

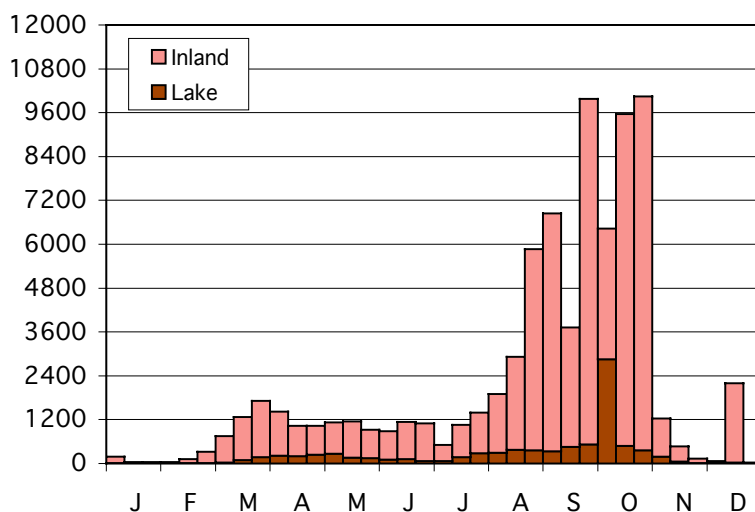
Wood Duck

Aix sponsa

Historical Information

First Published Record: Notes in the Mumford files indicate that two specimens in the C.A. Stockbridge collection were obtained in 1874; however, the earliest fully dated record comes from Carroll County where one was reported 14 March 1879 (Mumford files).

Butler (1890) deemed this beautiful duck a migrant and summer resident that bred throughout the state. Keller et al. (1979) characterized it as a common migrant and breeder, but rare to casual in winter. Noting a significant decline in the population in the early 1900s, Mumford and Keller (1984) suggested that a hunting ban helped restore the population.



Status

Physical Evidence: Twenty-one Wood Duck specimens are housed in the nation's museums, as indicated in the Status Table (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				1
Chicago Field Museum				2
National Museum of Natural History				2
Indiana State Museum				1
Illinois State Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				14
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	6	3	4	3
Central Tier	7	4	4	3
Southern Tier	6	4	4	3
Entire State	6	3	4	3

Current Status

Today the Wood Duck is a permanent resident, which is Very Common (3) in migration. It is one of the three ducks that regularly breeds in Indiana.

Occurrence

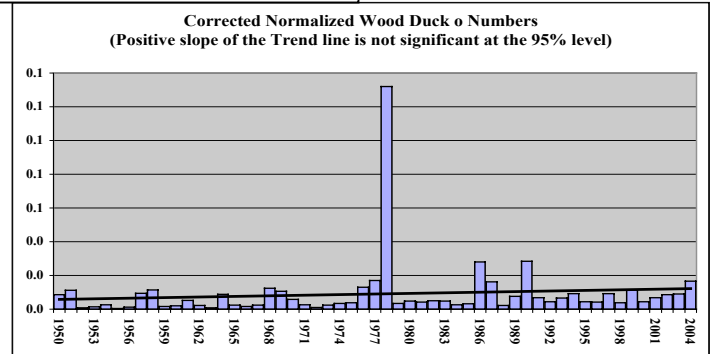
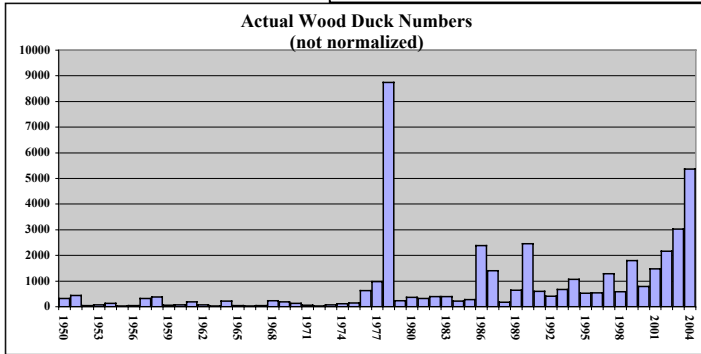
The largest Wood Duck numbers occur in fall, when they congregate into pre-migration groups; note that the peak autumn count exceeds the maximum spring tally by a factor of twenty. The largest numbers are recorded at inland locations. It has been recorded in 87 counties and almost certainly occurs in all of Indiana's 92 counties. Wood Ducks are distributed fairly uniformly across Indiana (see 20-Year Abundance Table).

Population Trend

In the late 1800s Butler (1898) mentioned that breeding numbers had decreased over the past 15 – 20 years. A hunting ban between 1918 and 1938 restored the population, as by 1984 Mumford and Keller state that it, "probably breeds in every county." Over the past 50 years numbers appear to have increased somewhat; however, positive slope of the trend line shown on the Population Trend plot is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.

Wood Duck Population Trend

Positive slope of the trend line is not significant at the 95% level



Breeding

The Indiana Atlas (Castrale et al. 1998) found breeding evidence in 64% of the 647 priority blocks. Eggs have been reported from mid-April through late June, but evidence of nesting has been observed as early as 22 February (Mumford and Keller 1984). The latest breeding report consisted of a female with six downy chicks observed by R.E. Allison in Tippecanoe County 10 August 2003 (IN-BIRD).

Wood Duck Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
220	24-Mar-1985	Stillwater Marsh	D.R. Whitehead	AB7
100	20-Mar-1981	Jasper-Pulaski	?	M&K
84	14-May-1951	Tippecanoe Co	C.M. Kirkpatrick	REM
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
5500	21-Sep to 19-Oct-1988	Kankakee FWA	?	AB7
4500	26-Oct-1988	Kankakee FWA	?	AB7
2500	28-Aug to 3-Sep-1978	Jasper-Pulaski FEA	?	M&K

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	18-Mar	20-Apr	24-May	Sum-Res.	837
Central	Win. Res.	17-Mar	30-Apr	29-May	Sum-Res.	178
South	Win. Res.	9-Mar	6-Apr	28-May	Sum-Res.	150
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum-Res.	2-Aug	20-Sep	27-Oct	Win. Res.	740
Central	Sum-Res.	29-Jul	15-Sep	27-Oct	Win. Res.	110
South	Sum-Res.	6-Aug	23-Sep	4-Nov	Win. Res.	121

References Cited

Butler, A. W. (1890) The Birds of Indiana, Appendix to *Transactions of the Indiana Horticultural Society for 1890* (available on the web).

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

Castrale, J.S., E.M. Hopkins, and C.E. Keller (1998) *Atlas of breeding Birds of Indiana*, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 388 pp.

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-1.html>

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 (1984) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 376 pp.

Richards, R.L. (1987) The Vertebrate Collection of the Indiana State Museum: "Old" Specimens and Records, *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science* 97:547-570.