

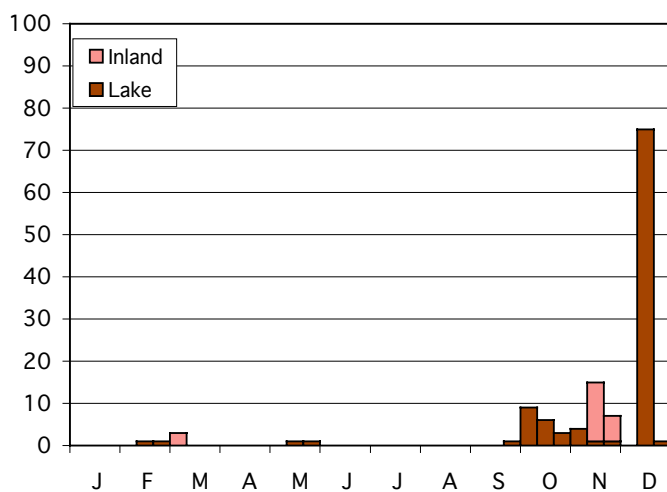
## Brant

## *Branta bernicla*

### Historical Information

**First Published Record:** According to Butler (1898), an 1856 publication contained a Brant report from the Whitewater Valley; however, Mumford and Keller (1984) question the validity of this record. The earliest completely dated report consisted of three birds seen by Raymond Grow and others at Michigan City Harbor 19 October 1957 (Mumford and Keller 1984).

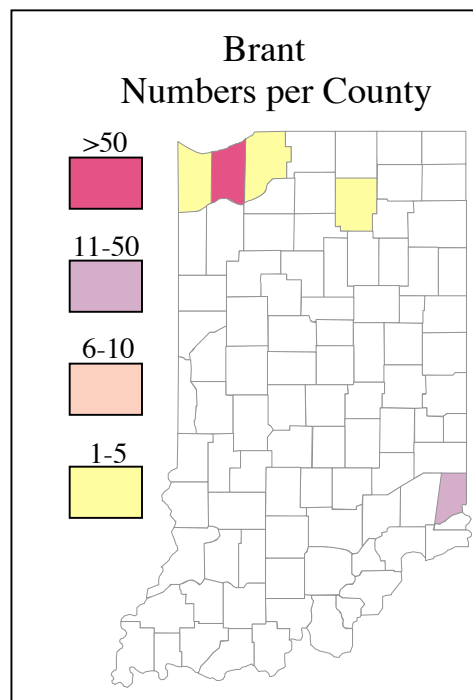
Butler (1898) refers to this small goose as an accidental visitor. Mumford and Keller (1975) listed it as accidental, citing the 1957 record. Keller et al. (1979) also considered it accidental on Lake Michigan. Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed the Brant an accidental to casual visitor.



### Status

**Physical Evidence:** One of the three 1957 birds reported above became injured and was captured 26 October 1957; the specimen is now in the National Museum of Natural History (Mumford and Keller 1984).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	n	n	8
Central Tier	n	n	n	n
Southern Tier	n	n	n	10
Entire State	n	n	n	8



### Current Status

The Brant is a Very Rare (8) migrant on Lake Michigan and Accidental (10) elsewhere in the state.

### Occurrence

The Brant has been reported in five of the past twenty years. Almost all records have occurred on Lake Michigan, mainly in autumn. The largest inland sighting involved 14 birds seen at the Great Miami Oxbow, Dearborn County 16 November 1985 by Paul Wharton and others; six of these lingered through 25 November 1985. This record was in concert with a very heavy flight on Lake Erie (Peterjohn 1986).

### Extreme Records

The state's largest count, seen on Lake Michigan off Beverly Shores 14 December 1975, consisted of 75-100 swimming birds in a tight flock (Brock 1976). The only

spring records involved three seen at Dewart Lake, Kosciusko County “not more than 100 yards away,” by A.E. Andrews on 5 March 1944 (Mumford files) and an immature in the Michigan City Harbor yacht basin 13-27 May 1983, where it was observed by many (Brock 1984).

### Brant Data

Maximum Single Party Counts						
Spring						
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.		
75	14-Dec-1975	Beverly Shores	K.J. Brock	KJB		
14	16-Nov-1985	Gt. Miami Oxbow	Paul Wharton	NAB		
9	09-Oct-1993	Port of Indiana	John O'Brien	KJB		
3	19-Oct-1957	Mich. City Harb	Raymond Grow	Grow		
3	05-Mar-1944	Kosciusko Co	A.E. Andrews	REM		

Migration Envelope						
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
All	24-Sep-2001	---	8-Nov	---	21-Dec-1983	19

### References Cited

Brock, K.J. (1976) Brants on Lake Michigan, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 54:8-9.

Brock, K.J. (1984) Field Notes; Spring Migration, 1983, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 62:24-42.

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

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 (1975) An Annotated Check List of Indiana Birds, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 53:28-59.

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

Peterjohn, B.G. (1986) Field Notes Autumn 1985, *American Birds* 40:118-123.