

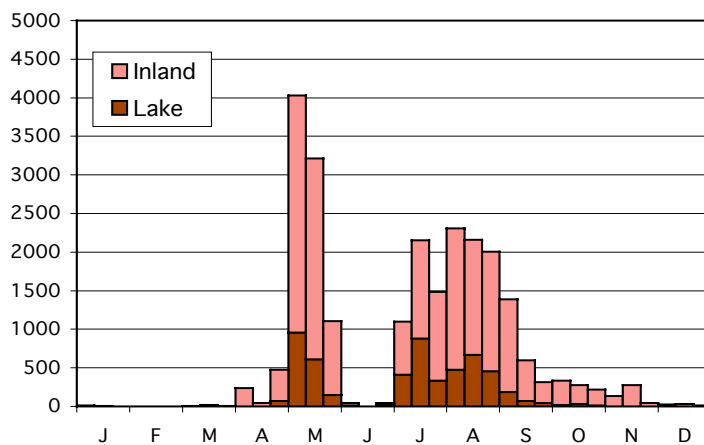
Least Sandpiper

Calidris minutilla

Historical Information

First Published Record: The Least Sandpiper was mentioned by Brayton (1879), but one shot in Lake County 1 June 1879 (Butler 1898), constitutes Indiana's earliest dated report.

Butler (1890) referred to the Least Sandpiper as a migrant, which was not common. Keller (1958) considered it a fairly common migrant. Keller et al. (1979) listed it as a common to fairly common migrant and Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed it a common migrant, which is casual in winter.



Current Status

The abundance of this small sandpiper continues to increase. Today the Least Sandpiper is a Very Common (3) migrant and an Uncommon (6) winter resident.

Occurrence

This small sandpiper is both plentiful and widespread. It has been reported in more than 79 counties and has undoubtedly occurred in all 92.

Summer records

Summer period migrants are plentiful (an average of 249 annually over the last 20 years). The spring and fall migrations are separated by a thin 7-day hiatus between 15 and 22 June.

Winter records

Although the first winter record was reported by I.W. Burr and E.L. Jones in Warren County 5 December 1965 (Mumford files), winter reports did not become regular until the mid-1980s. Most winter period Least Sandpipers occur in December (some two dozen records), but four January and two February reports also exist. All but two of these records occurred in the southern tier of counties. The exceptions include three at Summit Lake 6 (J.A. Haw) and 20

Status

Physical Evidence: At least 13 specimens from Indiana are preserved (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

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

(S.A. Pancol) December 1998 (IN-BIRD) and two observed by J.B. Cope in Union County 4 December 1983 (Mumford files). Winter birds have now been reported in 14 of the last 20 years.

Least Sandpiper Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
500*	11-May-2005	Big Pine wetland	E.M. Hopkins	INB
350	06-May-2000	S. Lake Co	B.J. Grube	INB
205	10-May-1986	Gibson Co	C.E. Mills	IAQ
*Reported as a rough estimate.				
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
250	10-Aug-2003	East central Ind.	A.W. Bruner	NAB
200	17-Aug-1996	S. Porter Co	K.J. Brock	KJB
200	03-Aug-2003	Parke Co	A.W. Bruner	NAB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	30-Mar-1999	1-May	11-May	22-May	8-Jun-2002	378
Central	15-Mar-2000	5-May	14-May	26-May	6-Jun-1964	119
South	Win. Vis.	19-Apr	9-May	23-May	31-May-1993	111
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	25-Jun-1988	10-Jul	10-Aug	10-Sep	3-Dec-83	998
Central	1-Jul-1982	17-Jul	25-Aug	2-Oct	20-Dec-98	351
South	28-Jun-2003	19-Jul	31-Aug	12-Nov	Win. Vis.	267
By Age: Fall flight						
Adult	25-Jun-1988	8-Jul	20-Jul	13-Aug	26-Oct-1986	230
Juv.	8-Jul-1982	3-Aug	19-Aug	10-Sep	30-Oct-1989	289

References Cited

Brayton, A.W. (1879) A Catalogue of the Birds of Indiana, *Transactions of the Indiana Horticultural Societ*, pp. 144-146.

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.

IN-BIRD, a Listserv dealing with Indiana birds developed and maintained by P.W. Kelly. The records are archived at: <http://listserv.indiana.edu/archives/in-bird-l.html>

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 files: An extensive accumulation of Indiana bird data on 5x7 file cards compiled by Professor R.E. Mumford of Purdue University, West Lafayette.

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

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