

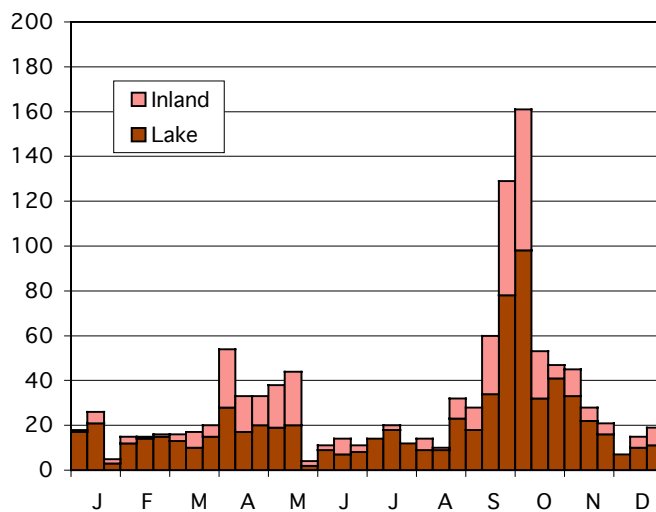
Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus

Historical Information

First Published record: The state's earliest published "Duck Hawk" report occurred 25 September 1884 when a specimen was collected in Starke County by G.F. Morson (Butler 1898).

Butler (1890) commented as follows, "Resident locally perhaps, but generally migrant, and winter visitor. It is rare, save in the Lower Wabash Valley, where Mr. Ridgway says it is not rare." He added that, "It is unknown in the southeastern part of the state." Keller et al. (1979) considered it a rare to casual migrant and casual winter visitant. Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed it a very rare to casual migrant and winter resident.



Status

Physical Evidence: At least four specimens are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				1
National Museum of Natural History				1
Indiana State Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	6	6	7	6
Central Tier	10	7	8	7
Southern Tier	8	7	9	6
Entire State	6	6	7	5

Current Status

Following reintroduction in Indiana and adjacent states, the status of this noble bird changed dramatically. Today it is a permanent resident that is most common in autumn when it is Fairly Common (5). It is Uncommon (6) in winter and spring and becomes Rare (7) in summer.

Occurrence

Indiana really has two Peregrine populations. Introduced breeding birds were first detected nesting beneath the elevated 912 highway in East Chicago, in June 1989 (Jackson 1990). Most Peregrine reports prior to that date apparently involved the transient "Tundra Peregrine," *F. p. tundrius*, which migrates through the state. Introduced peregrines came from a number of different populations; some of which were migratory and others not. Consequently, the Indiana breeding population contains both sedentary and migratory birds.

Migration

The migration histogram shows a poorly defined spring flight, but a bold fall movement dominated by lakefront birds. Presumably, these autumn migrants are transient Tundra Peregrines.

Breeding

Butler (1898) reported breeding in Knox and Gibson Counties, where Robert Ridgway noted nesting in the natural cavities of tall sycamores. Prior to the reintroduction programs Indiana's only other breeding report occurred in a Franklin County quarry in 1906 (Castrale et al. 1998). The latter authors summarize establishment of the introduced population. As of 2004 Indiana had roughly a dozen active territories (J.S. Castrale, pers. comm.).

Peregrine Falcon Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
20	10-Apr-2002	Multiple Sites*	J.S. Castrale	INB
4	08-Mar-2003	Lakefront	J.K. Cassady	KJB
3	10-Apr-2002	Johnson Beach	K.J. Brock	KJB
*DNR nesting survey, 10 pairs and 16 eggs at eight Indiana locations.				
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
11	08-Oct-1983	Lakefront	K.J. Brock	KJB
11	17-Sep-1995	Lake Lemon	J. & S. Hengeveld	NNB
5	26-Oct-1995	Lakefront	J.J. McCoy	KJB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	14-Mar	19-Apr	17-May	Sum. Res.	180
Central	Win. Res.	---	22-Apr	---	Sum. Res.	22
South	Win. Res.	---	22-Apr	---	Sum. Res.	28
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	23-Aug	4-Oct	8-Nov	Win. Res.	378
Central	Sum. Res.	24-Aug	29-Sep	27-Oct	Win. Res.	37
South	Sum. Res.	11-Sep	29-Sep	23-Oct	Win. Res.	100

References Cited

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