

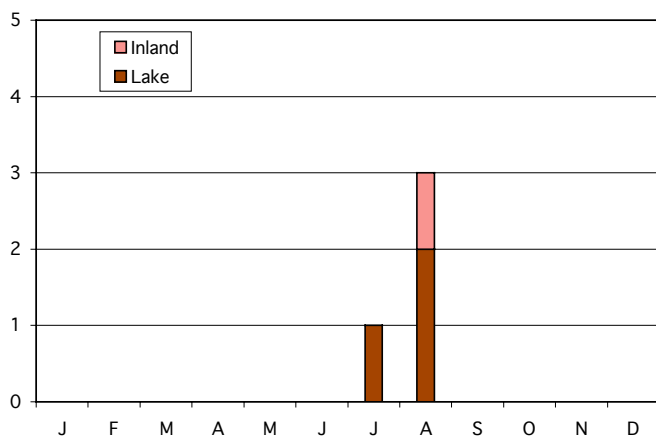
Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

Historical Information

First Published Record: Denny Jones discovered an adult at Lake Gibson on 20 August 1984 (Jones 1988), which added the Arctic Tern to the Indiana's checklist (Bruner 1996).

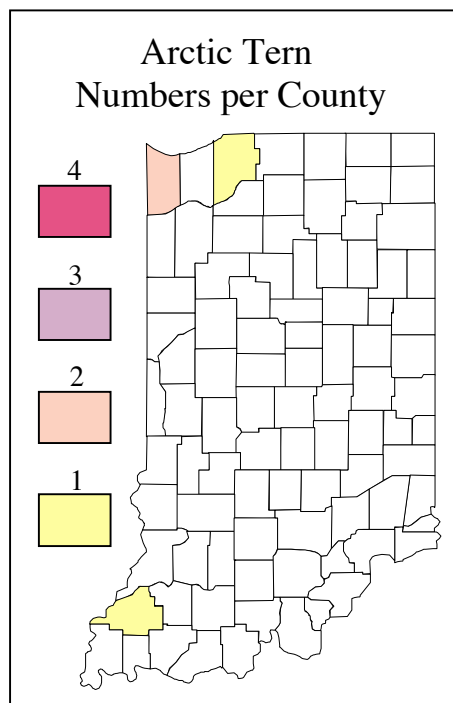
Citing a report in Michigan, Butler (1898) included this pelagic tern on the Indiana hypothetical list. Based on a spring 1978 record at Michigan City Harbor, Keller et al. (1979) deemed the Arctic Tern accidental. Mumford and Keller (1984) simply referred to the Michigan City Harbor record as uncorroborated. The Indiana Bird Records Committee subsequently rejected this record.



Status

Physical Evidence: There are no known Indiana specimens (S.F. Jackson unpublished list). Low quality photos in Jones (1988) allowed the Gibson County record to be accepted as verified by the Indiana Bird Records Committee. An excellent photo of an Arctic Tern at Michigan City Harbor bird appeared in Brock (1992).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
No known specimens				0
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	n	10	n
Central Tier	n	n	n	n
Southern Tier	n	n	n	10
Entire State	n	n	10	10



Current Status
Accidental (10).

Occurrence

Indiana's second Arctic Tern, an alternate plumed adult, was discovered at Michigan City Harbor on 15 July 1992 by S.R. Bagby and confirmed the following day by L.S. Hinchman, J.A. Haw et al. (Jackson 1993). On 17 July John Tucker obtained excellent photographs, one of which was published in *American Birds* (46:1140-1143). The bird was last seen 20 July. K.J. Brock found the state's third record at Miller Beach on 11 August 2005; interestingly, this individual possessed a dark bill and blackish legs. It was photographed and seen by a half-dozen observers. The following day Michael Topp discovered a different Arctic Tern at the same site. This individual was also present the following day when it was photographed by several observers.



Adult Arctic Tern at Miller Beach 11 August 2005. Note the short (apparently broken off) tail, unusually dark underparts, and very narrow white area between base of the bill and the cap. Photo by J.K. Cassady.



Adult Arctic Tern at Miller Beach 13 August 2005. Compare the characters listed in the left hand photo with those on this individual. Note especially that the tail extends to the primary tips. Photo by J.K. Cassady.

Arctic Tern Records				
All Records				
No.	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
1	20-Aug-1984	Lake Gibson	D. Jones	IAQ
1	15 to 20-Jul-1992	Mich. City Harbor	S.R. Bagby	NAB
1	11-Aug-2005	Miller Beach	K.J. Brock	KJB
1	12 & 13-Aug-2005	Miller Beach	Michael Topp	INB

References Cited

Brock, K.J. (1992) Middlewestern Prairie Region, Breeding Season 1992, *Am. Birds* 46:1140-1143.

Bruner, A. W. (1996) Report of the Indiana Bird Records Committee—1992-1995, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 74:65-80.

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

Jackson, S.F. (1993) Field Notes Summer 1992, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 71:125-138.

Jones, D. (1988) Arctic Tern in Gibson County, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 66:154-156.

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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