

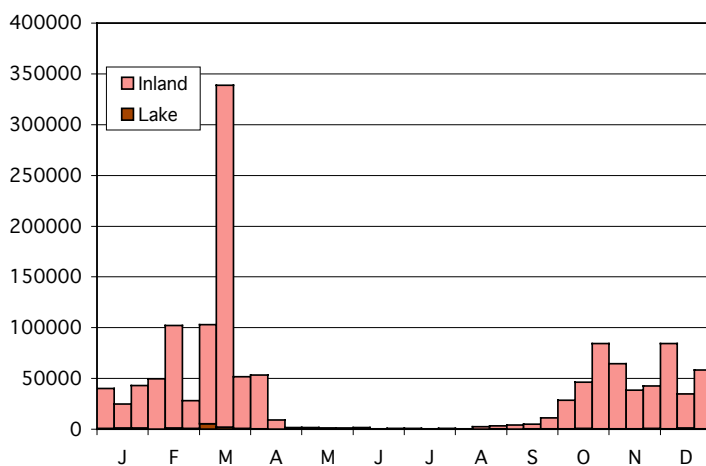
## Canada Goose

## *Branta canadensis*

### Historical Information

**First Published Record:** The first specific date involved an observation at Kouts 2 April 1885 (Butler (1898).

Butler (1898) considered this goose a common migrant and winter resident. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a common to uncommon migrant, which was rare in winter. Mumford and Keller (1984) refer to this goose as a common migrant and permanent resident, but noted that the numbers of captive and semi-captive birds render it questionable whether any “truly wild birds” nested in the state.



### Current Status

Over the past three decades Indiana's Canada Goose population has expanded tremendously. In addition, semi-wild birds have become so thoroughly comfortable with the presence of humans that they have become local nuisances. Today it is Very Abundant (1) to Very Common (3) in spring, summer and fall, and Common (4) to Fairly Common (5) in summer.

### Occurrence

Records of Canada Geese exist for eighty-seven counties, and it is almost certainly present in the remaining five counties. At least two distinct Canada Goose populations occur in the state. The widespread, and semi-wild, sedentary “Giant Canada,” has become so pervasive that it is now considered a nuisance. The second population involves a migratory form, which winters in southern reaches of the state. Status of this migratory population is unclear, as records of both forms are lumped together.

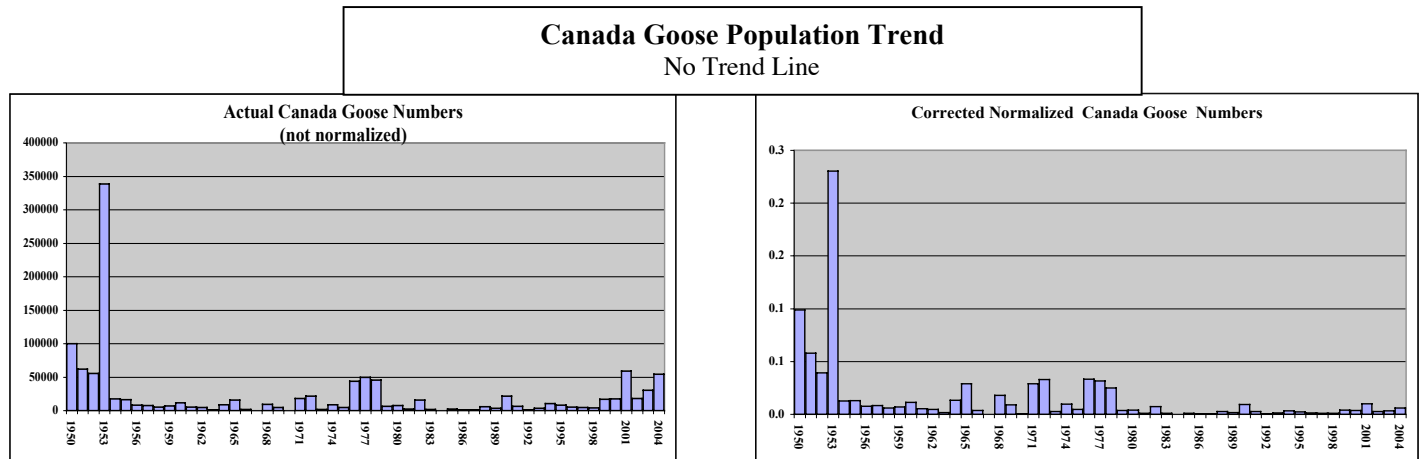
### Status

**Physical Evidence:** Some twelve skins are housed in the nation's museums as indicated in the Status Table (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				1
National Museum of Natural History				7
Philadelphia Academy of Sciences				1
Indiana State Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	3	2	4	3
Central Tier	1	3	5	3
Southern Tier	1	3	5	3
Entire State	1	2	3	2

## Population Trend

Considering recent expansion of the sedentary population, the declining pattern shown in the Population Trend plots is somewhat surprising. However, it in part reflects current inclinations of field observers to ignore this now ubiquitous species. Additionally, it is quite possible that the wintering migratory population has declined; note, for example, that a majority of the largest counts listed in the maximum count table were recorded more than 30 years ago.



## Breeding

Butler (1890) noted that they frequently bred and Butler (1898) listed breeding in the Kankakee region and three northern counties. Mumford and Keller (1984) were skeptical about Butler's claim. Castrale et al. (1998) comment that the nesting wild Canada Geese had likely vanished from the state by 1900. Restoration of the population began in the 1930s and by 1984 the state had a large breeding population (Mumford and Keller 1984). The Indiana Atlas (Castrale et al. 1998) revealed breeding evidence in forty percent of the priority blocks, clearly attesting to the recent success of this species. Indeed, today Canada Geese are so prevalent that many Hoosiers consider them a nuisance.

## Canada Goose Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/Winter				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
250000	15-Mar-1953	Posey Co	W.B. Barnes	DNR
30000	17-Feb-2001	Minnehaha FWA	T.C. Keller	IAQ
25000	01-Dec-1953	Willow Slough	W.E. Madden	DNR
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
10000	25-Nov-1951	Jasper-Pulaski	DNR	DNR
9000	01-Oct-1971	Jasper-Pulaski	R.E. Mumford	REM
8000	27-Oct-1945	St Joseph Co	Bro. Mattingly	DNR

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
<b>North</b>	Win. Res.	27-Jan	23-Mar	14-May	Sum-Res.	1018
<b>Central</b>	Win. Res.	21-Jan	8-Mar	12-May	Sum-Res.	260
<b>South</b>	Win. Res.	15-Jan	19-Feb	13-Apr	Sum-Res.	243
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
<b>North</b>	Sum-Res.	3-Sep	29-Oct	13-Dec	Win. Res.	832
<b>Central</b>	Sum-Res.	8-Sep	3-Nov	16-Dec	Win. Res.	244
<b>South</b>	Sum-Res.	5-Oct	8-Nov	25-Dec	Win. Res.	243

### References Cited

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

Castrale, J.S., E.M. Hopkins, and C.E. Keller (1998) *Atlas of breeding Birds of Indiana*, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 388 pp.

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.

Richards, R.L. (1987) The Vertebrate Collection of the Indiana State Museum: "Old" Specimens and Records, *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science* 97:547-570.