

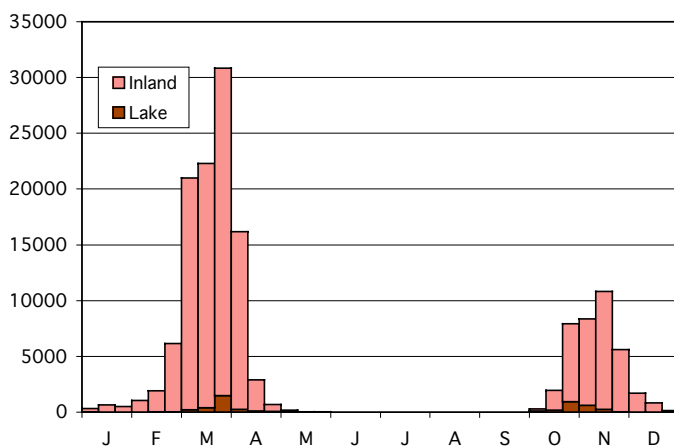
Ring-necked Duck

Aythya collaris

Historical Information

First Published Record: A bird killed 8 March 1879, by W.M. McCleery at Brookville, Franklin County (Butler 1898), constitutes Indiana's first formal report.

Butler (1898) characterized this striking duck as a "tolerably common migrant." Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a common to fairly common spring migrant, rare fall migrant, and rare winter resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) listed Ring-necked Duck as common in spring and uncommon to rare in fall. They also noted that it winters in small numbers and occasionally breeds.



Current Status

Status of the Ring-necked Duck is basically unchanged from the 1984 assessment by Mumford and Keller. Ring-necked Ducks are Very Common (3) in winter and fall and Common (4) during spring migration.

Occurrence

Ring-necked Ducks are far more common on inland waterways than on Lake Michigan. In spring this handsome duck moves northward as the ice breaks. In fall it travels south with the legions of migrating bay ducks, but autumn numbers are considerably below those of spring. It has been recorded in at least 71 Indiana counties.

Winter Records

Winter Ring-necked Ducks have been reported in each of the last twenty years, with an annual mean of more than 545 birds.

Summer Records

Ring-necked Ducks are least common in the summer months; however, small numbers, usually drakes, are present in the state most years. It was reported in 15 of the last 20 summers with an annual summer mean of 1.8 birds per year.

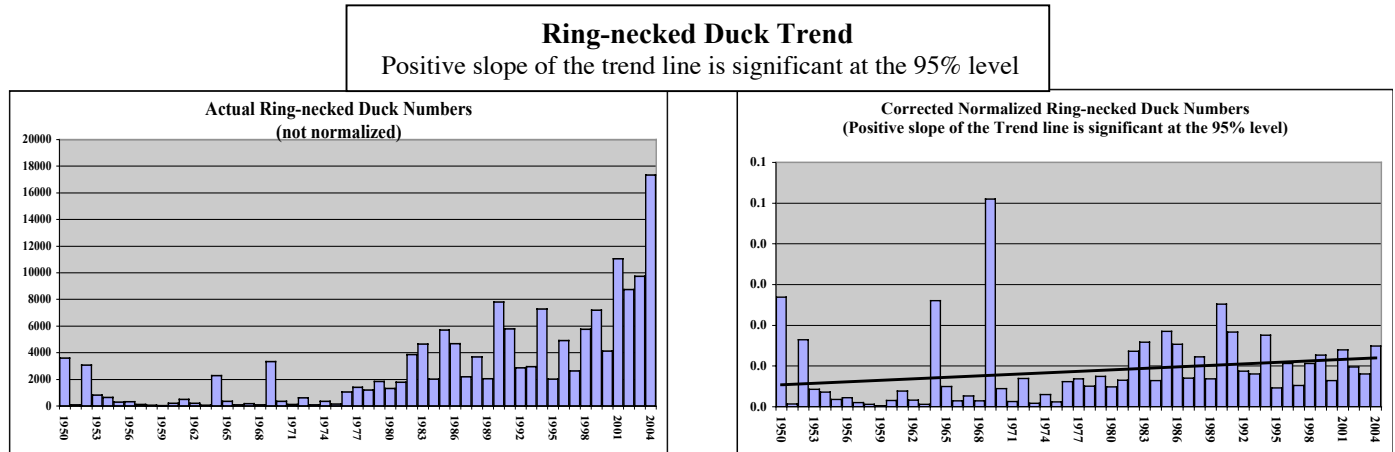
Status

Physical Evidence: Eleven specimens from Indiana are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

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

Population Trend

Observational data suggest that numbers have increased over the last 50 years. Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

A deserted nest containing four eggs with two broken eggs nearby, was found in Tippecanoe County 2 July 1949; the observers believed that this was a Ring-necked Duck nest as a hen had been seen at this site 17 June 1949 (Mumford files). Mumford and Keller (1984) also mentioned a brood at George Lake, Hammond in summer 1953 and a second brood in Noble County in July 1957.

Ring-necked Duck Data						
Maximum Single Party Counts						
Spring						
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.		
6000	4-Mar-1990	Lake Gibson	G.& L.Bowman	IQM		
4000	2-Apr-1991	Gibson Co	G.& L.Bowman	IAQ		
2500	13-Mar-1950	Hovey Lake	R.E. Mumford	REM		
Fall/Winter						
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.		
1500	19-Nov-1985	Lake Waveland	A.W. Bruner	IAQ		
1500	11-Nov-1998	Lake Waveland	A.W. Bruner	IQM		
1051	25-Nov-2001	Brazil Lagoons	A.W. Bruner	NNB		
Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	9-Mar	27-Mar	18-Apr	9-Jun-1990	678
Central	Win. Res.	8-Mar	23-Mar	17-Apr	2-Jun-1999	196
South	Win. Res.	3-Mar	16-Mar	10-Apr	10-Jun-1987	197
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	16-Aug-1995	14-Oct	31-Oct	18-Nov	Win. Res.	381
Central	30-Jul-1988	22-Oct	9-Nov	25-Nov	Win. Res.	88
South	15-Jul-1982	17-Oct	6-Nov	21-Nov	Win. Res.	142

References Cited

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

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

Mumford files: An extensive accumulation of Indiana bird data on 5x7 file cards compiled by Professor R.E. Mumford of Purdue University, West Lafayette.

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