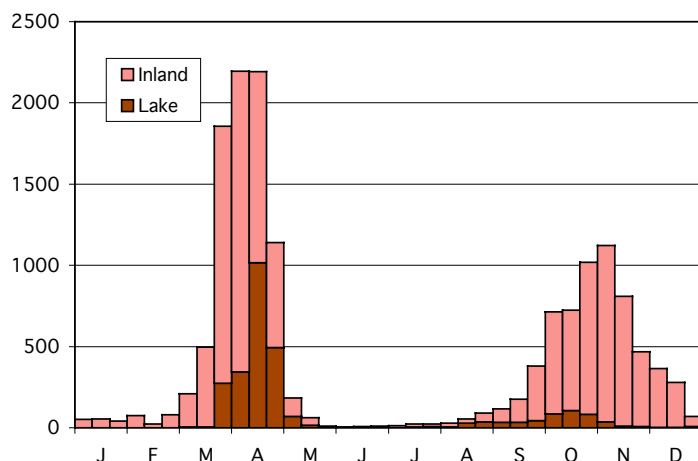


Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata*

Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1898) described a snipe call heard in May 1876, but the earliest dated report occurred in Carroll County 18 March 1879; a specimen was collected at that location the following day (Mumford files).

Butler (1890) referred to the "Gutter Snipe" as a common migrant, and rare summer resident northward, noting that it bred and speculated that it might winter in southern counties. Keller (1958) deemed it an abundant migrant and rare winter resident; he also noted the absence of recent breeding records. Mumford and Keller (1984) considered the "Common Snipe" a common migrant, a rare to very rare local winter resident, and a casual breeder in northern Indiana.



Status

Some 13 specimens are housed in North American museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				3
National Museum of Natural History				6
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				3
Univ. of Michigan Museum				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	6	3	7	4
Central Tier	6	5	n	5
Southern Tier	6	4	9	4
Entire State	6	3	7	4

Current Status

Wilson's Snipe is a Very Common (3) to Common (4) migrant; it is Uncommon (6) in winter, and is a Rare (7) summer visitor.

Occurrence

If one were to pick any five-day increment of the year, at least one Wilson's Snipe has occurred during that period. The lowest numbers occur in June and the largest counts occur in late March and April. The snipe shows a penchant for wet pastures and damp, weedy fields.

Breeding

Butler (1890) listed breeding, though sparingly, in Miami, Lake, and Starke Counties. Over ensuing decades summer birds were often reported, but evidence of nesting was rarely found. Mumford and Keller (1984) list downy young in St. Joseph County in 1934 and a possible nest at Kingsbury FWA in 1964. Breeding was not detected in the Indiana Atlas (Castrale, et al. 1998). The most recent report involved an adult and two downy chicks discovered and photographed by J.S. Castrale in Orange County 17 May 1993 (Brown 1993).

Wilson's Snipe Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
500	4-Apr-1955	Willow Slough	Wm. Madden	REM
450	27-Mar-1999	Franklin Co	W.H. Buskirk	INB
400	10-Apr-2004	Newton Co	J.J. McCoy	INB
Fall/Winter				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
110	16-Dec-1998	Lake Monroe	D.R. Whitehead	NNB
102	16-Nov-1999	Lake Monroe	D.R. Whitehead	INB
100	20-Oct-1981	Montgomery Co	A.W. Bruner	REM

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Vis.	26-Mar	14-Apr	1-May	Sum. Vis.	524
Central	Win. Vis.	19-Mar	12-Apr	6-May	Sum. Vis.	173
South	Win. Vis.	11-Mar	31-Mar	26-Apr	Sum. Vis.	179
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Vis.	25-Aug	15-Oct	22-Nov	Win. Vis.	585
Central	Sum. Vis.	3-Sep	20-Oct	21-Nov	Win. Vis.	160
South	Sum. Vis.	3-Sep	27-Oct	30-Nov	Win. Vis.	141

References Cited

Brown, M.R. (1994) Field Notes Spring 1993, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 72:193-214.

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

Keller, C.E. (1958) The Shorebird families: Charadriidae, Scolopacidae, Recurvirostridae, and Phalaropidae of Indiana. Part 4. *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 36:2-39.

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.