

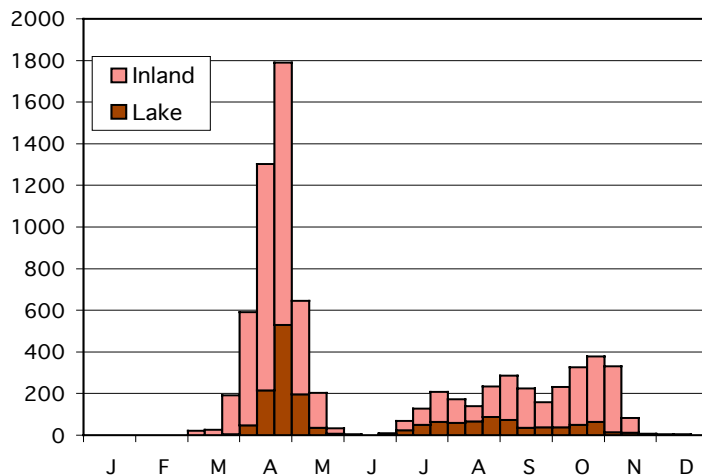
Greater Yellowlegs

Tringa melanoleuca

Historical Information

First Published Record: Indiana's earliest report of this Yellowlegs occurred near Brookville on 6 May 1883 (Butler 1898).

Butler (1890) considered the Greater Yellowlegs a rare migrant over the southern part of the state. Keller (1958) referred to it as a fairly common migrant. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it uncommon, but Mumford and Keller (1984) considered it fairly common.



Current Status

The Greater Yellowlegs has been recorded in all seasons. It is Common (4) in spring, Fairly Common (5) in fall, Uncommon (6) in summer, and Rare (7) in winter.

Occurrence

This large *Tringa* sandpiper has been reported in at least 74 counties. It is most frequently encountered in spring, when at least six counts exceeding 100 birds have been recorded. Fall counts are lower, but extend over a much broader time interval. Autumn adults precede the young by at least six weeks in migration.

Summer Records

Greater Yellowlegs reported during the summer period are migrants. The migration envelopes indicate that spring migrants linger into early June and fall migrants appear during the last week of June. Only one summer record falls between 3 and 27 June; it consisted of a single bird reported by A.W. Bruner at Lake Waveland 16 June 2000 (Hedge 2001).

Winter Records

Indiana has nine December records, indicating that fall migrants infrequently linger into early winter (late dates are shown in the fall migration envelopes).

Status

Physical Evidence: At least six specimens are stored in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				2
National Museum of Natural History				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	10	4	6	5
Central Tier	n	6	7	6
Southern Tier	7	4	7	6
Entire State	7	4	6	5

Greater Yellowlegs Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
120	25-Apr-1998	Kankakee FWA	J.J. McCoy	IQM
118	22-Apr-2000	Grant St., Gary	J.K. Cassady	JKC
110	13-Apr-2000	Monroe Co	J. & S. Hengeveld	NNB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
35	04-Aug-1982	Gibson Co	C.E. Mills	IAQ
35	09-Nov-1989	Lake Waveland	A.W. Bruner	IAQ
32	17-Sep-1983	Sullivan Co	Denny Jones	IAQ

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	3-Mar-1996	7-Apr	24-Apr	10-May	03-Jun-1888	473
Central	1-Mar-2004	30-Mar	23-Apr	14-May	31-May-1950	137
South	1-Mar-1980	24-Mar	16-Apr	5-May	3-Jun-2001	205
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	28-Jun-1986	21-Jul	9-Sep	30-Oct	8-Dec-1998	615
Central	27-Jun-1987	31-Jul	22-Sep	5-Nov	10-Dec-1982	247
South	29-Jun-1977	23-Jul	5-Oct	9-Nov	28-Dec-1997	238
By Age: Fall flight						
Adult	28-Jun-1986	10-Jul	2-Aug	27-Aug	18-Sep-1989	111
Juv.	31-Jul-2005	15-Aug	15-Sep	28-Oct	25-Nov-1988	77

References Cited

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