

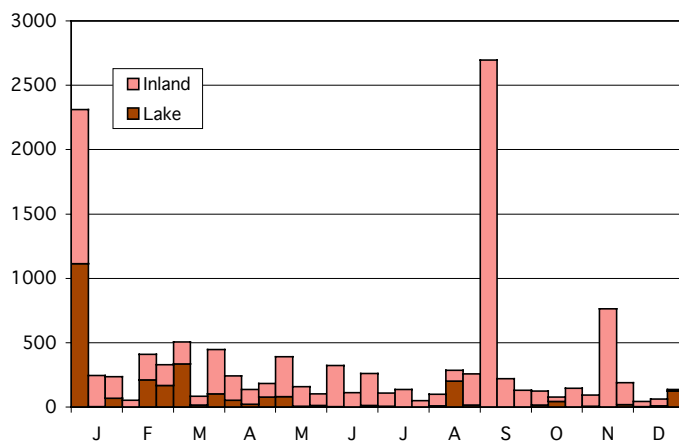
Rock Pigeon

Columba livia

Historical Information

First Published Record: As the “Pigeon” is strongly affiliated with humans, most authors and birders have traditionally ignored it. Accordingly, there is little historical information about this species. Rock Pigeons were present on the 1933 Christmas Bird Count and two were reported in Jasper County in March 1933 (Mumford files), but the earliest fully dated report available consisted of eggs and young in the lakefront area 29 July 1935 (Smith 1936).

Butler (1898) failed to mention this introduced species. Keller et al. (1979) considered it abundant and Mumford and Keller (1984) concurred.



Status

Physical Evidence: At least two specimens are known (J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	4	4	5	5
Central Tier	4	4	5	4
Southern Tier	5	5	6	4
Entire State	4	4	5	4

Current Status

At a minimum the Rock Pigeon is a Common (4) permanent resident.

Occurrence

Although this species is widespread and abundant, especially near human development, birders have grossly undercounted it. Records exist in some 80 counties, but the Indiana Atlas project reported it in every Indiana county (Castrale et al. 1998).

Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in 89 percent of the 647 priority blocks.

Rock Pigeon Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
2500	06-Sep-1964	Tippecanoe Co	I.W. Burr	IAQ
600	15-Nov-2003	Knox Co	G. & L. Bowman	INB
400	04-Jan-2003	Wolf Lake	K.J. Brock	KJB
300	01-Mar-2003	Wolf Lake	K.J. Brock	KJB
300	03-Jan-2004	Hammond	J.K. Cassady	KJB

300	03-Jan-2004	Hammond	K.J. Brock	KJB
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References Cited

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

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., 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.

Smith, Harry M. (1936) Unpublished check list of birds of the Calumet and Dune region. 40 pp.