

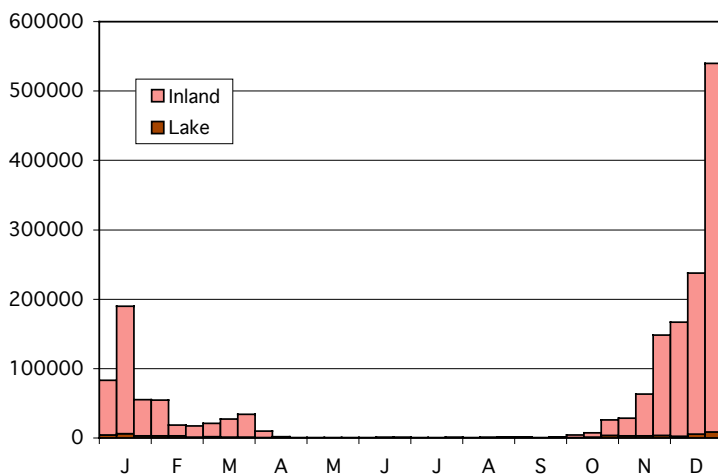
Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

Historical Information

First Published Record: An albino female in the C.A. Stockbridge collection was taken in 1974 (Mumford files), but the earliest dated record was 10 February 1881 in Starke County (Butler 1898).

Butler (1898) termed the Mallard an abundant migrant and winter resident. Keller et al. (1979) called it a common migrant, which is fairly common in winter, and rare to uncommon in summer. Mumford and Keller (1984) believed that the Mallard was a common migrant and winter resident, noting that it was an uncommon summer resident in the northern quarter of the state.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some 27 Mallard specimens are housed as indicated in the Status Table (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

| STATUS TABLE | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Specimens | | | | |
| Museum | | | | No. |
| Chicago Academy of Sciences | | | | 2 |
| National Museum of Natural History | | | | 9 |
| Univ. of Michigan Museum | | | | 7 |
| Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory | | | | 9 |
| 20-Year Abundance Table | | | | |
| | Win | Spr | Sum | Fall |
| Northern Tier | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Central Tier | 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Southern Tier | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 |
| Entire State | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 |

Current Status

The Mallard remains an Abundant (2) permanent resident and the most prevalent duck in the state. It is most common during the winter months when numbers place it in the Very Abundant (1) category.

Occurrence

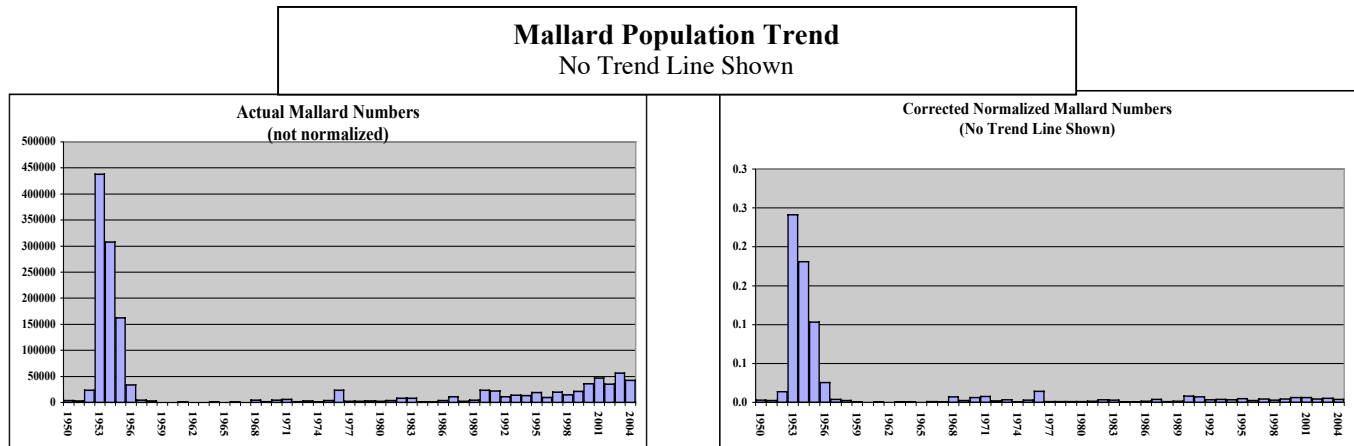
The widespread Mallard has been reported in at least 86 counties. While conducting routine waterfowl surveys the DNR staff recorded most of the largest counts. The maximum tally in the past twenty years was 30,000, seen at Lake Gibson by J.J. McCoy 2 February 2001 (IN-BIRD).

Summer Records

Mallards are least common in summer and are more prevalent northward during that period. The largest summer count of 270 was recorded at Jasper-Pulaski FWA on 16 June 1945 (Mumford files).

Population Trend

The enormous DNR survey reports of the 1950s, which have not been included for the more recent years, impose a negative aspect (no trend line shown) to the population trend plots. Data from 1960 to 2004 suggest an increasing population.



Breeding

Along with the Wood Duck this is Indiana's most common breeding duck. Castrale et al. (1998) reported nesting evidence in 60 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks. Eggs have been reported between 23 March and 29 June (Mumford and Keller 1984).

Mallard Data

| Maximum Single Party Counts | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|------|
| Winter | | | | |
| Number | Date | Location | Observer | Ref. |
| 250000 | 31-Dec-1954 | Willow Slough | DNR- staff | REM |
| 150000 | 31-Dec-1955 | Hovey Lake | R.E. Mumford | REM |
| 144000 | 15-Jan-1953 | Posey Co | DNR- staff | REM |
| 120000 | 19-Dec-1953 | Willow Slough | DNR- staff | REM |
| 100000 | 5-Dec-1953 | Willow Slough | DNR- staff | REM |

| Migration Envelopes | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|
| Spring | | | | | | |
| | Earliest | Arrive | Peak | Depart | Latest | Records |
| North | Win. Res. | 10-Mar | 5-Apr | 24-May | Sum-Res. | 453 |
| Central | Win. Res. | 2-Mar | 20-Mar | 14-May | Sum-Res. | 113 |
| South | Win. Res. | 4-Mar | 18-Mar | 9-May | Sum-Res. | 112 |
| Fall | | | | | | |
| | Earliest | Arrive | Peak | Depart | Latest | Records |
| North | Sum-Res. | 21-Aug | 25-Oct | 23-Nov | Win. Res. | 694 |
| Central | Sum-Res. | 17-Aug | 3-Nov | 26-Nov | Win. Res. | 71 |
| South | Sum-Res. | 4-Oct | 5-Nov | 24-Nov | Win. Res. | 117 |

References Cited

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

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

IN-BIRD, a Listserv dealing with Indiana birds developed and maintained by P.W. Kelly. The records are archived at: <http://listserv.indiana.edu/archives/in-bird-l.html>

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.