

2018 Quail Season Outlook

By

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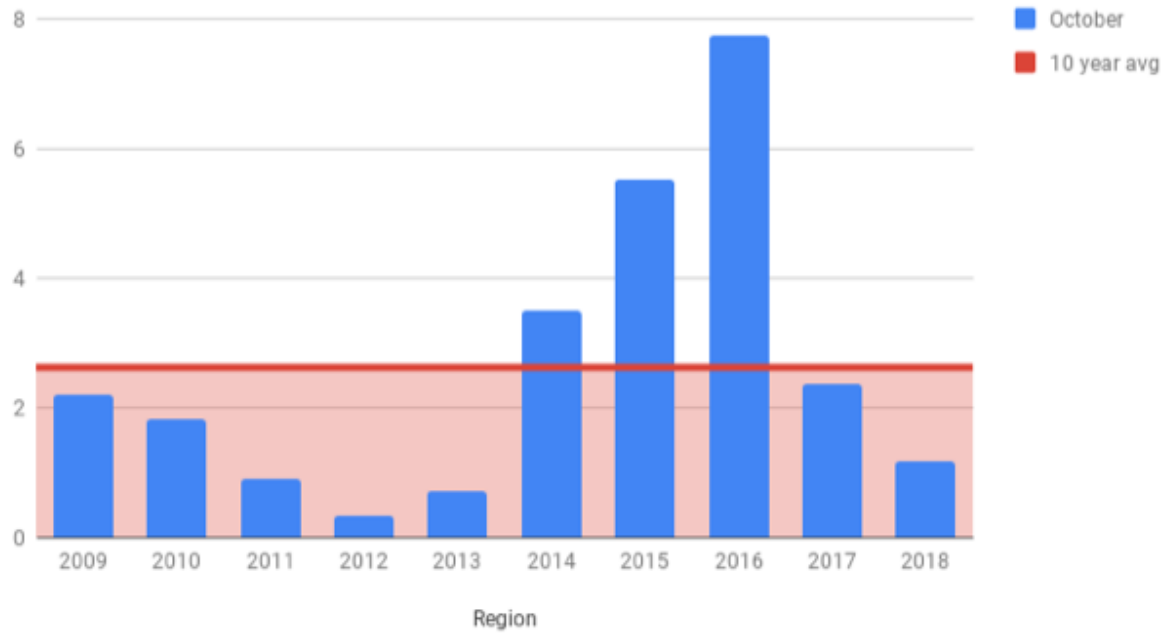
The quail population in the southcentral region looks to be on the uptick from last year while the northeast and northwest regions are similar to last year according to surveys operated by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. The picture is not as good for the southwest, southeast and northcentral regions where few quail were observed in the roadside surveys.

The 2018 October roadside quail survey shows the statewide Northern bobwhite quail (*Colinus virginianus*) index is 54 percent below the 10-year historic average (Table 1) (Figure 1). The October survey produced 4.3 percent $\frac{1}{2}$ grown, 40.2 percent $\frac{3}{4}$ grown, 55.5 percent full grown quail.

