

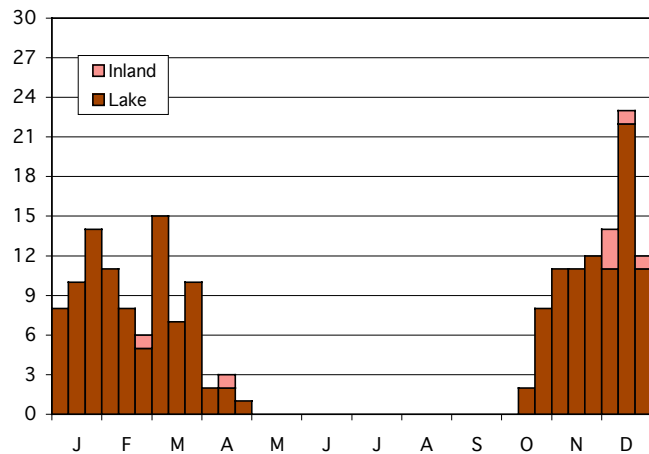
Harlequin Duck

Histrionicus histrionicus

Historical Information

First Published Record: In fascinating detail, Mumford and Keller (1984) describe the 27 January 1955 discovery of Indiana's first Harlequin Duck at Michigan City Harbor.

As this beautiful sea duck was known in Michigan and Illinois Butler (1898) included it on his hypothetical list. Keller et al. (1979) listed the Harlequin as a casual winter visitant in the north and accidental in central Indiana. Mumford and Keller (1984) do not characterize the status of this species, but listed several records.



Current Status

The Harlequin is a Rare (7) winter resident on Lake Michigan and Accidental (10) elsewhere.

Occurrence

The status assessment by Keller et al. (1979) applies today as, Harlequins still do not occur annually (they have been reported in 17 of the past 20 years). Virtually all birds appearing on Lake Michigan are females or immature males, but at least six adult males have been reported. On the lake they usually occur along rocky breakwaters.

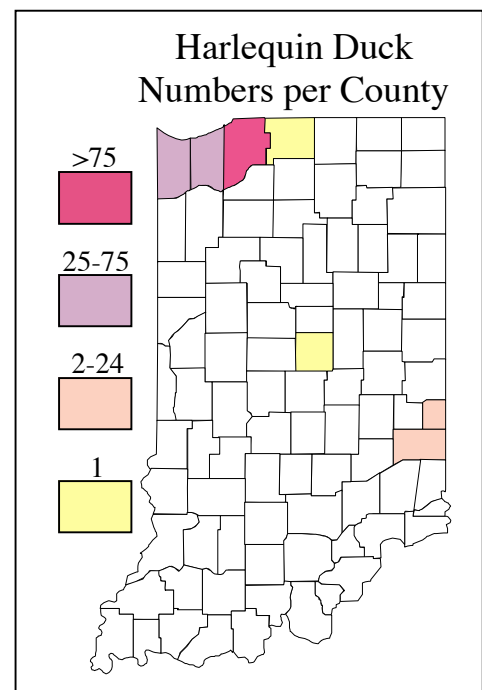
Inland Records

Surprisingly six Harlequin Ducks have been reported at inland sites. The most interesting of these occurred on Brookville Reservoir where two females were reported by W. Randall 7 December 1977 (Buskirk 2003); all other inland reports consist of singletons. The two Harlequins recorded on Brookville Reservoir are represented on the map as occurring in Franklin and Union Counties.

Status

Physical Evidence: Three skins from Indiana are in the National Museum of Natural History collection (S.F. Jackson, unpublished list). In addition several photos have been published in the *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*.

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Mus. Natural History				3
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	7	7	n	7
Central Tier	n	n	n	n
Southern Tier	10	10	n	n
Entire State	7	7	n	7

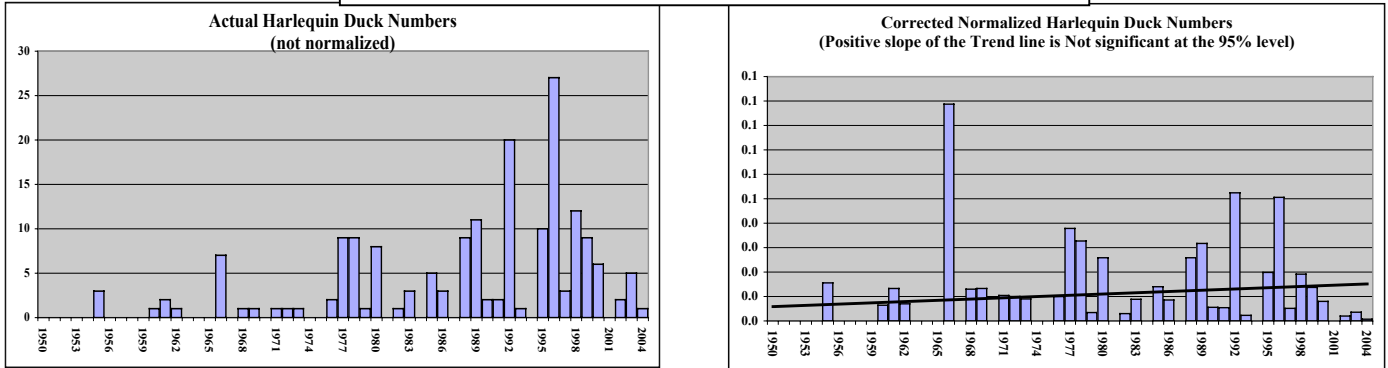


Population Trend

As Indiana's first Harlequin Duck did not occur until 1955, it seems logical that the population would have increased in subsequent years. However, the slightly positive slope of the trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.

Harlequin Duck Population Trend

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



Immature male Harlequin Duck at Michigan City Harbor November 1995.
Photo by J.K. Cassady.

Harlequin Duck Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
5	25-Nov-2005	Lakefront	Don Gorney	KJB
4	16-Dec-1995	Mich. City Harb	J.K. Cassady	KJB
4	17-Dec-2005	Mich. City Harb	Andy Sigler	KJB
3	3-Dec-1988	Mich. City Harb	Clyde Fields	KJB
3*	17-Dec-1988	Mich. City Harb	L.S. Hinchman	KJB
*Three Harlequins were recorded six additional times				

Migration Envelopes						
Winter						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
State	17-Oct- 1972	28-Oct	Win. Res.	24-Mar	27-Apr-1992	129

References Cited

Buskirk, W.H. (2003) Birds of the Whitewater Valley, unpublished manuscript.

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

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