

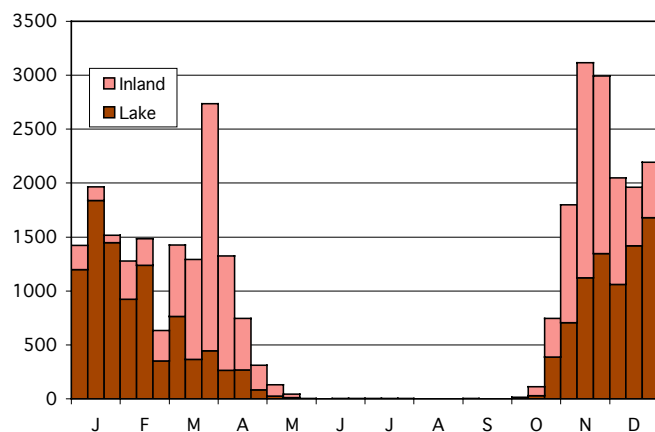
Bufflehead

Bucephala albeola

Historical Information

First Published Record: The Mumford files refer to a mounted male in the C.A. Stockbridge collection that was taken in 1874. However, B.W. Evermann reported the earliest fully dated record on 5 March 1886 in Monroe County (Mumford files).

Butler (1890) characterized the “Butter Ball” as a common migrant and winter resident. Keller et al. (1979) designated it a fairly common migrant, which was rare in winter except on Lake Michigan where it was common. Mumford and Keller (1984) essentially agreed with the Keller assessment, noting that winter numbers vary across the state.



Current Status

The Bufflehead is a Very Common (3) migrant and winter resident.

Occurrence

The status of this species remains essentially unchanged from that described by Mumford and Keller (1984), except that a few stragglers now occasionally linger through the summer. Although the Bufflehead has been reported in only 66 counties, it is widespread and has surely occurred in every county that has appropriate habitat.

Summer Records

Over the past twenty years five Buffleheads have been recorded during the summer months. The most recent record occurred at Summit Lake where S.A. Pancol observed a female 18 June 2005 (IN-BIRD).

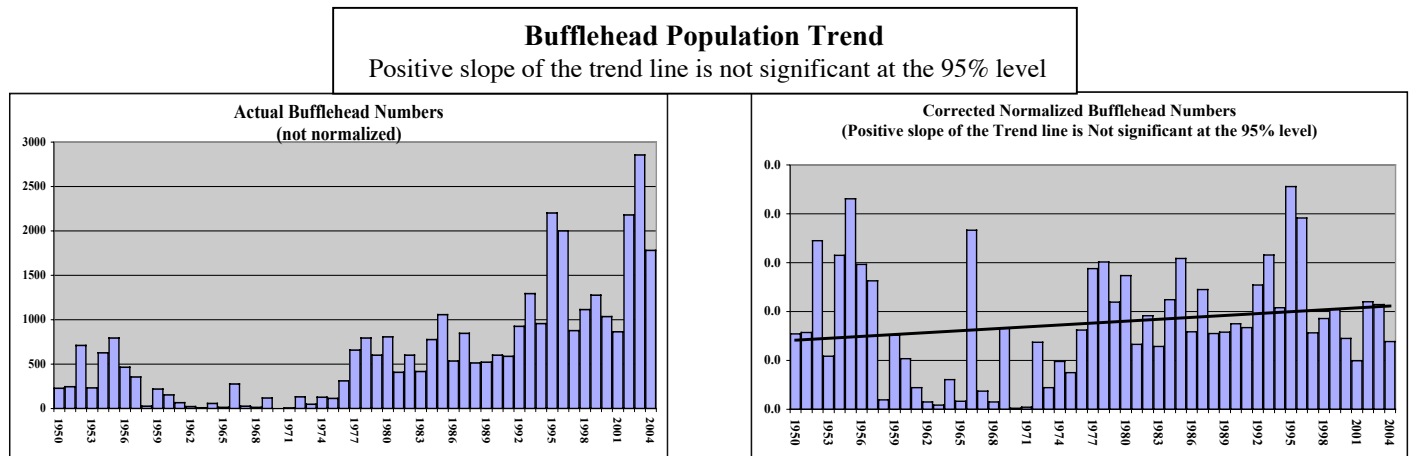
Status

Physical Evidence: Six skins from Indiana are preserved as indicated in the Status Table (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				2
Univ. of Michigan Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				3
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	3	3	9	3
Central Tier	6	5	10	5
Southern Tier	4	4	n	4
Entire State	3	3	8	3

Population Trend

Although the Population Trend plot shows a positive slope, it is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Bufflehead Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Fall/ Spring/Winter				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
500	27-Jan-1955	Mich. City Harbor	R.E. Mumford	REM
375	23-Dec-1995	Mich. City Harbor	J.J. McCoy	KJB
350	16-Jan-1954	Mich. City Harbor	H.C. West	HCW
325	8-Jan-1995	Mich. City Harbor	J.J. McCoy	KJB
275	27-Nov-2003	Lakefront	J.J. McCoy	INB
255	28-Oct-1985	LaPorte Co	R.S. Plank	IAQ

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	9-Mar	29-Mar	21-Apr	7-Jun-1998	584
Central	Win. Res.	10-Mar	30-Mar	29-Apr	14-May-1983	83
South	Win. Res.	4-Mar	21-Mar	14-Apr	26-May-1982	170
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	15-Jul-1952	27-Oct	12-Nov	26-Nov	Win. Res.	404
Central	11-Oct-1985	25-Oct	16-Nov	27-Nov	Win. Res.	53
South	9-Oct-1985	3-Nov	14-Nov	27-Nov	Win. Res.	80

References Cited

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.

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.