

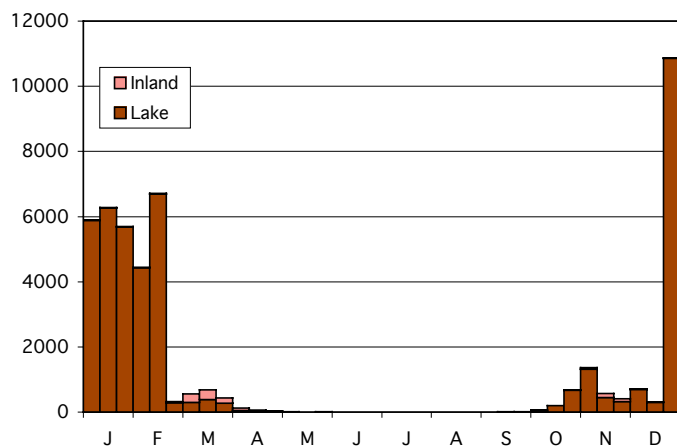
## Greater Scaup

## *Aythya marila*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1898) provided Indiana's earliest record of "the Big Black-head," reporting this species in Vigo County 1 March 1886.

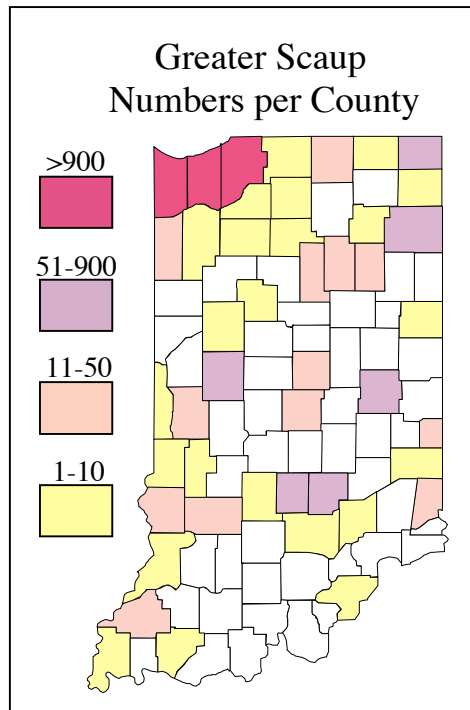
Butler (1890) deemed this duck a rare migrant. Lamenting a dearth of data for much of the state, Keller et al. (1979) considered it an uncommon migrant in the north and a very rare spring migrant in central Indiana. Mumford and Keller (1984) believed that the Greater Scaup was an uncommon to rare, but probably regular, migrant noting that it was rarely seen away from Lake Michigan.



### Status

Physical Evidence: At least nine skins are preserved in museum collections (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				6
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				3
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	2	4	n	3
Central Tier	6	6	n	6
Southern Tier	7	6	n	7
Entire State	2	4	n	3



### Current Status

In most years large numbers of Greater Scaup winter on Lake Michigan where it is Abundant (2). It remains difficult to find at inland sites.

### Occurrence

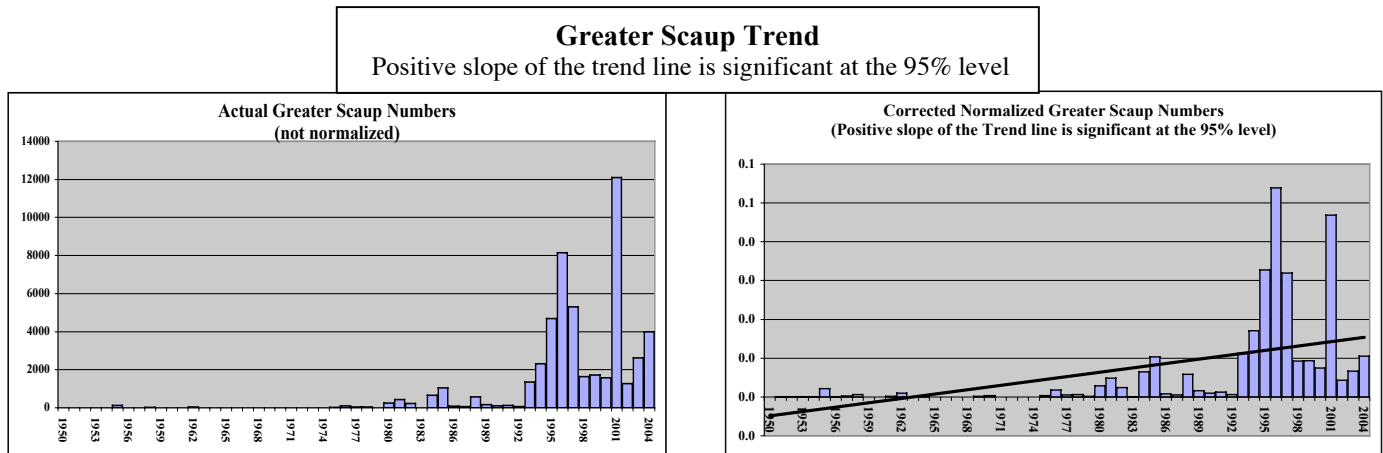
As shown on the migration histogram, the vast majority of Indiana's Greater Scaup appear on Lake Michigan between late December and mid-February. Typically more than 2500 are counted on the lake each winter. In contrast the mean inland winter tally is only about eight birds per year. Despite its rarity away from Lake Michigan, this large diver has been reported in 42 inland counties. The largest inland reports were recorded in eastern Indiana in mid-March (see Maximum Single Party Counts table).

### Summer Record

Indiana's only summer report consists of two birds seen by D.H. Boyd in northern Porter County 1 June 1939.

## Population Trend

Greater Scaup numbers have increased over the past 15 years. Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



## Greater Scaup Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Lake Michigan				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
7470	27-Dec-2001	Lakefront	J.K. Cassady	INB
3000	15-Feb-1997	Lakefront	K.J. Brock	KJB
2760	9-Feb-1996	Lakefront	J.J. McCoy	KJB
Inland				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
189*	15-Mar-2004	Multiple sites	J.J. McCoy	INB
150	16-Mar-1997	Hurshstown Res.	Brad Etter	NNB
146	10-Mar-1997	Summit Lake	S.A. Pancol	SAP
*183 in Steuben Co and six in Allen Co				

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	6-Mar	19-Mar	18-Apr	25-May-2001	128
Central	Win. Res.	6-Mar	24-Mar	26-Apr	16-May-1997	36
South	Win. Res.	8-Mar	18-Mar	11-Apr	22-May-2005	41
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	3-Sep-1997	15-Oct	2-Nov	23-Nov	Win. Res.	193
Central	17-Oct-1998	---	11-Nov	---	Win. Res.	13
South	2-Nov-1999	---	12-Nov	---	Win. Res.	13

## References Cited

Butler, A. W. (1890) The Birds of Indiana, Appendix to *Transactions of the Indiana Horticultural Society for 1890* (available on the web).

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

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.