

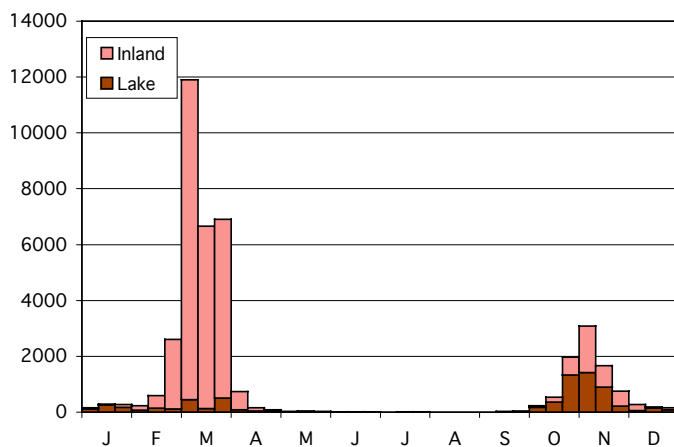
Redhead

Aythya americana

Historical Information

First Published Record: An undated male specimen taken in 1884 was in the C.A. Stockbridge collection (Mumford files), but the earliest formal date involved a bird killed 17 March 1886, at English Lake, Starke County (Butler 1898).

Butler (1890) referred to this handsome duck as a regular, but not generally common, migrant throughout the state. Keller et al. (1979) considered it a fairly common spring and rare fall migrant, and noted winter records. Mumford and Keller (1984) concurred with the Keller assessment and added two breeding records.



Current Status

The Redhead is currently a Very Common (3) migrant.

Status

Physical Evidence: A specimen is in the National Museum of Natural History and three more are in the Purdue University collection (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				3
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	4	3	7	3
Central Tier	6	5	10	6
Southern Tier	5	3	10	4
Entire State	4	3	7	3

Occurrence

As noted by previous authors, numbers are considerably higher in spring than fall (see migration histogram); however, numbers at both seasons are higher than in former years. In spring the Redhead appears more often on inland reservoirs than on Lake Michigan; it has been reported in more than 63 counties. Winter birds have been reported annually over the past two decades, with an average of 115.5 birds per year.

Summer Records

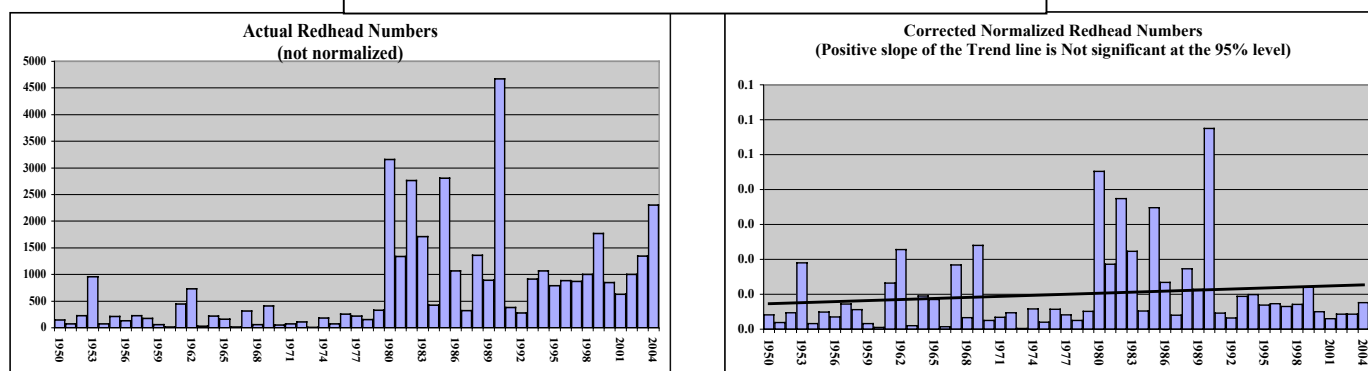
More than a dozen summer records have been recorded over the last 20 years. Peak summer counts include eight observed by Don Gorney at Grand Kankakee Marsh, Lake County 21 June 2002 (IN-BIRD), and six juveniles reported by R.S. Plank at Kankakee FWA 20 July 1990 (Jackson 1991).

Population Trend

Although slope of the trend line is slightly positive, it is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level. This suggests a fairly stable Redhead population over the last half-century.

Redhead Trend

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



Breeding

Mumford and Keller listed but two breeding records: J.F. New observed a brood at Kingsbury FWA during the summer of 1967 and T.T. Cable discovered a nest containing eggs at Willow Slough FWA in May 1979. The latter account is described in Cable (1981). Castrale et al. (1998) listed a confirmed breeding report in southeastern LaPorte County.

Redhead Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
4500	4-Mar-1990	Lake Gibson	G. & L. Bowman	IQM
2000	9-Mar-1980	Lake Gibson	Denny Jones	REM
2000	24-Mar-1985	Gibson Co	C.E. Mills	IAQ
Fall/Winter				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
500	04-Nov-1943	Marshall Co	L.G. Walker	REM
338	5-Nov-2003	Miller Beach	J.J. McCoy	INB
170	1-Nov-2003	Miller Beach	J.J. McCoy	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	5-Mar	23-Mar	17-Apr	10-Jun-1982	380
Central	Win. Res.	4-Mar	18-Mar	6-Apr	27-May-1986	109
South	Win. Res.	3-Mar	11-Mar	31-Mar	2-Jun-1979	118
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	15-Jul-1934	11-Oct	2-Nov	20-Nov	Win. Res.	423
Central	26-Jul-1986	18-Oct	5-Nov	27-Nov	Win. Res.	53
South	15-Jul-1979	9-Oct	5-Nov	21-Nov	Win. Res.	70

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.

Cable, T.T. (1981) Nest of redhead duck in Newton Co.: First state nesting record, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 59:4-5

Castrale, J.S., E.M. Hopkins, and C.E. Keller (1998) *Atlas of breeding Birds of Indiana*, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 388 pp.

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-l.html>

Jackson, S.F. (1991) Field Notes Summer 1990, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 69:95-111.

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.