

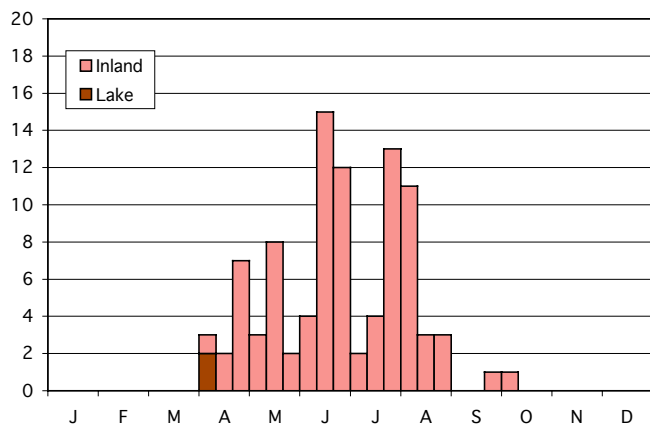
## Black-necked Stilt

## *Himantopus mexicanus*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: Mumford and Keller (1984) noted the existence of several unsubstantiated reports of this distinctive species; however, Indiana's first confirmed report occurred 7 May 1989 when Danny Collins and C.E. Mills discovered two in the Patoka River Bottoms of Gibson County. These birds remained until 14 May and were observed by an additional dozen observers (Mills 1990 and Brown 1990).

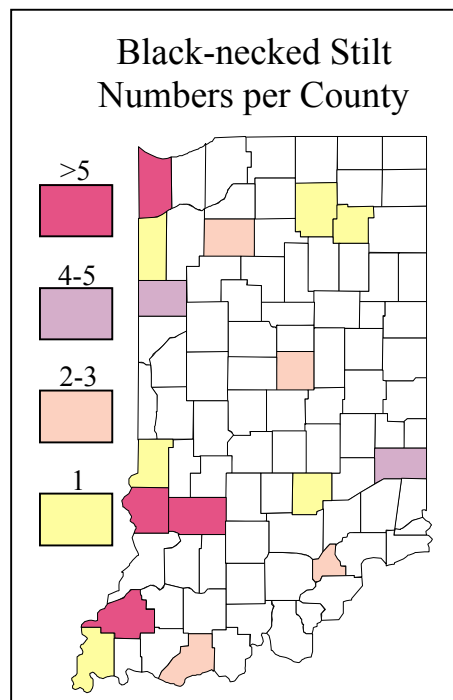
Butler (1898) listed this striking wader as hypothetical. This classification was also employed by Keller (1957), Keller et al. (1979), and Mumford and Keller (1984).



### Status

Physical Evidence: There are no known specimens, but a photograph of one of the 1989 Gibson County birds appears on page 34 of Brown (1990).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
No known specimens				0
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	8	8	9
Central Tier	n	9	n	n
Southern Tier	n	7	7	7
Entire State	n	7	7	7



### Current Status

The status of this species is changing quite rapidly. Prior to 2000 fewer than a dozen Black-necked Stilts had been reported in the state. However, an invasion began in 2002, bringing more than 23 birds into the state in 2002, 2003, and 2004. Accordingly, this species is now Rare (7).

### Occurrence

Over the past decade modest numbers of Black-necked Stilts invaded the Midwest, establishing small breeding groups in a number of states including Illinois and Kentucky. It has now established a significant presence in Indiana. Stilts have now been reported in 16 counties with the highest concentration along Indiana's western border.



Black-necked Stilt, Grand Kankakee Marsh 10 April 2004. Photo by J.J. McCoy.

Most records are clustered in the spring–summer period, but there are several fall reports. The first involved a singleton, initially discovered by Florence Sanchez at Pine Creek Gamebird Area 8 August 1998, and lingered through 18 Aug (Brock 1999). The second fall record, which occurred in Sullivan County, provided the state’s highest count. It consisted of a probable family group of five birds, two adults and three juveniles, which were observed by M.R. Brown 30 July – 1 August 2002 (Brock 2002). The third fall record, a male discovered by E.M.

Hopkins, again occurred at Pine Creek Gamebird Area 23 September to 1 October, 2004 (IN-BIRD). Several observers reported a breeding pair with young at Cane Ridge management area, Gibson County, from 6 August to 1 September 2005 (IN-BIRD), to provide the fourth fall record.

### Breeding

The Black-necked Stilt incursion of 2002 yielded Indiana’s first nesting record. On 15 June 2002 a nest containing two eggs was photographed by L. Sterrenburg in corn stubble some three miles west of Graysville in Sullivan County (Gorney 2003). This breeding effort proved unsuccessful (Gorney 2003), but an apparent family group was observed elsewhere in Sullivan County in late July (see comments in the Occurrence section). Additionally, in late July 2004 a Black-necked Stilt pair (and possibly two pair) was observed at Goose Pond in Greene County and two juveniles (likely capable of flight) were photographed at that site 13 August 2004 (IN-BIRD). On 29 June 2005 a USFWS worker discovered a nest containing three eggs at the Cane Ridge management area in Gibson County (J.S. Castrale pers. comm.). This nesting proved successful as three downy chicks were reported at that site 23 July and 6 August (IN-BIRD).

### Black-necked Stilt Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Year Round				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
5	30-Jul-2002	Sullivan Co	M.R. Brown	INB
4	14-Jun-2002	Sullivan Co	M.R. Brown	INB
4	24-Apr-2004	Franklin Co	Jay Stenger	INB
2*	07-Apr-1995	Miller Beach	Burt Monroe III	KJB
2	07-May-1989	Patoka Bottoms	C.E. Mills	IAQ
2	12-Jun-1998	Pulaski Co	DNR- staff	IAQ
*There are at least nine additional reports of two birds.				

Migration Envelopes						
Summer						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
State	7-Apr-1995	13-Apr	Sum. Vis.	30-Jul	1-Oct-2004	26

### References Cited

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- Butler, A. W. (1898) The Birds of Indiana, Indiana Department of Geology and Natural Resources Annual Report, 22:575-1187.
- Gorney, D. (2003) Indiana's First Confirmed Nesting of Black-necked Stilt, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 81:124-127.
- IN-BIRD, a Listserv dealing with Indiana birds developed and maintained by P.W. Kelly. The records are archived at: <http://listserv.indiana.edu/archives/in-bird-l.html>
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