

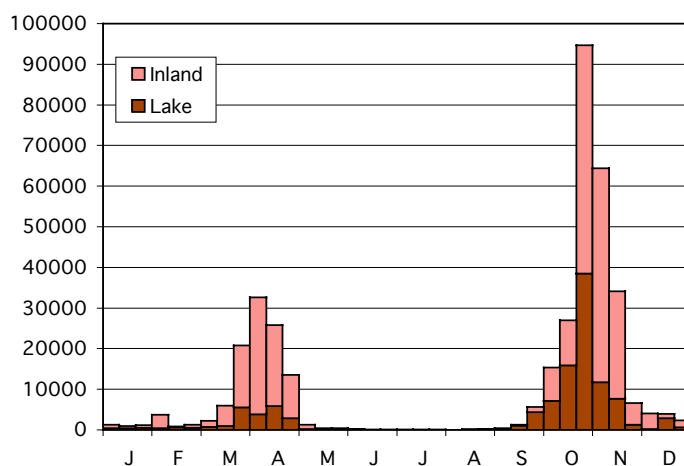
American Coot

Fulica americana

Historical Information

First Published record: The earliest published date was 25 April 1881 in Franklin County (Butler 1898).

Butler (1890) considered the Coot a common migrant, a possible rare winter resident, and a summer resident in the north. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it an abundant migrant, casual to fairly common in winter, and a common summer resident in the north. Mumford and Keller (1984) characterized the Coot as a common to abundant migrant, which wintered in varying numbers and bred in the northern half of the state.



Current Status

Status of the American Coot has changed little since the days of A.W. Butler. This plentiful resident now varies from Very Abundant (1) in fall to Uncommon (6) in summer.

Occurrence

This species has been reported in at least 80 Indiana counties, and has almost certainly occurred in the remaining twelve. It is most evident in fall when large numbers accumulate on the smaller lakes and ponds during migration.

Summer Records

During summer American Coots are Uncommon (6) in the northern tier, and Rare (7) farther south. Some 16 summer records exist for both the central and the southern tier. The largest summer count away from the northern tier consists of ten birds observed by B.K. Jackson at Eagle Creek Park 1 June 1996 (Jackson 1997).

Status

Physical Evidence: At least eighteen specimens are archived in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards 1987).

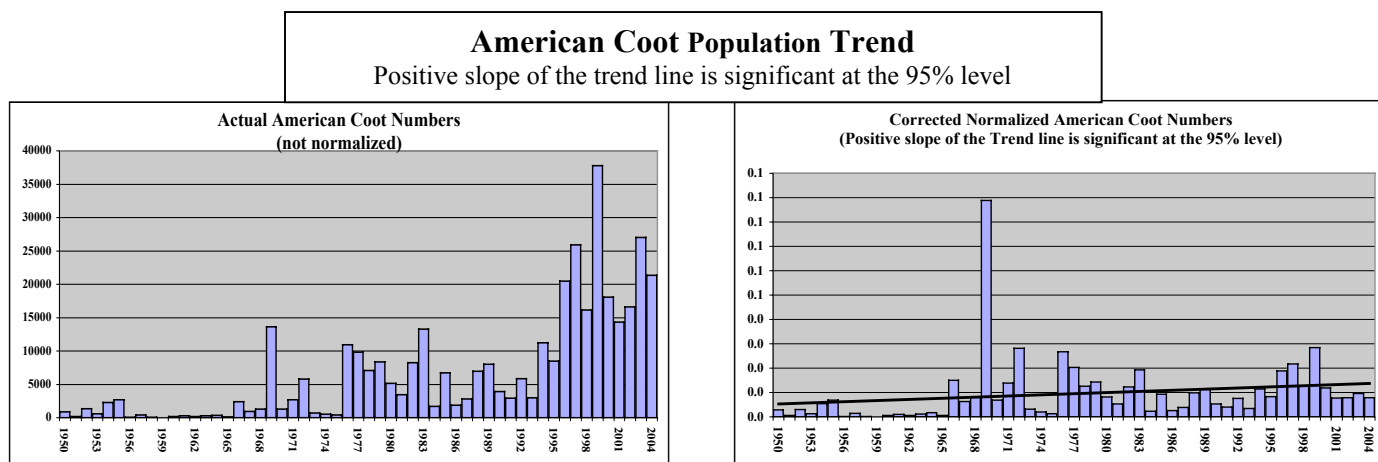
STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				1
Chicago Field Museum				2
National Museum of Natural History				6
Indiana State Museum				2
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				5
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	3	2	6	1
Central Tier	3	3	7	2
Southern Tier	3	2	7	2
Entire State	3	2	6	1

Winter Records

Indiana's largest count during the winter season consists of 3000 counted by C.E. Keller at Turtle Creek Reservoir, Sullivan County, on 9 February 1989 (Brown 1989). Two other winter tallies exceed 1000 birds.

Population Trend

Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) listed nesting evidence in only five percent of the 647 priority blocks. Nesting was confirmed in four counties in both the southern and central tiers. Eggs have been reported from 21 April through 11 July.

American Coot Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
6000	10-Apr-1983	Turtle Cr. Res.	Denny Jones	REM
6000	21-Apr-1996	LaPorte Co	R.S. Plank	IAQ
4000	16-Apr-1983	Willow Slough	E.M. Hopkins	IAQ
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
10009	28-Oct-1999	Lakefront	J.K. Cassady	JKC
10000	25-Oct-1904	Marshall Co	???	REM
8000	25-Oct-1997	n. Lake Co	Clyde Fields	KJB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	15-Mar	9-Apr	8-May	Sum. Res.	674
Central	Win. Res.	14-Mar	11-Apr	12-May	Sum. Res.	117
South	Win. Res.	9-Mar	30-Mar	23-Apr	Sum. Res.	179

Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	16-Sep	22-Oct	19-Nov	Win. Res.	602
Central	Sum. Res.	5-Oct	30-Oct	23-Nov	Win. Res.	82
South	Sum. Res.	11-Oct	2-Nov	18-Nov	Win. Res.	157

References Cited

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