

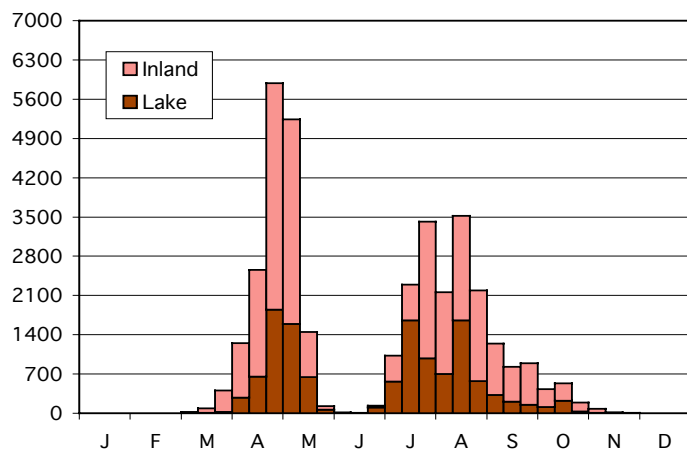
Lesser Yellowlegs

Tringa flavipes

Historical Information

First Published Record: Indiana's earliest published date occurred in Franklin County 7 April 1883 (Butler 1898).

Butler (1890) deemed the Lesser Yellowlegs a "common migrant, most numerous northward." He believed they were summer residents that occasionally nested in northern Indiana (even listing a nest with four eggs in the Calumet Marsh of Lake County). Keller (1958) also considered it a common migrant, but refuted the breeding report. Both Keller et al. (1979) and Mumford and Keller (1984) concurred with the common migrant status.



Current Status

Today the Lesser Yellowlegs is Very Common (3) from spring through fall, and Accidental (10) in winter.

Occurrence

The Lesser Yellowlegs is among Indiana's most common and widespread shorebirds. It has been recorded in more than 78 counties. The state's mean annual counts over the past 20 years are 705 in spring and 524 in fall. A minuscule ten-day hiatus (5 June to 15 June) occurs between spring and summer migrations. Fall juveniles follow the southbound adults by at least five weeks.

Extreme Record

The enormous daily total of 30 April 2004 (see maximum count table) occurred in the Goose Pond impoundment of Grand Kankakee Marsh, where birds were counted in blocks of ten (J.J. McCoy pers. comm.).

Status

Physical Evidence: Some thirteen specimens are archived in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Carnegie Museum of Natural History				1
Chicago Field Museum				3
National Museum of Natural History				2
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				2
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2
Milwaukee Public Museum				3
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	3	3	3
Central Tier	10	5	6	4
Southern Tier	n	4	6	5
Entire State	10	3	3	3

Lesser Yellowlegs Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
1120	30-Apr-2004	Grand Kankakee Marsh	J.J. McCoy	INB
400	06-May-2003	Willow Slough	J.J. McCoy	INB
350	24-Apr-1983	Gibson Co	Denny Jones	IAQ
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
400	17-Aug-1996	S. Porter Co	Barb Dodge	IAQ
350	26-Aug-1962	Indy Sewage Ponds	C.E. Keller	IAQ
300	18-Jul-1920	Cowles Bog	H.L. Stoddard	HLS

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	3-Mar-1996	8-Apr	29-Apr	13-May	5-Jun-1984	666
Central	29-Feb-2000	5-Apr	30-Apr	14-May	31-May-1960	193
South	27-Feb-1983	24-Mar	19-Apr	11-May	3-Jun-1982	222
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	15-Jun-1987	12-Jul	15-Aug	2-Oct	25-Nov-1978	1073
Central	20-Jun-1977	24-Jul	29-Aug	13-Oct	25-Nov-1953	341
South	24-Jun-1996	19-Jul	30-Aug	16-Oct	19-Nov-1994	208
By Age: Fall flight						
Adult	15-Jun-1987	9-Jul	29-Jul	19-Aug	30-Sep-2000	220
Juv.	8-Jul-1982	10-Aug	30-Aug	7-Oct	19-Nov-1990	203

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.

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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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