

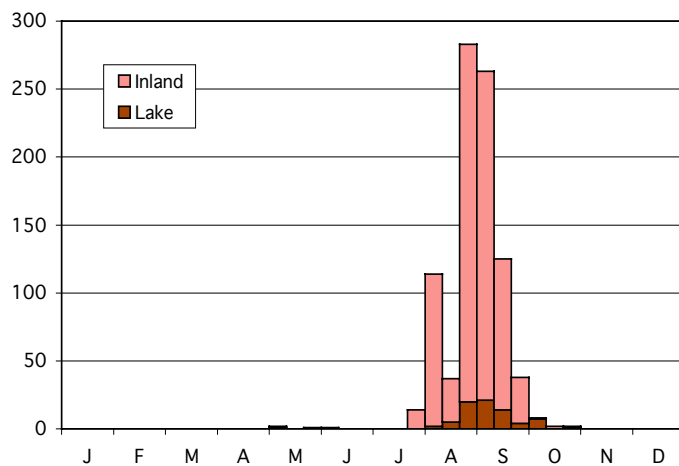
Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Tryngites subruficollis

Historical Information

First Published Record: L.A. and C.D. Test took a specimen near Lafayette on 10 September 1892 to provide Indiana's first Buff-breasted Sandpiper record (Butler 1898).

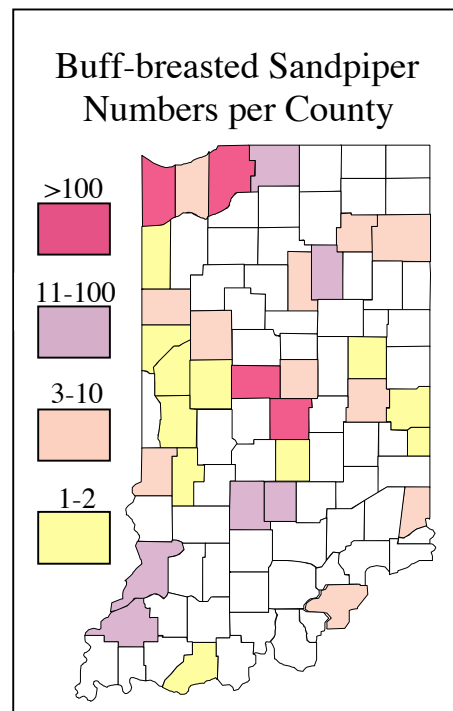
Based on records from surrounding states, Butler (1890) considered the Buff-breasted Sandpiper hypothetical; however, following the above record Butler (1898) modified the status to a rare migrant. More than half a century later Keller (1958) considered this handsome sandpiper a rare fall migrant, reporting only one spring record. Without characterizing fall abundance, Mumford & Keller (1984) noted the existence of three spring records.



Status

Physical Evidence: Specimens exist in collections at the Chicago Field Museum and the National Museum of Natural History (S. F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				1
National Museum of Natural History				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	n	7	6
Central Tier	n	n	n	6
Southern Tier	n	10	n	7
Entire State	n	10	7	6



Current Status

The Buff-breasted Sandpiper is an Uncommon (6) fall migrant. It is excruciatingly rare in spring when the status is Accidental (10).

Occurrence

Buff-breasted Sandpipers, which have appeared in 32 counties, have been recorded annually since 1973. They are most prevalent in Lake and LaPorte Counties, both of which sport totals exceeding 200 birds. The distribution map suggests that records are somewhat more numerous in the western half of the state. This species shows a strong habitat preference, generally choosing turf farms, extensive drying mudflats, or wide beaches. The early August peak in the histogram may reflect passage of adult birds; however, to date only four adults have been recognized so there are insufficient data to confirm this possibility.



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Lake Gibson 29 September 2002. Photo by J.J. McCoy.

Fall Migration

The earliest fall arrivals appear in late July (four records have been recorded during the month's final two days). Lisa and Gary Bowman logged the latest fall Buff-breasted at Lake Gibson; this individual remained from 20 October to at least 27 October 2002 (Brock 2003a).

Spring Records

There are now four spring records: Ford (1956) lists an occurrence at Miller Beach 6 May 1919, Baumgartner (1931) reported one at the Indianapolis sewage ponds

22 May 1926, E.M. Hopkins saw one 2 June 1977 on the dry Murphy Lake mudflat at Willow Slough FWA (Buck 1978), and D.R. Whitehead identified one in Monroe County 4 May 2003 (Brock 2003b).

Extreme Record

The maximum single party count of 65 was the combined total observed by Andy Sigler on 5 August 1995 at two northwestern Indiana turf farms; 47 were at the Schneider site in southern Lake County, and 18 were at the Shamrock turf farm in southern LaPorte County (Lomax 1996). This exceptional count occurred remarkably early in the season (see migration histogram).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
65	5-Aug-1995	See Extreme Record	Andy Sigler	IAQ
34	29-Aug-1998	Schneider sod farm	J.J. McCoy	IAQ
27	13-Sep-1980	Shamrock sod farm	S.F. Jackson	IAQ
26	31-Aug-2000	Boone & Tipp. Co	R.L. Hedge	INB
22	26-Aug-1994	Kingsbury FWA	Brad Etter	IAQ

Migration Envelopes						
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	28-Jul-2003	5-Aug	30-Aug	19-Sep	25-Oct-2001	141
Central	5-Aug-2001	22-Aug	4-Sep	15-Sep	26-Sep-1961	81
South	1-Aug-1980	13-Aug	4-Sep	20-Sep	27-Oct-2002	57

References Cited

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