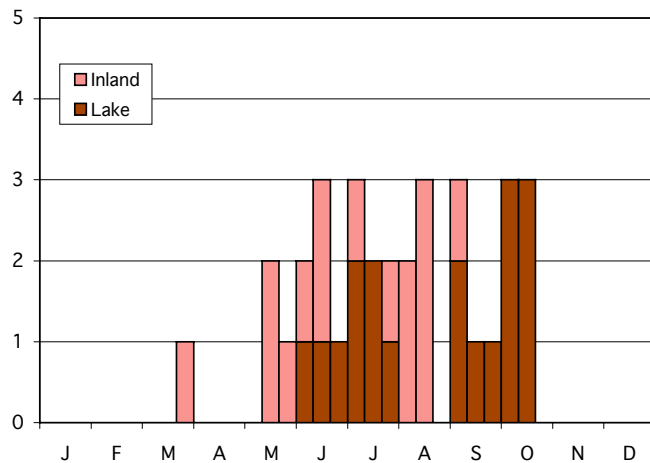


Brown Pelican

Pelecanus occidentalis

Historical Information

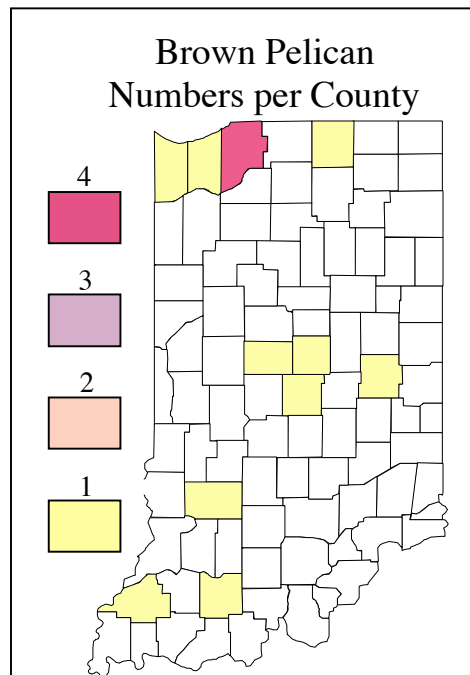
First Published Record: The first report of this species marked an important historical event. According to Mumford and Keller (1984) in the fall of 1820, J.J. Audubon saw three Brown Pelicans along the Ohio River three miles south of Evansville in Vanderburgh County. As most of the Ohio River lies within Kentucky, it is problematic whether these birds were actually within Indiana waters. Keller et al. (1979) classified this pelican as accidental. Noting the presence of a specimen collected in Marion County 28 March 1907, Mumford and Keller (1984) referred to this species as an accidental visitor.



Status

Physical Evidence: The 1907 Marion County specimen is preserved in the Indiana State Museum (Richards 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Indiana State Museum				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	8	8	8	8
Central Tier	10	8	n	9
Southern Tier	10	8	10	8
Entire State	8	8	8	8



Current Status:

Brown Pelicans are Very Rare (8).

Occurrence

The migration histogram indicates that this species is primarily a summer visitor, with records extending from late spring into early fall. The cluster of October records in the migration histogram involved a single bird that was seen at two sites on the lakefront (Miller Beach and Michigan City Harbor) from 7 to 19 October 1991 (Peterjohn 1992). Other than the putative J.J. Audubon record, all reports consist of single birds. At least four photographs exist, two of which were published in the *Indiana Audubon Quarterly* (Bruner 2002).

Extreme Records

The 28 March 1907 Marion County record is anomalous, occurring two months before the next earliest date. A

November 1981 record at Lake Monroe is believed to have involved an escaped bird (Mumford and Keller 1984) and is excluded from this summary.



Immature Brown Pelican at Miller Beach 11 September 2004. Photo by J.J. McCoy.

Brown Pelican Records				
All Records				
No.	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
1	28-Mar-1907	Marion Co	???	R87
1	11-Jun-1978	LaPorte Co	???	DNR
1	8-Jun to 23 Jul-1990	Lakefront	Clyde Fields	KJB
1	7 to 19 -Oct-1991	Lakefront	John White	KJB
1	5-Aug-1996	Elkhart Co	???	BRC
1	6-Sep-1997	Summit Lake	???	SAP
1	23-May-1999	Lake Gibson	G. & L.Bowman	INB
1	7 & 13-Jul-1999	Lakefront	J.J. McCoy	JMc
1	7 to 14-Aug-1999	Geist Reservoir	R.F. Buskirk	INB
1	16-Aug-1999	Patoka Lake	???	BRC
1	16-May to 7-Jul 2004	Eagle Creek Park	Larry Peavler	INB
1	18-May-2004	Boone Co	C.L. Hedge	INB
1	29-Jul-2005	Lake Monroe	James Mitchell	BRC

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