

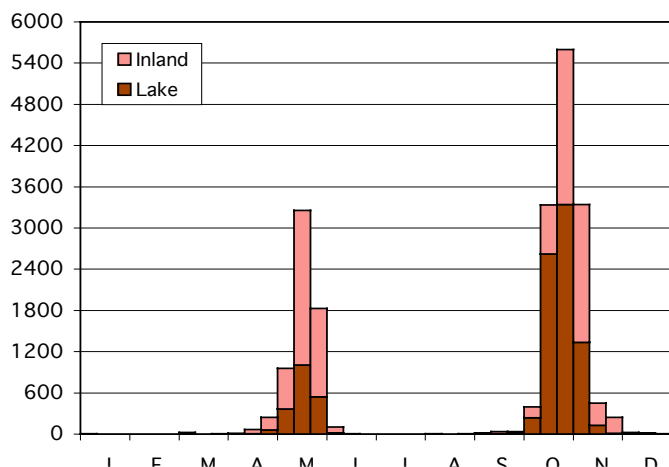
Dunlin

Calidris alpina

Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1898) reported that G.F. Clingman collected a “Red-backed Sandpiper” along the Lake County lakeshore on 1 June 1879; this appears to constitute Indiana’s earliest published date.

Butler (1898) considered the Dunlin sometimes abundant near the southern end of Lake Michigan, but otherwise rare. Keller (1958) deemed it a rare migrant, which is fairly common at times near Lake Michigan. Keller et al. (1979) revised the assessment to rare in spring and uncommon in fall. Mumford and Keller (1984) described it as a rare to uncommon migrant locally throughout Indiana.



Status

Physical Evidence: Two Dunlin specimens are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				1
National Museum of Natural History				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	8	3	7	3
Central Tier	9	6	8	4
Southern Tier	7	5	n	4
Entire State	7	3	7	3

Current Status

Status of the Dunlin has increased markedly since Mumford and Keller (1984). It is now a Very Common (3) migrant, which is Rare (7) in both summer and winter.

Occurrence

This widespread sandpiper has been recorded in at least 57 counties. It occurs in roughly equal proportions both at and away from Lake Michigan. Dunlins usually frequent mudflats with other small shorebirds, but occasionally in late fall large numbers accumulate on Lake Michigan’s beaches (see maximum count table).

Summer Records

Being a fairly late spring migrant, a few individuals often linger into early June, but usually no later than the first week of June. As the main fall flight occurs in late October one might expect a distinct break between spring and fall flights. However, that is not the case. Five mid-June records and five July records exist, including two on 4 July (all except one in the northern tier); thus Dunlin records span virtually the entire summer. The longest hiatus between reports occurs between 15 June and 4 July. Although these early July birds are likely non-breeding wanderers,

this hiatus was assumed to represent the break between spring and fall flights for calculating the migration envelopes.

Winter Records

Many Dunlin linger into early winter and have provided more than two-dozen December records. In addition there are three records during the first week of January, plus one observed by M.R. Brown at Lake Gibson 23 February 1993 (Brown 1993)

Extreme Record

Occasionally large autumn flights are observed during lakewatches on Lake Michigan. The largest of these, by a wide margin, occurred 16 October 2005 when B.J. Grube counted 1383 flying past Miller Beach. These westbound birds passed in 28 flocks averaging 50 birds per flock with the largest flock consisting of 150 individuals (IN-BIRD).

Dunlin Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
250	13-May-1977	Willow Slough	M.R. Brown	REM
200	11-May-2002	Kankakee Sands	J.J. McCoy	INB
178	22-May-1997	Big Pine wetland	J.B. Dunning	NNB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
1383	16-Oct-2005	Miller Beach	B.J. Grube	INB
753	23-Oct-1991	Miller Beach	K.J. Brock	KJB
650	26-Oct-1984	George Lake	K.J. Brock	KJB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	22-Mar-2003	1-May	16-May	27-May	14-Jun-1995	360
Central	30-Mar-2003	6-May	15-May	27-May	5-Jun-2003	75
South	7-Mar-1993	14-Apr	12-May	23-May	4-Jun-1954	68
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	4-Jul-1952	10-Oct	26-Oct	8-Nov	20-Dec-2003	468
Central	25-Aug-1971	10-Oct	29-Oct	16-Nov	17-Dec-1988	145
South	22-Jul-1980	15-Oct	1-Nov	23-Nov	27-Dec-1992	157

References Cited

Brown, M.R. (1993) Field Notes Winter 1992-93, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 71:185-193.

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

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>

Keller, C.E. (1958) The Shorebird families: Charadriidae, Scolopacidae, Recurvirostridae, and Phalaropidae of Indiana. Part 4. *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 36:2-39.

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.

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