

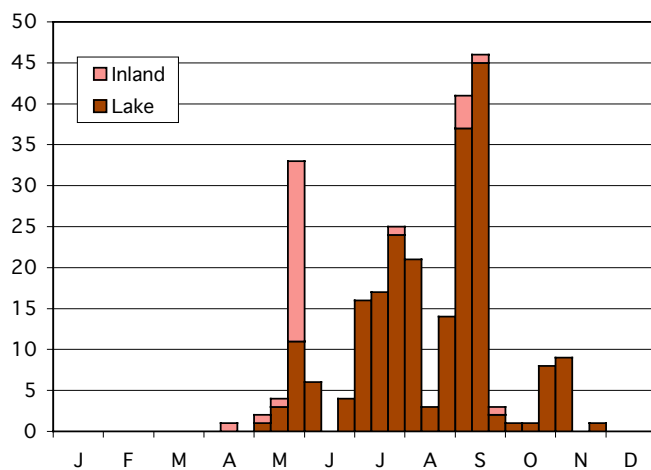
## Whimbrel

## *Numenius phaeopus*

### Historical Information

**First Published Record:** Butler (1890) included this large curlew in the Indiana avifauna, but provided no records. The first dated report occurred 3 August 1902 when R.S. Tuttle collected a bird at Calumet Heights (C.E. Keller 1958).

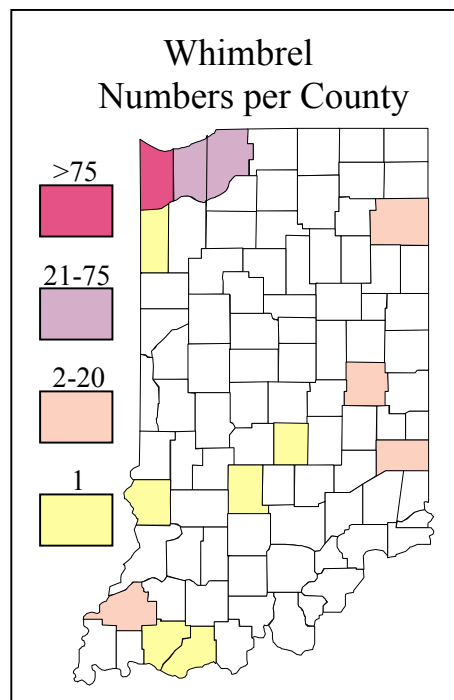
Butler (1890) considered the “Hudsonian Curlew,” as it was then known, a rare migrant (even more rare than the Long-billed Curlew). Keller (1958) listed it as very rare and Keller et al. (1979) deemed it casual. Mumford and Keller (1984) listed a number of records, but provided no assessment of the bird’s status.



### Status

**Physical Evidence:** No specimens from Indiana are known, but a photograph taken by Clyde Fields was published in the *Indiana Audubon Quarterly* Vol. 66, No. 3 (T.C. Keller 1994).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
No known specimens				0
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	7	7	6
Central Tier	n	8	n	10
Southern Tier	n	8	10	10
Entire State	n	7	7	6



### Current Status

Status of the Whimbrel varies from Uncommon (6) to Rare (7) on the lakefront, and Very Rare (8) to Accidental (10) at inland sites.

### Occurrence

As illustrated in the migration histogram the Whimbrel is far more common along Lake Michigan’s shores, than at sites away from the lake. Indeed, this elegant curlew has been reported from the lakefront in 18 of the last 20 years. In contrast inland Whimbrels have been recorded in only six years over the past two decades.

### Fall Migration

Recent lake watches at Miller Beach have revealed that migrants are likely quite regular in fall; it has been recorded annually on the lakefront since 1993. The extremely late 1987 record (see migration envelopes) involved a juvenile with a walnut size growth on one foot that lingered on Miller Beach from 4 October until 22 November (Brock



Whimbrel at Michigan City Harbor 30 August 2004. Photo by J.J. McCoy.

1988). The next latest fall record involved a flock of eight observed by J.E. Landing at Michigan City Harbor 1 November 1959.

#### Extreme Record

On 15 September 2002 J.J. McCoy and B.J. Grube conducted a twelve-hour lake watch at Miller Beach, which yielded a remarkable 37 Whimbrels, including one incredible flock that contained 28 birds (IN-BIRD).

### **Whimbrel Data**

<b>Maximum Single Party Counts</b>				
<b>Spring</b>				
<b>Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observer</b>	<b>Ref.</b>
15	26-May-2000	Summit Lake	S.A. Pancol	INB
8	25-May-1997	Miller Beach	E.M. Hopkins	EMH
6	24-May-1996	Franklin Co	W.H Buskirk	WWV
<b>Fall</b>				
<b>Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observer</b>	<b>Ref.</b>
37	15-Sep-2002	Miller Beach	J.J. McCoy	INB
12	01-Sep-1952	N. Porter Co.	Raymond Grow	IAQ
9	06-Jul-1999	Mich. City Harbor	Michael Madsen	KJB

<b>Migration Envelopes</b>						
<b>Entire State</b>						
	<b>Earliest</b>	<b>Arrive</b>	<b>Peak</b>	<b>Depart</b>	<b>Latest</b>	<b>Records</b>
<b>Spring</b>	15-Apr-2000	---	25-May	---	5-Jun-1986	16
<b>Fall</b>	24-Jun-2000	13-Jul	11-Aug	22-Sep	22-Nov-1987	94

### **References Cited**

Brock, K.J. (1988) Field Notes; Fall 1987, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 66:111-126.

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

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.

Keller, T.C. (1994) Index of Published Photographic Documentation of the Birds of Indiana, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 72:119-130.

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