

Whooping Crane

Grus americana

Historical Information

First Published record: Butler (1890) noted that R.B. Trouslet reported this species in Porter County 25 April 1887, but oddly, fails to include this record in his 1898 volume.

Butler (1898) referred to the Whooping Crane as a rare migrant, which was formerly more common. He mentioned possible nesting in the “big Kankakee marsh.” Keller et al. (1979) simply referred to it as extirpated. Mumford and Keller (1984) provide an historical summary for Indiana and indicate that Indiana’s last report occurred 4 April 1907 in De Kalb County.

Status

Physical Evidence: There are no known specimens from Indiana (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

Current Status

Extirpated

Occurrence

Thompson (1888) mentioned “one or two seen, but quite uncommon,” in the Kankakee marshes of northwestern Indiana. A reintroduction program has been implemented in Wisconsin; these birds winter in Florida. On a number of occasions migrants from this new group have been noted in Indiana, but this population is currently not accepted as established by the Indiana Bird Records Committee.

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.

Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller (1979) *Indiana Birds and Their Haunts*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 214 pp.

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

Thompson, Maurice (1888) Preliminary sketch of the aquatic and shore birds of the Kankakee Region, Indiana Department of Geology and Natural History, Sixteenth Annual Report.