

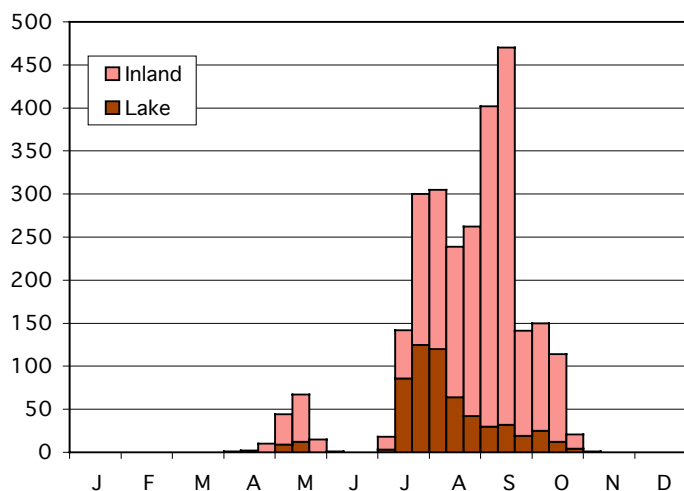
## Stilt Sandpiper

## *Calidris himantopus*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: In the 1888, *Sixteenth Annual Geology and Natural History Report*, State Geologist Maurice Thompson listed this species. However, a specimen collected by L.A. and C.D. Test in Tippecanoe County 10 October 1892 provided Indiana's first fully dated record.

Based on a single Indiana record, Butler (1898) characterized the Stilt Sandpiper as a rare migrant. Keller (1958) deemed it very rare in spring and rare in fall. Keller et al. (1979) modified the status to very rare to casual in spring and rare in fall. This assessment was upgraded to rare in spring and uncommon to fairly common in fall by Mumford and Keller (1984).



### Status

Physical Evidence: At least five specimens are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				3
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	7	6	6
Central Tier	n	7	7	6
Southern Tier	n	7	7	6
Entire State	n	7	6	6



Juvenile Stilt Sandpiper at TNC Kankakee Sands 23 August 2003.  
Photo by J.K. Cassady.

### Current Status

Mumford and Keller's 1984 characterization of the Stilt Sandpiper remains valid today. It is Rare (7) in spring and Uncommon (6) in fall.

### Occurrence

This shorebird has been reported in 54 counties across Indiana. Although Lake County has recorded the largest number of individuals (more than 600), the Stilt Sandpiper is actually seen more frequently at inland sites. The two fall peaks in the migration histogram apparently corresponds to flights of adults and juveniles, which are separated by slightly more than a month (see migration envelopes).

### Summer Records

E.M. Hopkins' latest spring record occurred at Willow Slough FWA on 2 June 1977 (Mumford files) for the state's only June report. Fall migration begins in early

July and has yielded well over 100 July reports. However, there are no summer records between 2 June and 4 July. Two Stilt Sandpiper records have been recorded on the latter date.

### Extreme Records

Indiana has two November Stilt Sandpiper records, both of singletons. H.M. Smith recorded the first at George Lake on 2 November 1936 (Smith 1936) and I.W. Burr identified the second in Warren County 7 November 1965 (Burr 1966).

Stilt Sandpiper Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
6	14-May-1986	Woodburn Ponds	J.A. Haw	Haw
5	08-May-1964	Wayne Co	W.H Buskirk	IAQ
5	12-May-1971	Indy Sewage	C.E. Keller	REM
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
55	05-Oct-2003	Vigo Co	P.E. Scott	NNB
52	18-Sep-1988	Lake Gibson	Denny Jones	IAQ
51	20-Sep-1987	Lake Gibson	Denny Jones	NIQ

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	29-Apr-1989	4-May	11-May	20-May	2-Jun-1977	39
Central	21-Apr-2004	---	12-May	---	28-May-1960	20
South	8-Apr-2004	---	12-May	---	30-May-1982	25
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	4-Jul-2001	19-Jul	17-Aug	30-Sep	2-Nov-1936	272
Central	17-Jul-1985	31-Jul	3-Sep	5-Oct	7-Nov-1965	192
South	4-Jul-1980	24-Jul	3-Sep	7-Oct	30-Oct-1983	146
By Age: Fall flight						
Adult	14-Jul-2001	13-Jul	31-Jul	20-Aug	13-Oct-2002	101
Juv.	31-Jul-2001	17-Aug	2-Sep	24-Sep	6-Oct-1990	76

### **References Cited**

Burr, I. W. (1966) Regional Report—Northern Region Fall 1965, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 44:102-104.

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

Thompson, Maurice (1888) Preliminary sketch of the aquatic and shore bird of the Kankakee Region, Indiana Department of Geology and Natural History, Sixteenth Annual Report.