

California Department of Fish and Game
722 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento 14, California

REPORT OF 1958 GAME TAKE HUNTER QUESTIONNAIRE

The 1958 hunter questionnaire was mailed to a 2 percent random sample of 1958 hunting licensees.

For the second consecutive year the sale of hunting licenses decreased. License sales amounted to an estimated 615,000, a drop of about 5 percent below 1957 sales.

It is of importance to realize that the total bag figures contained in this report are subject to considerable statistical bias depending on several factors such as, (1) number of pieces of game allowed by state bag limit, (2) date of open season with respect to date of hunter questionnaire, (3) degree to which party hunting contributes in the harvest of the species. Therefore, since these biases exist, the chief value in total bag figures, contained herein, is their trend value; - how does this season compare with last and with long range trends?

The figures are also of value in comparing harvest areas of the various species concerned.

Response to the hunter questionnaire was 48.1 percent, the previous high was 47.5 percent in 1954.

REGULATION CHANGES

The 1955 hen pheasant regulation, which allowed one hen pheasant in the bag, was repealed in 1958.

BAG BY SPECIES

QUAIL - 1958 Bag - 1,939,800

As was expected from field reports, the 1958 quail season was very good, showing an increase of 18 percent over the 1957 bag. The traditional quail hunting areas in the state continued to produce high harvests, with Riverside and Kern counties accounting for about 18 percent of the state-wide bag.

PHEASANTS - 1958 Bag - 704,400

The 1958 pheasant kill of 704,400 cock pheasants was greater than the 630,500 reported in 1957, this was an indicated increase of some 12 percent. The 1957 bag was composed of 630,500 cocks and 145,000 hens, for a total of 775,500. Apparently the hen kill in 1957 did not hurt the rooster supply in 1958.

The lack of early rains enabled farmers to harvest crops and prepare lands for planting before the season opened. This reduced the available pheasant cover and tended to force birds into ditch cover or plowed fields.

Though less hunters were in the field, these conditions could have contributed to a higher hunter success.

DOVES - 1958 Bag - 3,399,100

Dove hunting continued as a major source of hunting interest in California and showed an increase of 5 percent over the 1957 kill. The Southern California desert counties and the counties of the southern San Joaquin valley represented the most productive dove hunting areas. Field reports indicated high dove populations which enabled fewer hunters to harvest a greater number of doves than were taken in 1957.

BAND-TAILED PIGEONS - 1958 Bag - 195,200

A decrease of 24 percent was reported for the 1958 band-tail season. The preferred areas to which pigeons migrate were not as fully utilized by the band-tails last season, with the exception of Monterey County which reported almost 30 percent of the statewide kill.

CHUKAR PARTRIDGE - 1958 Bag - 28,600

A great increase of chukar populations due to excellent reproductive conditions, expansion of hunting areas through the addition of portions of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties as well as all of San Benito County, plus a higher degree of interest in chukar hunting were factors which contributed to an increased kill which amounted to almost three times the reported bag for 1957.

JACK RABBITS - 1958 Bag - 1,469,200

For a two year period the jackrabbit kill had been in a decline, but in 1958 the reported kill was 68 percent higher than the 874,200 reported in 1957. Field reports had indicated a large jackrabbit population in 1958.

RABBITS (Cottontail and/or Brush) - 1958 Bag - 645,400

Rabbit hunting showed an increase, in the bag, of about 56 percent over the 1957 kill. As one of the major species hunted in Southern California it is significant that almost 38 percent of the statewide kill was taken in Riverside and San Diego Counties.

Hunter effort was greater last season than was reported for 1957.

TREE SQUIRRELS - 1958 Bag - 67,500

A decrease of 15 percent from the 1957 bag of 79,600 was reported for last season. Comparison of bag figures from year to year is difficult

due to the fact that numerous reports are received from counties with no open season and it is presumed many ground squirrels are reported by mistake.

