

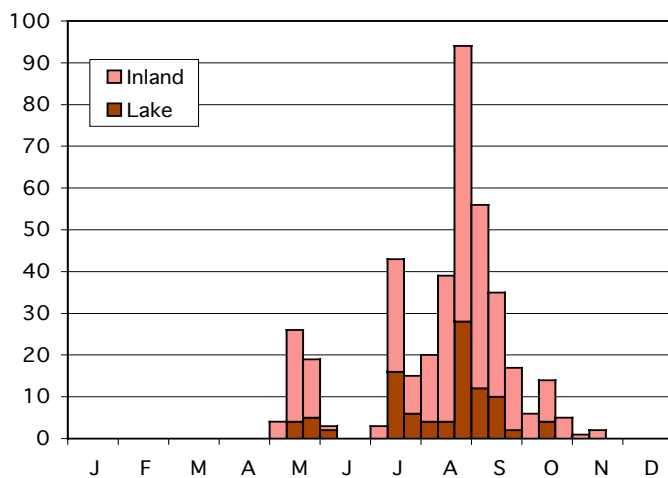
Western Sandpiper

Calidris mauri

Historical Information

First Published Record: According to Keller (1958), Indiana's first Western Sandpiper was found by P.D. Skarr et al. at the Indianapolis Sewage plant 24 August 1941.

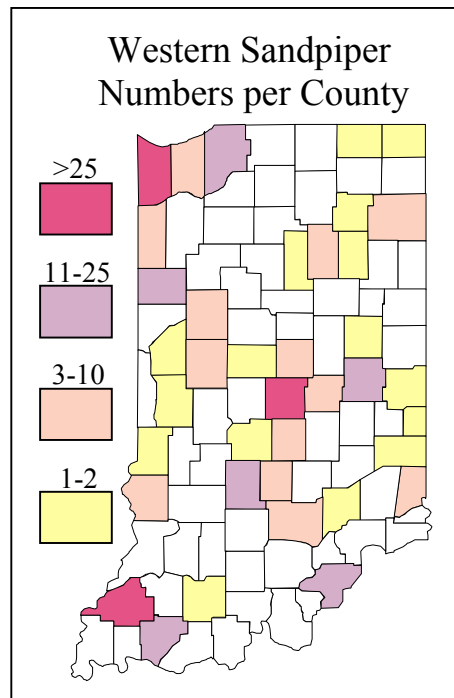
Based on reports from Illinois, Butler (1898) assigned the Western Sandpiper to the Indiana hypothetical list. Keller (1958) considered it very rare in spring and rare in fall. Noting insufficient data, Keller et al. (1979) deemed the Western Sandpiper very rare or casual. Mumford and Keller (1984) classified it as rare to very rare in spring and "considerably more abundant" in fall.



Status

Physical Evidence: A single skeleton is housed at the National Museum of Natural History (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	8	7	7
Central Tier	n	9	10	7
Southern Tier	n	9	7	7
Entire State	n	8	7	7



Current Status

The Western Sandpiper is currently a Rare (7) fall and Very Rare (8) spring migrant.

Occurrence

Difficulties in separating this species from the very similar Semipalmated Sandpiper warrant exercising caution when interpreting the records. It appears, however, that the Western Sandpiper has occurred in about 38 Indiana counties, which are broadly distributed across the state (see distribution map).

Large Counts

Counts exceeding those listed in the maximum count table (often by a wide margin) have been published; however, these are considered unreliable and were not incorporated into this work.



Juvenile Western Sandpiper at George Lake, Hammond 10 September 2005. This bird was afflicted by what subsequent testing proved to be botulism. Photo by J.K. Cassidy.

Western Sandpiper Data

Maximum Single Party Counts

Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
8	31-May-1958	Marion Co	H.C. West	HCW
5	12-May-1997	Big Pine Wetland	J.B. Dunning	NNB
3	15-May-1979	Tippecanoe Co	R.E. Mumford	REM
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
10	17-Aug-1980	Patoka Bottoms	C.E. Mills	REM
9	24-Sep-1983	Summit Lake	Larry Carter	IAQ
9	17-Jul-1996	Lake Lemon	J. & S. Hengeveld	NNB

Migration Envelopes

Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	8-May-1979	---	19-May	---	1-Jun-1993	15
Central	3-May-1953	---	---	---	31-May-1958	9
South	10-May-1992	---	---	---	19-May-1982	7
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	1-Jul-1997	19-Jul	26-Aug	24-Sep	14-Oct-1989	52
Central	9-Jul-1994	17-Aug	6-Sep	2-Oct	5-Nov-1969	70
South	12-Jul-1987	18-Jul	23-Aug	14-Oct	19-Nov-1989	64
By Age: Fall flight						
Adult	19-Jul-1986	---	30-Jul	---	26-Aug-1994	7
Juv.	11-Aug-2003	---	2-Sep	---	30-Oct-2000	21

References Cited

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

Keller, C.E. (1958) The Shorebird families: Charadriidae, Scolopacidae, Recurvirostridae, and Phalaropidae of Indiana. Part 4. *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 36:2-39.

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.