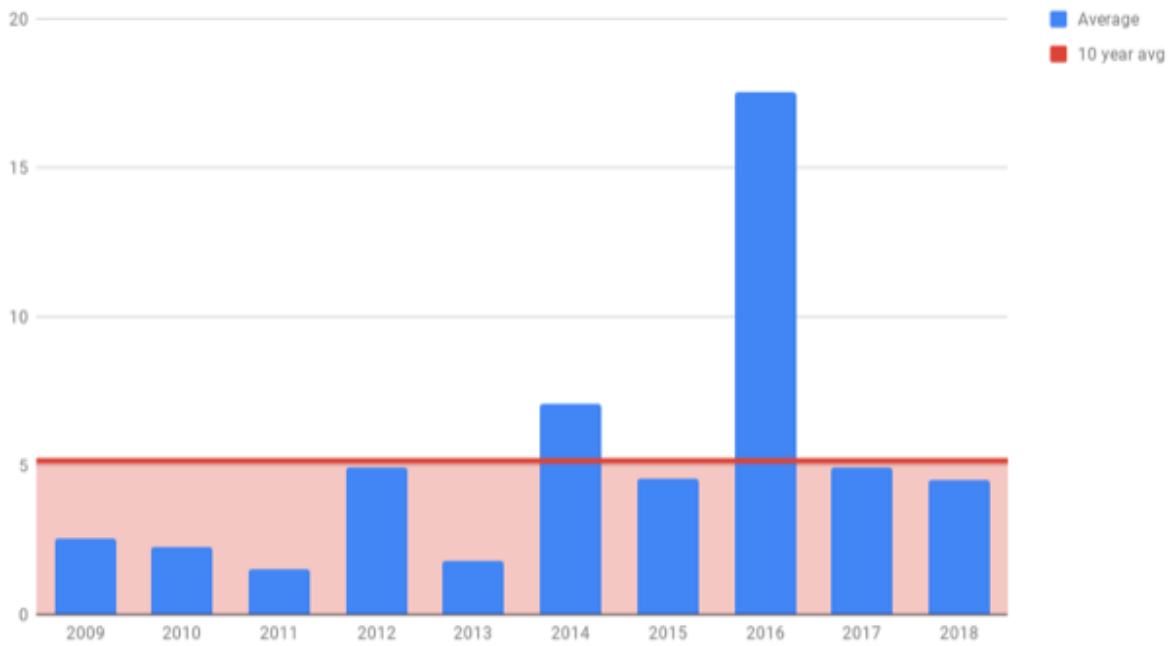
The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has conducted annual roadside surveys in August and October since 1990 to index quail populations across Oklahoma. The survey provides an index of annual population fluctuations. Observers report the number of quail observed to provide an index of quail abundance (number of quail seen per 20 mile route) and indicate reproductive success. Currently, ODWC employees survey 83 20-mile routes in 75 of Oklahoma's 77 counties. Oklahoma and Tulsa counties are excluded due to the amount of urbanization in those counties. Larger counties including Beaver, Ellis, Le Flore, McCurtain, Osage, Pittsburg, Pushmataha, and Roger Mills have two routes per county.

This year ODWC is again collecting wings off of public lands to better evaluate our quail population. If you harvest a bird off of a WMA with a wing box, please take the time to place one wing, preferably the right wing, off of the harvested quail and place it in the box. If the right wing is chewed or shot to pieces feel free to donate the left wing as long as only one wing/harvested quail is placed in the box. The management areas that will have boxes are Beaver River, Cooper, Cross Timbers, Kaw, Packsaddle, Pushmataha, and Sandy Sanders. There will also be a short survey to complete, provided you have the time.

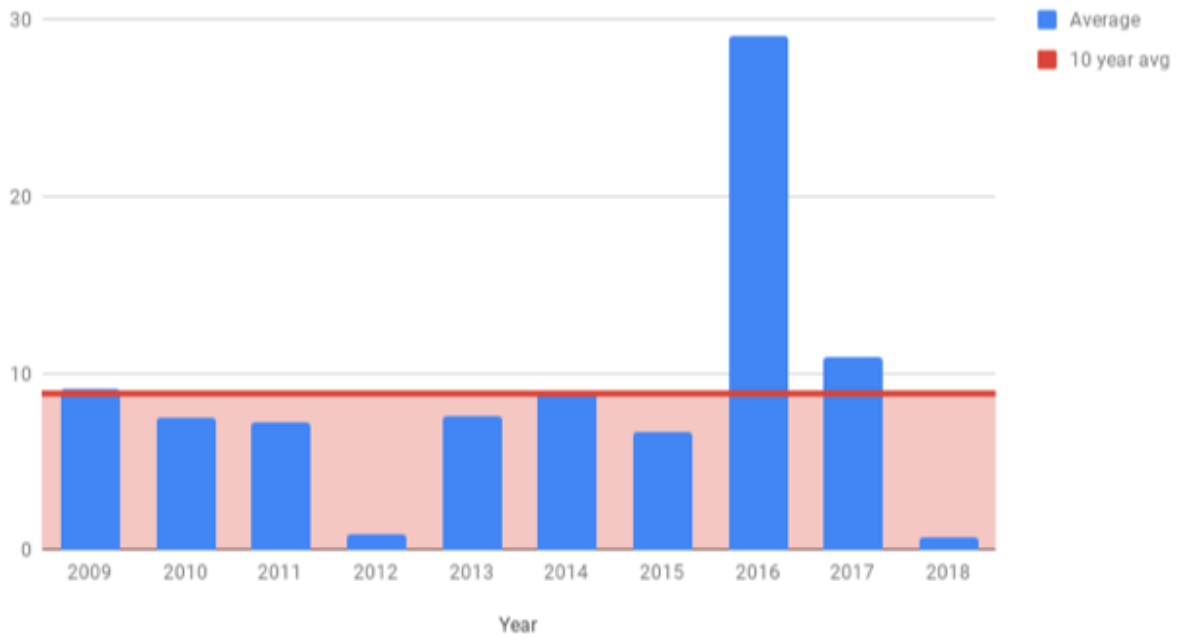
October average and previous 10 year average



