

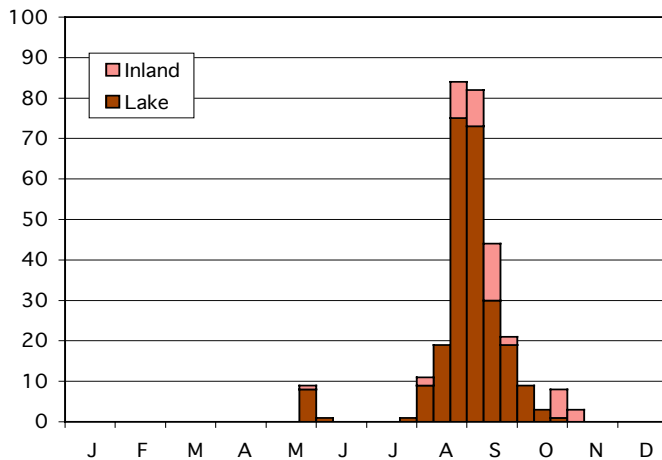
## Red Knot

## *Calidris canutus*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: Indiana's first Red Knot, a "light gray juvenile," was collected by F.M. Woodruff at Miller Beach 24 August 1896 (Butler 1898).

Butler (1898) deemed the Knot a rare migrant near Lake Michigan. Keller (1958) considered it very rare in fall and almost unknown in spring. Keller et al. (1979) and Mumford and Keller (1984) basically concurred with this assessment. The latter authors also noted that the Knot had never been reported in southern Indiana.



### Current Status

On Lake Michigan's beaches the Red Knot is Uncommon (6) in fall and Occasional (9) in spring. At inland sites it is Very Rare (8) in fall.

### Occurrence

This interesting shorebird is primarily a fall migrant in Indiana, as only seven spring records exist. Having been recorded in eighteen of the last twenty years, the Knot is of fairly regular occurrence on Lake Michigan. Virtually all of the fall birds are in juvenile plumage; there are only eight reports of fall adults. Most sightings involve one or two individuals that associate with other shorebirds (especially Sanderlings) along the beaches. Fewer than twenty percent of the reports consist of more than two birds.

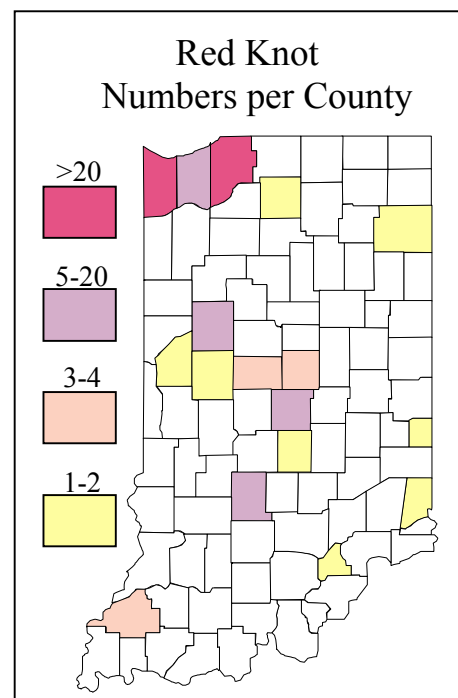
### Inland Records

Red Knots have now been recorded in 14 inland counties. The largest inland count consisted of six birds observed by I.W. Burr and P.S. Burr at the Purdue Wildlife Area, Tippecanoe County 31 October 1959 (Burr 1979).

### Status

Physical Evidence: More than a dozen specimens are archived in the nation's museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				7
National Museum of Natural History				2
Milwaukee Public Museum				4
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	9	10	6
Central Tier	n	n	n	8
Southern Tier	n	n	n	8
Entire State	n	9	n	6





Juvenile Red Knot, Michigan City Harbor 9 September 1986. Photo by K.J. Brock

### Extreme Record

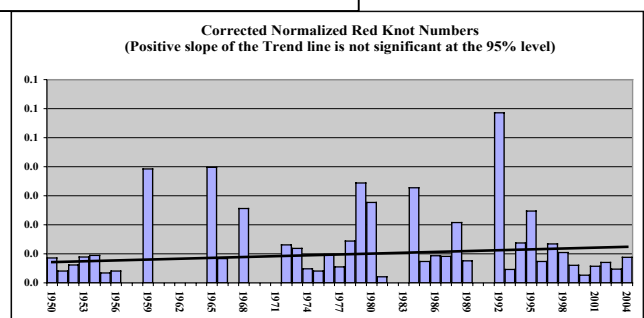
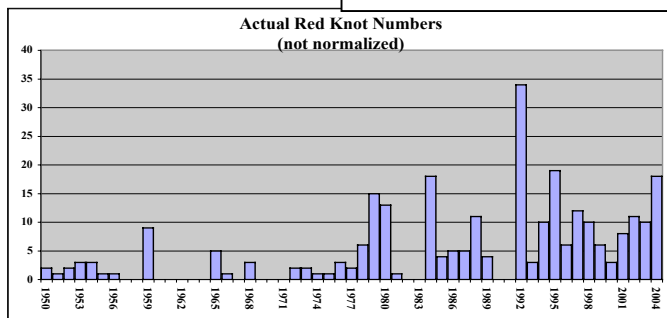
The 18 Knots observed by H.L. Stoddard on 21 August 1920 is still the state's maximum count. This sighting occurred during a hike along the beach from Dune Park (near present day Ogden Dunes) and Gary. This event was described as follows: "A flock of from 16-20 (knots) flew right by us at 40 feet distance—all in immature plumage." (Stoddard notes). Stoddard actually reported five additional Knots (with a Black-bellied Plover); however, it is unclear whether these were ultimately part of the large flock. As a result the day's total was arbitrarily taken as 18.

### Population Trend

Concern about the Red Knot population has been widely expressed, especially on the Atlantic coast. The 50-year population data suggest that Indiana's Knot population has remained fairly stable, as the very slightly positive slope of the trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.

### **Red Knot Population Trend**

Positive slope of the trend line is not significant at the 95% level



### **Red Knot Data**

#### **Maximum Single Party Counts**

#### **Spring**

Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
3	23-May-1976	Mich. City Harb	W.H Buskirk	KJB
2	29-May-1996	Miller Beach	J.J. McCoy	KJB
1	24-May-1968	Indy Sewage	C.E. Keller	REM

Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
18	21-Aug-1920	Lakefront	H.L. Stoddard	REM
10	25-Aug-1984	Lakefront	K.J. Brock	KJB
7*	01-Sep-1995	Mich. City Harb	Brad Etter	KJB
*7 were reported on three additional occasions				

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	21-May-1986	---	24-May	---	2-Jun-1917	6
Central	24-May-1968	---	---	---	24-May-1968	1
South	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	29-Jul-2004	17-Aug	4-Sep	26-Sep	24-Oct-1979	124
Central	6-Aug-1985	---	12-Sep	---	1-Nov-1959	20
South	28-Aug-2003	---	---	---	24-Oct-1993	9

## References Cited

Butler, A. W. (1898) The Birds of Indiana, Indiana Department of Geology and Natural Resources Annual Report, 22:575-1187.

Burr, I. W. (1979) The Birds of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 57:1-43.

Keller, C.E. (1958) The Shorebird families: Charadriidae, Scolopacidae, Recurvirostridae, and Phalaropidae of Indiana. Part 4. *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 36:2-39.

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.

Stoddard notes, A listing of observations transcribed directly from H.L. Stoddard's original field notes by Dr. R.E. Mumford about 1951.