

Ruddy Turnstone

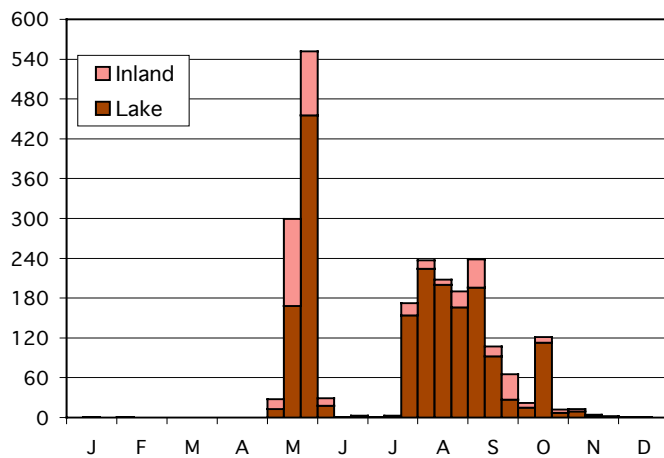
Arenaria interpres

Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1898) noted that a Franklin County record of this species was included in the 1869 state geological report, but the earliest fully dated record came from Starke County where Ruthven Deane observed this species 20 May 1888 (Butler 1898).

Brayton (1879) described the Turnstone as a common migrant along Lake Michigan and Butler (1898) deemed it a rare migrant, virtually unknown away from the lake. Keller (1957) considered it a rare migrant away from Lake Michigan, but fairly common near the lake. Keller

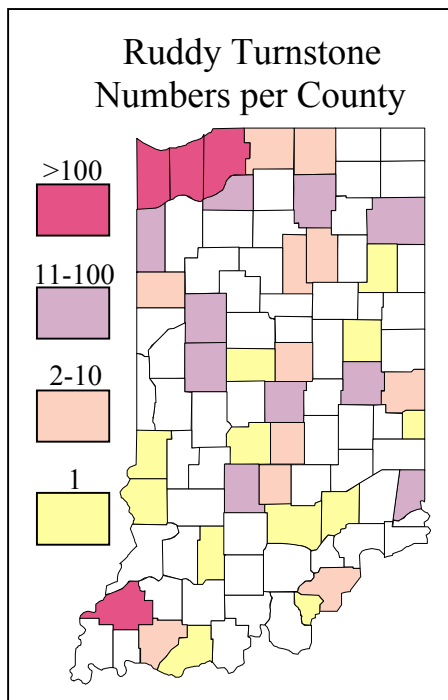
et al. (1979) listed this colorful shorebird as uncommon in the north and very rare elsewhere. Mumford and Keller (1984) also noted that it was most abundant along the lake.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some five specimens are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				1
National Museum of Natural History				2
Milwaukee Public Museum				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	6	6	5
Central Tier	8	7	10	9
Southern Tier	9	7	n	7
Entire State	8	6	6	5



Current Status

Keller's 1957

status assessment remains accurate today; the Ruddy Turnstone is Fairly Common (5) to Uncommon (6) on Lake Michigan and Rare (7) to Accidental (10) elsewhere.

Occurrence

The migration histogram reveals that Turnstones are most frequently encountered along Lake Michigan's shores; however, this colorful shorebird has also been reported in 34 inland counties (see distribution map) where it frequents the shores of large reservoirs and mudflats. An average of about seven birds per year have been recorded at inland sites over the past 20 years.

Migration

Only four records exist between 9 June and 18 July. The largest break during this interval occurs between 28 June and 18 July; only one record (7 July 1980) occurs within this period. Accordingly, this break is taken as the transition between the spring and fall flights. In autumn the southbound adults pass through the state about a month ahead of the juveniles.

Winter Records

Two winter records exist. One lingered at Lake Gibson from 1 December 1990 through 13 January 1991 (Brown 1991); a photograph of this individual appears in the *Indiana Audubon Quarterly* (69:246). Even more surprising on 2 February 1980, B.J. Grube discovered a Turnstone at the Gary Sanitary Landfill, as it scurried through the garbage among Starlings and Rock Pigeons (Brock notes).

Ruddy Turnstone Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
70	22-May-1954	Wolf Lake	Raymond Grow	Grow
67	29-May-1982	N. Lake Co	P.B. Grube	KJB
44	23-May-1980	N. Lake Co	E.M. Hopkins	KJB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
100	15-Oct-1976	Bailey Generator	Noel Cutright	NCu
53	04-Aug-1994	Miller Beach	K.J. Brock	KJB
38	28-Jul-2002	Lakefront	J.J. McCoy	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	1-May-1986	12-May	22-May	31-May	Sum. Vis.	163
Central	7-May-1983	12-May	18-May	25-May	7-Jun-1977	34
South	8-May-1988	---	22-May	---	31-May-2003	22
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Vis.	30-Jul	24-Aug	27-Sep	28-Nov-1985	412
Central	23-Jul-1999	10-Aug	3-Sep	28-Sep	5-Oct-1954	35
South	26-Jul-1974	28-Jul	9-Sep	21-Oct	15-Dec-1990	55
By Age: Fall flight						
Adult	21-Jul-2003	28-Jul	10-Aug	28-Aug	1-Nov-2000	143
Juv.	13-Aug-2000	20-Aug	5-Sep	29-Sep	5-Nov-1996	109

References Cited

Brayton, A.W. (1879) A Catalogue of the Birds of Indiana, *Transactions of the Indiana Horticultural Society*, pp. 144-146.

Brock notes: personal field notes and seasonal summaries beginning in 1972.

Brown, M.R. (1991) Field Notes Winter 1990-91, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 69:242-250.

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

Keller, C.E. (1957) The Shorebird families: Charadriidae, Scolopacidae, Recurvirostridae, and Phalaropidae of Indiana. Part 1. *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 35:30-48.

Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller (1979) *Indiana Birds and Their Haunts*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 214 pp.

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