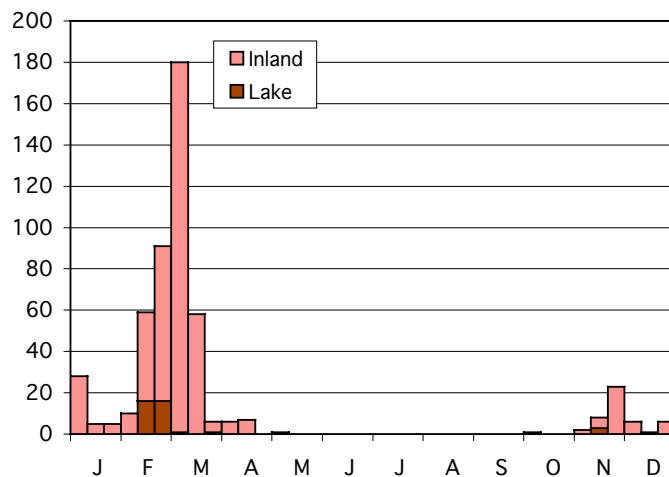


Chen rossii

First Published Record: A sight record at Willow Slough FWA on 30 December 1965 (Mumford 1966), constitutes Indiana's first Ross's Goose report.

Butler (1898) did not mention this small goose. Both Keller et al. (1979) and Mumford and Keller (1984) cite the above report as Indiana's only record.



Current Status

Today Ross's Goose is a Rare (7) migrant and winter visitor.

Occurrence

Along with recent upswings of the Snow Goose population, Ross's Goose numbers have increased drastically. Following R.E. Mumford's initial sighting, the state's second record occurred in Sullivan County in 1985. On 10 March 1985 D. Jones discovered one within a large Snow Goose flock; this individual was seen by many and at least three Ross's Geese were present at the site on 17 March (Brock 1986). This small goose has now been recorded in at least 33 counties; records are distributed fairly uniformly across the state. It has been recorded annually since 1992 and an average of 0.9 birds per year have been reported over the past fifteen years.

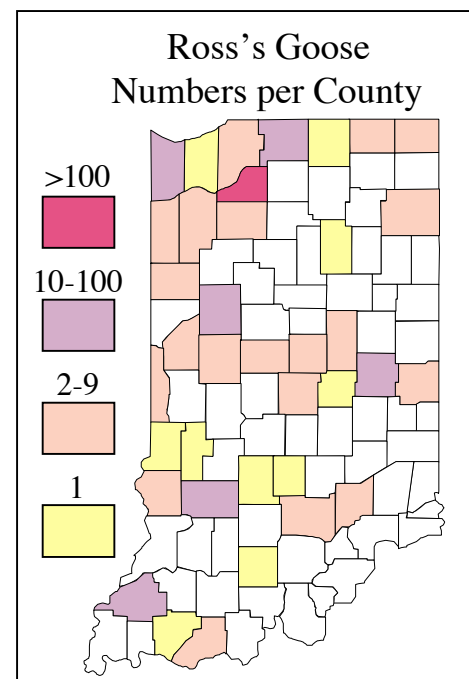
Migration

Ross's Goose is more common in spring than in fall. The two spring counts of six (see Maximum Single Party Counts table), likely involved the same birds. The May record was photographed by A.W. Bruner 8 May 1993 at Lake

Status

Physical Evidence: There is one known Ross's Goose specimen from Indiana (Bruner 2004). A number of photographs have been published in the *Indiana Audubon Quarterly* (see Bruner 2004).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
J. Moore Museum, Earlham College				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	7	7	n	9
Central Tier	7	7	n	7
Southern Tier	7	7	n	8
Entire State	7	7	n	7



Waveland and the early October record consisted of an adult seen by E.M. Hopkins at Mulvey Pond, Tippecanoe County 6 October 2002 (IN-BIRD).

