

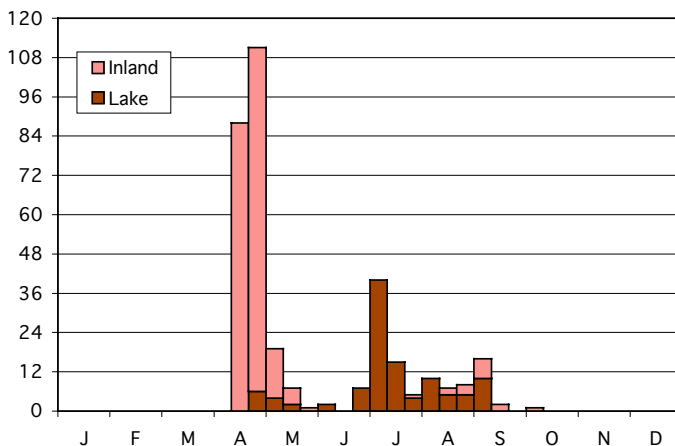
Marbled Godwit

Limosa fedoa

Historical Information

First Published Record: The Mumford files indicate that a mounted bird, taken in 1875, was in the C.A. Stockbridge collection. Butler (1898) mentioned that B.W. Evermann observed this species in Carroll County in April 1883, and an undated, but pre-1932, specimen is in the Indiana State Museum (Richards 1987). However, the state's first fully dated report involved a specimen collected by A. Bognar at George Lake, Lake County 7 September 1936 (Keller 1958).

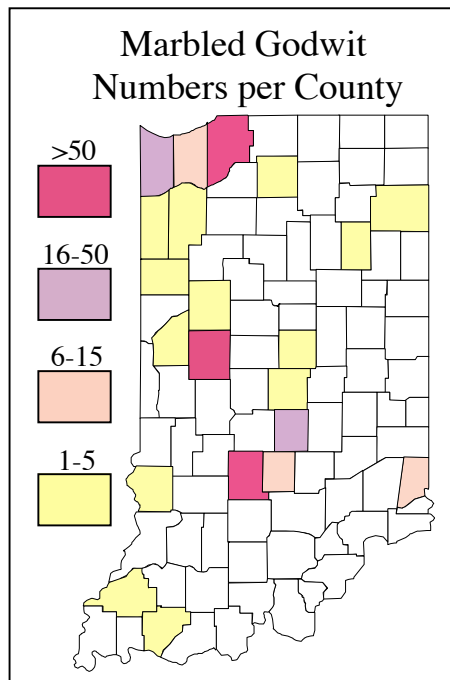
Butler (1898) referred to the Marbled Godwit as a rare migrant that was formerly common and might have bred. Keller (1958) deemed it a rare fall and very rare spring migrant, but Keller et al. (1979) considered it casual. In 1984 Mumford and Keller described its status as "a very rare to casual spring migrant in northwestern Indiana and a very rare fall migrant, probably throughout the state." They also noted that all sightings involved single birds.



Status

Two Marbled Godwit specimens from Indiana are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished notes and Richards 1987)

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				1
Indiana State Museum				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	7	7	7
Central Tier	n	10	n	10
Southern Tier	n	7	n	9
Entire State	n	7	7	7



Current Status

Today the Marbled Godwit is a Rare (7) migrant in spring, summer, and fall.

Occurrence

Marbled Godwits have been reported annually since 1988 and it has now been recorded in more than 21 counties. Observations over the past three decades have revealed many records containing multiple individuals. Indeed, the state now has some twenty reports involving more than one godwit, including six with double-digit tallies (see maximum count table).

Spring Migration

The two tall April spikes on the migration histogram can be attributed to the five double-digit counts, within the brief period 19-26 April. These large tallies contribute to the “broken comb-tooth” pattern shown by the histogram, which results from high counts involving few records. Johnson County, for example, has only one record: a flock of thirty-five birds seen by Sue Owens at Atterbury FWA 22 Apr 1979 (Buck 1980).



Marbled Godwits (3 of 10 present) TNC Kankakee Sands 24 April 2005. Photo by J.J. McCoy.

Extreme Records

Remarkably, the state’s maximum record of 52 has been logged on two occasions. Joe van Riet recorded the first group 20 April 2000 on a showery morning at Fairfax Beach, Lake Monroe; the birds were standing along the water’s edge (pers. comm.). C.C. Murray counted exactly the same number as they

descended to land at “the Burn” in Montgomery County 26 April 2005. These birds were also observed immediately following a rain shower (Murray web site).

Marbled Godwit Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
52	20-Apr-2000	Lake Monroe	Joe van Riet	NAB
52	26-Apr-2005	Montgomery Co	C.C. Murray	CCM
35	22-Apr-1979	Atterbury FWA	Sue Owens	IAQ
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
14	4-Jul-2005	Mich. City Harbor	J.J. McCoy	INB
12	4-Jul-1999	Mich. City Harbor	J.J. McCoy	JMc
5	2-Aug-2001	Miller Beach	B.J. Grube	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	12-Apr-1994	16-Apr	26-Apr	16-May	5-Jun-1966	43
Fall	22-Jun-1995	1-Jul	2-Aug	7-Sep	3-Oct-1982	58

References Cited

Buck, D., (1980) Field Notes Spring 1979, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 58:62-80.

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

Keller, C.E. (1957) The Shorebird families: Charadriidae, Scolopacidae, Recurvirostridae, and Phalaropidae of Indiana. Part 1. *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 35:30-48.

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.

Murray web site is maintained by C.C. Murray. Records can be accessed at:
<http://groups-beta.google.com/group/burnbirds/>

Richards, R.L. (1987) The Vertebrate Collection of the Indiana State Museum: "Old" Specimens and Records, *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science* 97:547-570.