

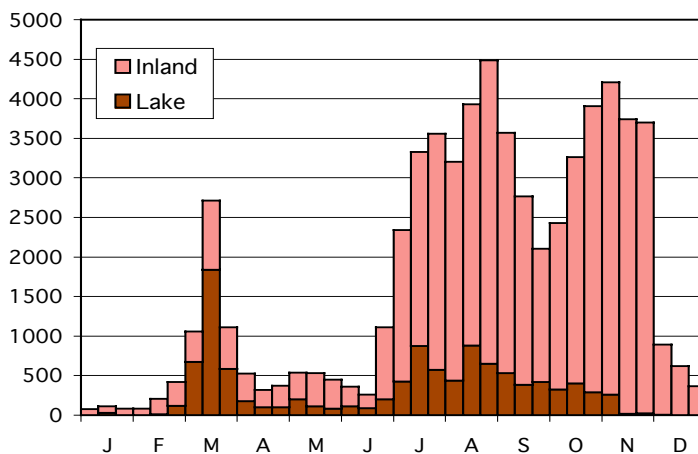
Killdeer

Charadrius vociferus

Historical Information

First Published Record: Indiana's earliest published Killdeer record occurred 15 February 1881, at Brookville (Butler 1898).

Butler (1890) deemed the Killdeer a common resident, which occasionally wintered in the south. Keller (1957) referred to it as a common resident and abundant transient. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted a population increase, and characterized this plover as an abundant migrant and summer resident, which was present in winter in the southern half of the state.



Current Status

The Killdeer remains in the state throughout the year. It is Very Common (3) during migration and summer and is Common (4) in the southern tier in winter.

Occurrence

This widespread plover has been reported in every Indiana county. Substantial spring longshore flights are observed along the Lake Michigan shores; otherwise it is more often encountered away from the lake. Other large counts come from the extensive mudflat at Brookville Reservoir and various sod farms.

Fall Migration

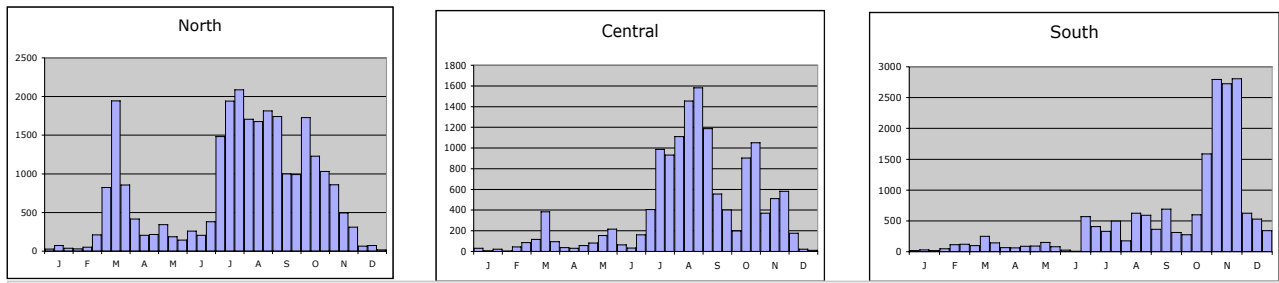
The migration histogram plot of the fall data is fascinating as it reveals two distinct peaks: one in August and the other in late October or early November. A set of histograms based on data from each of the three tiers of counties (shown below), provides a more detailed analysis of this curious pattern. These plots reveal that the August peak is dominant in the northern and central tiers, but the late season (October/November) peak prevails in the southern tier. Indeed, the August flight is hardly evident in the southern tier.

In view of this complexity, fall migration envelopes were not constructed for each of the three tiers. Instead, statewide envelopes were calculated for each of the two autumn flight peaks.

