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**Cover photo:** One of many Red Crossbills that invaded Indiana in late 2017. Photo taken at Indiana Dunes State Park, Porter Co., 07 November 2017. Photo by John Kendall.

**Back cover photo:** One of many Canvasback seen during a February surge which led to a season total of 1,956 birds seen statewide. The season total was Indiana's second largest winter total since 1949. Photo taken at West Boggs Lake, Martin Co., 12 February 2018. Photo by Amy Kearns.

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# 2017 Survey and Management of Interior Least Terns in Indiana

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## Executive Summary

This summer, the Midwest received a large amount of rainfall causing river levels to be high most of the season. Least Tern nesting habitat was absent on sand bars and islands of both the Wabash and Ohio Rivers. Tern habitat was prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Indiana Department of Natural Resources (INDNR). Usual preparations were made to attract Least Terns to the Cane Ridge Tern Pond (CR) and the Tern Bar Slough Tern Nesting Unit (TBS) located in Gibson County, Indiana. Adequate water was provided at Cane Ridge all season, but problems maintaining the necessary water level at Tern Bar Slough continued. In early May, Least Tern decoys were deployed on the north island at TBS, but no Least Tern nesting resulted.



On Duke Energy property, methods to attract terns were used only on the last 1 km of the Splitter Dike (SD) in the Gibson Cooling Pond (GCP). Human access was restricted to all of the former nest sites and the areas were checked at least twice a week for Least Tern use. All of the Ash Pond Complexes being filled with coal combustion residuals (CCR) were checked weekly. Terns were occasionally seen but no nesting was detected. Least Terns used the Splitter Dike with three distinct nesting colonies, but only two colonies produced fledglings. Because of high water, the Wabash River was not checked for Least Tern activity until after the nesting season. No nesting was found this year in the Wheeling Bottoms although terns were occasionally observed. Least Tern activity was seen from a public road at a coal mine slurry pond about 3 km north of Owensville. Up to 10 adults were seen. A chick was seen being fed and later one fledgling was noted. A juvenile Least Tern was seen in September at Michigan City (LaPorte Co.).

Ben's Spot was used very early in the season with 8 nests and 30 adults. This colony was destroyed shortly after discovery and the nesting data was not used in the results.

Least Terns were first seen 12 May at Cane Ridge. The last observation was of one adult and three fledglings at Cane Ridge on 20 August. An estimated 168 nests were found in the CR-GCP complex with 103 first nesting attempts and 65 later attempts. On 13 June, a peak of 225 adults was noted. The total estimate of fledglings produced was 123. About 58 chicks fledged on the Splitter Dike, where an average of 90 adults and a total of 82 nests were found. The 135 adults at Cane Ridge produced an estimated 65 fledglings from approximately 86 nests.

Terns nested successfully on the dikes at the ash ponds south of the AEP Power Plant near Rockport, Indiana for the 15th year. Fifty-nine nests were noted with a maximum of 50 adults present. Five chicks were estimated to have fledged. Least Tern nesting did not occur on the sandbar island in the Ohio River.

Least Terns nested for the fifth year at Goose Pond near Linton, Indiana. A maximum of 10 adults produced 6 nests, and 3 fledglings.

The total estimates for all sites known in Indiana during 2017 was a peak of 295 adults, 235 nests (135 first nest attempts and 100 second nest attempts), and 132 fledglings. The number of nests and fledglings represents a very conservative count. Some of the sites experienced serious predation or weather-related issues with loss of nests and chicks.

## **Results**

The first sighting of Least Terns this year was of one adult seen by Dan Collins at Cane Ridge on 13 May. Liz Haig had two on the same date in the Wheeling Bottoms. Terns were first seen on the SD on 24 May. By early June most of the locations traditionally used by the terns had breeding colonies in place. For the second time in 23 years, terns did not nest at the end of the dike or on any of the ash flats associated with the CCR. No Least Tern nests were found in the Wheeling Bottoms although they were often seen during the season. The last sighting in Southwestern Indiana was of an adult with three fledglings on 20 August at Cane Ridge. A juvenile plumaged Least Tern was last seen from 19 September to 23 September at the Michigan City harbor by John Kendall. He reported that he saw the bird catch small fish. No adults were seen.

