

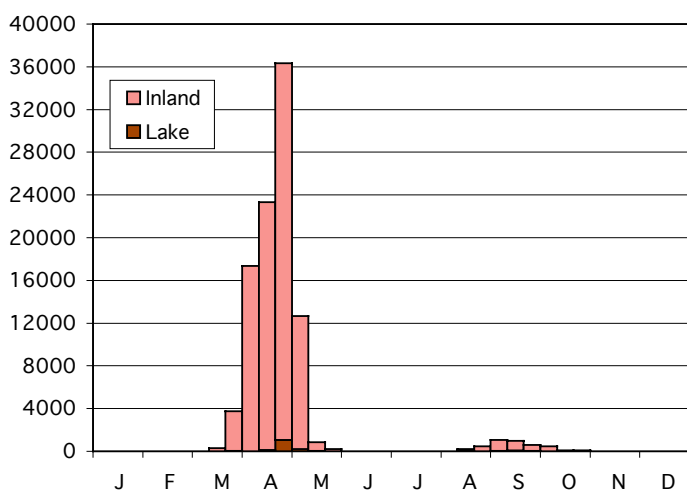
American Golden-Plover

Pluvialis dominica

Historical Information

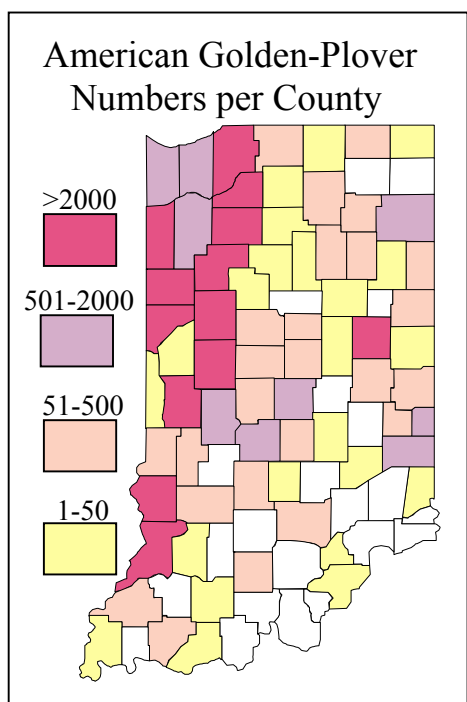
First Published Record: Butler mentioned an occurrence near Crown Point in 1887, but the first completely dated report took place near Muncie on 30 March 1888 (Butler 1898).

Butler (1890) described this attractive plover as generally rare, but locally common in northern Indiana. Less than a decade later he portrayed it as “formerly very abundant... but now seen in greatly reduced numbers.” Keller (1957) termed it a frequent to common migrant in spring, but generally rare in fall. Keller et al. (1979) deemed the “Lesser Golden Plover,” a common spring migrant in northwestern Indiana, but uncommon elsewhere and rare in fall. Mumford and Keller (1984) mentioned only that this long-distance migrant was far more abundant in spring than in fall.



Status

Physical Evidence: At least 16 specimens are archived in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards 1987).



Current Status

The Golden Plover is an Abundant (2) spring migrant and it is Fairly Common (5) in fall.

Occurrence

Although this handsome plover occurs in greatest numbers in western Indiana (see distribution map) it has been recorded in at least 70 Indiana counties. Numbers are generally highest in areas (e.g., Benton County) that originally consisted of tall grass prairie (Erickson 1992). The anomalously high numbers in Delaware County can be attributed to a count of 3000 birds made in a forty-acre field in 21 April 1940 (Zimmerman, 1941). Excluding this outlier all counties with more than 2000 birds are distributed along the western edge of the state.

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				8
Milwaukee Public Museum				1
Indiana State Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				5
Univ. of Michigan Museum				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	10	2	7	5
Central Tier	n	3	9	6
Southern Tier	10	3	n	6
Entire State	10	2	7	5

Summer Records

There are seven June and thirteen July records, primarily consisting of singletons. Most of these were migrating adults, but a few displayed basic plumage and likely represent first-year non-breeding birds.

Winter Records

Two lingering fall migrants have remained in the state until early December. These records are tabulated in the fall migration envelopes.

American Golden-Plover Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
12940	21-Apr-1984	Newton Co	D.Z. Arvin	IAQ
4000	17-Apr-1999	Benton Co	A.W. Bruner	IQM
3100	30-Apr-2005	Benton Co	J.J. McCoy	IAQ
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
230	11-Sep-1977	Willow Slough	K.J. Brock	KJB
125	10-Sep-2001	Boone Co	Larry Peavler	INB
114	06-Oct-1987	Woodburn ponds	J.A. Haw	NIQ

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	20-Mar-1977	5-Apr	26-Apr	11-May	1-Jun-1996	236
Central	8-Mar-1981	30-Mar	14-Apr	2-May	5-Jun-1990	124
South	13-Mar-1983	23-Mar	4-Apr	24-Apr	20-May-1999	46
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	17-Jul-2002	18-Aug	10-Sep	8-Oct	1-Dec-1998	249
Central	22-Jul-1997	27-Aug	12-Sep	4-Oct	23-Nov-1963	101
South	7-Aug-1997	26-Aug	21-Sep	1-Nov	2-Dec-1989	58
By Age: Fall flight						
Adult	19-Jul-1987	1-Aug	24-Aug	3-Sep	12-Sep-2000	31
Juv.	19-Aug-1989	---	19-Sep	---	27-Nov-1998	28

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