UPLAND GAME SUMMARY

In general the upland game hunting seasons were very good.

An excellent reproductive year was instrumental in the increase of upland game populations.

Interest in upland game hunting continued to maintain a high percentage of the overall hunting effort. It was reported that over 2 1/2 million days were spent hunting upland game in 1958.

DUCKS - 1958 Bag - 4,610,300

Though "bluebird" weather prevailed throughout most of the 1958-59 waterfowl season, the reported duck kill was 15 percent higher than the 4,025,000 kill during the 1957-58 season.

The state operated Waterfowl Management Areas enjoyed the greatest success since their establishment; the kill of 159,857 ducks represented a 3 percent increase over the W.M.A. bag for 1957.

An increase of kill was reported for most of the major duck producing areas of the state, a notable exception was the important Delta-Suisun Marsh Area (Sacramento, San Joaquin, Yolo and Solano Counties) which showed an appreciable drop in kill last season. As was expected an increase of kill was reported in the Sacramento Valley reflecting the large concentration of birds which frequented the Butte Sink area throughout most of the season.

GEESE - 1958 Bag - 379,200

The 1957-58 season goose kill was reported 3 percent higher than was reported the previous season. Very little change of pattern was noted in 1958-59 as the same general areas reported bags that were comparable to results of the 1957-58 season.

COOTS - 1958 Bag - 505,900

The reported kill in the 1958-59 season represents an increase of 7 percent over the 1957-58 bag.

WATERFOWL SUMMARY

Despite adverse weather conditions the 1958-59 waterfowl season was successful with large concentrations of birds available in most of the state. An important exception was the Delta-Suisun Marsh area where the kill was down.

Waterfowl hunters reported 786,400 days of waterfowl hunting.

BIG GAME

DEER - 1958 Bag - 118,400 (Deer Tag Count 58,669)

The reported deer kill exceeded the deer tag count by 59,731 which continues the trend of former years, in which the reported kill was about double the deer tag report.

A reported 24,200 deer hunters used bow and arrow in their deer hunting. This group represented approximately 7 percent of all deer hunters and was less by 4,300 (15%) than the 28,500 archers who hunted deer in 1957.

BEARS - 1958 Bag - 1,200 (Bear Tag Count 653)

The bear kill is approximately double the bear tag count, the same condition which applied to the deer report. Due to incomplete bear tag returns in 1957 the figures are not comparable.

BIG GAME SUMMARY

Compared to 1957 reports, the 1958 big game seasons showed a downward trend in both the bag and the number of hunters who participated.

Big game hunters reported that they hunted almost 2 million days, making big game second upland game in hunting time expended.

OPINION ON DOE SEASONS

In the hunter surveys conducted in 1948 and 1958, the licensees were asked to express an opinion as to whether they favored or opposed some kind of open season on does.

It is interesting to note, in the following table, that the total opposed to any doe season was down by 11% while there was a 6% increase in favor of a doe season.

This increase was apparently due to a complete reversal of opinion by some of the former opponents of the season, while the 5% increase in the "No Opinion" group indicated that an element of doubt had arisen in some of the opponents.

OPINION ON DOE SEASON IN PERCENT

	<u>1948</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>Change from 1948</u>
Favor Doe Season	29	34	+ 5
*Favor Doe Season With Qualifications	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>+ 1</u>
Total in Favor	48	54	+ 6
Oppose Doe Season	44	33	-11
No Opinion	<u>8</u>	<u>13</u>	+ 5
Grand Totals	100	100	

*This category covers those responses in which the licensee is in favor of a doe season, but only under certain conditions, such as; a specific type of season, limitation of bag, specific areas, etc.