**Splitter Dike:** Because of the HCP guidelines, all trips were made when the temperatures were below 90 degrees. Time spent in each nesting area was limited to less than 15 minutes. When weather conditions allowed, the dike was walked once or twice each week in order to measure Least Tern breeding activity. Dates of pedestrian surveys were required to be separated by at least four days in order to reduce direct disturbance to nesting birds. However, tern nesting on the dike was observed from other locations on dates within this period (i.e. from the old boat ramp area, as well as, driving on the Splitter Dike to within 100m of the first colony). All nests found on the dike were marked with a numbered rock located 10 feet north of the nest. All nests were checked on each pedestrian survey. There were three areas nesting: First Turn (FT) which was located about 200m past the first green area for 100m, Turn Around (TA) which was located from the turnaround at the middle of the dike to about 250m past it, and the Last Turn (LT) located at the last turn and about 400m before the last green area. Nesting was very concentrated within colonies. The LT colony only had 4 nests, and all were second nests.

Least Terns were first noted on the dike on 24 May when there were 15 adults recorded at the FT. Twenty adults with three nests were found in the TA on 26 May. The two main nesting area this summer all had nests by 8 June. There were 40 adults with 16 nests at FT and 35 adults with 15 nests at TA. There were a total of about 75 adults with 31 nests. There was no Least Tern breeding activity on the end of the dike, which is the second year in a row that nesting has been absent there. The LT colony was not discovered until 5 July and was gone on 10 July.

The other two colonies were present and active until the end of June. All of the TA nest were gone by 30 June and the colony only produced 2 fledglings. The last new nest found was on 31 July in FT. Ninety adults were consistently found until the middle of July.

Many of the first nests in FT hatched to produce fledglings. The first chick was seen 19 June in TA. The first fledgling was spotted 5 July in FT. Most of the second nesting occurred in the FT colony. Many of these nests ended up being successful. First Turn produced an estimated 56 fledglings. The TA site only produced 2 fledglings before it was mostly destroyed and abandoned in late June and early July.

Predation on the dike was suspected to be the primary cause of reduced breeding success this year. Peregrine Falcons were seen early during the nesting season soaring near smoke stacks of the power plant. They were not encountered after 10 June. Peregrine eggs were found on both smokestack A and smokestack B in April. A failed nest was found by John Castrale on 14 May on smokestack B. Even though the trail cameras failed to catch an image of a predator, it is believed that predation in late June destroyed all of the nests and most of the chicks in the (TA) colony. No activity was observed there after 12 July. The four nest (LT) colony was also gone only a few days after it was found.

The totals for the dike were a total of 82 nests. The average number of breeding adults was 90. Forty-two of the nests were first attempt (herein, “first”) nests and 40 were second attempt (herein, “second”) nests. The breakdown by colony is as follows: the FT colony had 19 first nests and 35 second nests, the TA Colony had 23 first nests and only 1 second nest, and the LT had four second nests and no first nests. These numbers represent nests found and marked. There were at least 58 fledglings produced on the Splitter Dike.

As aforementioned, predation was suspected to be a serious threat to breeding terns on the Splitter Dike. One colony LT was completely wiped out and another TA lost a significant number of nests and only produced two fledglings. It has been my experience that when there are problems of this nature, the Least Terns rapidly move their fledglings to other locations. Rapid movement of fledglings from the breeding colonies could possibly increase the difficulty of accurately estimating the number of successful fledglings.

**Tern Bar Slough:** Even though the islands were prepared for Least Tern nesting, there were still water supply issues. There was inadequate water in the moat from early June through the rest of the season. No Least Terns were ever seen this season using either the islands or the moat for foraging.

**Cane Ridge:** Most of the observations made were either from the observation deck or from a close approach by wading to the edge of the island on the water covered access roads. Except for one brief visit to both islands on 22 July to check for possible predation, neither island was entered this year while the terns were present. There were no water supply issues and adequate levels were present all season. There was enough water that some could even be supplied to the moist soil units to the south. This gave the terns additional foraging locations. The water level was lowered starting in early August but by then many of the terns had left the two islands.

