

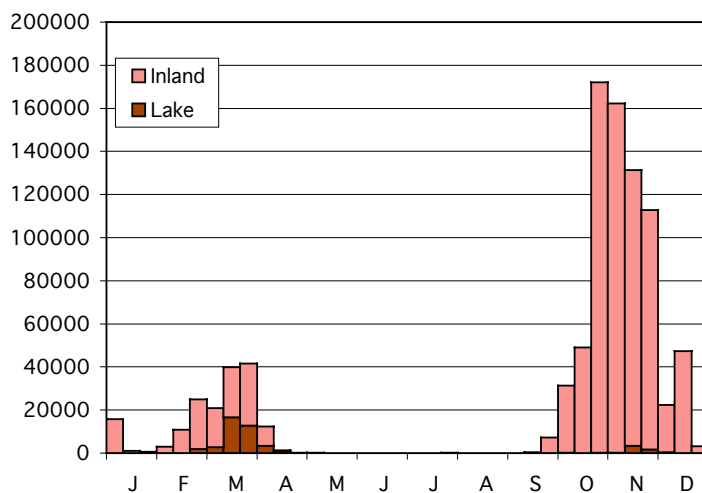
Sandhill Crane

Grus canadensis

Historical Information

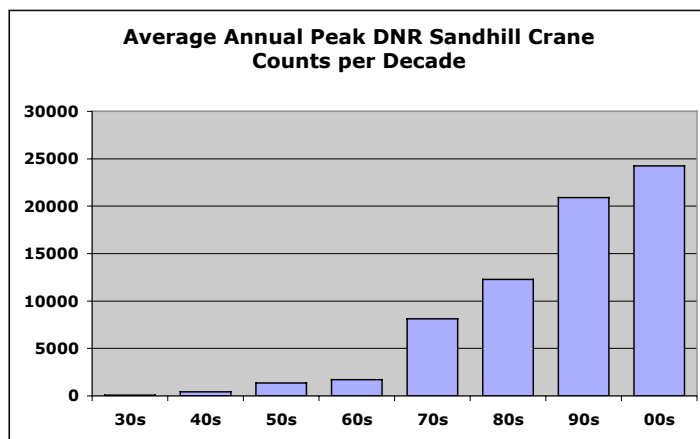
First Published record: The Mumford files indicate that J.J. Audubon recorded this species on Diamond Island in the Ohio River 3 November 1820; however, this observation might well have actually occurred in Kentucky. Therefore, Indiana's earliest certain report occurred 13 April 1826 when S.C. Cox reported this species in Fountain County (DNR files).

Butler (1890) referred to the Sandhill Crane as a regular but generally rare migrant and a rare summer resident. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a locally abundant migrant in the north, but a rare migrant elsewhere. Mumford and Keller (1984) documented the growth of Indiana's population, but provided no status assessment.



Current Status

The current status ranges from Very Abundant (1) in fall and winter to Uncommon (6) in summer.



Status

Physical Evidence: Ten specimens are preserved in the nation's museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				3
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2
Moore Museum at Earlham College				2
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				2
Univ. of Georgia Museum				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	2	2	6	1
Central Tier	3	3	9	3
Southern Tier	2	3	n	2
Entire State	1	2	6	1

