

## INTRODUCTION

*"The birds of Indiana are not the same [as] they were when we were young."*  
Amos W. Butler made this prophetic statement in 1920.

In keeping with Butler's insight, tremendous changes have occurred in the Indiana avifauna in recent years. Indeed, some 30 new species have been added to the state list in just the last decade. This explosion of bird data resulted from the confluence of three factors: a substantial increase in the number highly skilled field observers, higher quality field guides and optics, and superior communications. The latter factor included implementation the Rare Bird Hotline (in the mid-1980s) and development of the IN-BIRD listserve (in late 1998). The intense rate at which new bird data are being generated underscores the need for a contemporary summary of the Indiana avifauna.

This volume provides a portrait of Indiana ornithology through the first two months of 2006; it was written between 2001 and 2006. The writing of accurate species accounts was akin to shooting at a moving target, as the constant arrival of new information necessitated continuous revision. Although a concerted effort was made to keep the accounts updated, a few items were almost certainly missed.

### Historical Perspective

The first systematic treatment of the Indiana avifauna was conducted by a physician, A.W. Brayton, who in 1879 published the *Catalogue of the Birds of Indiana*. This compilation, which was dominated by museum-type bird descriptions, was primarily based on information published in adjacent states. Brayton's list included 302 species, but contained little data that was actually collected in Indiana.

During the nineteenth century important contributions to Indiana ornithology were made by a number of individuals, including A.W. Butler, E.J. Chansler, H.K. Coale, Ruthven Deane, B.W. Evermann, J.L. Hine, E.R. Quick, Robert Ridgway, C.D. Test, L.A. Test, H.S. Voorhees, and F.M. Woodruff. In the characterization of the Indiana avifauna, A.W. Butler was foremost among these early ornithologists.

### Giants in Indiana Ornithology

#### Amos W. Butler (1860-1937)

A.W. Butler provided the first synthesis of Indiana birdlife that was based on data collected within the state; his 1890 and 1898 publications entitled *The Birds of Indiana* were landmark works. Amos Butler was born 1 October 1860 in Brookville, Indiana. He was interested in nature and with the encouragement of his parents learned to make careful observations and maintain records. Butler received an A.B. degree in 1894 and an A.M. in 1900, both from Brookville College. He later obtained L.L.D. degrees from Hanover College (1915) and from Indiana University (1922), where he studied zoology. Other achievements included state

ornithologist 1886 to 1897, secretary of the Indiana Academy of Sciences 1886-1893, and president of that organization in 1895.

In Butler's era, which long preceded the existence of high quality optics and field guides, studying birds usually involved shooting them so they could be examined in hand. Indeed, he accumulated an impressive specimen collection, which was ultimately donated to Purdue University. In the interest of permanent preservation many of these were subsequently forwarded to the U.S. Natural History Museum by professor R.E. Mumford.

Widely revered as the grandfather of Indiana ornithology, Amos Butler's major contribution to the science was his monumental 1898 volume, *The Birds of Indiana*. This work included 321 birds plus an additional 81 hypothetical species. Butler's bird list differs from Indiana's modern list in that several of his species are currently excluded (e.g., Anhinga, Great Gray Owl, and Hawk Owl) and his 321 total also included a number of subspecies (e.g., the "Willow Thrush" is a Veery subspecies). Interestingly, several of Butler's subspecies are now recognized as full species (e.g., Hutchin's Goose and Alder Flycatcher). For most species Butler described distribution and provided arrival and departure migration dates. Considering the state of Indiana's communication and transportation in the late nineteenth century, this volume is absolutely incredible, a truly amazing piece of work.

#### Russell E. Mumford

If A.W. Butler is the grandfather of Indiana ornithology then R.E. Mumford must surely be the father. Russell E. Mumford was born 26 May 1922 in Casey, Illinois. Young Russell's interest in birds was encouraged by his parents and later by inspiration provided by professors Irving W. Burr and Charles M. Kirkpatrick. Perhaps more than any single individual, Dr. Mumford influenced the contemporary face of Indiana ornithology. His professional career was spent at Purdue University where his research and guidance of graduate students played a central role in the state's ornithology for almost three decades.

Russell Mumford's career began as summer naturalist in the Indiana State Parks system in 1947; over the ensuing years he rose to become a research biologist with the Indiana Division of Fish and Game. His degrees include a BSF in Forestry (1948), a master of science in wildlife (1952), and a PhD in vertebrate ecology (1961). Indeed, he received the first Ph.D. in wildlife awarded at Purdue University. Beginning in 1961, professor Mumford taught courses ranging from Ichthyology to Mammalogy for almost three decades. He retired from Purdue in 1988 and is currently Professor Emeritus of wildlife science.

During his tenure at Purdue University Russ Mumford conducted avian research in each of Indiana's 92 counties, published more than 110 bird related articles, papers, and books, and prepared some 1030 bird specimens. Included on his specimen list are the state's first representatives of Greater White-fronted Goose, Harlequin Duck, Glossy Ibis, White-rumped Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Franklin's Gull, Little Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Western Kingbird, Bell's Vireo, Western Meadowlark, and Brewer's Blackbird.

Other important contributions included the compilation of an extensive accumulation of Indiana bird data on 5x7 file cards that are today stored in a ten-drawer steel cabinet. This collection archives an incredible amount of pre-1990 data, including: his personal records, numerous unpublished observations, newspaper clippings, and reports from many obscure references. It provides an excellent, and fascinating, historical reference on Indiana ornithology.

Dr. Mumford's seminal contribution to Indiana ornithology involved the 1984 publication of *The Birds of Indiana*, in which he was the first author. This volume, which included some 390 species, provided the first comprehensive summary of the state's avifauna since Butler's 1898 publication.

#### Charles E. Keller

C.E. Keller was born in Indianapolis 27 February 1929. Although ornithology was only an avocation, his contributions were manifold. His interest in birds was stimulated by guidance and instruction provided by Scott Calvert, Mildred Campbell, Dorothy White, and Howard F. Wright.

Following a 1951-53 stint in the U.S. Army Charles Keller spent most of his professional career as an associate pharmacologist with Eli Lilly & Company. Charles' educational achievements included an associate in Arts from the University of Indianapolis in 1971 and an honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of Indianapolis in 2000. He was also quite active in the Indiana Audubon Society, where he served as editor of the *Indiana Audubon Quarterly* from 1986 through 2005.

C.E. Keller's contributions to Indiana ornithology were focused on avian research and a prolific publication of articles related to birds. His first publication, "bacon swamp notes" appeared in the 1946 *Indiana Audubon Yearbook* and was followed by more than 600 articles, notes, papers, and book reviews. Most noteworthy among these were statewide treatises on shorebirds and herons, which were published as multiple-part series in the *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*. Having a penchant for shorebirds, Charles employed the use of call notes in studies at the Indianapolis sewage ponds to resolve the vexing "dowitcher problem." That is, which dowitchers (Long-billed, Short-billed, or both) actually occur in Indiana.

In 1979 he teamed with wife Shirley and son Timothy to publish *Indiana Birds and their Haunts*, a combination bird finding guide and summary of Indiana ornithology. This work included assessing the status of avian species in each of the three tiers of Indiana counties. In 1993 Charles and his son Timothy published the *Birds of Indianapolis*, a guide to birds in the eight counties around that city.

Charles Keller's most important work was his co-authoring of the 1984 *The Birds of Indiana*, in which he was the second author. Over the ensuing two decades "Mumford and Keller," became the standard reference to Indiana birdlife.

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