Least Terns were first seen on 12 May. One was seen flying over the Tern Pond. There were about 26 adults present, utilizing both islands on 21 May. Probable nesting was first noted on 26 May. There was a total of 18 adults on Tern Island and two or three appeared to be sitting on nests. No activity was seen on at Ray’s Island. By 10 June, there were about 80 adults with 35 probable nests on Tern Island and 55 adults with 25 nests on Ray’s Island. The number of adults and nests stayed about the same until the end of June when the number of both went down. The first chicks were seen on 24 June. There were at least 2 chicks on Ray’s Island. None were seen on Tern Island. The first fledglings observed were on 8 July. There were 3 seen on Tern Island and one on Ray’s Island. By the end of June several chicks were seen on both islands and the number of probable nests dropped to 15 on Tern Island and 10 on Ray’s Island. There were still about 55 adults on TI and 40 adults on RI. On 12 July 8 fledglings were seen on TI and 5 were



on RI. The population continued to drop in July. There were very few older fledglings seen indicating that the adults are taking the fledglings away from the islands. There did not seem to be many second nesting attempts, but the heavy growth of vegetation made seeing the nests very difficult.

We made two passes across Tern Island on 21 July. We were harassed by about 25 to 30 adults. There were about 10 fledglings present. We found no nests and located 3 chicks. Only about 30% of the island was free of vegetation. There were probably several chicks missed during the survey because of the heavy vegetation. We only made one pass over Ray's Island. This island had even heavier vegetation than Tern Island. Ray's Island had 20 adults. We found 3 nests with a total of 5 eggs. There were about 5 fledglings and 3 chicks. There were 37 Canada Geese on the island when we arrived. There was about 1.5 feet of water over the access roads. The electric fence at Ray's Island was damaged but Bill was able to get three of the four strands working. We notice that there was a lot of goose droppings on both islands. We did not find any evidence of predation on either island. All of the fledglings seemed to be less than a week old. It would seem that the adults are moving their fledglings soon after they are able to fly some distance. There were a few adult Least Terns and fledglings present through the middle of Augusts. The last observation at Cane Ridge was of one adult and three fledglings at on 20 August.

**Ash Pond Complexes:** There was some Least Tern presence during the season. Adults were seen several times flying over Phase 2. No nests were discovered, and breeding was not believed to have occurred. Least Terns were first discovered using ash flats associated with CCR in 1993. This is the second year since then that no nests were associated with this habitat. No nesting or breeding activities were ever detected at the South Landfill Complex, but Least Terns were seen on several occasions resting and foraging at borrow pits located to the west of the main complex. The complex itself is only about 200m to the west of Cane Ridge. All the other possible Least Tern habitat was checked but no activity was detected.

**Wabash River Surveys:** The Wabash River was high most of the summer during the tern nesting season. It was assumed that any breeding that might have occurred there would have been destroyed later by high water levels. A breeding survey was unnecessary. This year, we surveyed late in the season mainly to evaluate potential breeding locations for next year and to try to find mixed families of adults and fledglings

August 23: John Pike and I ran the Wabash River in a Duke Energy air boat in the afternoon. We went from Crawleyville down to the I-64 Bridge. We ran 22 miles of the river. We did not see any Least Terns. This is a late check of the river because for most of the summer the river was too high for Least Tern breeding habitat to be present.

August 25: John Pike, Liz Haig, and I checked the lower river from Harmony State Park to the confluence of the river with the Ohio. We saw lots of excellent Least Tern habitat but did not see any Least Terns. We ran 40 miles of the river.

**Ben's Spot:** The Wabash River was at flood stage in late May and early June. There were several possible nesting locations both on the gravel road and on a sand bar in a flooded agriculture field. The location is less about .4 km east of the river. On 30 May Amy Kearns found 30 adults and 8 active nests. The river quickly receded after 30 May and on 8 June there was only one nest and 2 adults present. No Least Tern activity was detected after this date. No effort was made to protect

this site because the nests were mostly laid on a public road and it was deemed impossible to enforce protection without having someone there 24-7. Since the colony was destroyed early none of the numbers are included in the results. Most of these birds appeared to have moved to the Cane Ridge area or the Splitter Dike and re-nested there.

**AEP Rockport:** In 2002, Least Terns were seen on an island in the Ohio River near Grandview in Spencer County. In 2003, they successfully nested and raised chicks at the AEP power plant in Rockport. In 2004, Least Terns were seen most of the season but no nesting sites were located. Least Terns have nested successfully every year since 2005. This year Least Terns again nested at AEP. David Ayer did most of the site monitoring. The following represents his summary of the tern activity at AEP:

*The electric fence was repaired in early May. Least Terns were first observed on May 27th when 20 birds were observed. Courtship was observed, and 2 birds appeared to be sitting on nests. The high count of adults came on June 10th when 50 were observed. Numbers remained relatively stable throughout June and then began to tail off in July. Nesting was confirmed on June 3rd when 14 nests were recorded. Six of the nests were on the south road, 4 were on the north road, and the rest were scattered on other roads. Chicks were first observed on June 17th when a family of 3 chicks was seen. This also was the high count for chicks. The first fledgling was observed on July 8th. The high count of 3 fledglings came on July 23rd.*

