

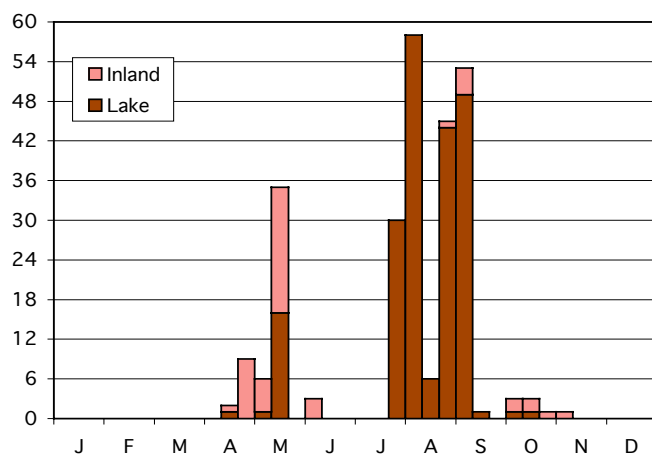
Hudsonian Godwit

Limosa haemastica

Historical Information

First Published Record: Brayton (1879) included this species in his listing, but a “fine male adult,” collected at Wolf Lake 15 September 1898 by C.F. Brandler, provided the state’s first dated record (Woodruff 1907).

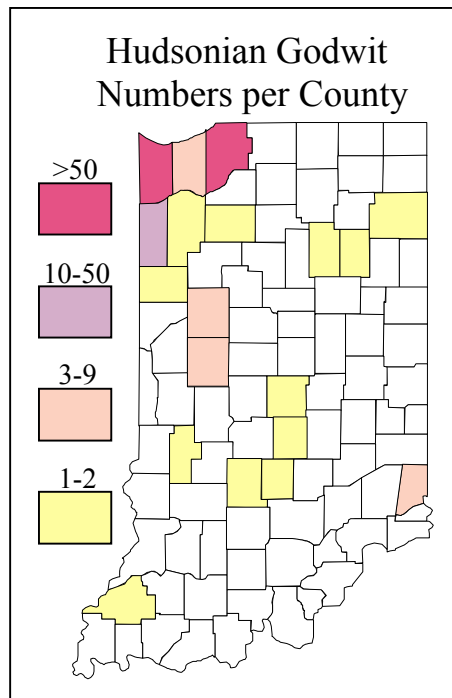
Brayton (1879) suggested that the Hudsonian Godwit was "Not very rare about the lake." Butler (1898) listed no specific records, but considered it a rare migrant. Citing only a single Indiana record, Keller (1958) deemed it accidental. A few additional records occurred in the 1970s; consequently, Keller et al. (1979) elevated the status, at least in the north, to casual. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted 13 Indiana records, but provided no status assessment



Status

Physical Evidence: A single specimen is known to be housed in the Illinois State Museum (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Illinois State Museum				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	7	7	7
Central Tier	n	8	10	10
Southern Tier	n	n	n	9
Entire State	n	7	7	7



Current Status

Today the Hudsonian Godwit is Rare (7) along the lakefront in fall. However, status numbers are somewhat deceptive, as migrants often appear in good-sized flocks, which provide high numbers, but few records (this creates the “broken comb-tooth” character of the migration histogram). In 2000, for example, 19 birds were reported on the lakefront, but they all occurred in a single migrating flock. Away from Lake Michigan this large shorebird remains Very Rare (8) to Accidental (10).

Occurrence

This godwit has been reported in 15 of the last 20 years and it has been recorded in nineteen counties. Status of the Hudsonian Godwit has changed more rapidly than any other long-term member of the Indiana checklist. Mumford and Keller (1975) considered it accidental and listed only three records. Prior to 1978 the state’s largest count was only two. In contrast, an average of 11.6 birds per year has been reported over the past two decades.

Fall Migration

Thanks to extensive lake watches by B.J. Grube and J.J. McCoy the autumn status of the Hudsonian Godwit is now more thoroughly understood. It is now apparent that during the fall migration sporadic medium to large flocks migrate down Lake Michigan, but rarely land. In addition to large tallies listed in the maximum count table, over the past decade flocks of 22, 19, 12, and 11 have been recorded; all during the interval between 30 July and 3 September (Brock 2004).

Extreme Record

The state's maximum tally of 52, consisted of a single migrating flock seen at Michigan City Harbor on 1 August 2002 by J.K. Cassady, J.J. McCoy, Ed Powers, and K.J. Brock. The flock arrived from the east, circled over the beach, and departed Lake Michigan on a southerly heading (Brock records).

Hudsonian Godwit Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
10	14-May-2003	Kankakee Sands	S.A. Pancol	INB
8	11-May-1978	Roxana Pond	K.J. Brock	KJB
5	17-May-1998	Grant St. Gary	J.J. McCoy	KJB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
52	01-Aug-2002	Mich. City Harbor	J.K. Cassady	KJB
26	03-Sep-2001	Miller Beach	B.J. Grube	INB
26	26-Aug-2003	Miller Beach	B.J. Grube	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	18-Apr-1995	---	11-May	---	7-Jun-1977	27
Fall	30-Jul-2000	---	26-Aug	---	3-Nov-92	28

References Cited

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