

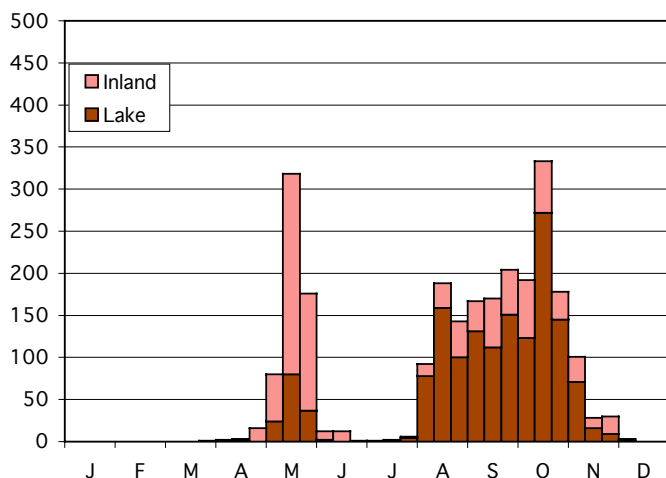
Black-bellied Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

Historical Information

First Published Record: Although Butler (1898) mentioned a bird killed in Lake County in 1871, the earliest fully dated record consists of two collected in Starke County 15 May 1884 (Butler 1898).

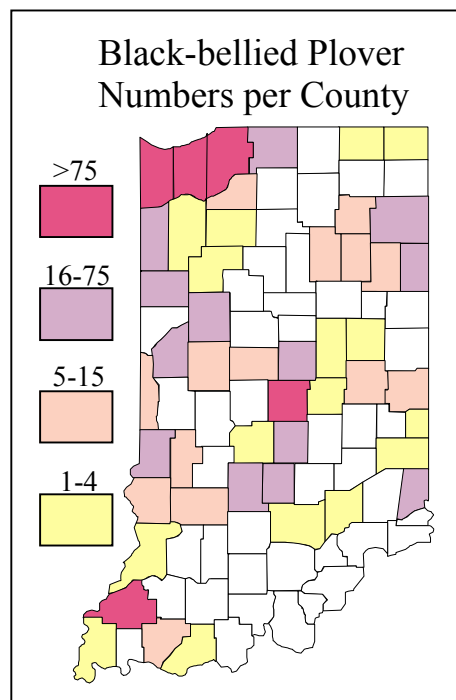
Brayton (1879) deemed the Black-bellied Plover a “not common” migrant. Butler (1898) considered this large plover a rare migrant, which was more numerous in the north. Keller (1957) characterized it as a rare migrant except along Lake Michigan where it is seen regularly. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a rare spring and uncommon fall migrant, except in the south where it was very rare. Mumford and Keller (1984) described the Black-bellied Plover as an uncommon migrant except near Lake Michigan, where it was fairly common.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some eight specimens are housed in the nation’s museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

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



Current Status

Today the Black-bellied Plover is Fairly Common (5) in fall along Lake Michigan, Uncommon (6) in spring, Rare (7) in summer, and Accidental (10) in winter.

Occurrence

This large plover has been reported in at least 48 Indiana counties. It is most numerous along Lake Michigan beaches in fall, but also occurs regularly away from the lake. Indeed it has been recorded annually at inland sites for the past thirty years.

Migration

A majority of the state’s Black-bellied Plovers appear in autumn as southbound adults and young of the year pass through the state (see migration histogram). The migration

envelope indicates that, on average, adults precede the juveniles by at least five weeks.

Summer Records

Some thirteen June and nine July records are scattered throughout the summer. Most are singletons that represent late migrants, non-breeders, or unsuccessful breeders. However, a most remarkable summer report involved a flock of 12 observed by A.W. Bruner flying north of Terre Haute on 13 June 1990 (Jackson 1991).

Winter Records

Fall migrants have lingered into early December on three occasions. Two of these (Michigan City Harbor and Lake Gibson) are listed in the fall migration envelopes. J.B. Dunning reported the third at Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area, Benton County on 1 December 1998 (IN-BIRD).

Black-bellied Plover Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
33	17-May-1952	N. Lake Co	R.E. Mumford	REM
20	20-May-1984	Gibson Co	C.E. Mills	IAQ
20*	19-May-1986	Atterbury FWA	Boyd Gill	IAQ
*20 were also reported on one additional spring date				
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
65	12-Oct-1953	N. Lake Co	W.M. Davis	K57
54	16-Aug-2002	Miller Beach	Michael Topp	INB
46	16-Oct-1954	N. Lake Co	W.M. Davis	IAQ

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	6-Apr-1963	8-May	17-May	28-May	6-Jun-1955	97
Central	25-Apr-1974	5-May	19-May	25-May	7-Jun-1991	40
South	30-Mar-1888	---	14-May	---	6-Jun-1980	28
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	15-Jul-1952	13-Aug	23-Sep	1-Nov	6-Dec-1980	528
Central	24-Jul-2003	22-Aug	20-Sep	24-Oct	22-Nov-1953	59
South	13-Aug-1989	31-Aug	8-Oct	16-Nov	2-Dec-1990	82
By Age: Fall flight						
Adult	21-Jul-2003	6-Aug	18-Aug	7-Sep	23-Sep-1994	103
Juv.	24-Aug-1996	14-Sep	6-Oct	2-Nov	22-Nov-1997	165



Juvenile Black-bellied Plover at Whihala Beach Park on 1 October 2005. Photo by J.K. Cassady.

References Cited

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

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

IN-BIRD, a Listserv dealing with Indiana birds developed and maintained by P.W. Kelly. The records are archived at: <http://listserv.indiana.edu/archives/in-bird-l.html>

Jackson, S.F. (1991) Field Notes Summer 1990, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 69:95-111.

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.

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