*Over the course of the season 59 nests were confirmed. The nests contained a total of 141 eggs. 24 of the nests were on the south road, 21 were on the north road, and the other 14 were on the east/west roads. I estimate that 24 of the nests were first attempts and the rest were second nesting attempts. Over the course of the season at least 10 chicks were observed. This is probably an undercount as they are hard to observe when hiding in the rocks. I estimate that 5 birds fledged. No nesting occurred on Ohio River because of fluctuating river levels.*

**Goose Pond:** Least terns have been seen several times in the past foraging at Goose Pond and in 2013 nesting was proven for the first time. Least Terns again nested there this year. Amy Kearns collected most of the data for Goose Pond. The following is a communication from Amy Kearns.



*Goose Pond FWA had a high of ten adult least terns this season, six confirmed nesting attempts (ties previous high count from last year), of which at least three nests successfully hatched at least one chick. There appeared to be chick mortality in late June, possibly from weather or predation events on the island. Around this time, adults began roosting on a gravel bar in MPW 600 meters northeast of the nesting island, and fewer adults were seen around the island. Heavy vegetation coverage on the island may have played a part in discouraging any re-nesting attempts; the island was already deserted by 18 July. Three chicks were confirmed to have fledged from the island this year.*

*A short chronology for the 2017 Goose Pond FWA tern island:*

*In early May, GPFWA staff treated the island with the first application of herbicide  
5/15 GPFWA staff applied 2nd herbicide application, disked, no trespassing signs posted  
5/16 Fence charger and 30 decoys placed on island. First 3 least terns courting on island.*

*5/25 Five adults, no nests yet*

*6/1 Ten adults, four nests*

*6/8 Ten adults, five nests*

*6/15 Five adults*

*6/19 Ten adults, at least two nests with hatched chicks, sixth nest found*

*6/27 Six adults, heavy vegetation on island. Eight adults resting on gravel bar to east.*

*6/28 Six adults and one big chick/fledgling*

*7/7 Four adults delivering prey to island*

*7/10 Four adults delivering prey to island, six adults resting on gravel bar*

*7/13 Several adults around island, nine adults and three fledglings on gravel bar*

*7/17 Two fledglings in MPE4*

*7/18 No activity on island, three adults and two fledglings on gravel bar, two adults in MPE4*

*7/25 No activity on island, two adults and two older fledglings on gravel bar, unaged least tern over GP2*

*7/31 No activity on island, one independent fledgling near gravel bar. Decoys and fence charger collected.*

*9/6 GPFWA staff spread several dump truck loads of new gravel on the island.*

**Other Indiana Locations:** The nesting location that was discovered three years ago in the Wheeling Bottoms north of Francisco was used this year only for foraging. There was courting behavior observed on two occasions in late June and a set of five adults with three fledglings was seen in the middle of July. No nests were found. Road side searches did not find any other suspected breeding locations. Because of the question of providence for the fledglings this data was not used in the summary data reports.

A solitary juvenile Least Tern was seen at Miller Beach on Lake Michigan from 19 until 23 September. The bird was observed catching small fish. The photographs of the bird indicate that it was an older fledgling. There were no adults. It has an unknown providence. The bird was discovered by John Kendall.

## **Discussion**

With Least Terns nesting in such close proximity to major human activity it is evident that management of the nest sites is important to the continued success at both the Gibson and the Rockport areas. Suitable sites need to be maintained. Least Terns need to be attracted to these

areas and protected from both animal predation and human disturbance. If the terns nest away from these areas, they need to be located and protected.

A complete analysis of the first 13 years of the Least Tern activity in southwestern Indiana can be found in Castrale et al. (1999). This study indicates that tern productivity reached 0.97 fledgling/nest during 1993-1998 and that this is greater than that reported from most other locations.

