

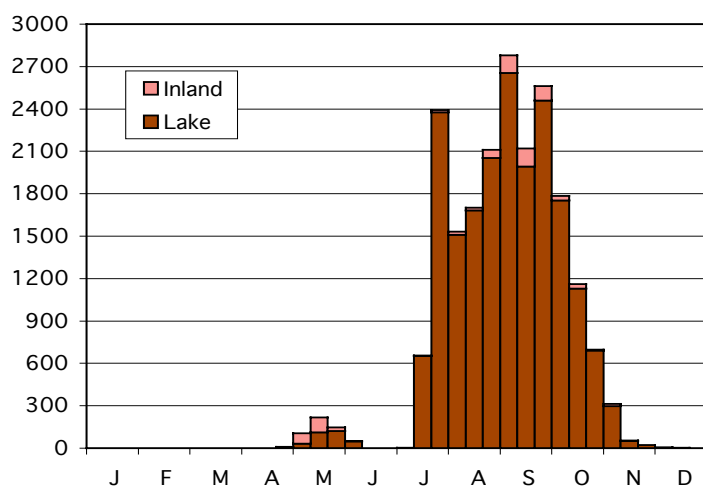
Sanderling

Calidris alba

Historical Information

First Published Record: The state's earliest published Sanderling record was reported at Miller Beach on 24 August 1896 (Butler 1898).

Butler (1890) deemed the Sanderling a migrant: "in most localities rare, but very common in flocks on the shore of Lake Michigan in late summer and early autumn." Keller (1958) considered it abundant on Lake Michigan's shores, but rare inland. In the vicinity of Lake Michigan, Keller et al. (1979) listed it as very rare in spring and fairly common in fall; it was casual to very rare elsewhere. Mumford and Keller (1984) characterized the Sanderling as common to fairly common in fall, uncommon in spring, and casual in winter.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some 49 museum specimens are known to exist (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				12
Chicago Field Museum				31
National Museum of Natural History				3
Milwaukee Public Museum				3
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	9	6	3	3
Central Tier	n	7	10	7
Southern Tier	n	6	9	6
Entire State	9	6	3	3

Current Status

The Sanderling is a Very Common (3) late summer and fall migrant on Lake Michigan beaches. Otherwise it is Uncommon (6) to Accidental (10).

Occurrence

The migration histogram illustrates that the Sanderling is primarily a fall migrant and that a preponderance of the birds occur on the lakefront. Indeed the ratio of lakefront to inland birds is about 26 to 1. It is quite rare in spring, especially away from Lake Michigan; consequently, the observation of sixty-three by Denny Jones in Gibson County 9 May 1988 (Brock 1989), is most extraordinary. This count is almost double the next highest inland spring tally.

Summer Records

Most summer records involve migrants. The latest spring record occurred 7 June and the earliest obvious fall migrant appeared on 9 July. Falling between these two reports is an anomalous record of one bird at Michigan City Harbor on 28 June 1994 (Brock notes). It is unclear whether this latter record was an exceptionally early fall migrant or perhaps a wandering non-breeder.

Fall Migration

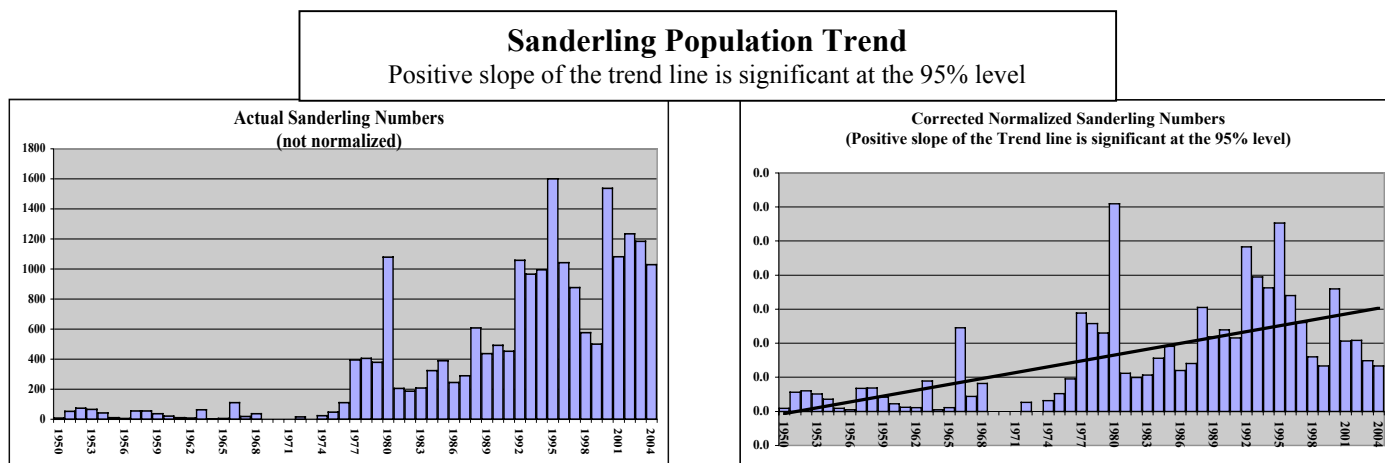
The southbound juvenile flight is approximately four or five weeks behind the adult migration. It is now apparent that many fall migrants are enroute to the western coast of South America. S.R. Bagby observed two birds with colored leg bands at Michigan City Harbor; one had been banded in Chili and the other in Peru. On 20 July 2004 M. Topp recorded a color-marked Sanderling that had been banded on the New Jersey shore of Delaware Bay in May 2002 (pers. comm.).

Winter Records

Winter reports primarily involve tardy migrants that linger into December. Some five such December records exist, all from the lakefront; the latest of these, a single bird, was observed at Miller Beach 23 December 1980 by Brainard Palmer-Ball et al. (Buck 1982). However, a Sanderling was also seen by H.C. West, Raymond Grow et al. at Gary 16 January 1954 (Keller 1958) and was still present 6 February 1954 (Nolan 1954).

Population Trend

Considerable coverage in the media has suggested a precipitous decline in Sanderlings. Although this might well be true elsewhere, the population that migrates through Indiana appears hale and hearty. Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Sanderling Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
63	09-May-1988	Gibson Co	Denny Jones	IQM
50	27-May-1951	N. Lake Co	L.C. Binford	CEK
37	20-May-1984	Mich. City Harb	R.S. Plank	IAQ
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
535	23-Sep-1980	West Beach	Raymond Grow	IAQ
350	03-Oct-1980	Gary	Raymond Grow	IAQ
228	04-Sep-2003	Lakefront	K.J. Brock	KJB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	24-Apr-2004	10-May	20-May	31-May	7-Jun-2003	80
Central	5-May-1924	---	---	---	28-May-1995	9
South	19-Apr-1990	---	13-May	---	2-Jun-1991	21
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	28-Jun-1994	26-Jul	3-Sep	21-Oct	23-Dec-1980	1315
Central	18-Jul-1982	10-Aug	13-Sep	7-Oct	6-Nov-1995	87
South	15-Jul-1987	15-Aug	12-Sep	13-Oct	18-Nov-1979	89
By Age: Fall flight						
Adult	15-Jul-1993	21-Jul	9-Aug	27-Aug	27-Sep-1997	339
Juv.	9-Aug-1996	25-Aug	15-Sep	18-Oct	22-Nov-1986	357

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