Status

Physical Evidence: More than a dozen specimens plus eggs are stored in the nation's museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

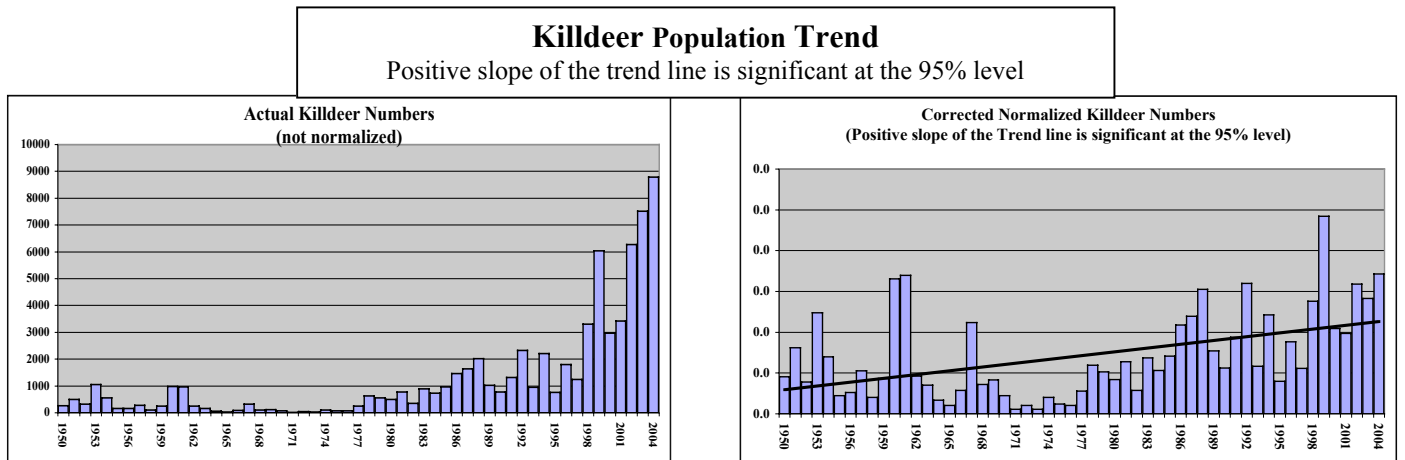
STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Carnegie Museum of Natural History				1
Chicago Academy of Sciences				1
Chicago Field Museum				4
National Museum of Natural History				3
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				8
Univ. of Michigan Museum				4*
* Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				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



Autumn plots of Killdeer numbers in the three tiers of Indiana counties. See text for discussion.

Population Trend

Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level, clearly supporting Mumford and Keller's 1984 contention that the population was increasing.



Breeding

Mumford and Keller (1984) suggested that, "The Killdeer undoubtedly nests in every county in Indiana." The Indiana Atlas reported breeding evidence in 98 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks, and was present in every county (Castrale et al. 1998). Eggs have been reported during the interval 23 March through 7 July (Mumford and Keller 1984 extend the latter date to 20 July) and young from 14 April through 1 August.

Killdeer Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
342*	15-Mar-2003	Dunes St Park	J.K. Cassady	KJB
200*	15-Mar-2003	West Beach	Michael Topp	INB
163*	20-Mar-2004	Dunes St Park	K.J. Brock	KJB
*Longshore flight				

Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
810	21-Aug-2002	Lebanon sod farm	Larry Peavler	INB
800	11-Nov-2000	Brookville Res.	W.H Buskirk	INB
750	15-Nov-1998	Brookville Res.	Ned Keller	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Vis.	8-Mar	5-Apr	23-May	Sum. Res.	872
Central	Win. Res.	6-Mar	23-Apr	28-May	Sum. Res.	235
South	Win. Res.	10-Mar	16-Apr	22-May	Sum. Res.	155
Fall- Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Early	Sum. Res.	6-Jul	17-Aug	20-Sep	---	1236
Late	---	7-Oct	29-Oct	3-Dec	Win. Res.	749

References Cited

Butler, A. W. (1890) The Birds of Indiana, Appendix to *Transactions of the Indiana Horticultural Society for 1890* (available on the web).

Castrale, J.S., E.M. Hopkins, and C.E. Keller (1998) Atlas of breeding Birds of Indiana, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 388 pp.

Keller, C.E. (1957) The Shorebird families: Charadriidae, Scolopacidae, Recurvirostridae, and Phalaropidae of Indiana. Part 1. *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 35:30-48.

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.