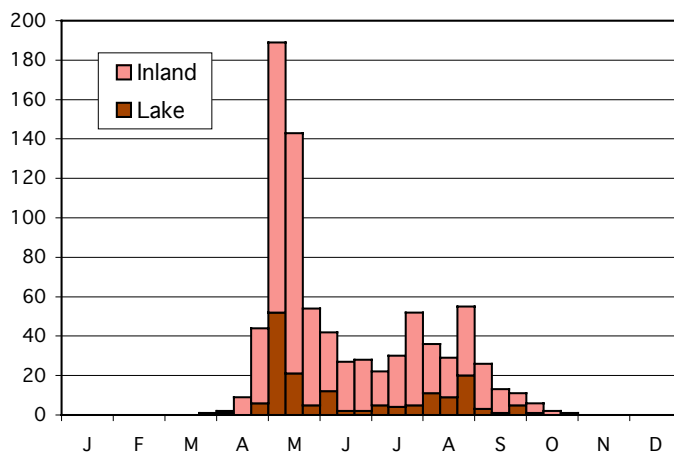


Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1929) reported that a specimen taken in Lake County 23 May 1871, was in a Cincinnati collection. This provides the state's earliest fully dated record.

Butler (1898) deemed this large phalarope a rare migrant, but common in northwestern Indiana where it bred. Keller's (1957) assessment was quite similar. Keller et al. (1979) considered it a rare migrant, but noted the absence of post-1941 breeding records. Mumford and Keller (1984) assigned this species a status of uncommon in northwestern Indiana and also noted the lack of breeding after 1941.



Juvenile Wilson's Phalarope beginning the molt into first-winter plumage, Chase Street wetland, Gary 4 August 2005. Photo by J.K. Cassady.

Mumford and Keller (1984) mentioned that W.B. Barnes reported "perhaps 100" females at Willow Slough in June 1958.

Status

Physical Evidence: Two Wilson's Phalarope specimens from Indiana are archived in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and Richards 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				1
Indiana State Museum				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	6	6	7
Central Tier	n	7	9	7
Southern Tier	n	7	7	7
Entire State	n	6	6	7

Current Status

Today the Wilson's Phalarope is Uncommon (6) in spring and summer, and Rare (7) in fall.

Occurrence

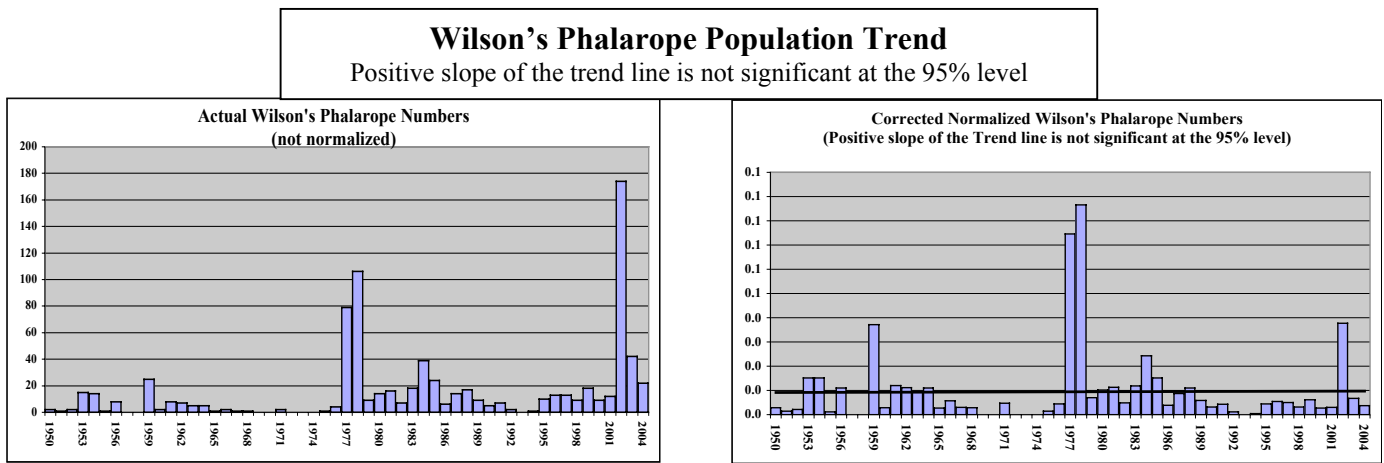
This phalarope still occurs most often in northwestern Indiana where it is most frequently observed in spring. It is, however, rarely observed on Lake Michigan. Statewide, this elegant wader has been reported in 19 of the past 20 years, and records have come from at least 50 Indiana counties. Though not listed in the maximum count table,

