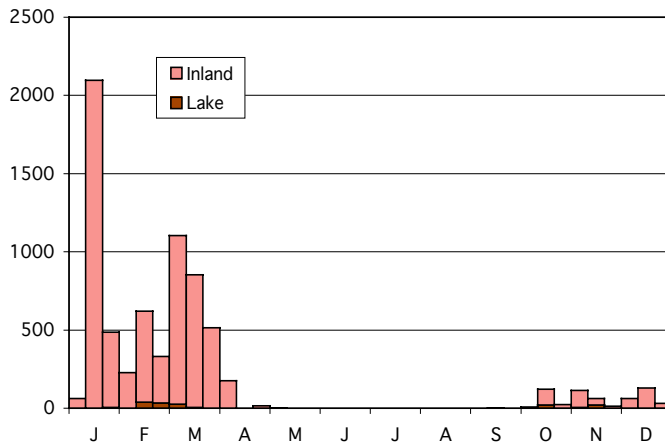


## Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

### Historical Information

**First Published Record:** A non-specific date of “first part of March during 1832-34,” is listed in Bruner (2004). However, the first fully dated report involved a male, collected at Beaver Lake, Newton County, 20 March 1881 (DNR files).

Butler (1890) considered this goose a rare migrant. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it casual and Mumford and Keller (1984) noted general growth in the population and relegated it to the rare spring and casual fall migrant categories. They also noted winter records.



### Status

**Physical Evidence:** At least four specimens are known. These include the state’s earliest record (mentioned above), along with two additional specimens from Newton County are in the Ohio State Museum (DNR files, Bruner 2004).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
J. Moore Museum, Earlham College				1
Ohio State Museum				3
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	5	5	n	6
Central Tier	6	6	n	7
Southern Tier	5	5	n	7
Entire State	5	5	n	6

### Current Status

Following Mumford and Keller’s 1984 reported population increase, numbers of this species have exploded. Five of the largest single party counts (see table) were logged over the past two decades. Today this species is Fairly Common (5) to Uncommon (6) in winter and spring and an Uncommon (6) to Rare (7) fall migrant.

### Occurrence

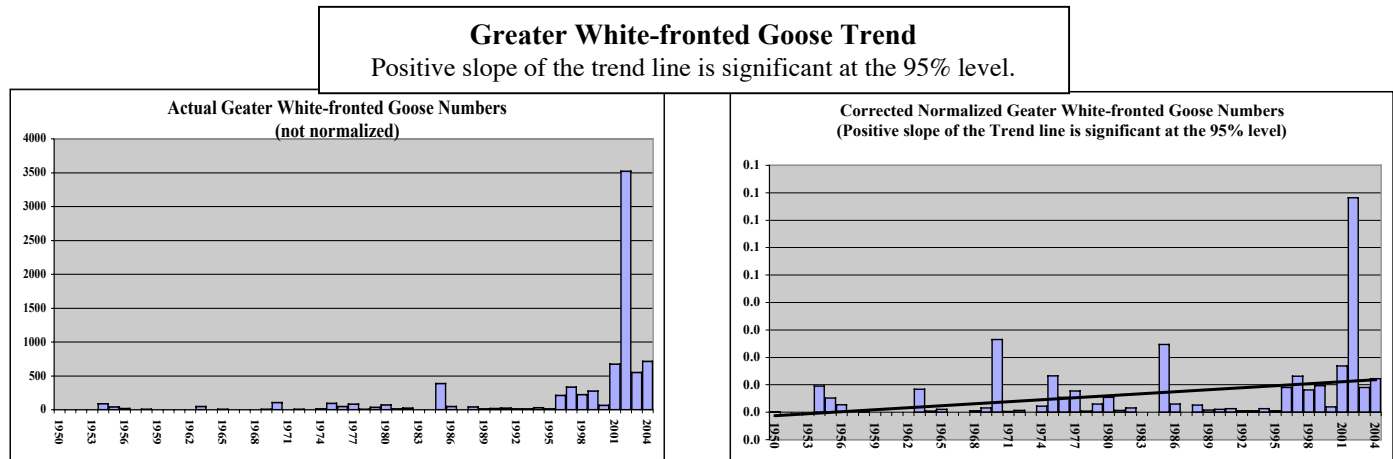
This formerly rare goose is most common in southwestern Indiana when spring migrants appear in late winter. It has now been recorded in more than 50 counties and has been reported in thirty-four of the last thirty-five years. The vast majority of birds occur at inland locations, away from Lake Michigan. As shown in the migration histogram the Greater White-fronted Goose is considerably more common in spring than in fall.

### Extreme Record

The exceptional tally of 2000, recorded by C.E. Mills and Ben Fritz at the Gibson County power plant 12 January 2002, exceeds the state’s next highest count by a factor of ten. The number was actually recorded at “2000+” in A.W. Bruner’s Indiana seasonal summary submitted to North American Birds.

## Population Trend

Positive slope of the trend line, which is statistically significant at the 95 percent level, clearly reflects the expansion of this species in the state. It has been recorded annually since 1988.



## Greater White-fronted Goose Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/Winter				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
2000	12-Jan-2002	Lake Gibson	C.E. Mills	NAB
343	16-Jan-2006	Universal Mine	Don Gorney	INB
329	20-Mar-2005	N.W. Indiana	J.J. McCoy	INB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
65	14-Oct-1977	Willow Slough	???	REM
50	10-Nov-2002	Universal Mine	Steve Lima	IAQ
27	11-Nov-1998	Pine Creek	J.B. Dunning	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	18-Feb	12-Mar	31-Mar	3-May-2003	180
Central	Win. Res.	16-Jan	27-Feb	26-Mar	6-May-2005	90
South	Win. Res.	12-Jan	12-Feb	17-Mar	31-Mar-1985	39
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	15-Sep-1974	---	29-Oct	---	Win. Res.	25
Central	19-Oct-1991	---	30-Nov	---	Win. Res.	25
South	5-Oct-1986	---	6-Dec	---	Win. Res.	26

## References Cited

Bruner, A. W. (2004) From the Archives – Part 6, ANSERIFORMES- FAMILY ANATIDAE (Whistling Ducks, Geese, Swans), *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 82:131-180.

Butler, A. W. (1890) The Birds of Indiana, Appendix to *Transactions of the Indiana Horticultural Society for 1890* (available on the web).

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

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