

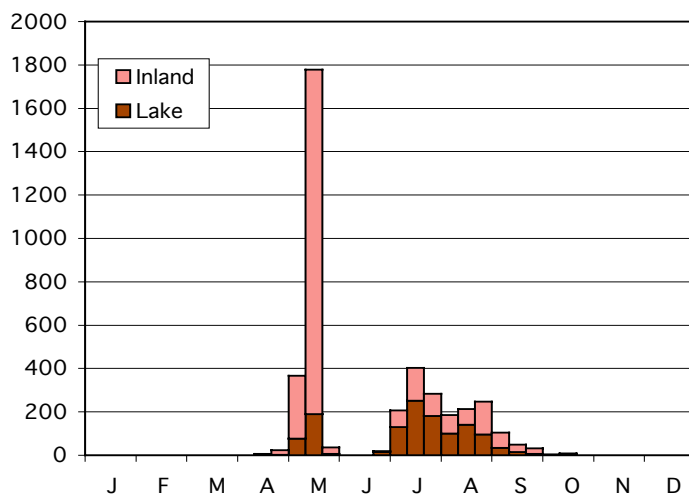
Short-billed Dowitcher

Limnodromus griseus

Historical Information

First Published Record: A specimen collected at Liverpool, Lake County, on 9 September 1892 (Butler 1898) provided Indiana's first published Short-billed Dowitcher record.

Butler (1898) referred to this species as a rare migrant, and speculated that it would ultimately prove considerably more rare than the Long-billed Dowitcher. Keller (1958) characterized the status of this dowitcher as uncertain; however a study, employing only call notes for identification (Keller 1964), revealed that this species was indeed Indiana's most common dowitcher. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a rare migrant and Mumford and Keller (1984) believed it was an uncommon migrant that under favorable conditions might be fairly common.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some eight specimens are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				1
National Museum of Natural History				5
Milwaukee Public Museum				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	5	5	6
Central Tier	n	6	7	7
Southern Tier	n	6	7	7
Entire State	n	5	5	6



Alternate Short-billed Dowitcher in a southern Lake County pond 15 May 2004. Photo by J.K. Cassady.

Current Status

Keller's (1958) conclusion that this species is the states most common dowitcher has been confirmed by field observations over subsequent decades. Indeed, this species has been recorded annually in the state for at least the last 30 years. Today the Short-billed Dowitcher is a Fairly Common (5) to Uncommon (6) migrant. In contrast the Long-billed is Uncommon (6) to Rare (7).

Occurrence

This dowitcher has been recorded in at least 57 counties. It frequents mudflats and flooded fields with other shorebirds and accordingly its occurrence

is strongly affected by habitat availability. The migration histogram reveals that the spring flight

occurs in a fairly tight window during the first two-thirds of May. Based in part on separate migrations by adults and juveniles (see migration envelopes) the fall flight is considerably more protracted. The juvenile flight averages about a month later than the fall adult migration.

Extreme Record

The enormous count of 200 birds at the Great Miami Oxbow, Dearborn County (maximum count table) was reported by David Styer, Myra Messick and Lyla Messick (Mumford files and the Birding in Cincinnati website).

Subspecies

The commonly seen subspecies in Indiana is the colorful *L. g. hendersoni*, which is often referred to as the prairie form. However, at least six records of the Atlantic form (*L. g. griseus*) have been reported in the state.

Short-billed Dowitcher Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
200	11-May-1980	Gt. Miami Oxbow	Dave Styer	REM
97	12-May-1985	Allen Co	J.A. Haw	IAQ
92	16-May-1997	Big Pine wetland	J.B. Dunning	NNB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
81	17-Jul-1978	Gleason Park	K.J. Brock	KJB
47	23-Jul-1978	Gleason Park	E.M. Hopkins	KJB
38	16-Aug-2002	Miller Beach	Michael Topp	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	17-Apr-1983	8-May	14-May	19-May	3-Jun-2000	151
Central	25-Apr-1992	6-May	14-May	19-May	23-May-1963	52
South	12-Apr-1997	1-May	12-May	18-May	22-May-1999	51
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	26-Jun-1989	10-Jul	30-Jul	31-Aug	7-Oct-2001	412
Central	30-Jun-1986	11-Jul	10-Aug	16-Sep	4-Oct-1985	134
South	5-Jul-1986	13-Jul	10-Aug	14-Sep	16-Oct-1988	85
By Age: Fall flight						
Adult	28-Jun-1978	7-Jul	19-Jul	8-Aug	29-Aug-1980	138
Juv.	8-Jul-1982	7-Aug	23-Aug	13-Sep	30-Sep-2003	102

References Cited

Birding in Cincinnati website: developed by N. Keller. This site can be accessed at:
<http://cincinnatibirds.com/database/index.php>

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

Keller, C.E. (1958) The Shorebird families: Charadriidae, Scolopacidae, Recurvirostridae, and Phalaropidae of Indiana. Part 4. *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 36:2-39.

Keller, C.E. (1964) The Dowitcher Problem, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 42:15-18.

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.