TABLE 1
SUMMARY OF STATEWIDE GAME BAG 1958

<u>Species</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Pheasants (Cocks)	704,400	630,500	+ 12
Pheasants (Hens)	No Season	145,000	—
Pheasants (Total)	704,400	775,500	- 9
Quail	1,939,800	1,648,800	+ 18
Doves	3,399,100	3,233,900	+ 5
Chukar Partridges	28,600	7,400	+287
Sage Hens	4,500	3,700	+ 22
Sierra and Ruffed Grouse	3,000	1,900	+ 58
Band-tailed Pigeons	195,200	255,000	- 24
Jackrabbits	1,469,200	874,200	+ 68
Cottontail or Brush Rabbits	645,400	412,900	+ 56
Tree Squirrels	67,500	79,600	- 15
Geese	379,200	366,900	+ 3
Ducks	4,610,300	4,025,000	+ 15
Jack Snipes	67,900	43,600	+ 56
Coots	505,900	488,800	+ 4
Buck Deer (Tag Count)	58,669	65,214	- 10
Bears	1,200	3,600	- 67
Wild Boars	100	800	- 88

TABLE 2
 GAME BAG - 1958
 (TEN LEADING COUNTIES)

	<u>% OF STATE TOTAL</u>	<u>POSITION 1957</u>		<u>% OF STATE TOTAL</u>	<u>POSITION 1957</u>
<u>PHEASANTS (COCKS)</u>			<u>JACKRABBITS</u>		
1. BUTTE	9.4	5	1. KERN	14.0	1
2. COLUSA	8.9	3	2. LOS ANGELES	8.4	5
3. SUTTER	8.4	2	3. LASSEN	7.0	22
4. YOLO	6.9	1	4. SAN DIEGO	6.5	12
5. SACRAMENTO	6.4	4	5. RIVERSIDE	5.3	4
6. FRESNO	6.2	6	6. FRESNO	4.5	2
7. STANISLAUS	5.8	9	7. YOLO	4.4	19
8. MERCED	5.1	8	8. MERCED	4.2	7
9. SAN JOAQUIN	4.6	7	9. SISKIYOU	3.8	28
10. GLENN	4.4	10	10. SAN JOAQUIN	3.2	3
ALL OTHERS	<u>33.9</u>		ALL OTHERS	<u>38.7</u>	
TOTAL	100.0		TOTAL	100.0	
<u>QUAIL</u>			<u>RABBITS (COTTONTAIL AND BRUSH)</u>		
1. RIVERSIDE	9.6	1	1. RIVERSIDE	19.8	1
2. KERN	8.5	2	2. SAN DIEGO	17.8	2
3. SAN DIEGO	4.6	8	3. KERN	7.4	3
4. FRESNO	4.0	3	4. LOS ANGELES	6.9	4
5. TULARE	3.8	6	5. SAN BERNARDINO	5.8	7
6. LOS ANGELES	3.7	4	6. VENTURA	5.6	5
7. SHASTA	3.4	9	7. LASSEN	3.8	23
8. IMPERIAL	3.3	5	8. MONTEREY	2.8	8
9. SAN LUIS OBISPO	3.1	14	9. SAN LUIS OBISPO	2.7	17
10. SAN BERNARDINO	3.0	12	10. ORANGE	2.6	9
ALL OTHERS	<u>53.0</u>		ALL OTHERS	<u>24.8</u>	
TOTAL	100.0		TOTAL	100.0	
<u>DOVES</u>			<u>GEESE</u>		
1. IMPERIAL	13.2	1	1. GLENN	15.6	4
2. FRESNO	8.1	4	2. SISKIYOU	14.9	2
3. RIVERSIDE	8.1	2	3. COLUSA	14.7	1
4. TULARE	7.2	3	4. BUTTE	10.1	6
5. KERN	4.8	5	5. MODOC	8.4	3
6. MERCED	4.4	9	6. MERCED	5.6	5
7. STANISLAUS	3.8	7	7. LASSEN	4.4	10
8. SAN DIEGO	3.5	6	8. SUTTER	3.6	7
9. SAN JOAQUIN	3.4	8	9. YOLO	3.0	8
10. LOS ANGELES	3.3	10	10. SHASTA	1.8	12
ALL OTHERS	<u>40.2</u>		ALL OTHERS	<u>17.9</u>	
TOTAL	100.0		TOTAL	100.0	
<u>BAND-TAILED PIGEONS</u>			<u>DUCKS</u>		
1. MONTEREY	29.5	2	1. MERCED	17.3	1
2. TULARE	7.7	26	2. COLUSA	11.4	3
3. VENTURA	6.8	15	3. SOLANO	7.2	2
4. SAN DIEGO	6.7	13	4. SISKIYOU	4.7	4
5. SAN LUIS OBISPO	4.5	3	5. BUTTE	4.4	9
6. SANTA CRUZ	3.6	11	6. IMPERIAL	3.8	6
7. BUTTE	3.3	29	7. KERN	3.7	5
8. KERN	3.1	19	8. SUTTER	3.4	10
9. CALAVERAS	3.0	-	9. GLENN	3.4	15
10. TUOLUMNE	2.5	23	10. FRESNO	3.0	14
ALL OTHERS	<u>29.3</u>		ALL OTHERS	<u>37.7</u>	
TOTAL	100.0		TOTAL	100.0	

