

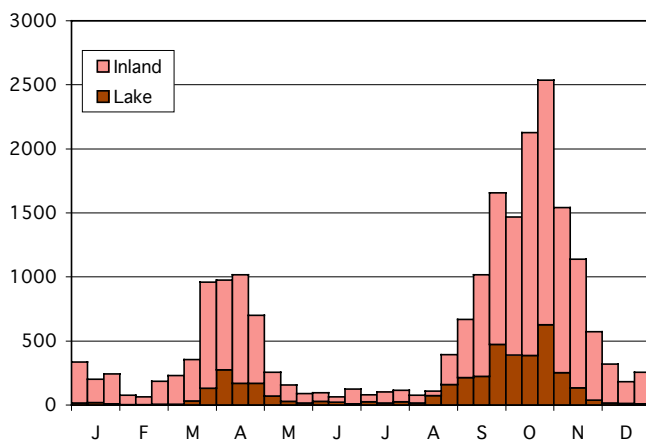
## Pied-billed Grebe

## *Podilymbus podiceps*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: Thompson (1888) noted that this grebe was “very common” in the Kankakee swamp, but a specimen, taken near Kouts 28 July 1893 (Mumford files), provided Indiana’s first fully dated record.

Butler (1890) referred to this grebe as a common migrant and breeder and in his 1898 treatment he noted no winter occurrences in the state. In the mid-1980s this small grebe was considered a permanent resident in mild winters and a common migrant (Mumford and Keller 1984). Bruner (2002), referred to it as, “Indiana’s most commonly reported grebe...”



### Status

Physical Evidence: Eighteen specimens exist in North American museums (S.F. Jackson, unpublished list, J.B. Dunning, unpublished computer listing, and Richards 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				1
National Museum of Natural History				8
Univ. of Michigan Museum				1
Indiana State Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				7
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	6	4	6	3
Central Tier	6	6	7	4
Southern Tier	4	4	7	3
Entire State	4	3	6	3

### Current Status

The Pied-billed Grebe remains a permanent resident throughout the state. It is Very Common (3) during autumn when significant numbers often accumulate on lakes and ponds.

### Occurrence

The spring flight peaks during the first half of April. Pied-billed Grebes have been reported in more than 75 Indiana counties. It is encountered in considerably higher numbers in fall than in spring; there are more than 15 fall counts that exceed 100 individuals.

### Extreme Records

R.S. Plank’s extraordinarily large spring count of 246 (see Maximum Single Party Count table) involved birds observed on the northern LaPorte County lakes.

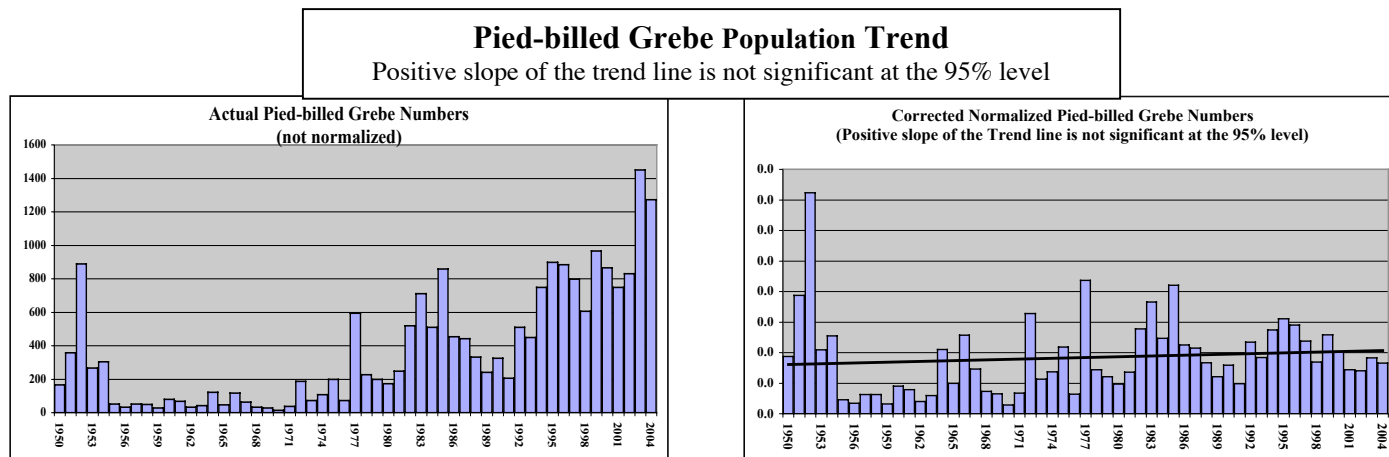
### Winter

Winter Pied-billed Grebes have been recorded annually for the last 25 years. The peak winter count of 95 was recorded in Gibson County on 23 January and again 26 February 1995, by Gary Bowman (Brown 1995). During the nesting season Pied-billed Grebes become secretive;

consequently, summer counts are quite modest. The maximum was 14 (including eight juveniles) on 15 June 1979 at Long Lake, Porter County (Brock records).

### Population Trend

Although the trend line shows a slight positive slope, it is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



### **Breeding**

Pied-billed Grebes nest widely across the state if suitable habitat is available, but a majority of the breeding reports are in the northern counties. Castrale et al. (1998) listed breeding evidence in three percent of the state's Atlas blocks and Bruner (2002) reported breeding activity in 34 counties. Nests have been observed from late April through early August, but most are detected in the summer months.

### **Pied-billed Grebe Data**

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
246	21-Apr-1996	LaPorte Co	R.S. Plank	IAQ
80	27-Mar-1988	Gibson Co	Denny Jones	IAQ
78	12-Mar-1995	Gibson Co	Gary Bowman	IAQ
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
450	16-Oct-1983	Turtle Cr. Res.	Denny Jones	REM
400	31-Oct-1982	Sullivan Co	Denny Jones	REM
374	29-Sep-1997	Eagle Creek Park	Larry Peavler	IAQ

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
<u>North</u>	Win. Res.	20-Mar	11-Apr	9-May	Sum. Res.	724
<b>Central</b>	Win. Res.	17-Mar	11-Apr	26-May	Sum. Res.	117
<b>South</b>	Win. Res.	10-Mar	2-Apr	26-Apr	Sum. Res.	189
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
<u>North</u>	Sum. Res.	22-Aug	10-Oct	14-Nov	Win. Res.	863
<b>Central</b>	Sum. Res.	30-Aug	15-Oct	16-Nov	Win. Res.	125
<b>South</b>	Sum. Res.	20-Sep	23-Oct	17-Nov	Win. Res.	234

## References Cited

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