

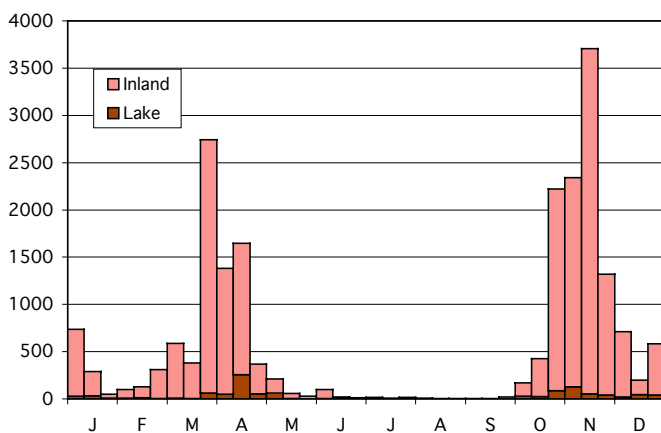
Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

Historical Information

First Published Record: A female in the C.A. Stockbridge collection was taken in 1876 (Mumford files), but the earliest completely dated record consists of three birds seen in Tolleston, Lake County, 9 May 1877 (Butler 1898).

Butler (1898) described the “Black Jacks,” as they were known by English Lake hunters, as an uncommon migrant. Keller et al. (1979) agreed with Butler’s assessment, adding that the species was very rare in winter and that breeding records existed. Mumford and Keller (1984) characterized this small duck as an uncommon migrant that winters in limited numbers and occasionally breeds.



Current Status

The Ruddy Duck is a permanent resident, though less common in summer than at other times of the year. It is a Very Common migrant (3).

Occurrence

This small duck is far more common at inland sites than on Lake Michigan (see migration histogram). The Lake Michigan to inland ratios are seven to 100 in spring and one to 25 in fall, clearly reflecting the Ruddy Duck’s penchant for smaller bodies of water.

Summer

More than 45 summer records, distributed across 19 counties, have been reported. The maximum summer count consisted of 34 birds observed by Sue Owens at the Brazil Sewage Lagoons, Clay County, 9 June 2002 (Notes sent to North American Birds).

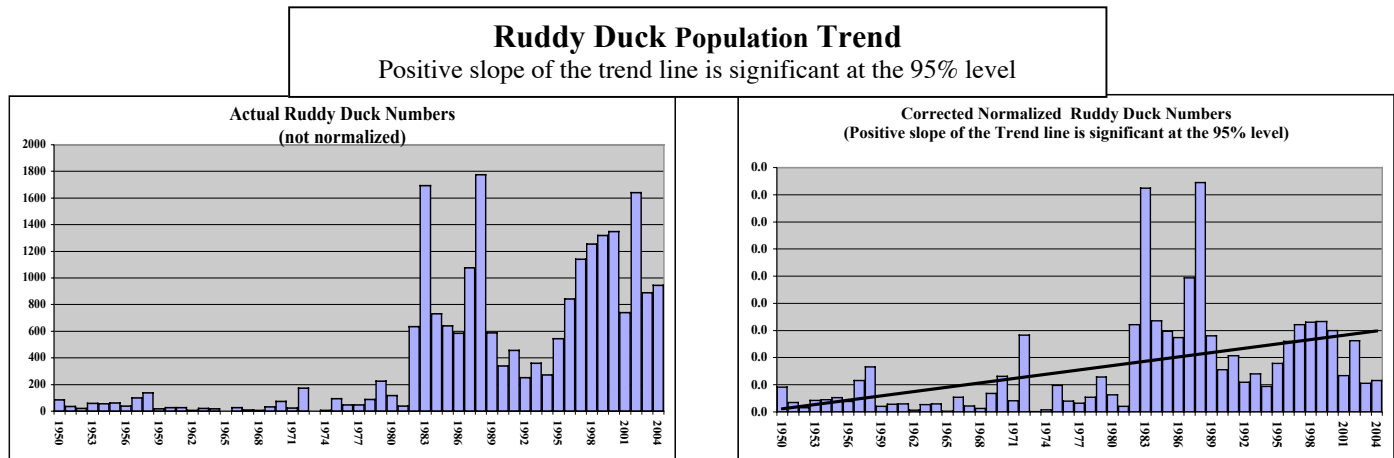
Status

Physical Evidence: Twelve skins are preserved as indicated in the Status Table (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				1
National Museum of Natural History				8
Univ. of Michigan Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	5	4	6	3
Central Tier	5	4	7	4
Southern Tier	4	3	7	4
Entire State	4	3	6	3

Population Trend

Ruddy Ducks appear to be increasing in the state. Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

According to Mumford and Keller (1984) no actual Ruddy Duck nest has been found in Indiana, but at least six broods have been reported in Lake County. The most recent of these involved a hen and seven downy chicks observed at Gleason Park (Buck 1982).

Ruddy Duck Data

Maximum Single Party Counts						
Spring						
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.		
1050	27-Mar-1988	Sullivan Co	Denny Jones	IQM		
400	16-Apr-1983	Willow Slough	E.M. Hopkins	IAQ		
350	09-Apr-1989	Turtle Cr. Res.	M.R. Brown	IQM		
Fall/Winter						
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.		
1000	13-Nov-1983	Turtle Cr. Res.	Denny Jones	REM		
449	03-Jan-1987	Sullivan Co	C.E. Keller	IAQ		
327	21-Oct-1984	LaPorte Co	R.S. Plank	IAQ		
Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	22-Mar	14-Apr	10-May	Sum. Res.	362
Central	Win. Res.	20-Mar	11-Apr	10-May	Sum. Res.	114
South	Win. Res.	14-Mar	8-Apr	8-May	Sum. Res.	126
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	11-Oct	2-Nov	22-Nov	Win. Res.	294
Central	Sum. Res.	19-Oct	7-Nov	26-Nov	Win. Res.	113
South	Sum. Res.	19-Oct	7-Nov	21-Nov	Win. Res.	155

References Cited

Buck, D., (1982) Field Notes Summer 1980, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 60:14-25.

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

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.