quail seen per route increased in five of six regions (Northwest, Northeast, Northcentral, Southeast, and Southwest). Declines for the past two survey years were seen in the Southcentral region, only. Of the birds seen in 2015, 81.1% were reported as either $\frac{3}{4}$ grown or full grown.

Weather is a critical factor in quail and other ground nesting bird productivity. Most of Oklahoma had a mild winter and the state endured cold temperatures, throughout the season. Spring and summer rains and fewer days above 100 degrees Fahrenheit improved nesting conditions and insect availability in a majority of the state, except the southcentral. After flooding events in the southern part of the state in May, the southcentral region endured 6-7 weeks of little moisture. This likely had an effect on reproduction and is why numbers are lower in that region. It appears the habitat and weather conditions were favorable for early nesting attempts in most of the state, as most quail were at least $\frac{3}{4}$ grown. The increased rainfall increased vegetative cover along the roadways which can restrict the visibility of quail during the survey period.

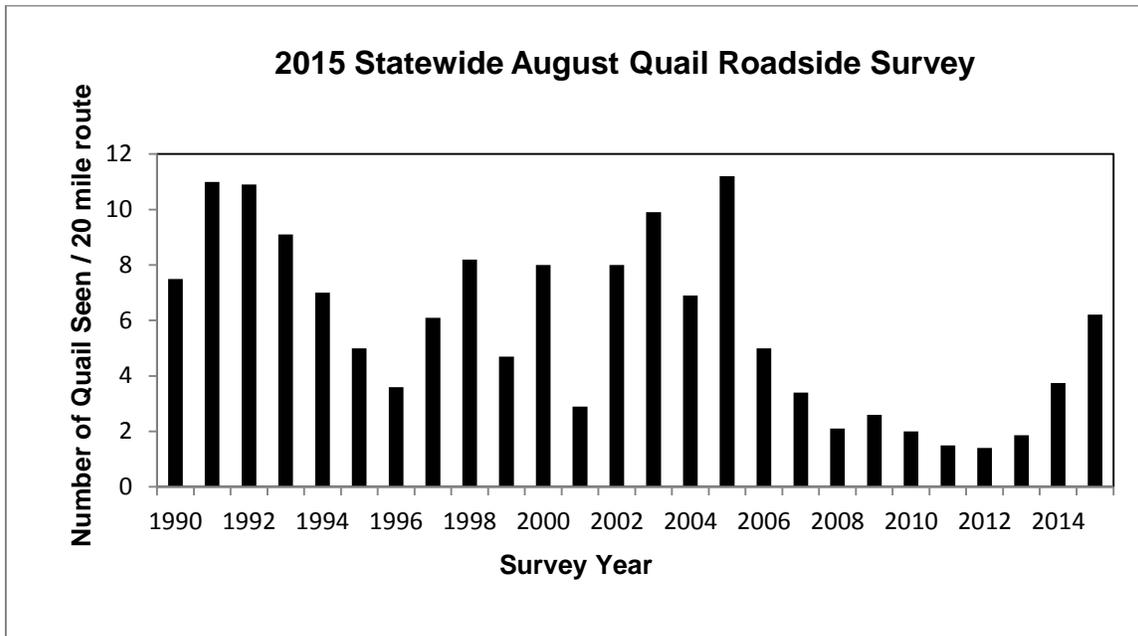
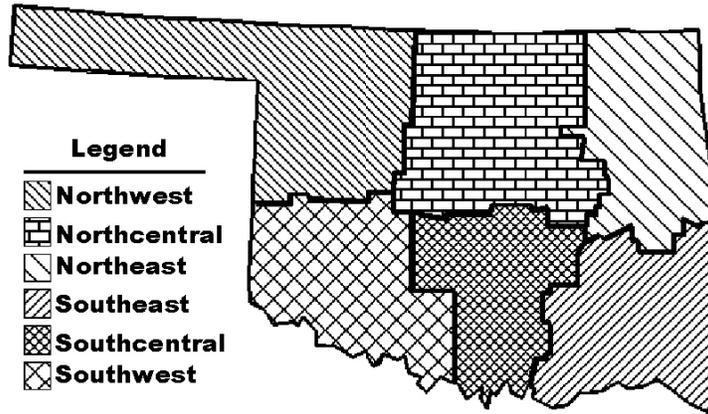
The October Roadside Quail Survey will provide important information in determining any second or third nesting attempts and additional clarity about this falls population and season outlook.

