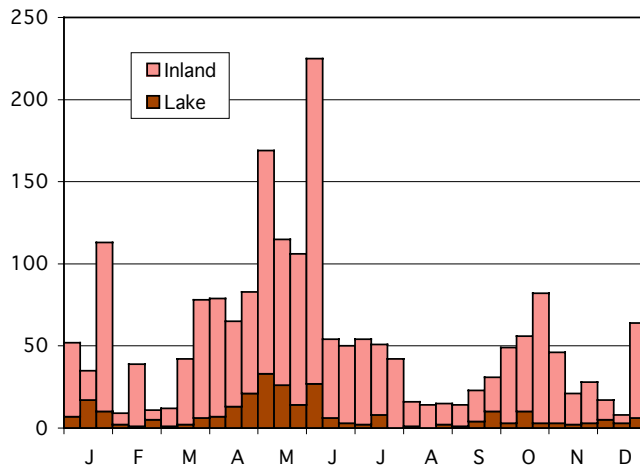


Ring-necked Pheasant

Phasianus colchicus

Historical Information

First Published Record: Mumford and Keller (1984) summarize the history of this introduced species, stating, "Several very ambitious attempts have been made, beginning in 1899, to establish this exotic game bird in the state. Between the turn of the century and 1962 some two million Ring-necked Pheasants were released here, in virtually every county."

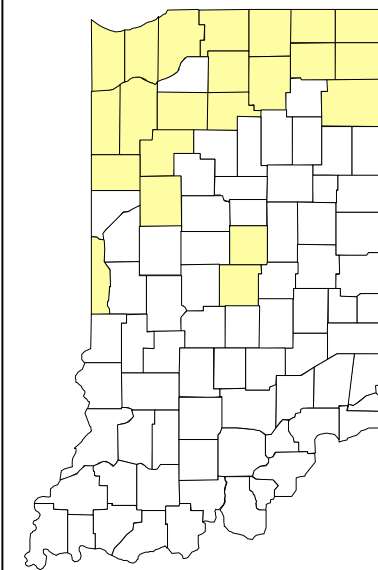


Status

Physical Evidence: Some eight specimens are housed in the Purdue University collection (J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				8
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	6	6	6	6
Central Tier	7	7	7	7
Southern Tier	10	10	10	10
Entire State	6	6	6	6

Counties with More Than Ten Reported Ring-necked Pheasants



Current Status

This colorful permanent resident ranges from Uncommon (6) in the northern tier to Accidental (10) in the southern tier.

Occurrence

As shown by the distribution map the Pheasant is primarily a bird of the northern counties. Without doubt many of the reported birds were released for hunting.

Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) show confirmed breeding in about 13 counties, primarily in the northwestern part of the state. Active nests containing eggs have been observed from 11 April through 15 July and young have been noted as late as 26 July.

Ring-necked Pheasant Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/Summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
66	01-Jun-1996	Benton Co	E.M. Hopkins	IAQ
42	30-May-2003	Benton Co	E.M. Hopkins	EMH
22	06-May-1961	Fulton Co	W.B. Barnes	REM
Fall/Winter				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
59	25-Jan-1999	Pine Creek wetland	J.B. Dunning	INB
28	28-Oct-1999	Pine Creek wetland	J.B. Dunning	INB
26	29-Jan-2003	Kankakee Sands	Jed Hertz	INB

References Cited

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

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