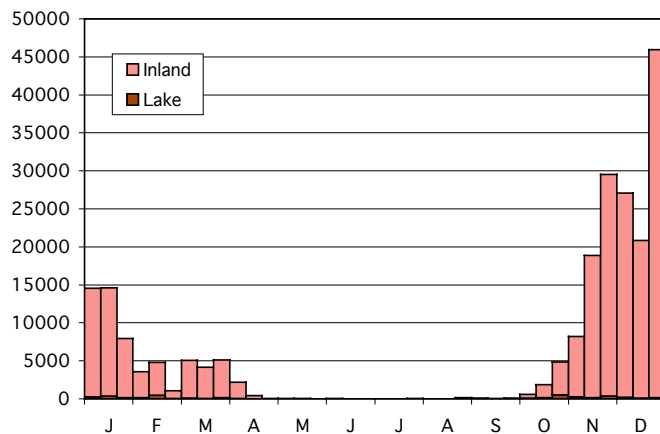


American Black Duck *Anas rubripes*

Historical Information

First Published Record: Though this large duck was surely present in the state much earlier, the first published record came from English Lake, Starke County where Ruthven Deane reported it 14 February 1891 (Butler 1898).

Butler (1898) listed the “Black Duck” as an uncommon migrant, an occasional winter, and a rare summer resident. By the late twentieth century Keller et al. (1979) characterized it as a fairly common migrant, but rare in winter. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted that the abundance of this duck had increased since Butler’s assessment, listing the status as a permanent resident, a fairly common migrant, and a casual nesting species.



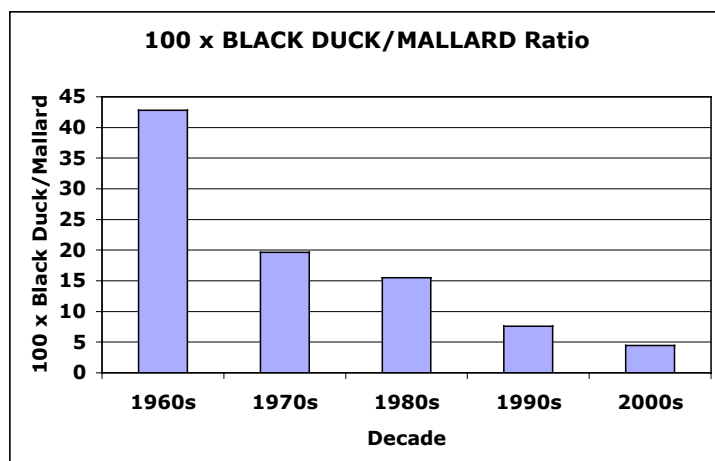
Status

Physical Evidence: Some five Indiana specimens are housed in university collections (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Univ. of Michigan Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				4
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	4	4	10	4
Central Tier	4	5	7	4
Southern Tier	3	4	9	4
Entire State	3	3	7	3

Current Status

Today this large dabbling is Fairly Common (5) to Very Common (3) in fall, winter, and spring, and Rare (7) in summer.