Kirsch and Sidle (1999) indicate that a rate of 0.51 fledgling/pair figure is necessary to maintain a healthy population. The rate at Gibson for 2017 was 1.10 fledgling/pair. A pair was determined by dividing the average number of adults by two. The Splitter



**Juvenile Least Tern at Michigan City Harbor. 22 September 2017. Photo by John Kendall.**

Dike produced 1.29 fledgling/pair based on 45 pairs and 58 fledglings. Cane Ridge was .970 fledgling/pair based on 67 pairs and 65 fledglings. The average in the 31 years that the Gibson colony has been under study is 1.09 fledgling/pair. This is based on a total of 1479 pairs and 1608 fledglings. Since 1993, when a larger colony became established, the number has had a low of 0.15 fledglings/pair in 2001 and a high of 2.20 fledgling/pair in 2010. No banded adults were seen this year. Earlier observations noted that most of the recruited adults at Gibson came from the Mississippi River nest sites.

Rockport produced .200 fledgling/pair based on 25 pairs and 5 fledglings. There were 3 fledglings produced by 5 pairs at Goose Pond resulting in .600 fledgling/pair. The overall result from Indiana was 132 fledglings/147 pair =.898. This is below the long-term average. Last year in 2016, the number was .666 fledglings per pair.

### **Acknowledgments**

The U S Fish and Wildlife Service played a role in this year's study. Bill McCoy and Heath Hamilton deserve big thanks for all their hard work. Some special thanks go to volunteer Liz Haig who worked closely with me all season. She donated over 100 hours of her time to the project this year. Her enthusiasm for working with the terns was very contagious.

The cooperation and enthusiasm of Duke Energy personnel towards Least Tern management was greatly appreciated. Special thanks go to John Pike, Rebecca Sparks, Jack Barnes, and Michael Hobson from Duke Energy. A very special thanks to the security personal at Gibson Station who went way out of their way to help protect the tern colonies and to making access to the them easy for the researcher. Some thanks should also go to David Ayer who found and has helped to study the Ohio River nesting site. Thanks go to Allisyn Gillet for her participation and advice both during the study and during the preparation of this paper. Amy Kearns assisted with both site preparation and Least Terns production studies. Her help with the project is greatly appreciated. Dan Eckstein is thanked for doing much of the Tern Bar Slough site preparation and attempting to solve the water problem.

**Indiana Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program funded this study. Your support for this program would be greatly appreciated.**

# Winter Indiana Field Notes 2017-2018

**Dr. Ken Brock, Porter, IN**

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The winter of 2017/2018 was interesting weather wise. A fluctuation of extreme cold and above normal temperatures fluctuated back and forth. Noteworthy avian aspects of the season included: lingering Black-legged Kittiwakes, exceptional Harlequin Duck numbers, Indiana's fifth Slaty-backed Gull record, a record Snowy Owl invasion, three Prairie Falcons, and above average winter finches.

Departure from Normal: Indianapolis		
	°F	Precip. Inches
<b>Dec</b>	-1.4	-2.05
<b>Jan</b>	-3.0	-0.66
<b>Feb</b>	+5.6	+2.33

In the following narrative the abbreviation STYM (Indiana twenty-year mean) gives the average number of birds reported in Indiana over the past 20 years.

Abbreviations:

FWA = Fish & Wildlife Area

NA = Nature Area

NWR = National Wildlife Refuge

SP = State Park

SRA = State Recreation Area

GHA = Game Bird Habitat Area

WMA = Wildlife Management Area

WTF= Wastewater Treatment Facility

## Species Accounts

**Ross's Goose:-** On 2 February Amy Kearns tied the Indiana record count with (300) in Greene Co.

**Canvasback:-** A February surge led to a season total of 1956, which is Indiana's second largest winter total since 1949.

**Harlequin Duck:-** On 9 December Adam and Sarah Wilson photographed (5- an immature male and four females) at Whiting Park. This total ties Indiana's maximum count. These birds lingered and were still present on 23 December (John K. Cassady et al.).

GEESE & SWANS		
Species	Reported	STYM
SNGO	458,966	330,149
ROGO*	462	63.2
GWFG*	68,844	24,693
CAGO	153,947	89,812
CKGO	233	101
MUSW*	1508	506
TRUS	1036	337
TUSW	514	392
*Record season total		

**Black Scoter:-** The rarely seen adult male was found at Whiting Refinery Beach on 20 January (Ryan Sanderson et al.) and again on 3 February (Randy J. Pals et al.).

**Long-tailed Duck:-** Adam & Sara Wilson, along with Richard Garrett, found (2) in Greenfield

on 13 February, providing a first Hancock Co record.

