

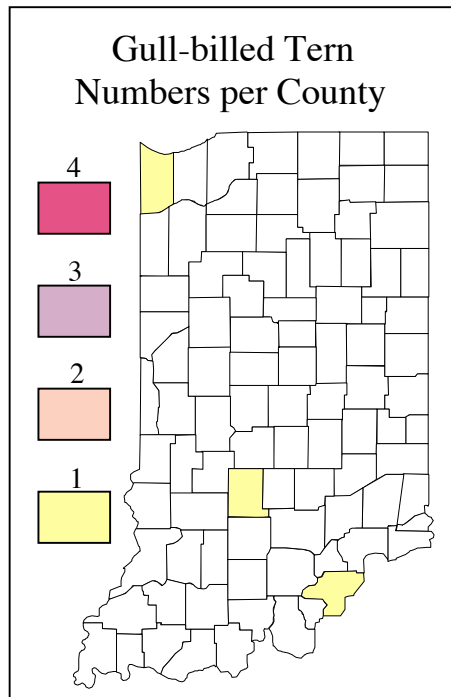
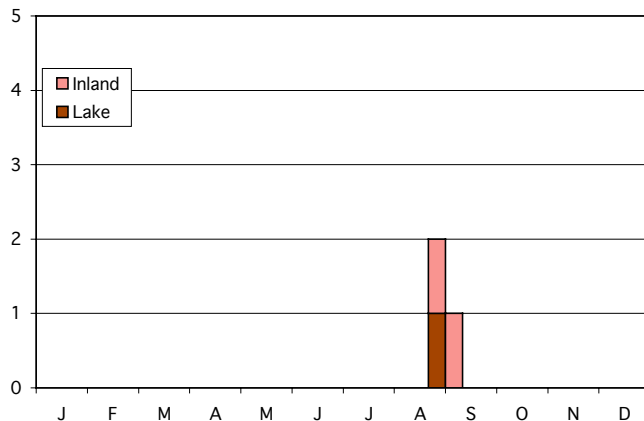
## Gull-billed Tern

*Sterna nilotica*

### Historical Information

**First Published Record:** Indiana's first Gull-billed Tern was discovered 27 August 1994 by B. Palmer-Ball at the Falls of the Ohio. Although this location is in Kentucky, the bird circled over Indiana on at least two occasions, providing a first record for both states (Palmer-Ball 1995).

Butler (1898) considered the Gull-billed Tern hypothetical. This littoral tern is not mentioned in Keller et al. (1979) or Mumford and Keller (1984).



### Status

**Physical Evidence:** There are no known specimens from Indiana (S.F. Jackson unpublished list). The Falls of the Ohio bird was photographed while perched in Kentucky. Two black and white photos of the 10 September 1995 Lake Monroe bird are published in Lomax (1996).

| STATUS TABLE            |     |     |     |      |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Specimens               |     |     |     |      |
| Museum                  |     |     |     | No.  |
| No known specimens      |     |     |     | 0    |
| 20-Year Abundance Table |     |     |     |      |
|                         | Win | Spr | Sum | Fall |
| Northern Tier           | n   | n   | n   | 10   |
| Central Tier            | n   | n   | n   | n    |
| Southern Tier           | n   | n   | n   | 10   |
| Entire State            | n   | n   | n   | 9    |

### Current Status

The existence of three records places the Gull-billed Tern in the Occasional (9) category. It is conceivable that the two 1995 records involved the same individual.

### Occurrence

Indiana's three records all occurred within a two-week period in the autumns of 1994 and 1995. All three birds were in basic plumage.

| Gull-billed Tern Records |             |              |                |      |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|------|
| All Records              |             |              |                |      |
| No.                      | Date        | Location     | Observer       | Ref. |
| 1                        | 27-Aug-1994 | Clark Co     | B. Palmer-Ball | NAB  |
| 1                        | 31-Aug-1995 | Miller Beach | J.J. McCoy     | KJB  |
| 1                        | 10-Sep-1995 | Lake Monroe  | T.C. Keller    | IAQ  |

**References Cited**

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.

Lomax, B. (1996) Field Notes Fall 1995, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 74:192-225.

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

Palmer-Ball, B. (1995) Gull-billed Tern at the Falls of the Ohio, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 73:5-6.