TABLE 3
 WHERE BAY AREA (S.F., ALAMEDA, CONTRA COSTA COUNTIES) HUNTERS
 BAG THEIR GAME. EXPRESSED IN PERCENT OF BAG IN THE COUNTIES HUNTED.

1958 SEASON

<u>County</u>	<u>Pheasants</u>	<u>Quail</u>	<u>Doves</u>	<u>Ducks</u>	<u>Deer</u>
Alameda	4	18	12	11	13
Alpine					2
Butte	12	5	3	4	
Colusa	22		8	25	
Contra Costa	8	17	34	7	7
Eldorado		7			
Fresno			8		
Glenn	8		2	5	
Humboldt					2
Lake		3	3		11
Lassen					4
Marin		3			
Mariposa			2		
Mendocino		7			7
Merced	3		3	14	
Modoc					11
Napa		5	2		4
Nevada					2
Sacramento	9				
San Joaquin	5	4	3	2	
San Luis Obispo		4			
San Mateo		7			
Santa Clara					2
Shasta		7			
Siskiyou				2	7
Solano	5		2	19	
Sonoma		4			3
Stanislaus	4	2	5		
Sutter	6		3	3	
Tehama					4
Tuolumne					4
Yolo	8		2		
All Others	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>17</u>
Total	100	100	100	100	100

TABLE 4
 WHERE LOS ANGELES AREA (L. A., ORANGE COUNTIES) HUNTERS BAG THEIR GAME
 EXPRESSED IN PERCENT OF BAG IN THE COUNTIES HUNTED
 1958 SEASON

<u>County</u>	<u>Pheasants</u>	<u>Quail</u>	<u>Doves</u>	<u>Ducks</u>	<u>Deer</u>
Butte	5				
Colusa	3				
Fresno	6			3	6
Imperial	3	3	30	21	
Inyo		4			6
Kern	5	14	4	19	7
Lake					4
Lassen					2
Los Angeles	6	16	17	5	10
Madera					2
Mariposa					2
Mendocino					3
Merced	4			5	
Modoc	3			3	3
Mono					15
Orange	4	5	11	11	6
Plumas					2
Riverside	4	31	24	8	2
Sacramento	7				
San Bernardino	19	6	3	2	4
San Diego	2	4			2
San Joaquin	3				
San Luis Obispo		3			3
Santa Barbara					2
Shasta					3
Sierra					2
Siskiyou	4			7	2
Sutter	7				
Tehama					3
Tulare	3	3	2		6
Ventura	2	4	4	3	3
Yuba	2			2	
All Others	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>—</u>
Total	100	100	100	100	100

