

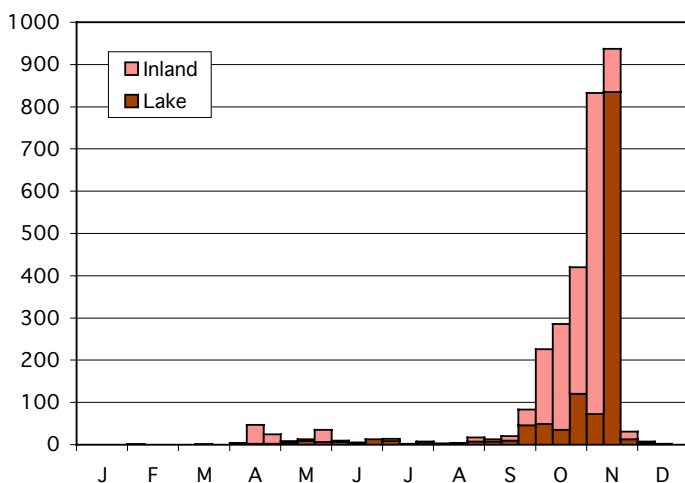
Franklin's Gull

Larus pipixcan

Historical Information

First Published Record: An adult female collected at Liverpool, Lake County on 3 May 1898 (Butler 1929), provided Indiana's first record.

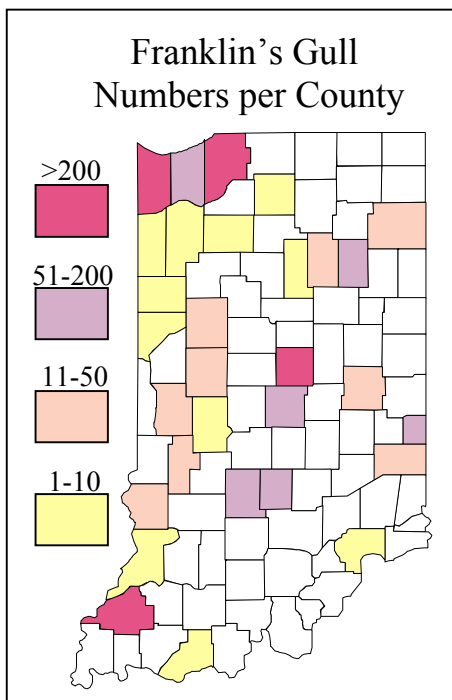
Butler (1898) listed no records but described the Franklin's Gull as an occasional migrant. Keller et al. (1979) called it casual and Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed this species casual in spring and rare in fall.



Status

Physical Evidence: At least two Franklin's Gull specimens are preserved in the University of Michigan Museum (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	9	7	7	4
Central Tier	n	9	n	6
Southern Tier	10	7	8	5
Entire State	9	7	7	4



Current Status

Franklin's Gull is most frequently encountered as a fall migrant when it is Common (4) in the northern tier. It is also Occasional (9) to Accidental (10) in winter.

Occurrence

This small gull of the continental interior frequents lakes and reservoirs. It has occurred in some 30 Indiana counties and is more prevalent in the western reaches of the state (see distribution map). During migration Franklin's Gulls display a propensity for flocking and most of the large counts involve flocks.

Extreme Records

Mumford and Keller (1984) described Val Nolan's observation of Indiana's largest Franklin's Gull count, which occurred at Geist Reservoir on 6 November 1948. The birds arose from the reservoir surface in a large "funnel-shaped" cloud that was about a quarter mile across. The estimated 600 gulls in this flock still constitute about 20 percent of all the Franklin's Gulls ever reported in Indiana.

Indiana's second largest count was associated with a deep low-pressure cell centered over Iowa. The regional impact of this "Great Storm" is described in Brinkley (1999). On 11 November 1998 a local record 66 birds were counted at Miller Beach. The following morning, however, K.J. Brock was overwhelmed by the passage of 477 in 1.5 hours. At one time flocks containing 90 and 80 individuals were simultaneously visible (Brock notes).

Plumages

As shown in the plumage table, adults are most common, followed by first-year birds.

Percent of Aged Plumages			
Adult	2nd-year	1st-year or juv.	Imm
43%	8%	40%	9%

Winter Records

Six December records, involving some nine individuals, exist for Indiana. The latest of these occurred at Lake Monroe 20 December 1997, when D.R. Whitehead observed a first-year bird (Jackson 1999). There are no January records, but J.D. Webster reported a Franklin's Gull at Lake Gibson 3 February 1978 (Mumford files).

Franklin's Gull Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
23	29-May-2004	Lake Gibson	J.J. McCoy	INB
20	21-Apr-1957	Tippecanoe Co	I.W. Burr	NIQ
8	18-Apr-1984	Warren Co	F. Worrall	IAQ
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
600	06-Nov-1948	Hamilton Co	Val Nolan	REM
477	12-Nov-1998	Miller Beach	K.J. Brock	KJB
82	24-Oct-1995	Multiple Sites*	J.J. McCoy	IAQ
* Huntington Co (65) and Geist Reservoir (17)				

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	14-Mar-1964	17-Apr	15-May	6-Jun	Sum. Vis.	30
Central	7-Apr-1996	---	---	---	Sum. Vis.	7
South	1-Apr-2005	---	4-May	---	Sum. Vis.	16
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Vis.	17-Sep	25-Oct	15-Nov	8-Dec-1956	228
Central	Sum. Vis.	6-Oct	30-Oct	18-Nov	30-Nov-1998	48
South	Sum. Vis.	28-Sep	21-Oct	11-Nov	20-Dec-1997	96

References Cited

Brinkley, E.S. (1999) Changing Seasons: low pressure, *North American Birds*, 53:12-19.

Brock notes: personal field notes and seasonal summaries beginning in 1972.

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

Butler, A. W. (1929) Rare Birds in Cincinnati Collections, *Auk* 46:196-199.

Jackson, S.F. (1999) Field Notes Winter 1997-98, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 77:101-125.

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.