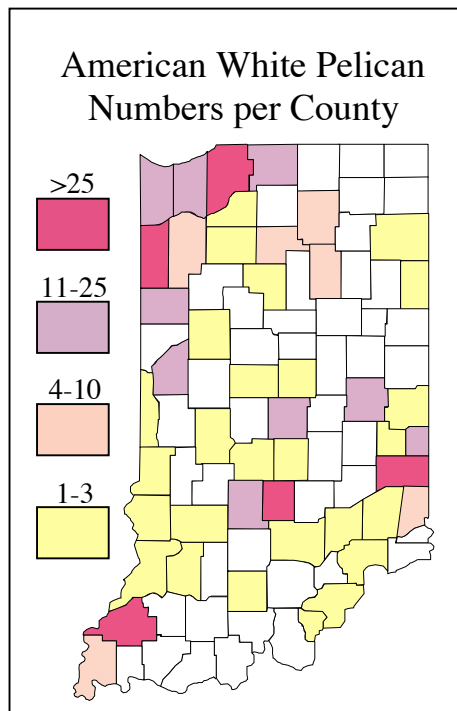
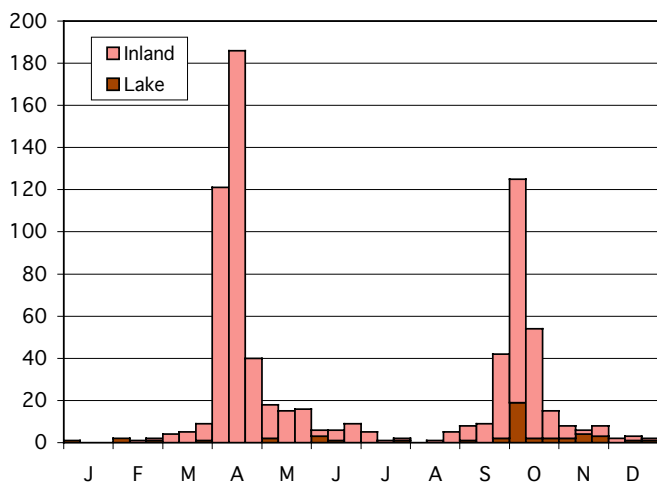


American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

Historical Information

First Published Record: Indiana's first specifically dated White Pelican report involved a bird killed 3 May 1877 near Connersville, Fayette County (Butler 1898).

The above record apparently emerged somewhat later, as it was not mentioned by Butler (1890), who designated this species a rare migrant, citing reports from Allen, Carroll, Franklin, Fulton, Gibson, Knox, and Monroe Counties. Bruner (2002) noted the existence of at least 18 pre-1900 reports. An intriguing account of "more than 100 present for two weeks" was reported at Bass Lake, Starke County during fall of 1926 or 1927 (Mumford files). By mid-century this species had been reported in 23 counties (West 1958). Mumford and Keller (1984) described this pelican as "a very rare migrant that has been recorded in more than a third of the state's counties."



Status

Physical Evidence: Though the literature notes scores of collected birds, only two specimens are known to exist in museums (Bruner 2002 and Richards 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
J. Moore Museum, Earlham College				1
Indiana State Museum				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	8	6	7	7
Central Tier	10	7	n	9
Southern Tier	10	7	10	7
Entire State	7	6	7	7

Current Status

Today the White Pelican is Uncommon (6) in spring and Rare (7) at other times of the year, including winter.

Occurrence

Since 1984 White Pelicans have been reported every year except 1991; it has now been recorded in 45 counties (see the distribution map). A majority of the records come from the state's reservoirs and lakes. Although there are several December and February records, the sole January record consisted of a dead bird that John Thiele found frozen in Lake Michigan ice at Dune Acres 8 January 1999.

Spring Migration

As the regional American White Pelican population has grown in recent decades, both the number of Indiana

reports and the number of individuals per sighting have increased. Since 1992 at least five records, each exceeding three birds, have been reported during each spring flight.

Extreme Records

Attesting to the White Pelican increase in Indiana, the all-time daily high count was broken three times in 2005. As the year began the state's largest tally was 52 birds. This milestone was first cracked on 12 April, then broken again 18 April, and finally shattered on 2 October (see maximum count table for details).

American White Pelican Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
No.	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
78	18-Apr-2005	Brookville Res.	Ron Williams	INB
67	12 & 13-Apr-2005	Lake Lemon	J. & S. Hengeveld	INB
52	8-Apr-2003	Willow Slough	Steve Doud	INB
Fall				
No.	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
100	2-Oct-2005	Lake Gibson	Gary & Lisa Bowman	INB
49	16-Oct-2005	Lake Gibson	Gary & Lisa Bowman	INB
37	29-Sep-1902	Franklin Co	A.W. Butler	REM

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
State	7-Feb-1993	22-Mar	18-Apr	23-May	Sum. Vis.	89
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
State	Sum. Vis.	2-Sep	6-Oct	12-Nov	28-Nov-2003	74

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