

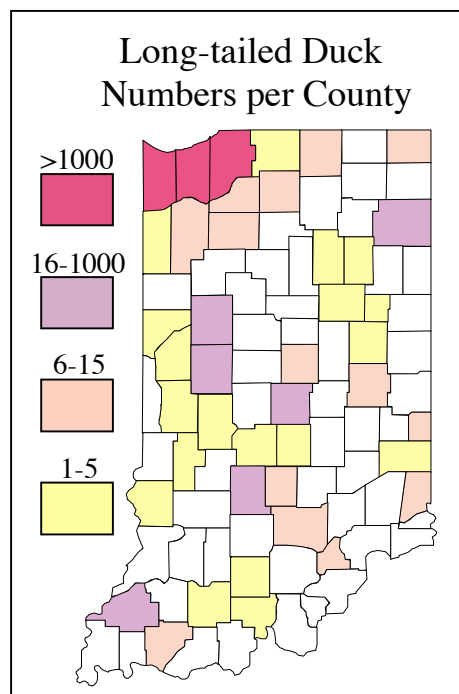
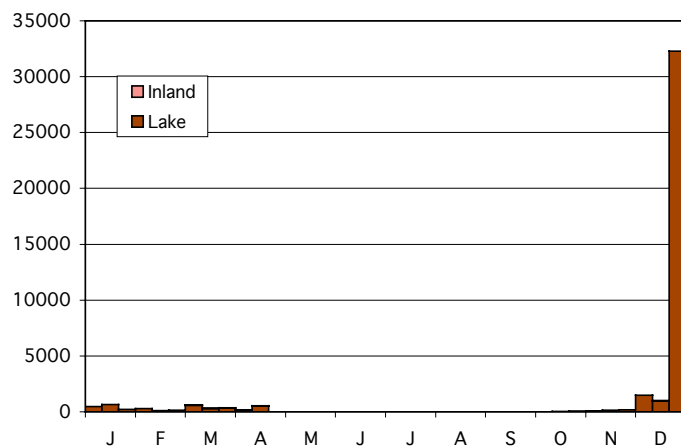
Long-tailed Duck

Clangula hyemalis

Historical Information

First Published Record: A specimen taken by T. J. Baum near the mouth of the Great Miami River, Dearborn County, 24 February 1880 (Butler 1898) constitutes Indiana's first formal record of this elegant duck.

Butler (1898) described the "Oldsquaw" as a very common winter resident on Lake Michigan, but exceedingly rare away from the lake. Keller et al. (1979) termed it a rare migrant and winter visitant in the north, and very rare elsewhere. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted a significant decrease in the Lake Michigan population after the 1950s and characterized this sea duck as rare to very rare across the state.



Status

Physical Evidence: Nine skins from Indiana are housed as indicated in the Status Table (S.F. Jackson unpub-lished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				4
National Museum of Natural History				2
Indiana State Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	6	7	n	6
Central Tier	7	8	n	7
Southern Tier	7	7	n	7
Entire State	6	6	n	6

Current Status

The spike on the migration histogram reflects extraordinary counts logged in the 1950s. These enormous numbers no longer occur in the state. Indeed the maximum count in the past two decades was 45 observed by J.K. Cassady at Miller Beach 14 December 1996 (Brock notes). Today the Long-tailed Duck is an Uncommon (6) migrant and winter visitor throughout Indiana.

Occurrence

Data in the migration histogram are overwhelmed by the enormous counts from Lake Michigan in the 1950s; indeed all of the largest counts in the Maximum Single Party Count table come from that era. Although numbers have declined significantly, this species remains more common on Lake Michigan than inland. Over the past two decades the ratio of

Lake Michigan to inland birds is about four to one. The maximum inland count was 22 (two males and twenty females) recorded by R.E. Mumford 12 March 1947 in Tippecanoe County (Mumford files).



Adult male Long-tailed Duck, Michigan City Harbor 15 December 2001. Photo by J.K. Cassady

Long-tailed Duck Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
500	14-Apr-1957	Mich. City Harb	J.E. Landing	JEL
300	03-Mar-1957	Mich. City Harb	John Louis	JLo
255	06-Feb-1954	Mich. City Harb	H.C. West	HCW
Fall/Winter				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
31539	26-Dec-1955	Mich. City Harb	Raymond Grow	Grow
1000	06-Dec-1952	Lakefront	R.E. Mumford	REM
500	29-Dec-1955	Beverly Shores	L.C. Binford	REM

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	5-Mar	23-Mar	11-Apr	17-May-1993	85
Central	Win. Res.	9-Mar	18-Mar	13-Apr	12-May-1964	42
South	Win. Res.	8-Mar	20-Mar	7-Apr	11-Apr-1989	18
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	10-Oct-1996	26-Oct	13-Nov	28-Nov	Win. Res.	101
Central	31-Oct-1988	1-Nov	15-Nov	28-Nov	Win. Res.	7
South	27-Oct-1999	4-Nov	11-Nov	25-Nov	Win. Res.	21

References Cited

Brock notes: personal field notes and seasonal summaries beginning in 1972.

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

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.