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

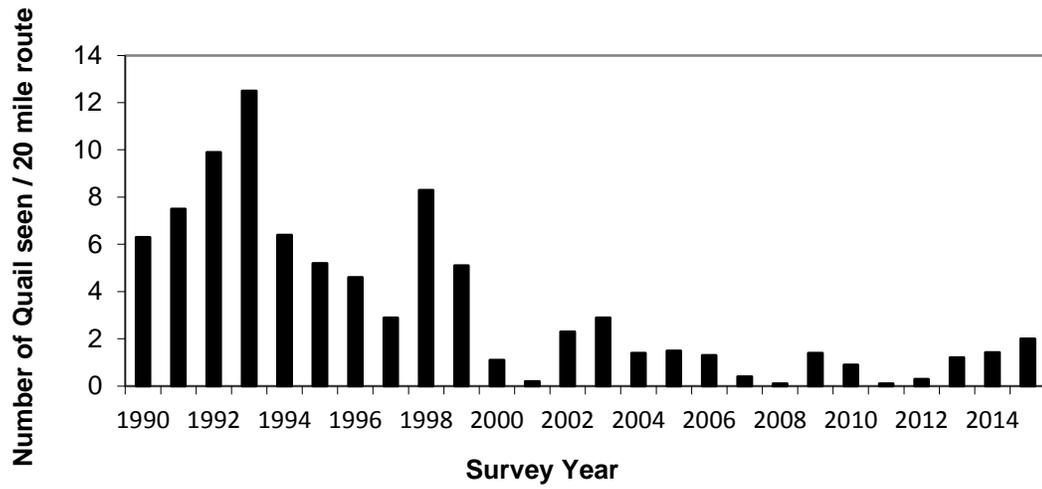
	Previous 26 year Average	2014 Average	2015 Average
Statewide	5.8	3.8	6.21
Northeast	3.4	1.43	2.0
Northcentral	3.4	3.4	6.7
Northwest	8.04	7.6	13.6
Southeast	4.6	0.0	1.5
Southcentral	2.22	0.62	0.1
Southwest	13.8	8.92	13.1

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

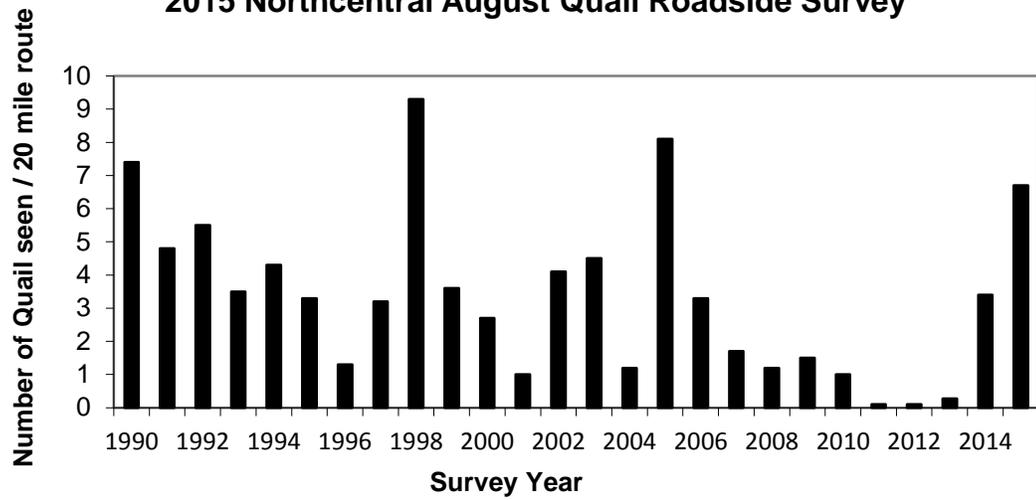
Figure 1. Regional Boundaries for the Quail Roadside Survey



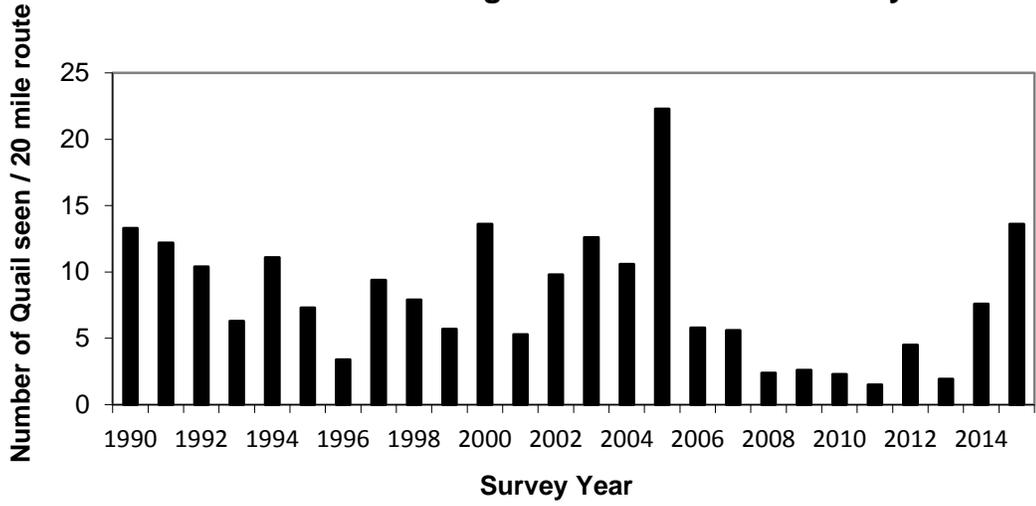
2015 Northeast August Quail Roadside Survey



