

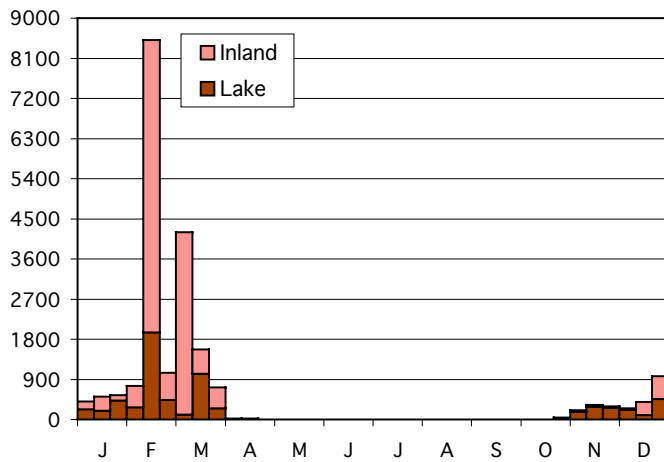
Common Redpoll

Carduelis flammea

Historical Information

First Published Record: According to Butler (1898), Indiana's first specimen was collected by B.W. Evermann at Camden, Carroll County, on 5 November 1878. This also appears to constitute the state's earliest formal report.

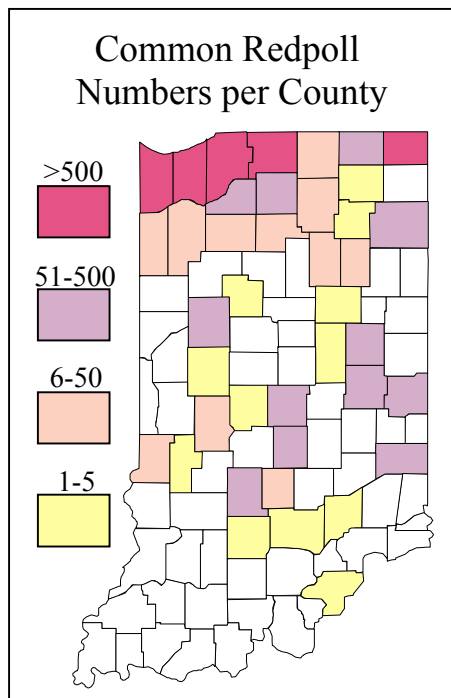
Butler (1898) considered the "Redpoll" an irregular winter visitor. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it an irregular rare to very rare winter visitor. Mumford and Keller (1984) described the Common Redpoll as an irregular winter visitor, which was most regular and numerous in the lake counties.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some 29 skins are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson, unpublished list and Richards 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Carnegie Museum of Natural History				3
Chicago Academy of Sciences				1
Chicago Field Museum				17
National Museum of Natural History				6
Indiana State Museum				1
Denver Museum				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	4	4	n	6
Central Tier	7	8	n	10
Southern Tier	7	10	n	7
Entire State	4	4	n	6



Current Status

Though quite irregular the Common Redpoll is, on average, Common (4) in spring and winter.

Occurrence

Although this small finch is most prevalent in the northern tier, it has been recorded in at least 40 counties, including more than a half-dozen in the southern tier. A paucity of records comes from southwestern Indiana (see distribution map). Enormous numbers enter the state during the major invasions, which usually occur in February or March. The most recent large incursions occurred in 1972 and 1978, with a smaller irruption in 1994 (see Population Trend graphs).

Redpolls are often seen at winter-feeding stations, but during irruption years enormous flocks frequent weedy fields. D.A.

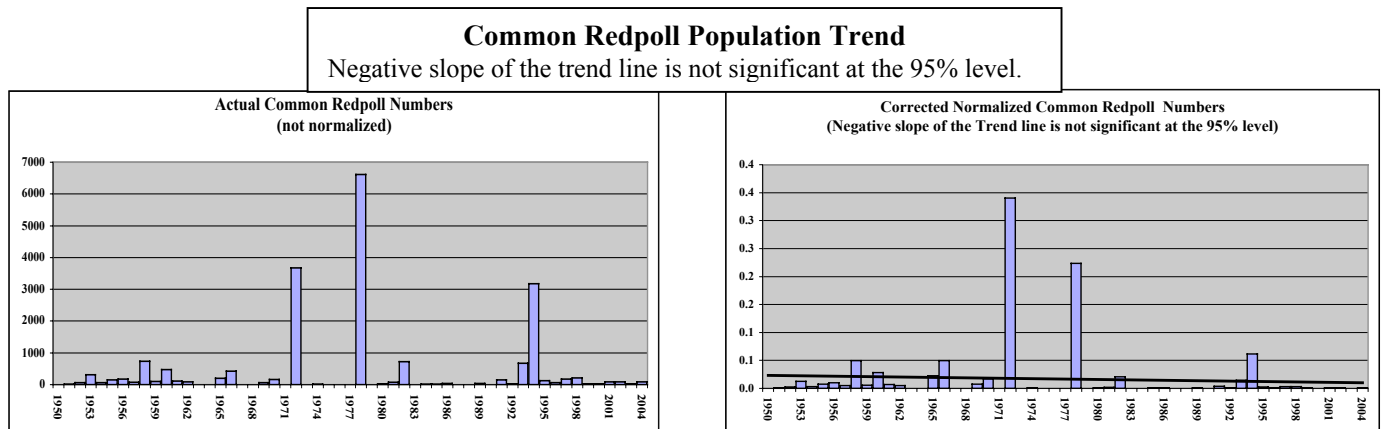
Easterla (1978) described one such flock in LaPorte County and identified the dominant plants present in the field. Tallies made of these accumulations dominate the maximum count table.

Subspecies

The dominant Indiana Redpoll is the nominate form *C. f. flammea*, but two records of *C. f. rostrata*, also known as the “Greater Redpoll,” are also known. Butler (1898) noted, “Mr. H.K. Coale obtained a specimen of this Redpoll at Davis Station, Starke county, Ind., January 1, 1884.” A second example was seen at a northern Porter County feeder 17 January 1998 (Brock 1998).

Population Trend

Although negative slope of the trend line shown in the plot below is not statistically significant, the occurrence of major incursions has abated in recent decades. Indeed, the largest count since the 1970s was 500 observed by Al Starling northwest of Lake James in Steuben County 20 February 1994 (Brown 1994)



Common Redpoll Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
5000	18-Feb-1978	LaPorte Co	M.R. Brown	IAQ
3000	01-Mar-1972	LaPorte Co	D.A. Easterla	REM
1040	19-Feb-1978	N. Porter Co	K.J. Brock	KJB
500	17-Feb-1917	Lakefront	H.L. Stoddard	HLS
500	11-Mar-1917	Miller Beach	H.L. Stoddard	HLS
500	20-Feb-1994	Steuben Co	Al Starling	IAQ

Migration Envelopes						
Winter						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
State	25-Oct-1997	6-Nov	Win. Vis.	20-Mar	21-May-1990	637

References Cited

Brock, K.J. (1998) The "Greater" Redpoll *Carduelis flammea rostrata* Returns to Indiana, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 76:112-114.

Brown, M.R. (1994) Field Notes Winter 1993-94, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 72:142-155.

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

Easterla, D.A. (1978) Mixed Flocks of Common and Hoary Redpolls, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 56:51-53.

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

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Richards, R.L. (1987) The Vertebrate Collection of the Indiana State Museum: "Old" Specimens and Records, *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science* 97:547-570.