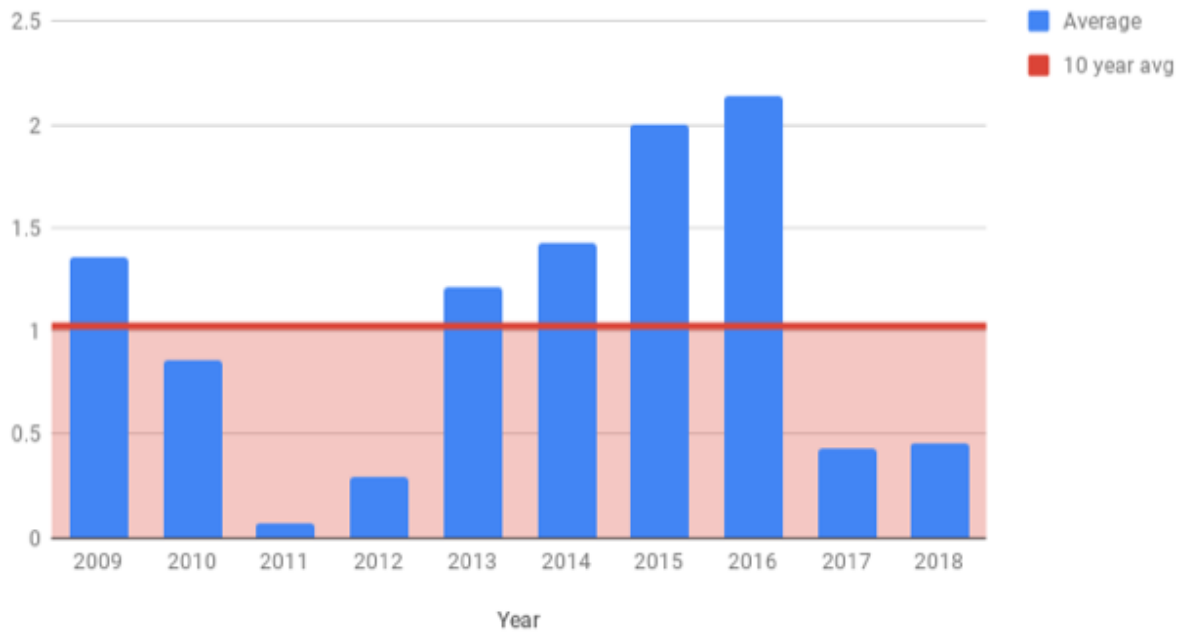
Northwest average and previous 10 year average