**Red-throated Loon:-** Steve Lima photographed an adult at Turtle Creek Res. on 21 January, providing a rare inland winter record. This individual likely wintered, as a similar individual was seen on the 24<sup>th</sup> (Peter E. Scott) and again on 18 February 2018 (Steve Lima).

**Horned Grebe:-** Two reports of grounded birds occurred on 11 February following the heavy snowfall across northern Indiana. One was in LaGrange Co (Sam Plew) and the other at Beverly Shores (Ralph Grundel). Both birds were rescued and released into aquatic digs.

**Eared Grebe:-** On 7 December Brendan J. Grube found (1) at the Port of Indiana (Porter Co.). This is the lakefront's first winter record in five years.



**Eared Grebe at Port of Indiana, 19 December 2017. Photo by Michael Clay.**

**Great Egret:-** As is normally the case in recent years a few lingered into early December. This year's latest record occurred 18 December when Peter E. Scott found (1) at Dugger in Sullivan Co.

**Spotted Sandpiper:-** Indiana's first January record was logged at Gibson Lake on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Ken Wilson and two unidentified associates identified the bird. The next closest sighting date occurred 20 December 1998.

**Greater Yellowlegs:-** The one that Mark Welter found on the periphery of Gibson Lake on 16 December tied Indiana fifth latest record.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:-** The singleton that John Meredig found at Bluegrass FWA on 8 December, provided Indiana's second latest record. James H. Campbell found (1) at this location on 19 December, providing a new second latest record for the state. The latter was also seen and identified by Jim Lodato.

**American Woodcock:-** On 25 January Craig Shillinglaw saw (1) near Lake Station, which provided the first January record for Indiana's northern tier of counties.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:-** An apparent wintering bird was photographed at Steelworkers Park (Chicago) on 2 December (Don Gorney and Aidan Rominger); the bird was seen in Indiana waters. John C. Kendall observed (2) first-cycle birds flying along the Michigan City Harbor beach on 7 December. Brendan J. Grube had a juvenile fly past the Port of Indiana on 27 December. The winter period TYM=2.2.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:-** Eric Michael established a record high count for Indiana on 24 February when he tallied (9- 7 adults & 2 imm) on Riley Road (St Joseph Co). The former state record of (8) was also set by this observer.

**SLATY-BACKED GULL:-** On 9-January an adult was seen in Indiana waters off Calumet Park, IL at 2:45 PM. The bird was observed and photographed by Carl Giometti. This is Indiana's fifth record.

**Glaucous Gull:-** During the 16 December Lake Monroe CBC Scott Evan found a first-cycle bird at Fairfax, providing the eleventh record for the southern tier.

**Snowy Owl:-** It was a phenomenal winter for this owl with a season record 172 reported in the state. Brad Bumgardner and I made a concerted effort to keep track of all reports. The first record occurred 26 October and the flight will continue through April.

Indiana's previous maximum flight occurred in the winter of 2013-14 and consisted of 120 birds, but the latter number includes 16 owls that were seen in March and April. The 2017-18 total includes 20 records that were logged in March.

**Northern Flicker:-** The (46) that William H. Buskirk found at Gibson Lake on 29 January, constitutes the largest winter daily tally for the state.

**PRAIRIE FALCON:-** Three reports. Don Gorney et al, recorded the first in Knox Co on 20 December. The second was at the Somerville Mines (Gibson Co) on 27 December (Evan Speck). Jeremy Ross logged the third near Francisco on 30 December.

**Loggerhead Shrike:-** Surprisingly, one was photographed in Scott Co on 6 February (Brian Lowry), providing the first record for that county since 1992.

**Northern Shrike:-** For the winter 39 were reported across the state (STYM=23.2).

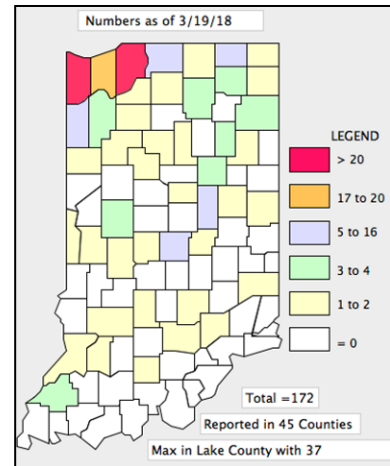
**Fish Crow:-** This species appears to have wintered in Indianapolis as Spike Selig tallied (11) calling birds on Christmas Eve, Aidan Rominger estimated that (11) were present among 4000 American Crows on 30 January, and Jeff Packer heard at least one call along the White River on 7 February.