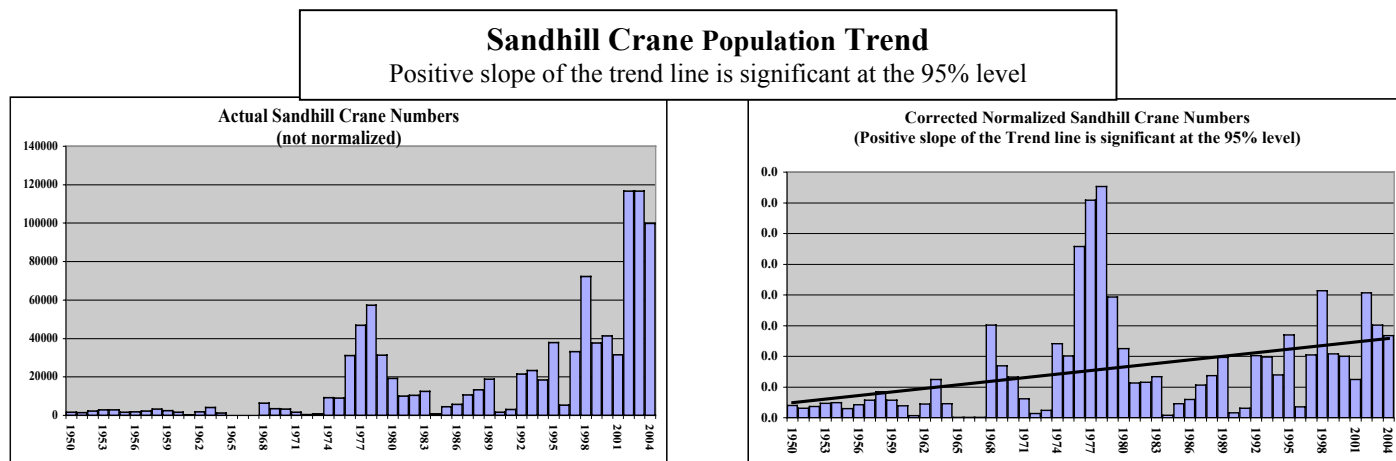
Castrale and Bergens (1999) indicated that virtually the entire Greater Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis tabida*) population stages at Jasper-Pulaski FWA during the fall flight. Peak fall count data in that report, plus additional counts provided by J. Bergens, and information from the Mumford files, were incorporated into the adjacent graph, which illustrates the dramatic growth of the Indiana population.

Occurrence

Sandhill Cranes have been reported in some 79 Indiana counties; however, by far the greatest concentration occurs at Jasper-Pulaski FWA. Mumford and Keller (1984) note that the cranes began using Jasper-Pulaski FWA as a staging area in the late 1930s. According to notes in the Mumford files no cranes were observed at Jasper-Pulaski FWA until potholes were dug in 1934 (*fide* W.B. Barnes). Following this development, the population has increased considerably.

Population Trend

Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

Butler (1890) noted breeding at North Judson and suggested that it was formerly a common nester in the large northwestern Indiana marshes. Castrale et al. (1998) indicated that nesting subsequently declined and ceased entirely by 1929. According to Keller et al. (1979) L.A. Casebere reported downy young in northeastern Indiana during the summer of 1976. By 1982 the crane was reestablished as a breeding bird (Castrale et al. 1998). Breeding data by county was summarized by Castrale and Bergens (1999); they indicated nesting evidence in Elkhart, Jasper, Kosciusko, Lake, LaGrange, LaPorte, Newton, Noble and Steuben Counties. In the Indiana Atlas, Castrale et al. (1998) listed confirmed breeding in Steuben (several blocks), Elkhart, and Noble Counties.

Sandhill Crane Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
6000	09-Mar-1995	Jasper-Pulaski	K.J. Brock	KJB
4500	22-Mar-2004	Multiple Sites	J.K. Cassady	INB
4000	14-Mar-2003	Kankakee FWA	J.K. Cassady	INB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
34629	26-Nov-2002	Jasper-Pulaski	DNR- staff	NNB
27642	19-Nov-1997	Jasper-Pulaski	J.S. Castrale	IAQ
24619	18-Dec-2003	Jasper-Pulaski	DNR- staff	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	10-Mar	25-Mar	19-Apr	Sum. Res.	751
Central	Win. Res.	3-Mar	11-Mar	24-Mar	26-May-2000	129
South	Win. Res.	3-Mar	9-Mar	22-Mar	10-May-1986	68
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	19-Sep	28-Oct	21-Nov	Win. Res.	320
Central	25-Jul-1999	8-Oct	13-Nov	28-Nov	Win. Res.	76
South	17-Sep-1960	2-Nov	14-Nov	26-Nov	Win. Res.	92

References Cited

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

Castrale, J.S. and J. Bergens (1999) Status of Sandhill Cranes in Indiana, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 77:42-50.

Castrale, J.S., E.M. Hopkins, and C.E. Keller (1998) *Atlas of breeding Birds of Indiana*, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 388 pp.

DNR files, A collection of data compiled on computer disks for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources by C.E. Keller.

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.