

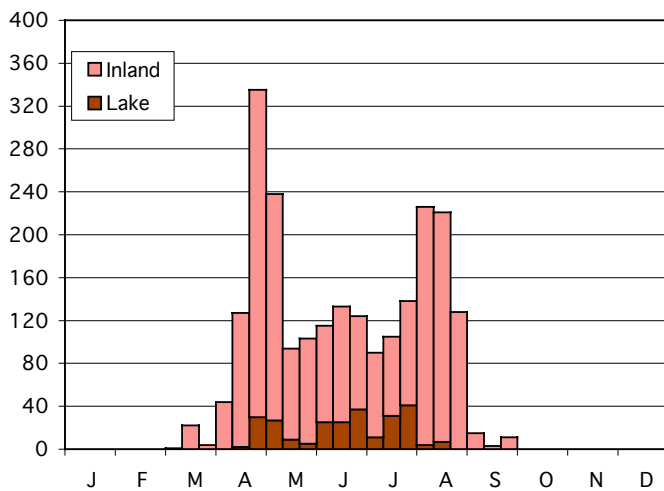
## Upland Sandpiper

## *Bartramia longicauda*

### Historical Information

**First Published Record:** The earliest published date involved the observation of young (able to run) Upland Sandpipers by H.K. Coale in Lake County 4 July 1881 (Butler 1898).

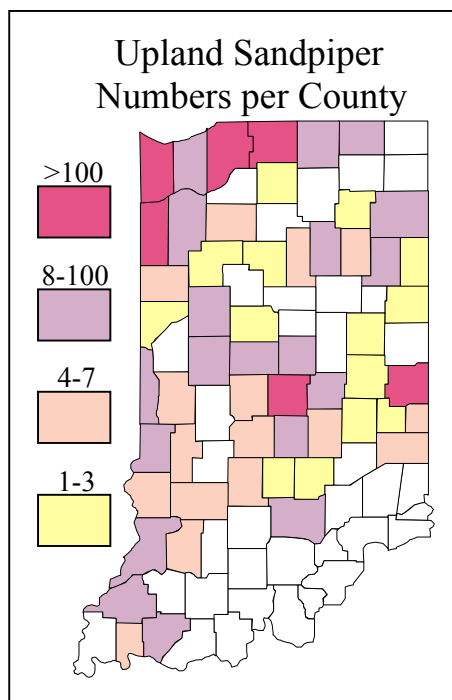
Butler (1890) deemed the “Bartramian Sandpiper,” as it was then known, a migrant and summer resident (no abundance given). Keller (1958) noted a decline in the early 1900s, but concluded that the population had rebounded to the level proposed by Butler. Twenty years later however, Keller et al. (1979) lowered the status to very rare (both in migration and summer). Mumford and Keller (1984) considered it a fairly common migrant.



### Status

**Physical Evidence:** Two skins and an egg are known to exist in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2*
* Includes an egg				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	6	6	6
Central Tier	n	7	7	8
Southern Tier	n	9	10	9
Entire State	n	6	6	6



### Current Status

Upland Sandpipers seem to become progressively more difficult to find each year. They are currently Uncommon (6) migrants and summer residents (though quite local).