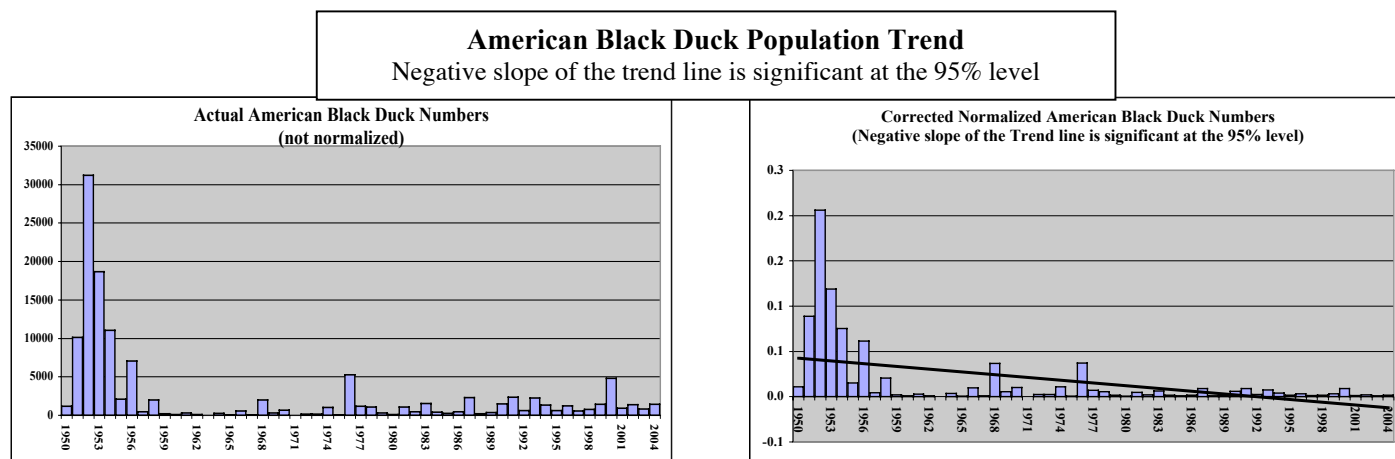
Occurrence

The Black Duck associates with the Mallard and frequently hybridizes with that species. W.H. Buskirk reported 24 hybrids in Wayne County 11 December 2000 (IN-BIRD). Apparently as a result of this hybridization Black Duck numbers have declined relative to the Mallard; data over the past 50 years support the decline (see graph on the left). This plot suggests that Black Ducks have decreased from about 42 per 100 Mallards in the 1960s, to

five per 100 Mallards in the 2000s. The largest count in the past two decades consisted of 2800 birds counted by W.H. Buskirk on Brookville Reservoir in Franklin County 14 February 2000 (IN-BIRD). The American Black Duck has been reported in more than two-thirds of Indiana's counties.

Population Trend

In addition to the population data presented above the Population Trend line shows a negative slope that is statistically significant at the 95 percent level. Note also that the most recent entry in the Maximum Count Table is 1974, further suggesting declining numbers.



Breeding

The American Black Duck is an occasional nester in Indiana. Mumford and Keller (1984) reported nesting in nine counties between 1945 and 1954, plus almost annual breeding reports between 1956 and 1973. The Indiana Atlas project reported confirmed nesting evidence in Blackford, Johnson, and Starke Counties (Castrale et al. 1998). The most recent breeding reports include a hen with 12 ducklings at Atterbury FWA 10 May 1986 (Brock 1987), eight young with a female again at Atterbury 6 June 1987 (Jackson and Jackson 1988), and a female with seven young in Lake County 30 July 1981 (Michael Topp personal communication).

American Black Duck Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
3000	24-Mar-1953	Willow Slough	R.E. Mumford	REM
2000	15-Mar-1953	Kankakee FWA	R.E. Mumford	REM
1000	03-Mar-1974	Brown Co	Steve Glass	REM
Fall/Winter				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
22000	29-Dec-1949	Hovey Lake	R.E. Mumford	REM
15000	5-Dec-1952	Willow Slough	DNR- staff	REM
10000	12-Dec-1948	Hovey Lake	R.E. Mumford	REM

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	10-Jan	3-Mar	6-Apr	S/R	579
Central	Win. Res.	15-Jan	1-Mar	14-Apr	S/R	108
South	Win. Res.	11-Jan	26-Feb	6-Apr	S/R	891
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	S/R	7-Oct	11-Nov	14-Dec	Win. Res.	583
Central	S/R	14-Oct	24-Nov	26-Dec	Win. Res.	105
South	S/R	8-Oct	15-Nov	20-Dec	Win. Res.	916

References Cited

Brock, K.J. (1987) Field Notes; Spring 1986, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 65:18-36.

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.

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

Jackson, S.F. and B.K. Jackson (1988) Field Notes Summer 1987, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 66:60-68.

Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller (1979) *Indiana Birds and Their Haunts*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 214 pp.

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