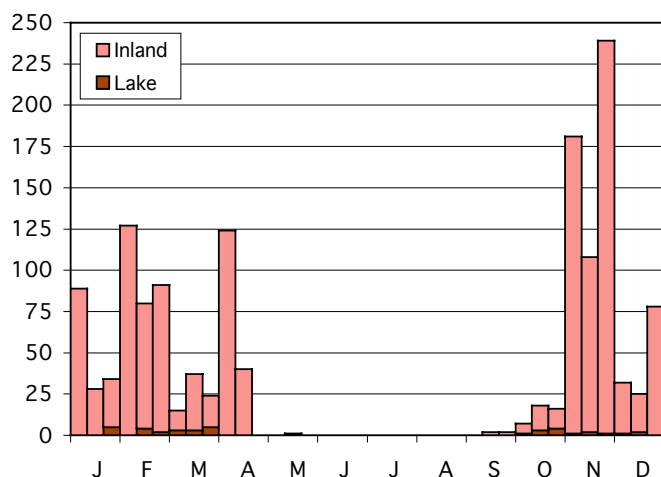


Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii*

Historical Information

First Published Record: In 2004 the 45th Supplement to the AOU Check-list separated Cackling Goose, which includes the former Canada Goose subspecies *B. c. hutchinsii* (Richardson's), *B. c. leucopareia* (Aleutian), *B. c. taverneri*, and *B. c. minima*, from the larger Canada Geese. Interestingly, Butler (1898) listed the subspecies "Hutchin's (Richardson's) Goose," separately from the Canada Goose. He noted that *hutchinsii* was common in 1879. The first specific date involved a male collected at Beaver Lake, Newton County 16 March 1882 (Mumford files).

Butler (1898) considered this goose a migrant and occasional winter resident; formerly common. Neither Keller et al. (1979) nor Mumford and Keller (1984) mentioned this form.



Status

Physical Evidence: The only known specimen consists of the 1882 bird mentioned above, which according to the Mumford files is in the Ohio State Museum.

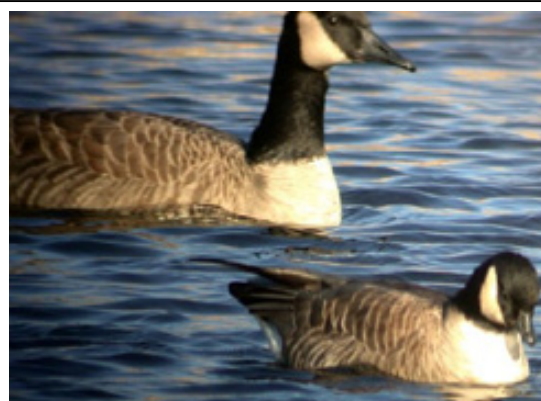
STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Ohio State Museum				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	7	7	n	6
Central Tier	7	n	n	6
Southern Tier	7	n	n	7
Entire State	7	7	n	5

Current Status

The current Cackling Goose status is Fairly Common (5) during the November goose flight; however, reports of this "new" species will no doubt increase rapidly, providing a better picture of its distribution in the state.

Occurrence

This diminutive goose apparently occurs in good numbers as evidenced by the 95 counted by J.A. Haw at Salamonie Reservoir 26 November 2002 and the 108 seen by E.M. Hopkins at Mulvey Pond, Tippecanoe County 25 November 2003 (IN-BIRD). However, these Cackling Goose data include a few records that were simply identified as "the small" Canada Goose. The anomalous mid-May record was reported in Marion County by P.D. Skaar et al. during a hike at the annual Indiana Audubon Society meeting (DNR files).



Cackling Goose (foreground). Grand Calumet River in Hammond 26 January 2002. Photo J.K. Cassady.

Cackling Goose Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/Winter				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
100	01-Apr-1956	Willow Slough	L.C. Binford	DNR
100*	3-Feb-1950	Jasper-Pulaski FWA	P.D. Skaar	DNR
40	13-Apr-1955	Willow Slough	L.C. Binford	DNR
*Accompanied by the comment, " about 100-200 were small type."				
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
108	25-Nov-2003	Tippecanoe Co	E.M. Hopkins	INB
102	08-Nov-2003	Tippecanoe Co	E.M. Hopkins	INB
95	26-Nov-2002	Salamonie Res	J.A. Haw	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	Win. Vis.	---	17-Mar	---	16-May-1941	28
Fall	18-Sep-2002	18-Oct	8-Nov	26-Nov	Win. Vis.	42

References Cited

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

DNR files, A collection of data compiled on computer disks for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources by C.E. Keller.

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-l.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.

Last update: 28 March 2006