

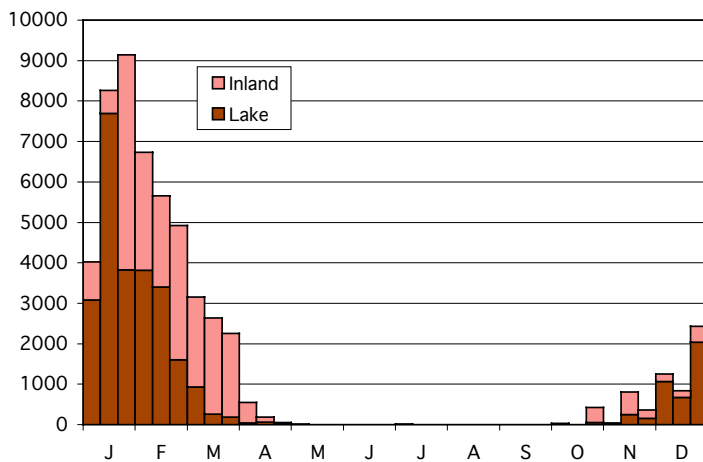
Common Merganser

Mergus merganser

Historical Information

First Published Record: Indiana's earliest "Goosander," as they were formerly known, was collected by B.W. Evermann in Carroll County 1 March 1878; however, a male in the C.A. Stockbridge collection was taken in the undated year of 1873 (Mumford files).

Butler (1890) referred to this species as a common migrant and winter resident. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it an uncommon migrant and winter visitor and Mumford and Keller (1984) concurred.



In late winter this species is Abundant (2) on Lake Michigan; otherwise it is a Very Common (3) spring migrant, which is seen less frequently in fall.

Occurrence

The migration histogram indicates that this species is a winter resident. Away from the lake there is a more distinctive spring migration as birds appear on the larger bodies of water in late February and March. Common Mergansers arrive in late fall and numbers peak in January and February; it is rarely seen after mid-April.

Summer

On Lake Michigan there are no spring records beyond early May. At inland locations this large merganser occasionally lingers into May, and two reports exist for the summer period. A male, reported by several observers on Geist Reservoir 7 and 25 July 1948, was apparently injured (Mumford files). This same source includes the report of one on a pond south-southwest of Otterbein, Warren County 14 July to 3 August 1963.

Status

Physical Evidence: Five specimens from Indiana are preserved as indicated in the Status Table (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

Current Status

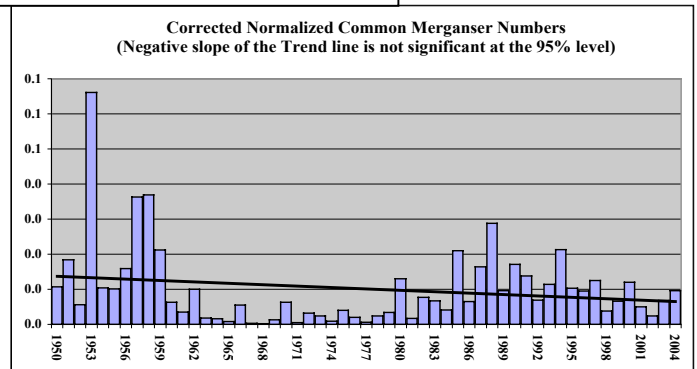
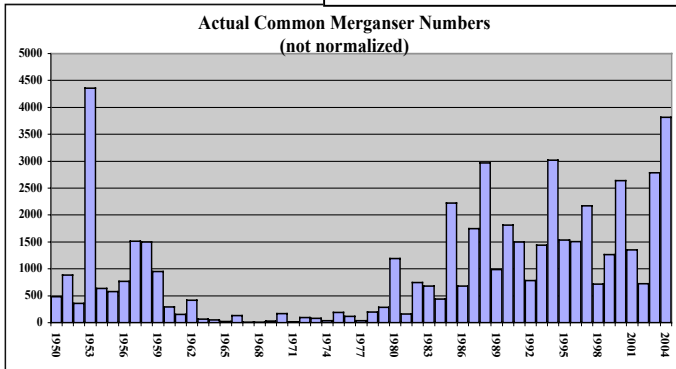
STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				3
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	2	4	8	5
Central Tier	5	5	n	7
Southern Tier	3	4	n	7
Entire State	2	3	8	5

Population Trend

Negative slope of the trend line is not significant at the 95 percent level.

Common Merganser Population Trend

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



Common Merganser Data

Maximum Single Party Counts

Winter

Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
3000	11-Jan-1953	Mich. City Harb	L.C. Binford	REM
1600	25-Jan-1994	Lake Gibson	G.& L.Bowman	IAQ
1500	24-Jan-2004	Port of Indiana	J.J. McCoy	KJB
1200	18-Jan-1997	Port of Indiana	J.K. Cassady	KJB
1000	07-Feb-1987	Port of Indiana	Clyde Fields	KJB
1000	27-Jan-1985	Lake Gibson	J.H. Campbell	IAQ

Migration Envelopes

Spring

	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	11-Jan	17-Feb	29-Mar	25-Jun-1992	750
Central	Win. Res.	30-Jan	5-Mar	28-Mar	11-May-1963	85
South	Win. Res.	17-Jan	18-Feb	17-Mar	3-May-1982	163

Fall

	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	10-Jul-1997	10-Nov	9-Dec	27-Dec	Win. Res.	288
Central	14-Jul-1963	---	28-Nov	---	Win. Res.	20
South	14-Aug-1999	15-Nov	16-Dec	29-Dec	Win. Res.	32

References Cited

Butler, A. W. (1890) The Birds of Indiana, Appendix to *Transactions of the Indiana Horticultural Society for 1890* (available on the web).

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.