TABLE 5
 WHERE SAN DIEGO AREA (SAN DIEGO COUNTY) HUNTERS BAG THEIR GAME.
 EXPRESSED IN PERCENT OF BAG IN THE COUNTIES HUNTED.
 1958 SEASON

<u>County</u>	<u>Pheasants</u>	<u>Quail</u>	<u>Doves</u>	<u>Ducks</u>	<u>Deer</u>
Calaveras					5
Imperial	24	16	45	27	
Modoc	5			3	5
Riverside		3			5
Sacramento	3				
San Bernardino					5
San Diego	56	80	52	55	63
San Luis Obispo					5
Santa Barbara					5
Shasta					5
Siskiyou	10			3	
Yolo				2	
All Others	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTALS	100	100	100	100	100

TABLE 6
 WHERE BAKERSFIELD AREA (KERN COUNTY) HUNTERS BAG THEIR GAME.
 EXPRESSED IN PERCENT OF BAG IN THE COUNTIES HUNTED.
 1958 SEASON

<u>County</u>	<u>Pheasants</u>	<u>Quail</u>	<u>Doves</u>	<u>Ducks</u>	<u>Deer</u>
Colusa	2				
Fresno	8				
Glenn	4				
Inyo		2			
Kern	54	90	79	84	56
Kings	7				
Mono				2	
Nevada					5
San Diego					5
San Luis Obispo					11
Tulare	12	4	16	12	6
Ventura					17
Yuba	9				
All Others	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u> </u>
TOTALS	100	100	100	100	100

TABLE 7
 WHERE FRESNO AREA (FRESNO COUNTY) HUNTERS BAG THEIR GAME.
 EXPRESSED IN PERCENT OF BAG IN THE COUNTIES HUNTED
 1958 SEASON

<u>County</u>	<u>Pheasants</u>	<u>Quail</u>	<u>Doves</u>	<u>Ducks</u>	<u>Deer</u>
Alpine					9
Fresno	80	76	82	39	55
Kings	3		3		
Lassen					4
Madera	6	6	9	17	14
Merced	6	7	3	38	4
Mono					4
Monterey				2	4
San Benito		3			4
Siskiyou	3	3			
Tulare		3	2		
All Others	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTALS	100	100	100	100	100

TABLE 8
 WHERE SACRAMENTO AREA (SACRAMENTO COUNTY) HUNTERS BAG THEIR GAME.
 EXPRESSED IN PERCENT OF BAG IN THE COUNTIES HUNTED.
 1958 SEASON

<u>County</u>	<u>Pheasants</u>	<u>Quail</u>	<u>Doves</u>	<u>Ducks</u>	<u>Deer</u>
Alpine					9
Amador		2	3		3
Butte	3		5	4	3
Calaveras		6			3
Colusa	6			9	6
Eldorado		26	9		13
Lassen				2	13
Modoc		3			3
Mono					3
Placer	4	23	8	3	6
Plumas					9
Sacramento	31	12	44	8	
San Joaquin	2		3		
Santa Barbara					3
Sierra					6
Siskiyou					16
Solano				2	
Stanislaus			3	15	
Sutter	25	10	7	19	
Tuolumne		3			
Yolo	25	6	11	26	3
Yuba		3	4	7	
All Others	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTALS	100	100	100	100	100

WHERE CHICO AREA (BUTTE COUNTY) HUNTERS BAG THEIR GAME.
EXPRESSED IN PERCENT OF BAG IN THE COUNTIES HUNTED.
1958 SEASON

<u>County</u>	<u>Pheasants</u>	<u>Quail</u>	<u>Doves</u>	<u>Ducks</u>	<u>Deer</u>
Butte	84	96	88	76	38
Colusa			2	5	
Glenn	9			8	
Lassen					18
Los Angeles		3			
Mendocino					2
Modoc					5
Plumas					8
Sierra					2
Siskiyou				7	2
Tehama			6	3	23
Yolo	2				
Yuba	2				2
All Others	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u> </u>
TOTALS	100	100	100	100	100

