

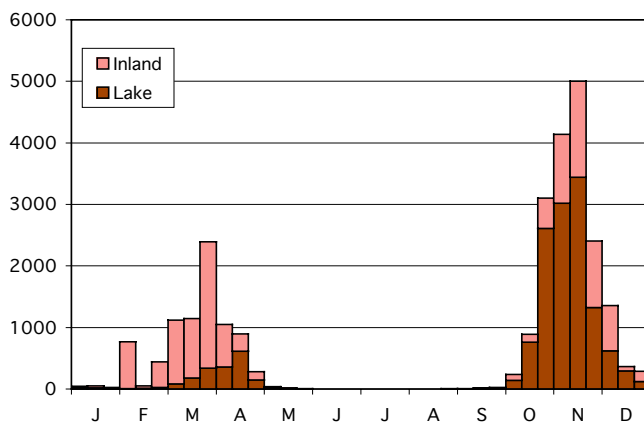
Horned Grebe

Podiceps auritus

Historical Information

First Published Record: The earliest acceptable date for the Horned Grebe involved a bird taken in the Whitewater Valley 15 April 1883 (Butler 1898).

Butler (1890) referred to this species as a “regular migrant throughout the southern part of the state, but never abundant.” He also noted that considerable numbers breed in the lakes and marshes of northern Indiana and referred to a downy chick taken at Sheffield (Hammond), Indiana, 24 May 1878 (see Breeding below). Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed this grebe an uncommon spring and fairly common fall migrant, but uncommon in winter.



Status

Physical Evidence: Twelve specimens are preserved in the nation's museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning, unpublished computer listing, and Richards 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				2
National Museum of Natural History				5
Univ. of Michigan Museum				1
Indiana State Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				3
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	6	4	10	3
Central Tier	7	5	n	6
Southern Tier	4	4	n	4
Entire State	4	4	9	3

Current Status

The Horned Grebe is a Very Common (3) fall migrant. It remains through the winter if open water is available.

Occurrence

This widespread grebe has been recorded in more than 63 counties. The migration histogram reveals that Horned Grebes are considerably more common in fall than in spring. In fall the ratio of Lake Michigan to inland birds is about 2.5 to one. Southbound birds arrive in northern Indiana about one week before appearing in southern reaches of the state (see migration envelopes).

Winter/Summer

During the colder months large numbers sometimes accumulate on Lake Gibson, where the state's maximum winter count of 420, was recorded by Gary Bowman 2 February 1997 (Jackson 1998). Only two summer records exist, both in early June on the Lake Michigan lakefront; these individuals were likely lingering migrants.

Breeding

Butler (1898) reported the collection of a downy chick in Hammond, but West (1956) refuted this report; it was almost certainly incorrect.

Horned Grebe Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
500	21-Mar-93	Lake Gibson	Gary Bowman	IAQ
420	2-Feb-97	Lake Gibson	Gary Bowman	IAQ
400	1-Mar-92	Lake Gibson	Gary Bowman	IAQ
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
619	13-Nov-02	Lakefront	J.J. McCoy	INB
500	15-Nov-64	Mich. City Harbor	J.E. Landing	IAQ
500	6-Dec-87	Lake Gibson	Denny Jones	IAQ

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. res.	15-Mar	1-Apr	21-Apr	18-Jun-03	584
Central	Win. res.	14-Mar	30-Mar	22-Apr	28-May-48	95
South	Win. res.	6-Mar	23-Mar	11-Apr	4-May-52	117
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	8-Aug-1979	18-Oct	5-Nov	23-Nov	Win. res.	704
Central	8-Aug-1997	29-Sep	7-Nov	24-Nov	Win. res.	81
South	24-Aug-2000	25-Oct	12-Nov	28-Nov	Win. res.	105

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.

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Mumford, R.E. and C.E. Keller (1984) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 376 pp.

Richards, R.L. (1987) The Vertebrate Collection of the Indiana State Museum: "Old" Specimens and Records, *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science* 97:547-570.

West, H.C. (1956) The status of the Grebe family in Indiana, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 34:42-55.