Summer

Wilson's Phalaropes are no longer regular summer residents; indeed, summer period birds have been recorded in only eleven of the past twenty years. This statistic includes a seven-year hiatus from 1992 to 1998. A single report occurred in 1999 and another in 2001; then in 2002 a plethora of summer reports accompanied breeding in Allen, Gibson and Newton Counties (Brock 2002).

Population Trend

The very slightly positive slope of the trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

Butler (1890) noted that J.G. Parker recorded Wilson's Phalaropes breeding near the state line in Lake County. Mumford and Keller (1984) knew of only six nests, all of which were near Whiting in Lake County. However, they also noted that on 10 May 1953 at least a dozen females were observed exhibiting courtship behavior in a wet Willow Slough pasture; a female collected there 15 May 1953 contained an egg, which "was ready to be laid." Castrale et al. (1998) reported no Wilson's Phalaropes during the Indiana Atlas surveys.

The 2002 Incursion

Breeding was confirmed in 2002 when a nest containing four eggs and attended by a male, was discovered by P.W. and Joanne Kelly at TNC Kankakee Sands 15 June 2002; Jed Hertz detected juveniles at that site 12 July (Hedge 2003). A male with three chicks was observed by C.E. Mills at the Lake Gibson wetlands 24 June 2002 and a male giving a distraction display was noted by J.S. Moore 21 June 2002 at an Allen County wetland where a juvenile with down feathers was subsequently seen 25 July 2002 (Hedge 2003). The following year a territorial male was observed at Kankakee Sands 28 June 2003 and two juveniles were seen 18 July 2003. Additionally, L.W. Sterrenburg observed territorial males at two Greene County locations 1 & 3 July 2003, strongly suggesting breeding in that county (IN-BIRD).

Wilson's Phalarope Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
40	15-May-1977	Willow Slough	Wm. Madden	REM
28	09-May-1978	Roxana Pond	???	NAB
24	06-May-1978	Patoka Bottoms	C.E. Mills	REM
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
14	21-Jul-2002	Multiple Sites	J. Hertz	INB
10	21-Aug-1985	Gibson Co	C.E. Mills	IAQ
10	24-Aug-1977	Roxana Pond	K.J. Brock	KJB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	7-Apr-1995	29-Apr	10-May	1-Jun	Sum. Vis.	126
Central	22-Apr-1963	28-Apr	9-May	22-May	Sum. Vis.	48
South	21-Mar-2003	---	6-May	---	Sum. Vis.	19
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Vis.	4-Jul	6-Aug	8-Sep	8-Oct-1937	98
Central	Sum. Vis.	20-Jul	22-Aug	1-Oct	22-Oct-2000	46
South	Sum. Vis.	29-Jun	20-Aug	13-Sep	6-Oct-1999	48
By Age: Fall flight						
Adult	20-Jun-1950	---	4-Jul	---	14-Sep-1999	16
Juv.	12-Jul-1988	18-Jul	6-Aug	7-Sep	16-Sep-2001	36

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IN-BIRD, a Listserve dealing with Indiana birds developed and maintained by P.W. Kelly. The records are archived at: <http://listserv.indiana.edu/archives/in-bird-1.html>

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