

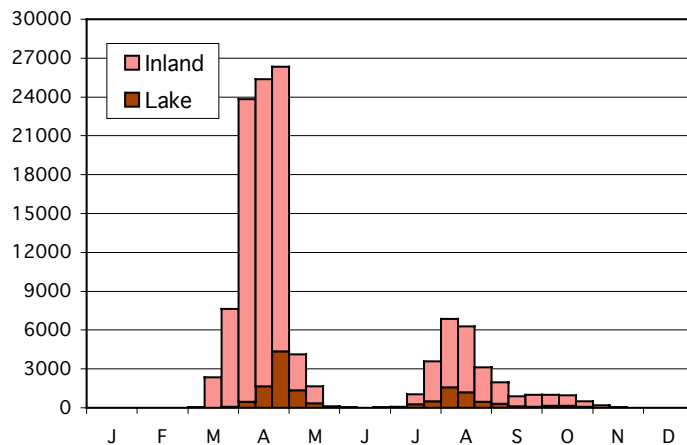
Pectoral Sandpiper

Calidris melanotos

Historical Information

First Published Record: Indiana's earliest report of this species occurred near Brookville 29 March 1881 (Butler 1898).

Butler (1890) considered the "Grass Snipe" a common migrant, but Keller (1958) deemed it abundant in both spring and fall. Keller et al. (1979) characterized it as abundant, except in the south where it was very common. Mumford and Keller (1984) defined the Pectoral Sandpiper status as common, sometimes abundant.



Current Status

Based on total numbers reported, the Pectoral Sandpiper is Indiana's most abundant shorebird. Its status is Abundant (2) in spring and Very Common (3) in fall.

Occurrence

This plentiful shorebird has been reported in 78 counties, but without doubt has occurred in every county in the state. The greatest numbers have been recorded in Lake, Sullivan, and Newton Counties; more than 11,000 birds were logged in each of these counties. It is considerably more common at inland locations than on Lake Michigan. A very slight break in the summer reports occurs between 3 and 12 June; in calculating the migration envelopes this hiatus is taken as the transition between spring and fall flights.

Winter Records

Winter reports are restricted to fall migrants that occasionally linger well into December. The latest, among a half-dozen December records, was observed by Larry Carter at Prairie Creek Reservoir, Delaware County, on 19 December 1970 (Carter 1971); however, three were also recorded by J. & S. Hengeveld at Lake Lemon 15 December 2002 (IN-BIRD).

Status

Physical Evidence: Some 16 specimens are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				3
Chicago Field Museum				2
National Museum of Natural History				6
Milwaukee Public Museum				3
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	9	2	4	3
Central Tier	10	3	5	3
Southern Tier	8	2	6	4
Entire State	8	2	4	3

Pectoral Sandpiper Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
7000	19-Apr-1985	Sullivan Co	A.W. Bruner.	IAQ
5600	12-Apr-1998	Kankakee FWA	J.J. McCoy	IQM
5000*	22-Apr-1978	NW Indiana	Dorthy Buck	IAQ
*5000 were recorded on one additional occasion				
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
820	17-Aug-1988	Geist Reservoir	H.C. West	HCW
700	08-Aug-1988	Roxana Pond	K.J. Brock	KJB
500	01-Aug-1961	Indy Sewage	C.E. Keller	IAQ

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	16-Mar-2003	2-Apr	21-Apr	9-May	3-Jun-1996	629
Central	8-Mar-1964	25-Mar	16-Apr	8-May	3-Jun-1947	188
South	4-Mar-1992	22-Mar	8-Apr	2-May	1-Jun-1984	192
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	12-Jun-1977	23-Jul	22-Aug	14-Oct	10-Dec-1987	878
Central	29-Jun-1986	27-Jul	26-Aug	17-Oct	19-Dec-1970	353
South	15-Jun-2002	24-Jul	2-Sep	25-Oct	15-Dec-2002	257
By Age: Fall flight						
Adult	15-Jul-1988	20-Jul	10-Aug	2-Sep	13-Oct-1989	97
Juv.	1-Aug-2001	24-Aug	25-Sep	24-Oct	16-Nov-1991	67

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.

Carter, A.L. (1971) Field Notes Winter 1970-71, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 49:107-115.

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. (1958) The Shorebird families: Charadriidae, Scolopacidae, Recurvirostridae, and Phalaropidae of Indiana. Part 4. *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 36:2-39.

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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