

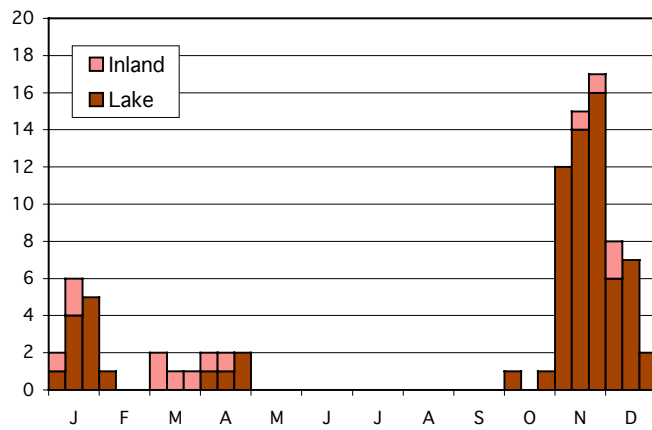
Purple Sandpiper

Calidris maritima

Historical Information

First Published Record: Indiana's first Purple Sandpiper was found by W.M. Davis and H.O. Davis at Michigan City Harbor 26 November 1948 (Keller 1958).

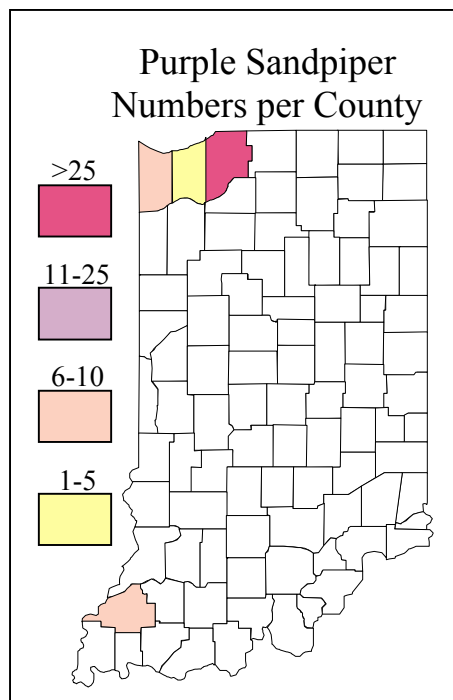
Butler (1898) relegated the Purple Sandpiper to the hypothetical list. Keller (1958) deemed it a very rare, irregular winter visitant to the Michigan City breakwater. Keller et al. (1979) listed it as very rare in fall and winter and casual in spring. Mumford and Keller (1984) basically concurred with Keller et al.



Status

Physical Evidence: One Purple Sandpiper specimen from Indiana is housed in the National Museum of Natural History (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	8	n	n	7
Central Tier	n	n	n	n
Southern Tier	9	9	n	10
Entire State	8	9	n	7



Current Status

In fall and winter the Purple Sandpiper is Rare (7) to Very Rare (8) along boulder fills on Lake Michigan. It is Occasional (9) in winter and spring at Lake Gibson.

Occurrence

The Purple Sandpiper remains perhaps Indiana's most local shorebird. It has been reported only in the three Lake District counties and in Gibson County. Even within these frequented counties, Purple Sandpipers are rarely found away from rocky breakwalls or concrete jetties. As was the case in former years, a majority of the records still come from Michigan City Harbor, which has currently yielded more than 50 records; however, there are now six records in Lake County (mostly at Miller Beach) and three in Porter County (Port of Indiana).



Juvenile Purple Sandpiper, Michigan City Harbor 9 November 2002. Photo by J.K. Cassady. This individual apparently lingered and provided a Thanksgiving Day feast for the local Peregrine Falcon (*vide* J.J. McCoy).

Spring Records

Only three spring records exist. T.C. Keller discovered a bird on the Michigan City Harbor jetty 16 April 1977. This bird lingered and was joined by a second individual on 24 April (Brock 1977). The other spring records were inland birds, which are described below.

Inland Spring Records

A bird discovered by Denny Jones at Lake Gibson in mid-January 1988 remained until at least 17 April (Brock 1989). Gary and Lisa Bowman discovered another bird at Lake Gibson 10 March 2002 (Gorney 2002).

Purple Sandpiper Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
2	24-Apr-1977	Mich. City Harb	K.J. Brock	KJB
1	25-Mar-1988	Lake Gibson	Denny Jones	IAQ
1	17-Apr-1988	Lake Gibson	Denny Jones	IAQ
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
3	06-Nov-1999	Mich. City Harb	J.K. Cassady	KJB
2	15-Dec-1985	Port of Indiana	???	KJB
2	18-Nov-1989	Hammond	S.R. Bagby	KJB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	2-Apr-1977	---	---	---	24-Apr-1977	1
Central	---	---	---	---	---	---
South	Win. Vis.	---	---	---	17-Apr-1988	1
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	9-Oct-1977	6-Nov	23-Nov	12-Dec	Win. Vis.	51
Central	---	---	---	---	---	---
South	12-Nov-1989	12-Nov	30-Nov	9-Dec	Win. Vis.	4

References Cited

Brock, K.J. (1977) Purple Sandpiper: A Spring Record, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 55:89.

Brock, K.J. (1989) Field Notes; Spring 1988, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 67:27-39.

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

Gorney, D. (2002) Field Notes Spring 2002, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 80:193-212.

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.

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