

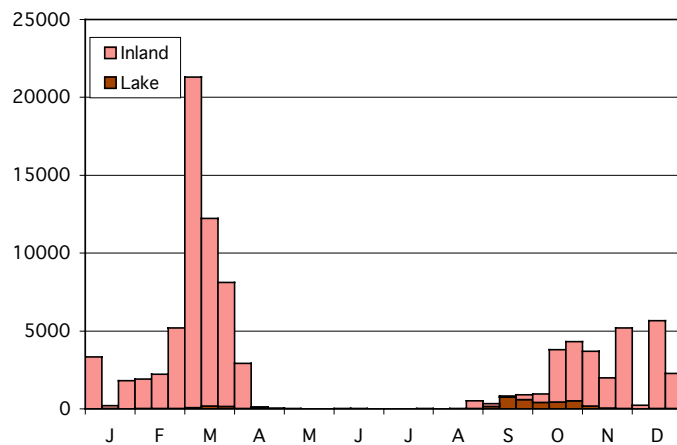
Northern Pintail

Anas acuta

Historical Information

First Published Record: Indiana's first report of this elegant duck occurred 13 March 1885 when A.W. Butler reported this species in Franklin County (Butler, 1898).

Butler (1890) deemed the Pintail, "a migrant in considerable numbers, which may winter in the southern part of the state." Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a common to uncommon migrant, and rare in winter. Mumford and Keller (1984) characterized the Pintail as a fairly common migrant, which was less numerous in fall with small numbers wintering.



Status

Physical Evidence: Ten specimens are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				4
Univ. of Michigan Museum				1
Indiana State Museum				2
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				3
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	4	3	7	3
Central Tier	6	5	10	6
Southern Tier	3	3	10	5
Entire State	3	3	7	3

Current Status

Today the Pintail is a Common (3) migrant and a Rare (7) summer resident in the northern tier.

Occurrence

During migration the Pintail is more common in spring than fall. It also occurs regularly in winter. This species is found more frequently at inland sites than on Lake Michigan.

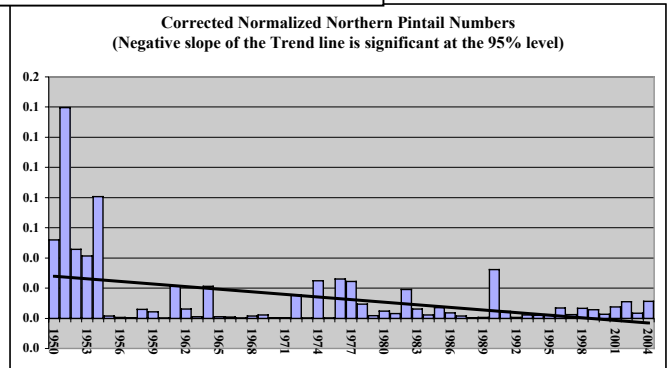
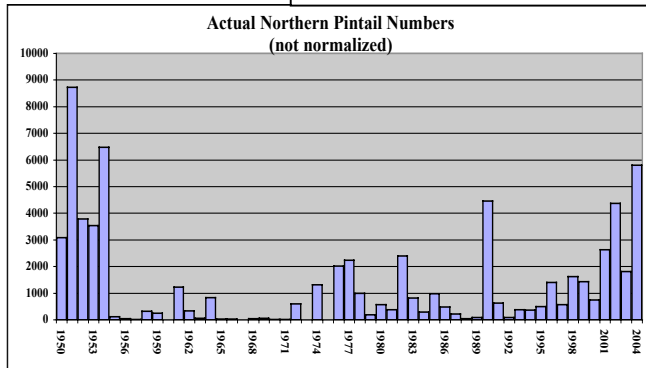
Summer Records

Over the past two decades Pintails have been reported on seven occasions in summer. The most interesting summer report occurred in 2001 when up to three birds (two males and a female) were recorded at Grand Kankakee Marsh, Lake County in both June and July (Brock notes).

Population Trend

Large census counts from the 1940s and 1950s (see maximum count table) contributed to the apparent decline shown on the Population Trend plot. Although negative slope of the trend line on the 50-year plot shown is statistically significant at the 95 percent level, a post-1950s plot shows a positive trend.

Northern Pintail Population Trend
Negative slope of the trend line is significant at the 95% level



Breeding

Two breeding reports exist. Mumford and Keller (1984) reported that a female and six downy chicks were observed in Whitley County in June 1958. Larry Parker found a nest near Decatur on 6 May 1984 (Brock, 1985).

Northern Pintail Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
5000	4-Mar-1954	Warrick Co	W.B. Barnes	REM
4000	4-Mar-1990	Gibson Co	G. & L. Bowman	IQM
2500	8-Mar-1951	Willow Slough	DNR- staff	REM
Fall/Winter				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
5000	12-Dec-1948	Hovey Lake	R.E. Mumford	REM
3000	28-Nov-1948	Hovey Lake	R.E. Mumford	REM
3000	3-Jan-1949	Hovey Lake	R.E. Mumford	REM

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	7-Mar	22-Mar	13-Apr	Sum. Res.	308
Central	Win. Res.	3-Mar	17-Mar	4-Apr	22-May-1981	73
South	Win. Res.	3-Mar	12-Mar	30-Mar	2-Jun-1979	98
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	14-Sep	19-Oct	14-Nov	Win. Res.	498
Central	30-Jul-1972	9-Sep	23-Oct	23-Nov	Win. Res.	84
South	1-Aug-1982	3-Oct	25-Oct	22-Nov	Win. Res.	122

References Cited

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

Brock, K.J. (1985) Field Notes; Spring Migration, 1984, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 63:30-51.

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.

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

Mumford, R.E. and C.E. Keller (1984) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 376 pp.