

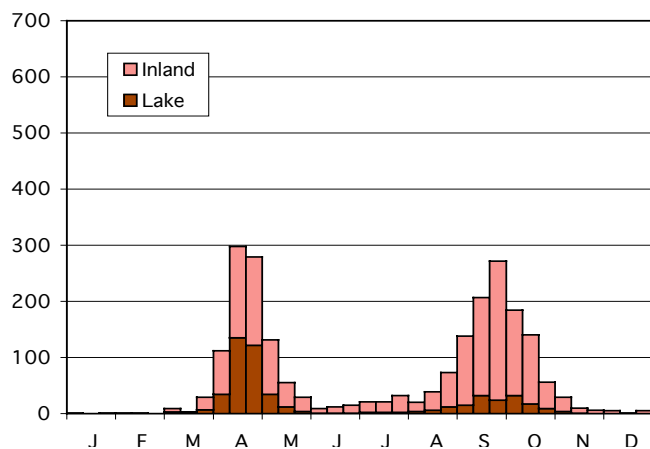
## Osprey

## *Pandion haliaetus*

### Historical Information

First Published record: According to Butler (1898) during the winter of 1880-81 E.R. Quick observed Ospreys along the Whitewater River; however, the earliest completely dated record occurred in Carroll County 21 September 1883 (DNR files).

Butler (1890) considered the "Fish Hawk" a migrant and winter resident in mild years. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a rare migrant and uncommon summer visitant, except in central Indiana where it was very rare in summer. Mumford and Keller (1984) reckoned that the Osprey was a rare to uncommon migrant across the state.



### Status

Physical Evidence: At least five specimens are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				3
Indiana State Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	10	6	7	6
Central Tier	9	7	7	6
Southern Tier	9	6	7	6
Entire State	8	6	6	6

### Current Status

Osprey numbers in Indiana have increased (see Population Trend) and today it is an Uncommon (6) migrant and local summer resident, which is Very Rare (8) in winter. It is likely to appear at virtually any site that offers water.

### Occurrence

This species has now been recorded in more than 73 counties. Ospreys are most frequently encountered at inland lakes and ponds. However, spring migrants are reported regularly during spring hawk flights in the Dunes; indeed, most of the peak spring counts have occurred at the Dunes hawk watches.

### Winter Records

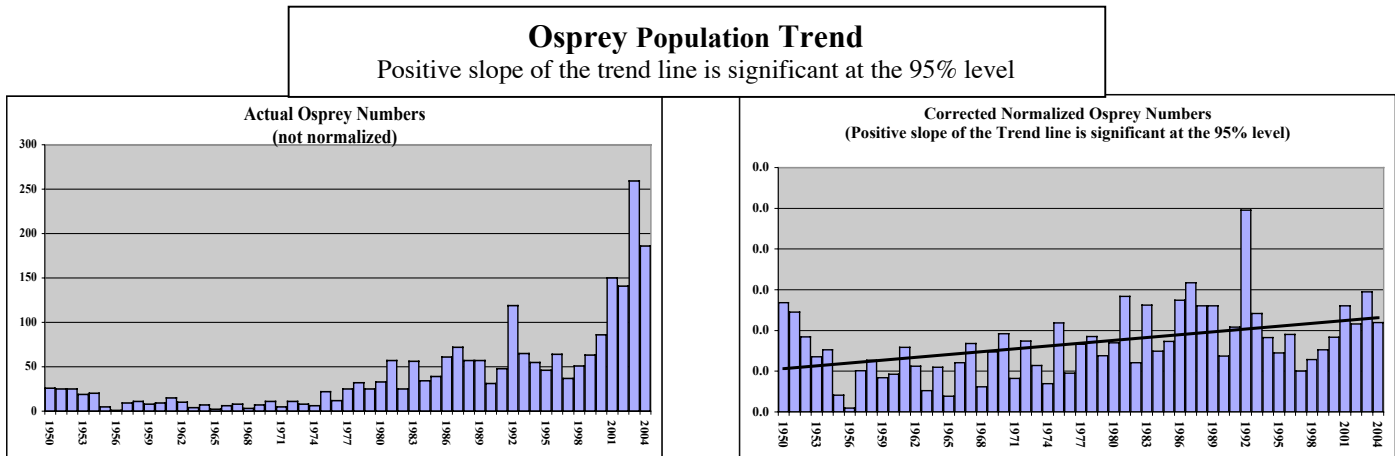
Winter birds primarily occur in the southern two-thirds of the state and mainly during December, but two January and three February records also exist. The only winter record for the northern tier was observed by M. & V. Riemenschneider in Elkhart County 10 December 2000 (notes submitted to *North American Birds*).

### Extreme Record

The all-time maximum count of 18 (see table), was logged during a census conducted on Lake Monroe by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (Brock 1988).

### Population Trend

As illustrated in the plots below, Osprey numbers have increased dramatically in Indiana and with the recent DNR reintroduction program the population should continue to grow. Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



### **Breeding**

Butler (1890) noted breeding in Knox and Gibson Counties, and Mumford and Keller (1984) reported nesting in at least 11 counties. The Indiana Atlas (Castrale et al. 1998) reported confirmed nesting only in Jefferson and Union Counties, with probable breeding in Brown and Martin Counties. They further noted that after 1980 no breeding was known until “recently.” Since 2000 active nests have been reported at Brookville Reservoir, at Hovey Lake, at Patoka Lake, Pigeon River FWA, and in St Joseph County.

### Reintroduction Program

In mid-July 2003 the Indiana Department of Natural Resources implemented an Osprey reintroduction program by releasing 16 young birds at the Tri-County FWA, Kosciusko County and Patoka Lake in Crawford County.

## Osprey Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
15	19-Apr-1992	Johnson Beach	K.J. Brock	KJB
11	19-Apr-2003	Dunes St Park	J.J. McCoy	INB
11	16-Jul-2005	Potato Creek SP	Ed Powers	INB
Fall/Winter				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
18	23-Sep-1987	Lake Monroe	DNR- staff	IAQ
16	12-Oct-1988	Lake Monroe	DNR- staff	IAQ
12	20-Sep-1981	Eagle Creek Park	Bud Starling	NIQ

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	5-Mar-1991	8-Apr	22-Apr	12-May	Sum-Res.	412
Central	Win. Vis.	6-Apr	24-Apr	13-May	Sum-Res.	159
South	Win. Vis.	2-Apr	19-Apr	10-May	Sum-Res.	164
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum-Res.	17-Aug	19-Sep	17-Oct	10-Dec-2000	340
Central	Sum-Res.	23-Aug	21-Sep	25-Oct	Win. Vis.	169
South	Sum-Res.	26-Aug	26-Sep	20-Oct	Win. Vis.	276

### References Cited

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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.

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

DNR files, A collection of data compiled on computer disks for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources by C.E. Keller.

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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Richards, R.L. (1987) The Vertebrate Collection of the Indiana State Museum: “Old” Specimens and Records, *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science* 97:547-570.