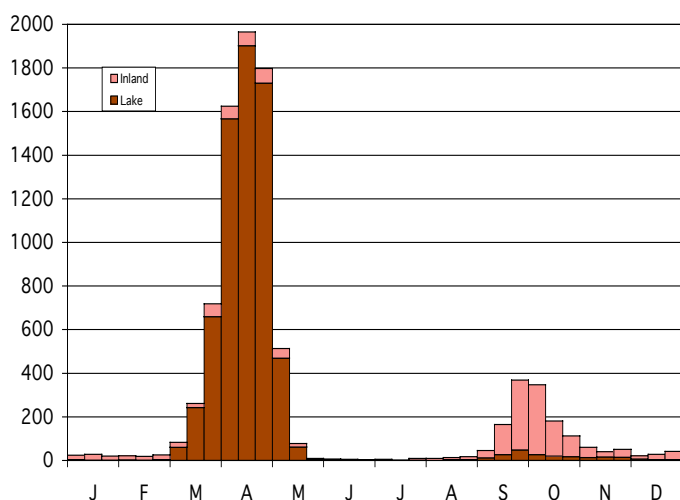


Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*

Historical Information

First Published record: The earliest report of the Sharp-shinned Hawk occurred in Monroe County 10 February 1883 (DNR files).

Butler (1890) deemed the “Little Blue-tail” very common at some localities and most numerous during the migrations. Keller et al. (1979) believed that this small accipiter was an uncommon migrant and very rare winter resident. Citing a dearth of population information, Mumford and Keller (1984) referred to the Sharp-shinned as an uncommon migrant and a very rare permanent resident.



Current Status

Current data suggest that the Mumford and Keller 1984 assessment of the Sharp-shinned Hawk should be updated to a Very Common (3) migrant.

Status

Physical Evidence: Museums contain at least eighteen specimens and one egg (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Carnegie Museum of Natural History				1*
Chicago Field Museum				3
National Museum of Natural History				6
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				7
*Egg				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	7	3	9	6
Central Tier	7	7	8	6
Southern Tier	7	7	8	5
Entire State	7	3	8	4

Occurrence

Sharp-shinned Hawks have been reported in more than 77 counties. It is most often seen in migration; indeed Sharp-shinned Hawks are Rare (7) to Very Rare (8) in winter and summer. Of the 95 birds aged, 45 percent were adults.

Migration

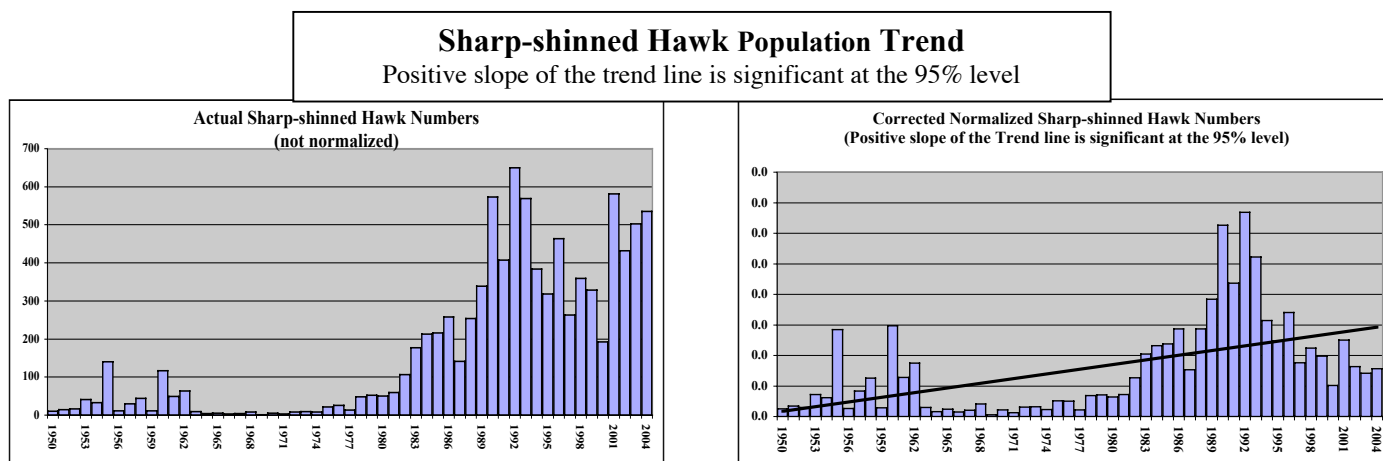
The migration mistogram is dominated by counts from the spring hawk flights in the Dunes, where only the Red-tailed Hawk numbers exceed this species. Indeed, evidence that most “Sharpys” are seen during migration is also provided by reports in the maximum count table. The autumn migration is far less pronounced with inland sites yielding considerably more birds than the lakefront.

Abundance compared to Cooper's Hawk

Overall about 2.4 Sharpys are reported for every Cooper's Hawk; however, this ratio increased markedly during the migration periods. For the spring flight the Sharp-shinned – Cooper's ratio increases to 3.8.

Population Trend

Although statistically significant positive slope of the trend line suggests a population increase over the past half century. Note, however, that the normalized plot shows an apparent decline since the early 1990s.



Breeding

Butler (1898) reported breeding in DeKalb, Lake, and Vigo Counties. Mumford and Keller (1984) added Delaware, Kosciusko, Monroe, and Marshall Counties to the list of known breeding counties. Castrale et al. (1998) listed confirmed breeding evidence in nine counties, including Boone, Brown, Clark, Jackson, LaPorte, Martin, and Owen, in which previous nesting was not reported. A breeding record in Owen County is detailed in Castrale and Buckland (1985). Today the Indiana DNR classifies the Sharp-shinned Hawk as a species of special concern. It is a rare breeder primarily in the southern tier.

Sharp-shinned Hawk Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
223	19-Apr-1992	Johnson Beach	K.J. Brock	KJB
140	26-Apr-1984	Johnson Beach	G.W. Pyle	KJB
135	18-Apr-1996	Johnson Beach	Clyde Fields	KJB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
35	13-Oct-2002	Lake Lemon	J. & S. Hengeveld	INB
27	21-Oct-2001	Lake Lemon	J. & S. Hengeveld	NNB
26	22-Sep-1998	Lake Monroe	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	21-Mar	15-Apr	5-May	Sum. Res.	723
Central	Win. Res.	14-Mar	18-Apr	15-May	Sum. Res.	72
South	Win. Res.	9-Mar	7-Apr	7-May	Sum. Res.	71
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	12-Sep	2-Oct	12-Nov	Win. Res.	389
Central	Sum. Res.	24-Aug	30-Sep	17-Nov	Win. Res.	112
South	Sum. Res.	16-Sep	3-Oct	8-Nov	Win. Res.	204

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