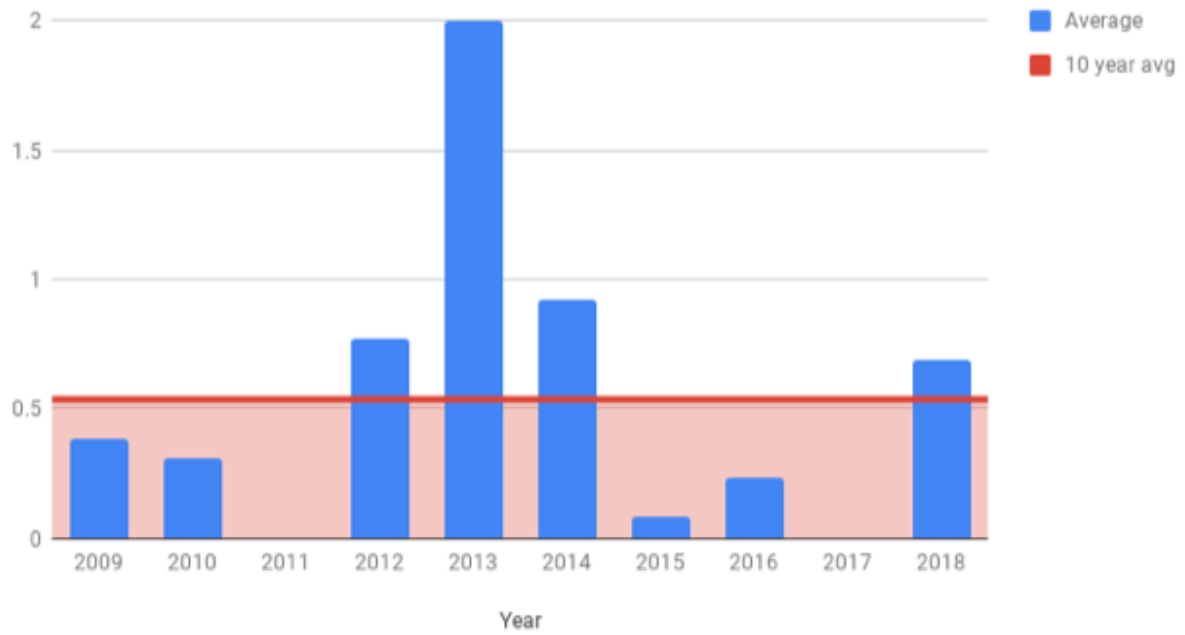
Southwest average with previous 10 year average



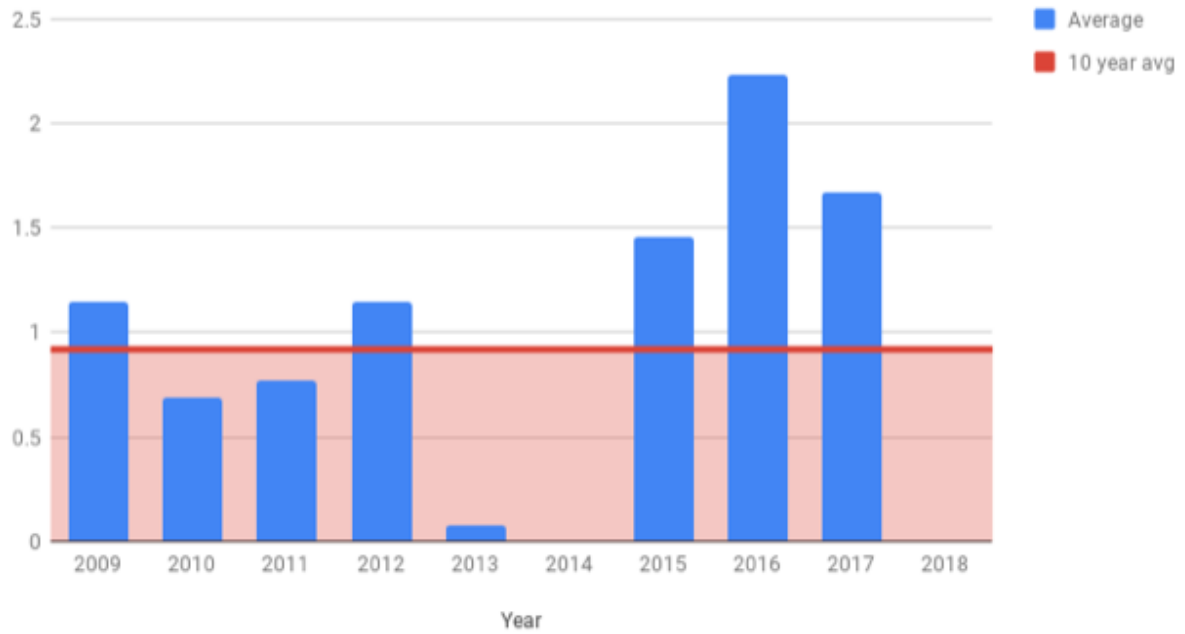
Northeast average with previous 10 year average



Southcentral Average with Long-term Average



Southeast average with previous 10 year average



Northcentral average with previous 10 year average