TABLE 10
WHERE STOCKTON AREA (SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY) HUNTERS BAG THEIR GAME.
EXPRESSED IN PERCENT OF BAG IN THE COUNTIES HUNTED.
1958 SEASON

<u>County</u>	<u>Pheasants</u>	<u>Quail</u>	<u>Doves</u>	<u>Ducks</u>	<u>Deer</u>
Alpine					27
Amador		8			4
Butte	3	2			
Calaveras		19		2	4
Colusa				3	
Contra Costa	2				
Eldorado		3			4
Fresno	3				
Lake					4
Lassen					4
Marin					4
Mariposa		14	3		4
Mendocino					4
Merced	5			10	
Modoc					15
Mono					4
Monterey					4
Sacramento	7	3	2	2	
San Joaquin	63	41	80	64	4
Santa Clara					4
Sierra					4
Siskiyou					4
Stanislaus	14	7	10	4	
Sutter	2			7	
Tuolumne					8
Yolo				2	
All Others	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTALS	100	100	100	100	100

TABLE 11
MAILING AND RETURN BY COUNTY OF RESIDENCE - 1958 HUNTER QUESTIONNAIRE

County	Questionnaires Mailed	Percent of Total Mailed	No. Returned	Percent Returned
Alameda	575	5.5	297	51.7
Alpine	-	-	-	-
Amador	21	0.2	10	47.6
Butte	236	2.3	123	52.1
Calaveras	37	0.4	10	27.0
Colusa	28	0.3	12	42.9
Contra Costa	373	3.4	190	50.9
Del Norte	39	0.4	13	33.3
Eldorado	65	0.6	32	49.2
Fresno	423	4.0	177	41.8
Glenn	47	0.5	24	51.1
Humboldt	270	2.6	115	42.6
Imperial	105	1.0	43	41.0
Inyo	60	0.6	31	51.7
Kern	331	3.2	156	47.1
Kings	49	0.5	23	46.9
Lake	33	0.3	14	42.4
Lassen	58	0.5	28	48.3
Los Angeles	1,932	18.4	931	48.2
Madera	71	0.7	32	45.1
Marin	91	0.9	39	42.9
Mariposa	13	0.1	9	69.2
Mendocino	118	1.1	50	42.4
Merced	137	1.3	61	44.5
Modoc	35	0.3	17	48.6
Mono	25	0.2	14	56.0
Monterey	153	1.5	73	47.7
Napa	96	0.9	44	45.8
Nevada	68	0.7	30	44.1
Orange	261	2.5	133	51.0
Placer	119	1.1	65	54.6
Plumas	59	0.6	28	47.5
Riverside	164	1.6	78	47.6
Sacramento	513	4.9	251	48.9
San Benito	32	0.3	13	40.6
San Bernardino	243	2.3	118	48.6
San Diego	394	3.8	206	52.3
San Francisco	303	2.9	147	48.5
San Joaquin	258	2.5	136	52.7
San Luis Obispo	121	1.2	61	50.4
San Mateo	263	2.5	133	50.6
Santa Barbara	109	1.0	55	50.5
Santa Clara	341	3.2	166	48.7
Santa Cruz	76	0.7	39	51.3
Shasta	222	2.1	126	56.8
Sierra	11	0.1	4	36.4
Siskiyou	172	1.6	80	46.5
Solano	166	1.6	82	49.4
Sonoma	206	2.0	101	49.0
Stanislaus	187	1.8	80	42.8
Sutter	71	0.7	28	39.4
Tehama	86	0.8	44	51.1
Trinity	40	0.4	17	42.5
Tulare	205	2.0	75	36.6
Tuolumne	36	0.3	16	44.4
Ventura	135	1.3	65	48.1
Yolo	110	1.0	52	47.3
Yuba	68	0.6	27	39.7
Out of State	18	0.2	12	66.7
TOTAL	10,478	100.0	5,036	48.1