

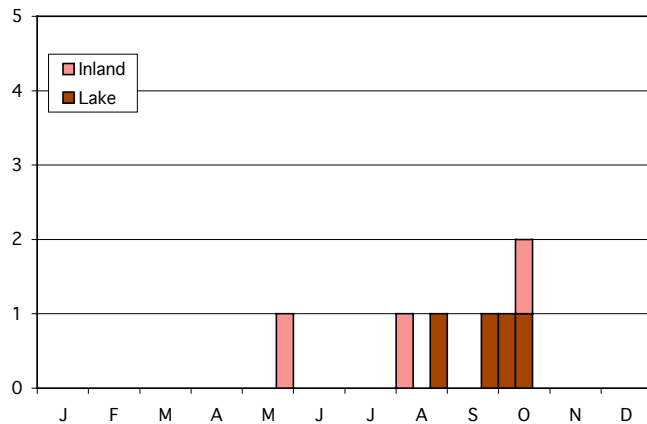
## Black Skimmer

## *Rynchops niger*

### Historical Information

**First Published Record:** Indiana's first record of this coastal species occurred at Miller Beach on 23 August 1913 (Craigmile 1935).

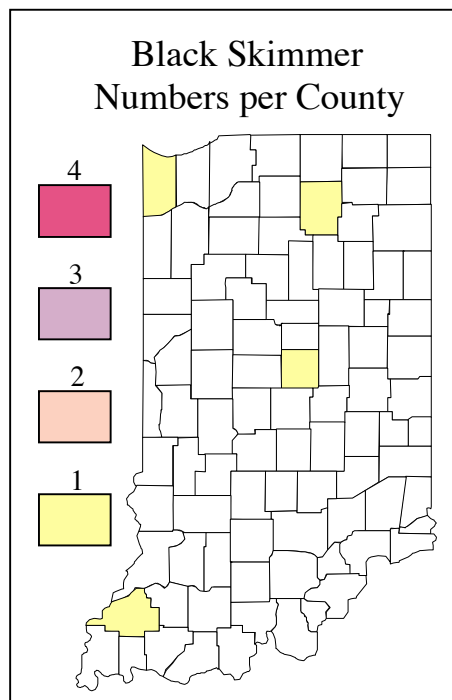
Neither Butler (1898) nor Keller et al. (1979) mentioned this species. In citing the above report, which they characterized as uncorroborated, Mumford and Keller (1984) summarized the Craigmile discovery. Keller et al. (1986) considered the Skimmer accidental and mentioned a second record in Kosciusko County 6 August 1985.



### Status

**Physical Evidence:** There are no known specimens from Indiana (S.F. Jackson unpublished list). A photograph of the Kosciusko County bird is published in Keller (1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
No known specimens				0
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	n	n	10
Central Tier	n	n	n	n
Southern Tier	n	n	n	n
Entire State	n	n	n	10



### Current Status

Accidental (10).

### Occurrence

Indiana's second Black Skimmer record was photographed by Storm Bergen at Winona Lake, Kosciusko County 6 August 1985. Based on this photo the Indiana Bird Records Committee considered this species verified for Indiana (Bruner 1996). B.J. Grube discovered the state's third Skimmer off Miller Beach 29 September 2004 (IN-BIRD). James Zervos relocated presumably the same bird resting on a sandbar at Wolf Lake 10 October 2004 (Brock 2005). There is also an uncorroborated claim that the Wolf Lake bird was seen on 9 October by an observer who elected to keep the sighting secret. On 16 October 2004 Kevin Wycoff found a skimmer perched on a Morse Reservoir, Hamilton County, sandbar. This individual may well have been the Lake County bird, as that bird was last seen on 12 October.

The most recent report occurred 23 May 2005 when C.E. Mills discovered a skimmer at Lake Gibson; Lisa Bowman photographed that individual (IN-BIRD).



Black Skimmer on a Wolf Lake, Lake County sandbar  
10 October 2004. Photo by J.J. McCoy.

Black Skimmer Records				
All Records				
No.	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
1	23-Aug-1913	Miller Beach	E.A. Craigmile	M&K
1	6-Aug-1985	Kosciusko Co	Storm Bergen	IAQ
1	29-Sep & 10-11 October-2004	Miller Beach	B.J. Grube	NAB
1	16-October-2004	Morse Res	Kevin Wycoff	NAB
1	23-May-2005	Lake Gibson	C.E. Mills	INB

### References Cited

Brock, K.J. (2005) Illinois and Indiana Region, Fall Migration 2004, *N. Am. Birds* 59:74-78.

Bruner, A. W. (1996) Report of the Indiana Bird Records Committee—1992-1995, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 74:65-80.

Butler, A. W. (1898) The Birds of Indiana, Indiana Department of Geology and Natural Resources Annual Report, 22:575-1187.

Craigmile, E.A. (1935) Three rare records, *Audubon Ann. Bull.*, no. 24 and 25 1934-1935, p.45-46.

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>

Keller, C.E. (1987) Occurrence of the Black Skimmer in Indiana, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 65:38.

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

Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller (1986) *Indiana Birds and Their Haunts*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 206 pp.

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