

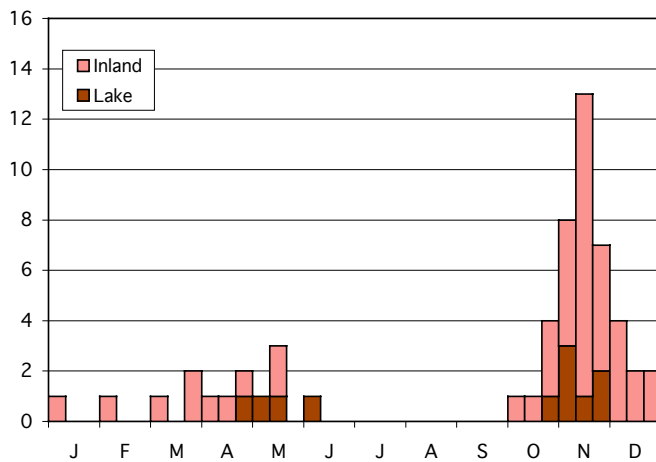
Pacific Loon

Gavia pacifica

Historical Information

First Published Record: According to Mumford and Keller (1984) Indiana's first "Arctic Loon," as it was then known, was found in April 1949 in a Henry County cornfield (now a specimen in the Joseph Moore Museum, Earlham College).

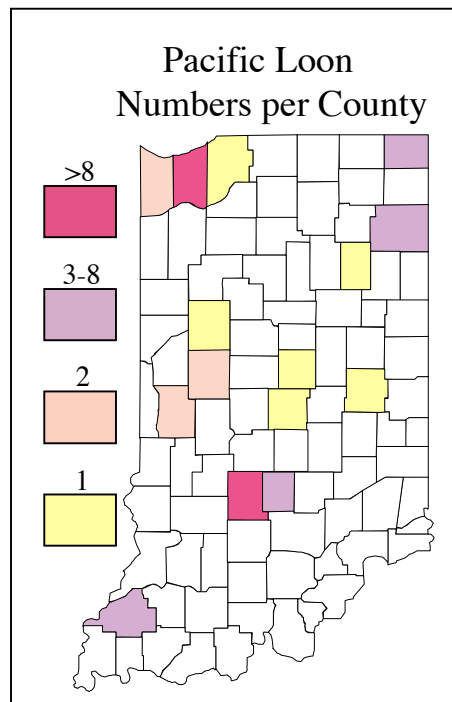
Butler (1898) included this loon as hypothetical. Keller et al. (1979) considered it accidental. Mumford and Keller (1984) relegated the Pacific Loon to the accidental category and Bruner (2001) deemed it rare in fall and winter.



Status

Physical Evidence: The specimen mentioned above constitutes the state's only known specimen (Bruner 2001).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
J. Moore Museum, Earlham College				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	9	10	10	9
Central Tier	n	n	n	9
Southern Tier	9	9	n	7
Entire State	8	9	10	7



Current Status

The Pacific Loon is Rare (7) in fall, Very Rare (8) in winter, Occasional (9) in spring, and Accidental (10) in summer.

Occurrence

Along with the Red-throated Loon, reports of this species have increased significantly in recent years; it has been reported in 14 of the past 20 years. As noted by Bruner (2001), in 1985 the Pacific Loon was split from the Arctic Loon (*G. arctica*); though the latter has never been reported in the state it is conceivable that some older Pacific Loon records might have involved that species. Until about 2000, this species was reported more often at inland sites than on Lake Michigan. Indeed, since 2002 some eight birds, including an unprecedented five in fall 2004, have been reported along the lakefront.

Spring Migration

The histogram shows no distinct evidence of a spring flight, although an incipient cluster of records exists from late



Basic-plumed Pacific Loon off Beverly Shores 24 April 2004. Photo by J.J. McCoy.

March through early May. Presumably, the basic-plumed bird B.J. Grube videotaped off Dunes State Park 7 June 2003 (IN-BIRD), was a late migrant.

Fall Migration

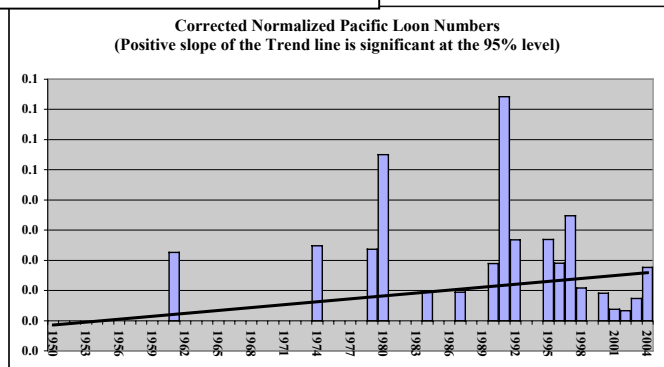
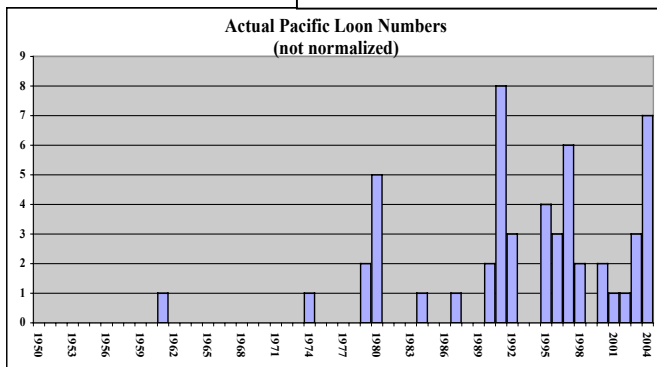
A majority of the state's Pacific Loons appear in November; the migration envelope indicates a peak midway through this month. Roughly 80 percent of the autumn records fall in the period between late October and early December.

Population Trend

Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.

Pacific Loon Population Trend

Positive slope of the trend line is significant at the 95% level



Pacific Loon Data

Maximum Single Party Counts

All-time				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
2	17-Nov-91	Parke Co	A.W. Bruner	IAQ
2	17-Nov-95	Lake Monroe	R.C. Titus	NNB
2	7-Dec-96	Steuben Co	J.A. Haw	IAQ

Migration Envelopes						
Fall/Winter						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
State	5-Oct-1997	23-Oct	16-Nov	8-Dec	22-Dec-2003	39

References Cited

Bruner, A. W. (2001) Status of Bird Reports in Indiana Bird Report Archives, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 79:114-133.

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

IN-BIRD, a Listserv dealing with Indiana birds developed and maintained by P.W. Kelly. The records are archived at: <http://listserv.indiana.edu/archives/in-bird-1.html>

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.

Last update: 28 December 2004