

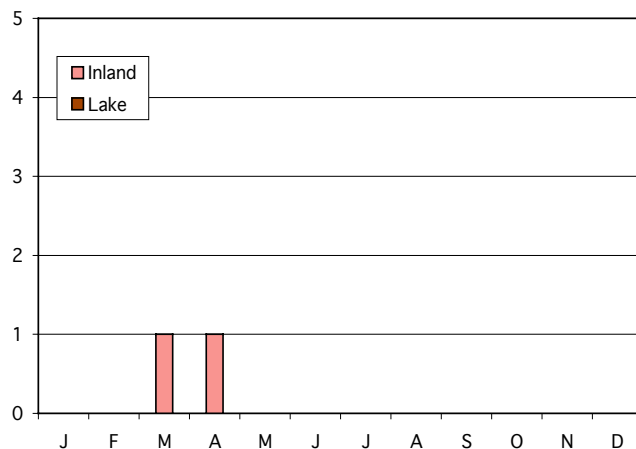
Eskimo Curlew

Numenius borealis

Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1890) mentioned specimens in the Cuvier Club collection, Cincinnati, Ohio, which were taken in Vincennes and Chalmers, but provided no dates. A note in the Mumford files indicates that one of the Chalmers birds was collected 15 March 1879.

Butler (1898) considered the Eskimo Curlew a rare migrant. Keller (1958) deemed it extinct and Keller et al. (1979) listed it as extirpated. Mumford and Keller (1984) described a second Indiana record and suggested that the species was “near-extinction.”



Status/ Occurrence

Physical Evidence: Thanks to Don Gorney’s museum research, a female Eskimo Curlew skin, collected at Chalmers 15 March 1879, was located in the Cincinnati Museum Center (Gorney 2003). In that museum Gorney also found two unlabeled specimens, which might have originated in Indiana. Gorney also found a specimen from Indiana in the Royal Ontario Museum. That bird was a male collected at Chalmers, White County on 19 April, possibly in 1890 (there is some uncertainty about the year).

Current Status

As there have been no Indiana records in more than 100 years, the Eskimo Curlew can no longer be considered part of the state’s contemporary avifauna.

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.

Gorney, D. (2003) Eskimo Curlew in Indiana: a Historical Review, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 81:5-10

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

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Cincinnati Museum Center				1
Royal Ontario Museum				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	n	n	n
Central Tier	n	n	n	n
Southern Tier	n	n	n	n
Entire State	n	n	n	n

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.