

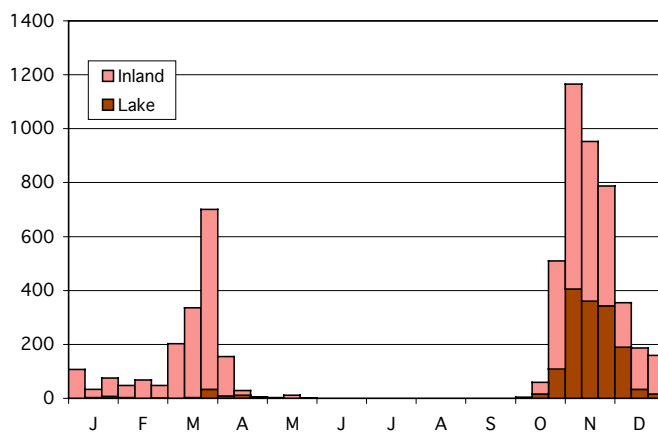
## Tundra Swan

## *Cygnus columbianus*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: A specimen in the A.W. Butler collection, taken in Franklin County 7 March 1888, (Butler, 1898), constitutes Indiana's earliest Tundra Swan report.

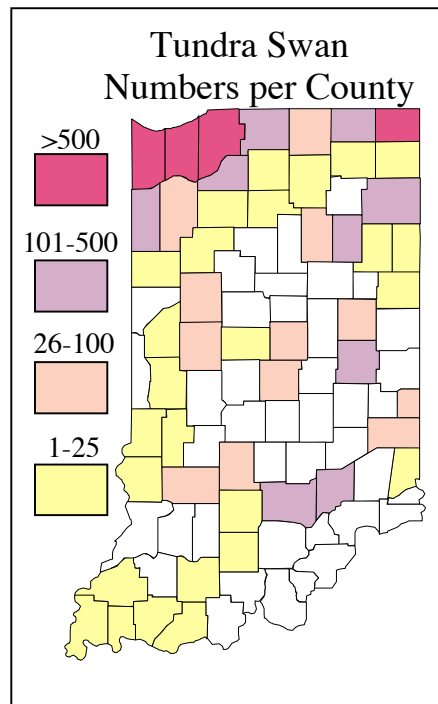
Citing the above record Butler (1890) deemed the "Whistling Swan" a rare migrant. Upon publication of his 1898 volume, however, Butler's assessment was modified to a "Not common migrant and rare winter resident." Keller et al. (1979) characterized it as a very rare to casual migrant, which was casual in winter. Pointing out that early abundance estimates might have involved confusion with the then present Trumpeter Swan, Mumford and Keller (1984) called the Tundra Swan a rare but regular migrant in both spring and fall.



### Status

Physical Evidence: Seven Tundra Swan specimens are housed in the nation's museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards, 1987).

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



### Current Status

In the northern tier the Tundra Swan is Fairly Common (5) in fall and winter and Uncommon (6) in spring.

### Occurrence

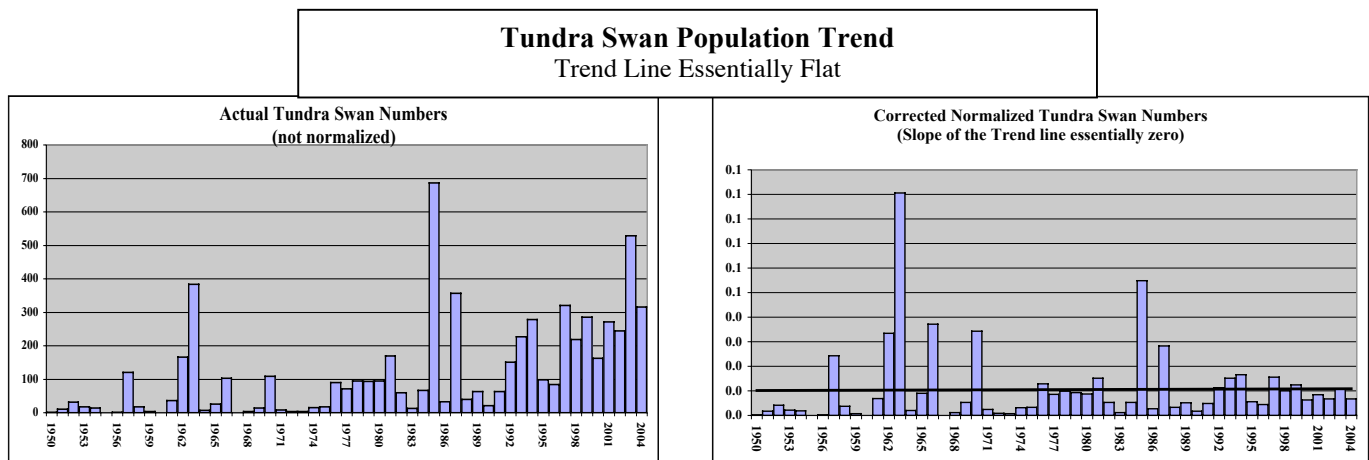
Tundra Swans have been recorded annually over the past thirty years. The mean yearly count over the past two decades is 209 per year. However, this number is somewhat deceiving as Tundra Swans frequently occur in flocks. Occasional large flocks significantly elevate the annual mean. This handsome bird has been recorded in at least 58 counties.

In fall Tundra Swans migrate from northern Canada to wintering grounds in Mid-Atlantic states. The primary flight corridor passes north of Indiana;

consequently, birds that appear in the state are south of their normal track. Accordingly, the northern tier of counties records more occurrences than the balance of the state, where it is a rare migrant and winter visitor.

#### Population Trend

As shown in the plots the trend line is very near horizontal, suggesting that Indiana numbers have not changed significantly in the last 50 years.



#### **Tundra Swan Data**

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
104	19-Mar-1963	Newton Co.	DNR- staff	REM
93	25-Mar-1963	Newton Co.	T.L. Hoekstra	DNR
92	26-Mar-1998	Kankakee FWA	J.J. McCoy	IQM
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
280	6-Nov-2003	Steuben Co	J.A. Haw	INB
176	30-Nov-1985	Huntington Co	Sandy Schacht	IAQ
150	12-Nov-1987	Pigeon River FWA	DNR- staff	NIQ

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	12-Mar	24-Mar	7-Apr	24-May-1993	118
Central	Win. Res.	10-Mar	24-Mar	7-Apr	13-May-1978	26
South	Win. Res.	6-Mar	23-Mar	7-Apr	15-Apr-2003	23
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	11-Oct-1994	28-Oct	13-Nov	4-Dec	Win. Res.	213
Central	24-Oct-1999	2-Nov	22-Nov	20-Dec	Win. Res.	86
South	1-Oct-1951	---	11-Nov	---	Win. Res.	27

### **References Cited**

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

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

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.

Richards, R.L. (1987) The Vertebrate Collection of the Indiana State Museum: "Old" Specimens and Records, *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science* 97:547-570.