### Occurrence

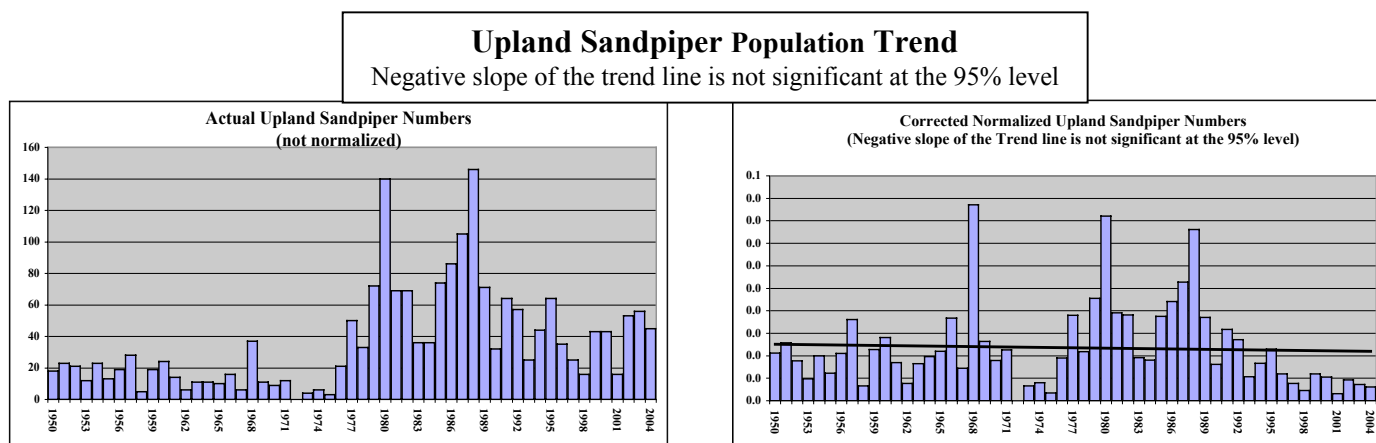
This sandpiper, which is now on the Indiana endangered species list, shows perhaps the strongest habitat preference of any shorebird. Noted for its penchant for prairie grasses, even in migration it is rarely found away from expanses of grass. Most breeding birds are reported in grassy fields or on trimmed meadows adjacent to airport runways. Migrants often frequent the neatly mowed lawns of turf farms. Note the dearth of records (see distribution map) in the woodlands of southeast and south central Indiana.

## Large Counts

The exceptional spring counts made by J.B. Cope during the 1948 spring migration are most remarkable. Unprecedented numbers were counted at the airfield between Richmond and Centerville, Wayne County. Buskirk (2003) listed these incredible sightings as follows: 12 Apr (25), 13 Apr (61), 21 Apr (60), 28 Apr (100), 29 Apr (25), 30 Apr (190), 3 May (100), and 6 May (2). In contrast, the state's next highest spring counts are 20 recorded in Vigo County 19 March 1896 (Butler 1898) and 18 at the South Bend Airport 9 May 1988 (Snyder et al. 1989).

## Population Trend

Although there seems little doubt that Upland Sandpiper numbers have diminished in Indiana, negative slope of the trend line in the plot below is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



## Breeding

Butler (1898), in noting that the “Bartramian Sandpiper” was a common summer resident in the prairies of northwest Indiana, provided evidence of breeding only in Gibson, Knox, and Lake Counties. Keller (1958) summarized breeding data and listed breeding in the following additional counties: Adams, Greene, Hamilton, Jay, Marion, Montgomery, Morgan, Newton, St. Joseph, Tippecanoe, Vanderburgh, Wayne, Wells, and White. Keller et al. (1979) added Johnson County to the list. However, the Indiana Atlas reported confirmed breeding in only eight counties (Castrale et al. 1998). Among them was Allen County, a new addition to the list.

Upland Sandpiper Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
190	30-Apr-1948	Wayne Co	J.B. Cope	WWV
100	28-Apr-1948	Wayne Co	J.B. Cope	WWV
100	03-May-1948	Wayne Co	J.B. Cope	WWV
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
44	10-Aug-1985	Schneider Turf	K.J. Brock	NAB
27	16-Aug-1992	Schneider Turf	W.H Buskirk	IAQ
25	23-Aug-1980	Shamrock Turf	J.A. Haw	IAQ

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	5-Apr-1956	16-Apr	9-May	4-Jun	Sum. Res.	193
Central	5-Mar-1980	8-Apr	4-May	4-Jun	Sum. Res.	132
South	16-Mar-1953	---	18-Apr	---	Sum. Res.	23
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	21-Jul	8-Aug	27-Aug	23-Sep-1997	120
Central	Sum. Res.	17-Jul	12-Aug	3-Sep	12-Sep-1983	37
South	Sum. Res.	---	11-Aug	---	31-Aug-1980	25

## References Cited

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

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