

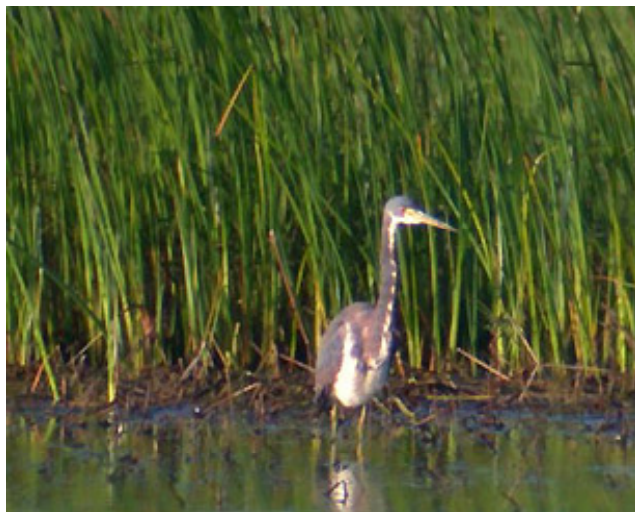
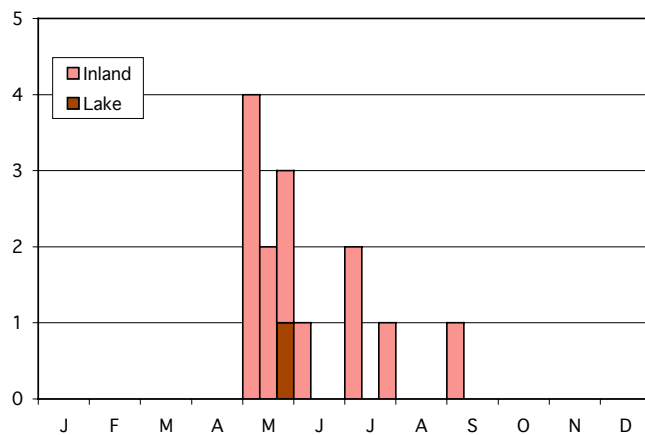
Tricolored Heron

Egretta tricolor

Historical Information

First Published Record: Though Butler (1898) cited a June 1876 Starke County record and a Knox County report during the summer of 1894, the first completely dated “Louisiana Heron” report for Indiana did not occur until 26 July 1963, when one was discovered in Tippecanoe County (Burr 1979).

Citing the Starke County record, Butler (1890) deemed this species a rare summer visitor. Keller (1966) described it as accidental and Keller et al. (1979) believed it was casual. Mumford and Keller (1984) listed seven Indiana records, but did not assess the status of this species.



Tricolored Heron at TNC Kankakee Sands 9 June 2003. Photo J.J. McCoy.

Status

Physical Evidence: There are no known specimens from Indiana, but several photographs have been published (see Bruner 2003 for a listing).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
No known specimens				0
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	10	10	n
Central Tier	n	10	10	10
Southern Tier	n	9	n	n
Entire State	n	8	9	10

Current Status

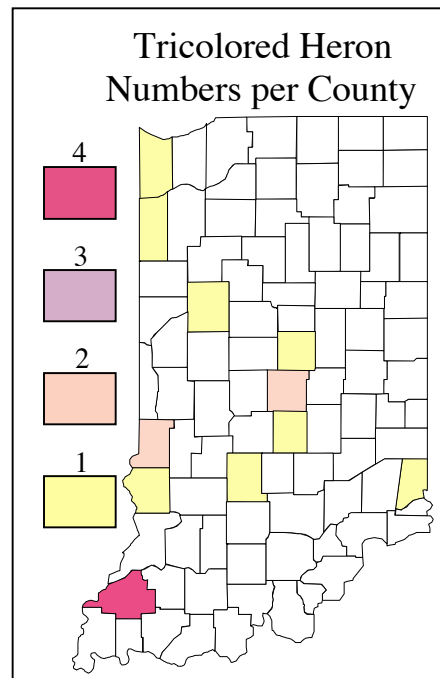
Seven records exist for the past two decades relegating the Tricolored Heron to the Very Rare (8) category.

Occurrence

A majority of the records are concentrated in May and early June. Bruner (2003) lists the sighting of 24 birds in the Terre Haute river bottoms in late August 1924; however, Keller (1966) discredited this report, stating that the record “must certainly be erroneous.”

The two nineteenth century reports (both of which lacked details) and the 1924 record were deemed unreliable and were excluded from the current records listing, which are tabulated below.

Tricolored Heron Records				
All Records				
No.	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
1	26-27 June 1964*	Tippecanoe Co	I.W. Burr	Burr
2	5-8 May 1971	Vigo Co	J. & A. Mason	REM
1	2-9 July 1978	Lake Gibson	Denny Jones	DNR
1	8-9 July 1979	Eagle Creek Park	Al Starling	IAQ
1	17 May 81	Lake Gibson	Denny Jones	REM
1	21 May 1983	Dearborn Co	Dave Styer	REM
1	8 May 1986	Atterbury FWA	C.E. Keller	IAQ
1	16 July 1988	Sullivan Co	???	AB4
1-2	22-31 May 1996	Lake Gibson	Bowmans & C. Mills	IAQ
1	8 June 1996	Hamilton Co	B.K. Jackson	NNB
1	8 Sep. 1999	Marion Co	R. Williams	NNB
1	10-11 May 2003	Lake Monroe	J.I. Downs et al.	INB
1	8-11 June 2003	Kankakee Sands	Jed Hertz	INB
1	23-May-2003	Wolf Lake	B.J. Grube	INB
*Several sources list this date as 27-28 June; however, Burr's 1979 article cites the above dates				



References Cited

Bruner, A. W. (2003) From the Archives – Part 4, CICONIIFORMES – FAMILY ARDEIDAE (Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets), *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 81:70-116.

Burr, I. W. (1979) The Birds of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 57:1-43.

Butler, A. W. (1890) The Birds of Indiana, Appendix to *Transactions of the Indiana Horticultural Society for 1890* (available on the web).

Butler, A. W. (1898) The Birds of Indiana, Indiana Department of Geology and Natural Resources Annual Report, 22:575-1187.

Keller, C.E. (1966) Status of the Ciconiiformes in Indiana. *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 44:56-86.

Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller (1979) *Indiana Birds and Their Haunts*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 214 pp.

Mumford, R.E. and C.E. Keller (1984) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 376 pp.