**Tree Swallow:-** On 24 January Jim and Susan Hengeveld identified a male in Brown Co where Beanblossom Creek enters Lake Lemon. This is Indiana's third record for the month of January.

**Gray Catbird:-** David Rupp found (1) in Monroe Co on 20 February providing Indiana's twelfth February record.

**European Starling:-** The (100,000) that William H. Buskirk estimated three miles south of Owensville (Gibson Co) on 29 January provided Indiana's third largest count.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:-** Eleven were reported for the season (STYM=2.50). On 2 December Edward M. Hopkins found (2) at Black Rock Barrens Nature Preserve (TNC) in Warren County. This is only the second winter record that involved more than a single individual.



**Map showing the distribution of Snowy Owl sightings across the state. Note that the highest concentration occurred in the northernmost portion of the state and that at least three wandered as far south as Gibson County.**

**Harris's Sparrow**:- LaGrange County logged its second December record on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The bird visited a feeder at the Orva Yoder home. Leland Shaum and Jame Yoder confirmed the sighting and reported that the bird as in first-cycle plumage. This individual lingered through at least 3 February.



**A very obliging Harris's Sparrow at the Yoder homestead, Lagrange County. Photo taken on 26 December 2017 by Leland Shaum.**

**Summer Tanager**:- On 21 December Winnie Mikeska photographed a female at her Corydon feeder. This is Indiana's fifth December, and Indiana's sixth winter, record.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**:- Lisa and Gary Bowman enjoyed a first-cycle male that visited their Vincennes feeder on 29 December providing Indiana's fifth record for the 12<sup>th</sup> month (and 11<sup>th</sup> winter record).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**:- Two reports this winter. The first was seen at the Pike Co feeder of the Jeremy Ross family on 2 January. The second appeared at the Hengeveld's feeder on Lake Lemon on 22 January.

**Common Grackle**:- William H. Buskirk conservatively estimated that (250,000) were present three miles south of Owensville (Gibson Co) on 29 January. This tally ties three other records for Indiana's fourth largest daily count.

**Red Crossbill**:- Following the November invasion on the lakefront, winter numbers were the highest since 1961. Some 87 winter birds were scattered across nine counties (STYM=9.95). The largest single party count was (20) found by Benjamin Miller at Pigeon River FWA on 13 January.



**Red Crossbill at Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis 07 January 2018. Photo by Jeff Packer.**

**Common Redpoll**:- It was a good season for this small finch with 522 reported, which is the best winter total since 2012-13 when 1762 were tallied (STYM=274). Winter Redpolls were scattered across 17 counties; the southernmost occurrence was in Monroe Co. The season's peak count was (40) that Matt Beatty found at Cowles Bog on 16 December (STYM=274).

**Hoary Redpoll**:- One briefly visited the Brock feeders in Chesterton on 22 January (KJB).



## Indiana Christmas Bird Count Summary 2017-2018

**John Cassady, Niles, MI**  
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For Indiana birders, the winter of 2017/18 will likely be remembered for its record breaking irruption of Snowy Owls. Nearly 200 of these beautiful birds were recorded across the state over the course of the winter; Christmas Count participants enjoyed the effects, recording a record thirteen Snowys. Among the season's best finds was Indiana's first Harlequin Duck in seven years, the first Eared Grebe in sixteen seasons, the state's first CBC record of a Laughing X Ring-billed Gull hybrid, two Prairie Falcons, and the first Yellow-headed Blackbird in thirty-nine years. Other great discoveries included three Great Egrets, pairs of Virginia Rails and Greater Yellowlegs, and "count week" Red Crossbills.



**Snowy Owl at Michigan City Harbor on 19 December 2017. Photo by Bob Huguenard.**

Species with record high counts included Greater White-fronted Goose, Gadwall, Redhead, Hooded Merganser, Black Vulture, Golden Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Barn Owl, Snowy Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Winter Wren, and Fox Sparrow. Birds with unusually low totals included Ruddy Duck, American Robin, and American Pipit.

Gibson was the only count to top one hundred species, with 103. Other circles producing impressive totals of ninety or more species included Sullivan County (99), Oakland City (95), Goose Pond (94), and Lake Monroe (91). Forty-seven counts reported data in Indiana this season (a nice increase from last year's thirty-nine), which included 782 field observers and 122 feeder watchers. A total of 1,855 party hours, 281 hours of feeder observation, and 96 hours of nocturnal birding resulted in the discovery of 151 total species (plus one hybrid).

