

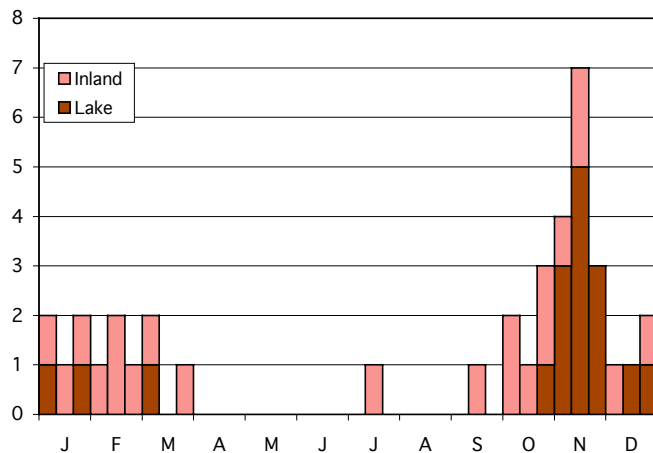
California Gull

Larus californicus

Historical Information

First Published Record: An adult discovered and photographed by T.C. Keller at Eagle Creek Park 19 July 1980 (Kleen 1980 and Keller 1983) provided Indiana's first record of this western larid.

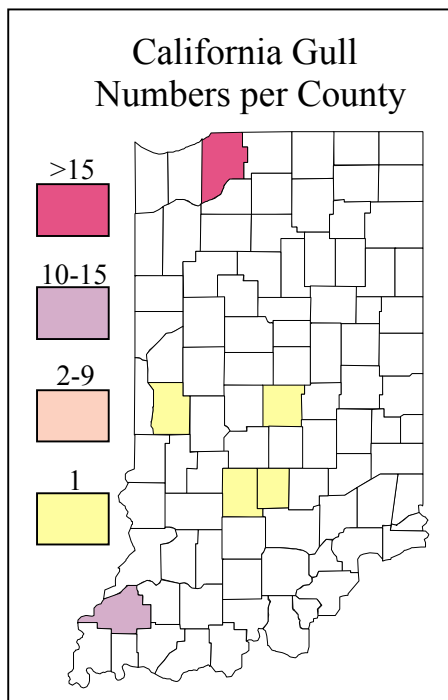
Mumford and Keller (1984) cited two records, but failed to mention status. Keller et al. (1986) deemed this species accidental.



Status

Physical Evidence: There are no known specimens, but a number of photographs have been published, including one on the front of the *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, Vol. 80 No. 3.

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
No known specimens				0
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	9	10	n	7
Central Tier	n	n	n	10
Southern Tier	8	10	n	8
Entire State	8	10	n	7



Current Status

California Gulls are now Rare (7) in fall, Very Rare (8) in winter, and Accidental (10) in spring.

Occurrence

In recent years, California Gull reports have increased dramatically; it has been reported in 14 of the past 20 years with a statewide average of 1.8 birds per year over the last two decades. A majority of the California Gulls (63 percent) have been reported at Michigan City Harbor. All observations have involved single birds.

Plumages

As shown in the adjacent plumages table, most California Gulls have been in adult plumage. The remarkably low number of first-year birds strongly suggests that observers are overlooking this difficult to identify plumage.

Percent of plumages			
Adult	3rd-year	2nd-year	1st-year or juv.
60%	7%	23%	10%



Second-year California Gull at Michigan City Harbor 14 November 2001. Photo K.J. Brock

California Gull Data

California Gull Records					
Inland Records Only					
Plumage	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.	
adult	19-Jul-1980	Eagle Creek Park	T.C. Keller	NAB	
adult	09-Oct-1987	Lake Gibson	Denny Jones	IAQ	
second-yr	27-Dec-1987	Lake Gibson	Denny Jones	IAQ	
first-yr	09-Oct-1988	Lake Gibson	Denny Jones	IAQ	
adult	31-Oct-1991	Lake Lemon	D.R. Whitehead	IAQ	
first-yr	16-Feb-1992	Lake Gibson	J.H. Campbell	IAQ	
second-yr	31-Oct-1993	Gibson Co	G. Bowman	IAQ	
third-yr	05-Dec-1993	Lake Gibson	J.H. Campbell	IAQ	
second-yr	17-Sep-1995	Lake Gibson	J.J. McCoy	IAQ	
second-yr	3-Nov-1996	Lake Gibson	G. & L. Bowman	IAQ	
first-yr	14-Nov-1999	Parke Co	A.W. Bruner	IAQ	
third-yr	17-Nov-2000	Lake Gibson	C.L. Wood	INB	
second-yr	2-Mar-2001	Lake Monroe	C.L. Wood	INB	

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	Win. Vis.	---	5-Feb	---	27-Mar-1988	12
Fall	17-Sep-1995	---	14-Nov	---	Win. Vis.	25

References Cited

Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller (1986) *Indiana Birds and Their Haunts*, 2nd ed., Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 206 pp.

Keller, T.C. (1983) First Indiana record of the California Gull (*Larus californicus*), *American Birds*, 37:120.

Kleen V.M. (1980) Field Notes Summer 1980, *American Birds* 34:898-902.

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