

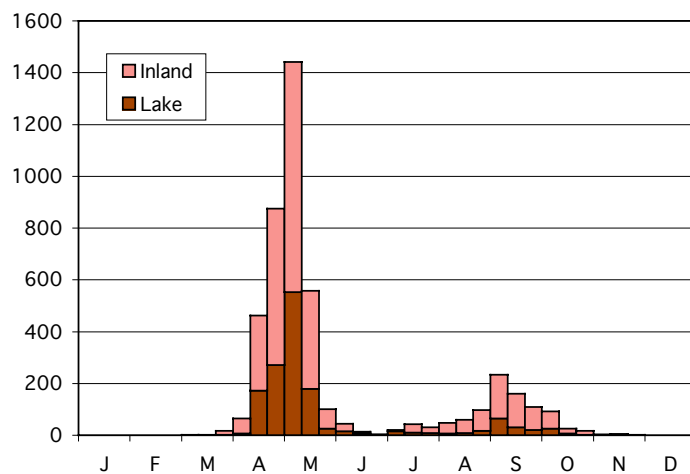
Sora

Porzana carolina

Historical Information

First Published record: A Sora was reportedly collected in Carroll County in April 1879, but the first fully dated record occurred in that county 4 May 1884 (Mumford files).

According to Butler (1890) the “Carolina Rail” was a common migrant throughout the state and a common summer resident in northern Indiana. As a migrant Keller et al. (1979) deemed it fairly common in the north and rare in the south; it was a summer resident in the north. Mumford and Keller (1984) listed the Sora as a common migrant and noted breeding across the northern half of the state.



Current Status

The Sora is Indiana’s most common rail. Its peak abundance occurs during spring, when it is Common (4) in the northern tier. Its status never exceeds Uncommon (6) in the two more southerly tiers.

Occurrence

Although formally reported in only seventy-two counties, the Sora almost certainly occurs in every Indiana county. It is most frequently encountered in spring when it readily vocalizes. A modest, but distinct, fall migration is evident on the migration histogram.

Extreme Records

Dorothy Meek made the exceptionally large fall count (see maximum count table) at Sousley’s Lake, St. Joseph County; the birds were reportedly gone the following day (Mumford files). The sole winter record occurred in Marshall County 11 December 1900 (Mumford and Keller, 1984).

Summer Reports

Although summer Soras occur regularly in the northern tier, they are encountered infrequently in the two more southerly tiers. In the central tier Soras have been reported in only five of the last

Status

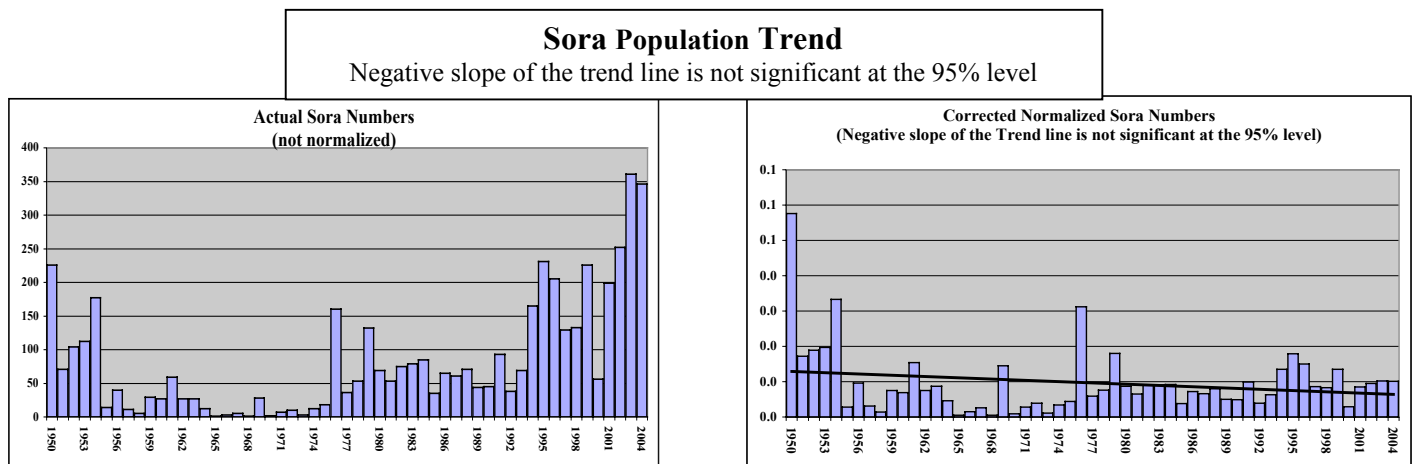
Physical Evidence: Almost three-dozen specimens and eggs are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards, 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				1
Chicago Field Museum				8
National Museum of Natural History				10
Indiana State Museum				2
Carnegie Museum of Natural History				2
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				7
Univ. of Michigan Museum				3*
*Includes one egg				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	4	6	6
Central Tier	n	6	7	7
Southern Tier	n	6	10	7
Entire State	n	4	6	6

twenty years. Interestingly, all of these reports occurred in 1999 or later and were scattered across seven counties: Boone, Grant, Hendricks, Jay, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, and Vermillion. Only three summer records exist for the southern tier; the first of these involved a bird that was killed in Franklin County 15 July 1886 (Butler, 1898), but see Breeding section.

Population Trend

Negative slope of the trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported this species in twenty-five counties with confirmed breeding in only two of the 647 priority atlas blocks. Interestingly, one of the confirmations occurred in Johnson County, which is located in the central tier. Also quite remarkable was a nest containing nine eggs discovered in Warrick County by J.H. Campbell on 7 May 1983 (Brock, 1984). A second southwestern Indiana nest, containing one egg, was found by S. Graves and J.H. Campbell 29 May 1990 (Brown, 1991). Eggs have been reported from 6 May through 4 June.

Sora Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
104	07-May-1950	Marion Co	D.W. Rice	REM
103	05-May-1995	Ind. Dunes	Lakeshore Staff	BBC
75	09-May-1954	Marion Co	H.C. West	HCW
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
100	3-Sep-1949	St. Joseph Co	Dorothy Meek	REM
52	05-Sep-1976	Lake Waveland	A.W. Bruner	IAQ
25	04-Sep-1999	Willow Slough	J.J. McCoy	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	27-Mar-1958	17-Apr	3-May	18-May	Sum. Res.	598
Central	6-Mar-1895	15-Apr	6-May	19-May	Sum. Vis.	179
South	8-Mar-2000	5-Apr	26-Apr	13-May	4-Jun-1993	122
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	25-Jul	7-Sep	5-Oct	11-Dec-1900	275
Central	Sum. Vis.	11-Aug	6-Sep	4-Oct	20-Nov-1947	70
South	15-Jul-1886	24-Aug	19-Sep	24-Oct	15-Nov-1976	59

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