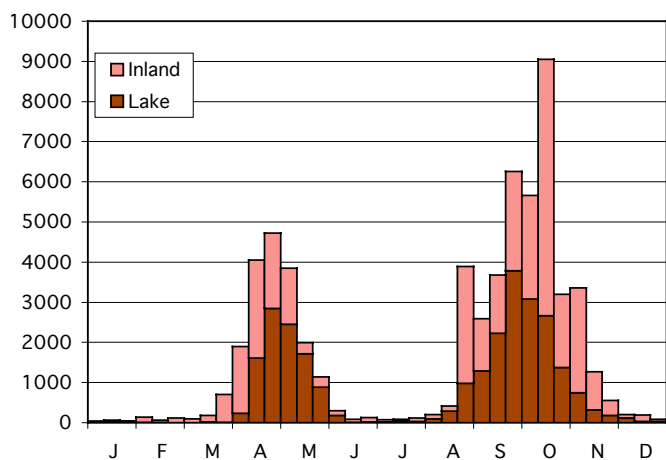


Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*

Historical Information

First Published Record: The earliest published cormorant record for Indiana occurred 8 May 1858 in Marion County (Butler 1898).

The Double-crested Cormorant was listed as an irregular winter visitor and regular, but not common, migrant (Butler 1890). Keller et al. (1979) considered it a very rare migrant. *The Birds of Indiana* (Mumford and Keller 1984) refers to this species as a rare to very rare migrant, which is casual in summer and winter. Bruner (2002) agreed with this status.



Status

Physical Evidence: Six specimens are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer listing, and Richards 1987).

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

Current Status

Today the Cormorant is a permanent resident, which is Very Common (3) in migration.

Occurrence

Along with populations throughout the eastern United States, Indiana's cormorant numbers have expanded significantly. Migration period numbers have exploded and records have been logged in all four seasons every year since 1987. Note that all of the largest counts (see Maximum Single Party Count table) were recorded in 1999 or later, attesting to the increased abundance of this species.

Fall Migration

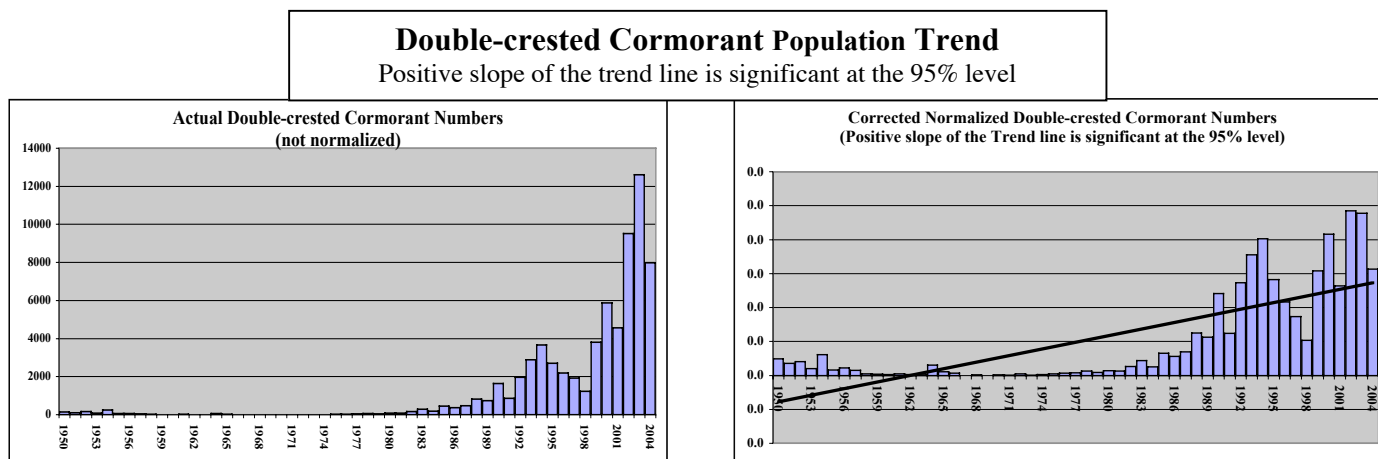
Autumn flocks containing several hundred birds are encountered on Lake Michigan. During this period enormous groups also accumulate at Lake Gibson (see table of Largest Single Party Counts).

Summer/Winter

The maximum summer count consists of 226 active nests at the East Chicago colony (see Breeding section). Though frequently reported in December, the largest January tally was 22, seen by Joy Bower 24 January 1994 in East Chicago (Brock records).

Population Trend

The remarkable increase in the Double-crested Cormorant population described above is corroborated by the Population Trend plots. Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

S.E. Perkins (1935) reported an inactive nest believed to have belonged to this species at Hovey Lake, Posey County in 1929 and Mumford and Keller (1984) describe the periodic nesting of small numbers at that site between 1934 and 1953. These authors also report the occurrence of eight or nine nests (but no eggs) at Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area (Newton County) 5 July 1953. Another breeding effort involved the unsuccessful incubation of an adult at Lake Gibson mid-July through August 1999 (Bruner 2002). The states largest breeding effort was reported by J.S. Castrale, who while visiting the ISPAT Inland Steel plant on the East Chicago lakefront 7 June 2004, discovered forty-one nests, most of which appeared to contain three or four eggs (IN-BIRD). The following year he estimated that this colony contained 226 nests on 2 June 2005 (IN-BIRD).

Double-crested Cormorant Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
750	24-Apr-1999	Lakefront	J.K. Cassady	KJB
449	19-Apr-1999	Lake Gibson	G. & L.Bowman	INB
425	9-Apr-2002	Whitewater S.P.	W.H. Buskirk	INB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
3000	12-Oct-2002	Lake Gibson	G. & L.Bowman	NNB
2000	27-Aug-2000	Lake Gibson	James Hengeveld	INB
1000	15-Oct-2001	Lake Gibson	J.S. Castrale	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. res.	10-Apr	28-Apr	22-May	Sum. res.	505
Central	Win. res.	7-Apr	26-Apr	31-May	Sum. res.	95
South	Win. res.	25-Mar	19-Apr	15-May	Sum. res.	171
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. res.	24-Aug	2-Oct	7-Nov	Win. res.	1014
Central	Sum. res.	7-Aug	2-Oct	14-Nov	Win. res.	102
South	Sum. res.	28-Aug	6-Oct	6-Nov	Win. res.	251

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