



All of our game is supplied by Yorkshire Game, it is sourced from the Yorkshire and Northern Dales.

As with any wild food source it is vital that it be managed in a sustainable manner to ensure a viable healthy population for the future. Game shooting is a popular and growing sport in the UK and generates considerable income in the countryside from both shooting and associated businesses. To sustain this sport it is in the interests of the landowners to ensure that the countryside is managed to provide Game with the best opportunity to successfully breed and rear young. In any wild population it is important that only the surplus from a successful breeding season be shot so as to leave a viable breeding stock for next year

Grouse

Red Grouse are indigenous to the British Isles and are found nowhere else in the world. They live on the high heather moorland and mountains with Scotland and the North of England being their stronghold. Red Grouse are entirely wild so management of the population rests on providing suitable habitat and controlling predators to give breeding birds the best chance of successfully rearing their young. The hen Grouse lay around 6 – 14 eggs in April and hatch during May and early June. The start of the grouse shooting season is probably the best known date in the shooting calendar - The Glorious 12th August – on which date there is the customary race to get new seasons birds on to the tables of the top London restaurants (at top prices!). Because this is a completely wild bird, numbers vary considerably from year to year and prices are reflected by availability. Bad weather around hatching time can lead to decimation of the newly hatched chicks and therefore no shooting will take place that year. The grouse is considered by many to be the world's most challenging bird to shoot and many sportsmen travel here from around the world and pay large sums to shoot grouse, all of which helps us to maintain our uplands for the benefit of not only grouse but also the whole range of upland breeding birds.

Partridge

English (or Grey) Partridge. This is indigenous to the UK and inhabits open farmland, principally in the eastern counties of England and Scotland. Like the brown hare, this is a species that has suffered as a consequence of intensification of farming and loss of habitat. Many landowners are making real efforts to reverse this decline by providing suitable habitat and controlling predators, where this is being done there have been encouraging reversals of the decline. In line with the effort to improve numbers, most landowners have imposed a voluntary shooting ban. Therefore, wild oven ready Grey Partridges will have originated from responsibly managed estates where a shootable surplus exists.

Hare

Hares are native to the UK where two species are present – the Brown and the Blue (or mountain) hare. The largest of these is the Brown Hare which is found on agricultural land throughout the country. The Brown hare has suffered in recent decades from agricultural intensification and numbers have declined in many areas, particularly the West where the wetter weather has also contributed to the decline. In Eastern counties, populations are locally strong and may reach pest proportions doing considerable crop damage. They are classed as game and as such enjoy a closed season (breeding season) from March 1st to July 31st when they may not be shot (except in exceptional circumstances where crop damage is occurring). Brown hares are large and will reach weights of 4kg. The female (doe) will produce up to three litters of around 4 leverets (young hare) each year so given suitable habitat and protection from predators, the hare is capable of increasing in numbers fairly rapidly.

The Blue (or Mountain) Hare is a creature of the Wild open mountains and moorland. Found predominantly in Scotland but with populations as far south as the Derbyshire Peak District. This hare is not as big as the brown (up to 2.5kg) and changes its coat from brown in the summer to white in the winter. Its intermediate spring and autumn coat giving rise to its “blue” name.

Populations are cyclical and so vary considerably from year to year. In good years many are shot but in other years very few will be taken.

Both species of hare can be distinguished from rabbits by both their size and the black tips to their ears.

Wood pigeon

Unlike many bird species, woodpigeons have prospered with the intensification of farming as this has provided them with a year round food source. Numbers have increased to pest proportions in the arable farming areas of the UK. Many are shot to protect crops and this provides us with a valuable and tasty source of food. The woodpigeons eat a variety of seeds and green leaves and shoots giving them a rich gamey flavour. They nest from May to September, typically producing two chicks (squabs) per nest.

Rabbit

Originally introduced to the UK by the Romans as a valuable food and fur source, rabbits were kept fenced into warrens where they could be protected and managed. Since the 1960s the surviving population have once again built up to pest proportions in some areas of the UK – notably the north of England and Scottish borders. Living on farmland, moorland and woodland they will produce several litters of young throughout the spring and summer and hence can multiply rapidly. Traditionally they are trapped or shot during the late summer to early spring when they are at their best from an eating perspective. Males are known as Bucks and females, Does.

Pheasant

The Pheasant is by far the most numerous of British game birds with probably in the region of 20 million being shot each year. Although considerable numbers do breed wild in the UK, many more are released into the wild each year to supplement numbers. Pheasants are present in almost every part of the UK. Pheasants inhabit woodland fringes and land where cover is available, they do not like wide open spaces. One cock (male) will hold a harem of several hens (females) during the spring and will fight other cocks to protect his territory. Hens lay into the teens of eggs and will hatch their young usually in late May or June. Suitable habitat that provides cover from predators and abundant insect life for food, is essential to the newly hatched chicks. Pheasants, in common with all game species, are protected by a close season when it is illegal to kill them. This period coincides with breeding and rearing their young.