

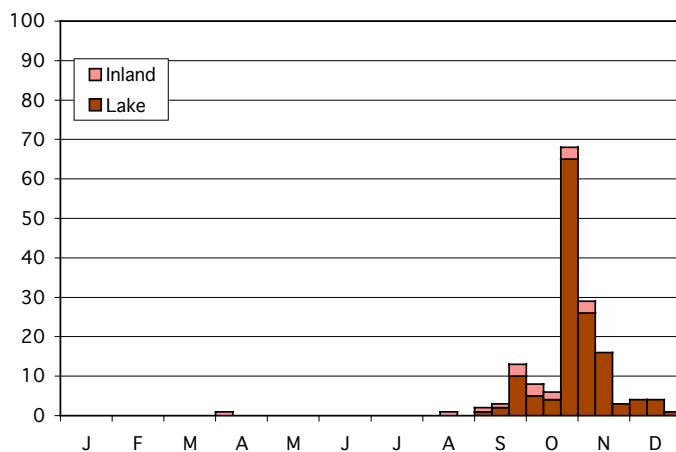
Red Phalarope

Phalaropus fulicarius

Historical Information

First Published Record: According to Butler (1898) R.R. Moffitt killed a Red Phalarope in Jasper County 10 April 1885. This is not only Indiana's earliest report, but also the state's only spring record.

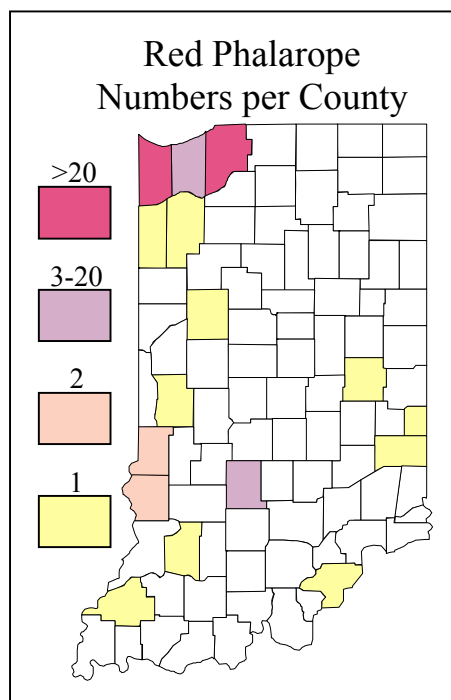
Butler (1898) described the Indiana status of this pelagic shorebird as a "rare straggler." Keller (1957) basically agreed with Butler's assessment, stating that it was very rare in fall and winter. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a very rare fall migrant on Lake Michigan and casual elsewhere; Mumford and Keller (1984) concurred with this latter assessment.



Status

Physical Evidence: A single Red Phalarope skin is preserved in the National Museum of Natural History (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	9	n	n	7
Central Tier	n	n	n	9
Southern Tier	n	n	n	9
Entire State	9	n	n	7



Current Status

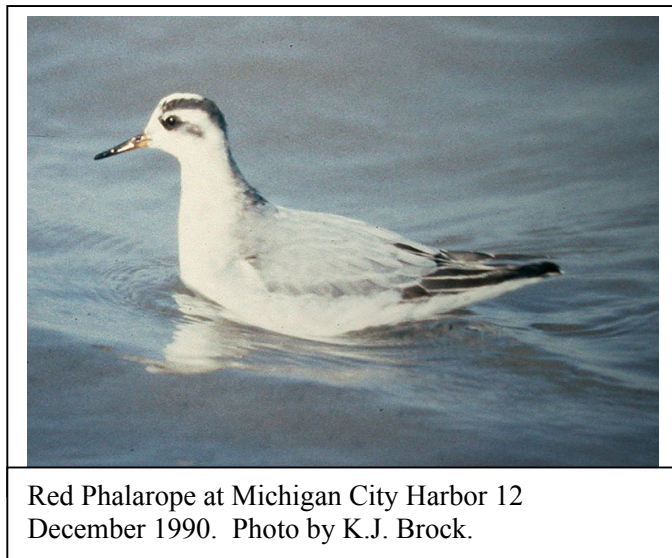
The Red Phalarope is a Rare (7) fall migrant on Lake Michigan; it is Occasional (9) elsewhere.

Occurrence

In addition to the three lake district counties, this pelagic shorebird has been reported in thirteen Indiana counties (see distribution map). On Lake Michigan the Red Phalarope has been reported in 14 of the last 20 years. In contrast, it has appeared only eight times at inland sites over this same period. Red Phalaropes most frequently appear as singletons, but occasionally loose groups of two or three are observed.

The 1959 Invasion

A major Red Phalarope invasion occurred along the lakefront in autumn 1959. During that year eight reports, involving 68 individuals (more than 40 percent of all birds recorded in the state), were reported along Lake Michigan's beaches. Reports from that season dominate the maximum count table.



Extreme Records

The single spring record is described in the historical section. Indiana also has only one August record, a juvenile discovered and photographed by E.M. Hopkins at Mulvey Pond, Tippecanoe County 19 August 2005. The only August record in adjacent states occurred 27 August 1981 in Cleveland, Ohio (Peterjohn 2001). This record is rendered even more astonishing in that the bird was a molting juvenile, as young shorebirds generally migrate behind the adults.

Excluded Record

The report of 27 birds at Michigan City Harbor 27 October 1980, mentioned in

Mumford and Keller (1984), is based on the second-hand report of a fisherman. This account, as taken from Buck (1982) is as follows: "The most remarkable report was by a fisherman at the harbor who told KJB (K.J. Brock) about seeing a flock of at least 20 'sandpipers' swimming in the waves adjacent to the jetty on Oct 27. This individual later confirmed that the Nov 11-15 bird was 'The same species he saw in the earlier flock.'" Though perhaps valid, this record was excluded from the database.

Red Phalarope Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
1	10-Apr-1885	Jasper Co	R.R. Moffitt	BU2
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
25	28-Oct-1959	Lakefront	V. Reuter-skiold	VRS
15	01-Nov-1959	Lakefront	H.C. West	HCW
15	27-Oct-1959	Miller Beach	V. Reuter-skiold	VRS

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	10-Apr-1885	---	---	---	10-Apr-1885	1
Central	---	---	---	---	---	---
South	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	1-Sep-1999	26-Sep	28-Oct	24-Nov	27-Dec-1953	72
Central	19-Aug-2005	---	---	---	28-Oct-2001	5
South	12-Sep-1975	---	---	---	7-Nov-1992	8

References Cited

Buck, D., (1982) Field Notes Fall 1980—Winter 1980-81—Spring 1981—Summer 1981, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 60:51-95.

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

Keller, C.E. (1957) The Shorebird families: Charadriidae, Scolopacidae, Recurvirostridae, and Phalaropidae of Indiana. Part 2 and 3. *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 35:54-60.

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

Mumford, R.E. and C.E. Keller (1984) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 376 pp.

Peterjohn, B.G. (2001) *The Birds of Ohio*, Wooster Book Co., OH, 638pp.