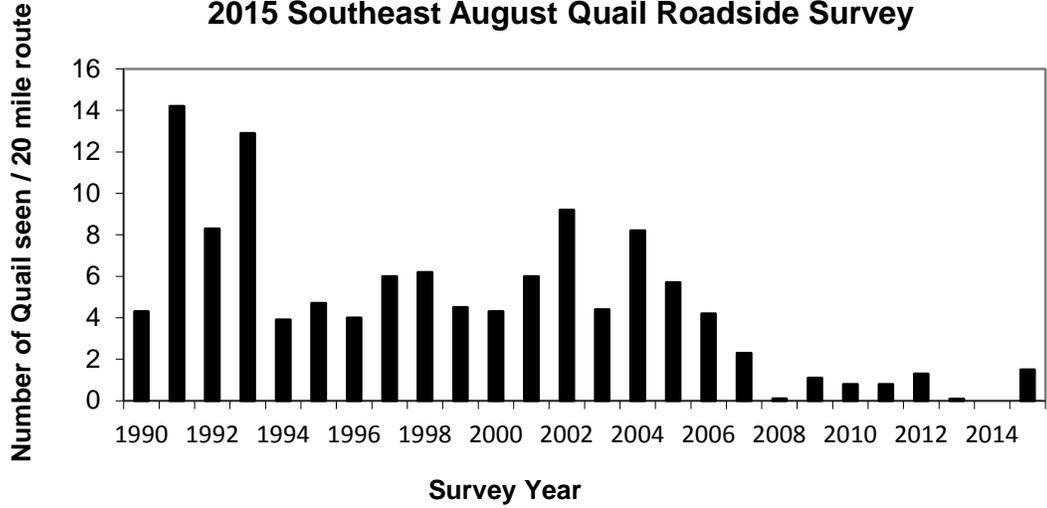
2015 Northcentral August Quail Roadside Survey



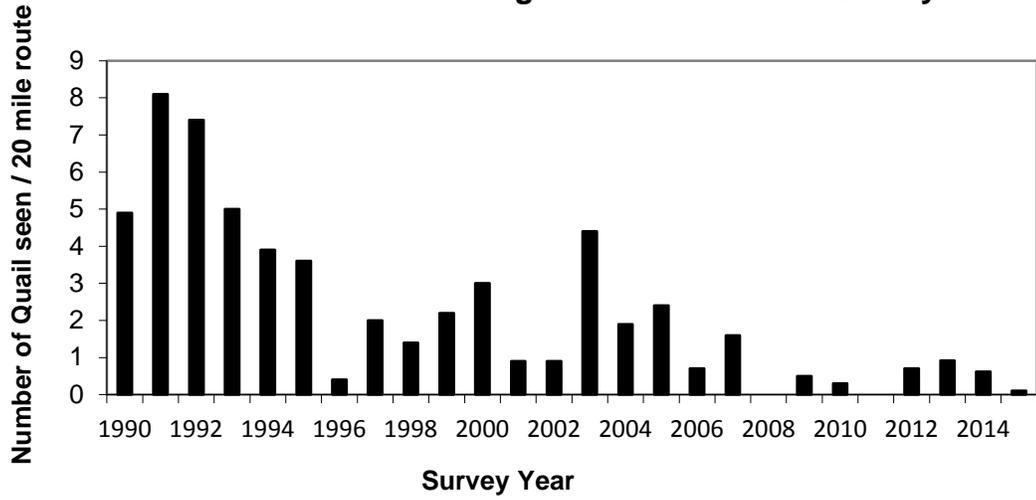
2015 Northwest August Quail Roadside Survey



2015 Southeast August Quail Roadside Survey



2015 Southcentral August Quail Roadside Survey



2015 Southwest August Quail Roadside Survey