Extreme Records

Prior to 2006 the state's maximum daily Ross's Goose count was only eight birds. This tally was obliterated during a spectacular late winter/early spring 2006 flight at Kankakee FWA. The first large total was recorded on 19 February when B.J. Grube counted (37) geese. The most unprecedented numbers, however, occurred 7 March when Bob Huguenard and John Kendall estimated that a phenomenal 120 Ross's Geese were present. In addition to these impressive tallies G.A. Williamson identified 43 birds at this site on 12 March.



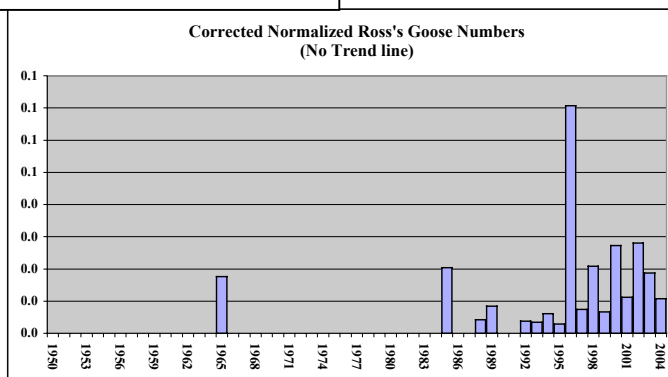
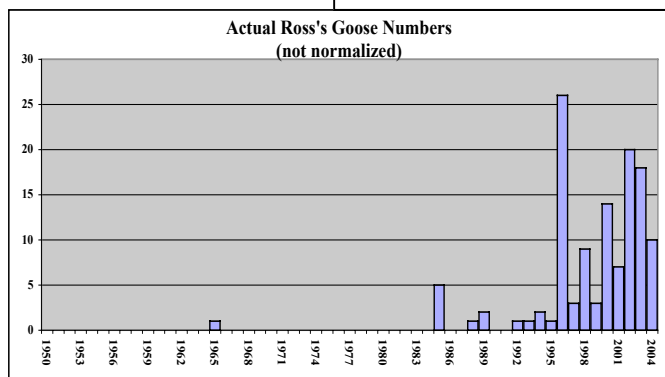
Ross's Goose Kankakee FWA, Starke County 10 March 2004. Photo by J.J. McCoy.

Population Trend

Although no trend line is plotted, the increase in Ross's Goose numbers is quite apparent on the Population Trend plots. The enormous counts made in 2006 are not included in this plot.

Ross's Goose Population Trend

No Trend Line



Ross's Goose Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
120	07-Mar-2006	Kankakee FWA	Bob Huguenard	INB
45	12-Mar-2006	Kankakee FWA	G.A. Williamson	INB
37	19-Feb-2006	Kankakee FWA	B.J. Grube	I INB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
4	23-Nov-2003	Muscatatuck NWR	Kevin Wyckoff	INB
3	29-Nov-2003	Summit Lake	S.A. Pancol	INB
2	22-Nov-2002	Hamilton Co	L.A. Barriger	IAQ

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	---	3-Mar	---	13-Apr-1996	27
Central	Win. Res.	---	8-Mar	---	8-May-1993	26
South	Win. Res.	---	2-Mar	---	20-Apr-2001	13
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	13-Nov-2005	---	---	---	Win. Res.	7
Central	6-Oct-2002	---	21 Nov	---	Win. Res.	13
South	22-Nov-1996	---	27 Nov	---	Win. Res.	10

References Cited

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Bruner, A. W. (2004) From the Archives – Part 6, ANSERIFORMES- FAMILY ANATIDAE (Whistling Ducks, Geese, Swans), *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 82:131-180.

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

IN-BIRD, a Listserve dealing with Indiana birds developed and maintained by P.W. Kelly. The records are archived at: <http://listserv.indiana.edu/archives/in-bird-1.html>

Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller (1979) *Indiana Birds and Their Haunts*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 214 pp.

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