Continuing the trend of recent years, Geese were abundant throughout the state. A record 11,797 Greater White-fronted Geese included 5,011 from Gibson, 3,077 for Goose Pond, and Knox County's 2,708. The 116,237 Snow Goose total was only topped by last season's record 211,758 birds. An impressive thirty-three Ross's Geese were spread across six counts, including Goose Pond's ten. Surprisingly, Mute Swan numbers (347) were down a bit this season. The Trumpeter (12) and Tundra Swan (48) totals were fairly typical.

Duck counts of note featured a record Gadwall tally (2,537), with big totals from Goose Pond (860), Oakland City (423), and Lake Monroe (256). Lafayette had an impressive 103 American Wigeon, while Goose Pond provided the bulk (190) of the season's Green-winged Teal total



(285). It was also a new record high for Redheads, including a nice count of sixty-seven from Tippecanoe.

“Sea Duck” highlights featured a Harlequin Duck and fourteen Long-tailed Ducks from the Dunes count. All three Scoters were added, including Surf Scoters from the Dunes (3) and Indianapolis (1), White-winged Scoters also from the Dunes (18) and Indy counts (1), and Black Scoters from the Lake Monroe (2) and Dunes counts (1). It was a record year for Hooded Mergansers (1,562) in no small part due to fine counts from Lake Monroe (291) and Gibson (211).

Willow Slough contributed fifty-six of the season’s sixty-six Ring-necked Pheasants. Two circles had Red-throated Loons - the Dunes (27) and Lake Monroe (1). Dunes counters also added a lingering Eared Grebe. Black Vulture numbers continue to rise; this season’s 978 was a new high. Patoka Lake added a nice count of 283 Turkey Vultures. Great Egrets were good finds on the Lafayette (1), Sullivan County (1), and Greenfield counts (cw).

It was a record year for Golden Eagles; ten circles contributed to the season’s thirteen birds, including three from Lake Monroe and a pair from Cass County. Another new high was established for Red-shouldered Hawk (297). Virginia Rail contributors included singles from Cass County, the Dunes, and Pike County (cw).



**Cass County Golden Eagle, 11 January 2018. Photo by Gary Overdorf.**

Nearly half of the season’s 7,191 Sandhill Cranes came from the Whitewater count (3,289), while two counts had Whooping Cranes - Goose Pond (21) and Gibson (3). Gibson counters also had a productive shorebird day with a pair of Greater Yellowlegs (the state’s fifth CBC record) and fourteen Least Sandpipers. The season’s lone American Woodcock was provided by Eagle Creek.

It was an odd year for gulls. Surprisingly, most of the gulls of note came from counts away from Lake Michigan, including an impressive “six gull” day for the Elkhart County circle, and a “five gull” day for Lake Monroe. In addition to a big total of 7,877 Ring-billed Gulls, Lake Monroe also tallied a pair of Lesser Black-backed Gulls and a Glaucous Gull. Elkhart County added Indiana’s first CBC record for a Laughing X Ring-billed Gull hybrid, the season’s only two Iceland Gulls, another Lesser Black-backed (cw), and a Glaucous Gull. Gibson added yet another inland Lesser Black-backed and the only other Glaucous Gull. The Indiana Dunes count (3), Dunes West (1), and Elkhart (cw) provided the only Great Black-backed Gulls this season.

Five Barn Owls ties the previous high and came from Spring Mill (3), Goose Pond (1), and Oakland City (1). A record-breaking Snowy Owl irruption resulted in a new high CBC total as well; ten Snowys (plus three count week birds) included multiples from Greenfield (2) and South Bend (2). The Barred Owl total (110) also tied the previous high. The season’s three Long-eared Owls came from Lafayette (2) and Lake Monroe (1). Only one Northern Saw-whet Owl was found this year (Lafayette), resulting in the lowest total in twelve seasons. The Indiana

Dunes counters found an impressive 104 Red-headed Woodpeckers, while Goose Pond had a nice count of 112 Northern Flickers. A record 2,121 Red-bellied Woodpeckers were tallied across the state.

It was a good year for Falcons; in addition to fifteen total Merlins, a new record high was established for Peregrine Falcon (12), including three each from the Dunes and Ohio River. For the first time ever, two Prairie Falcons were found, Indiana's sixth and seventh CBC records from Goose Pond and Oakland City.

It was also a good season for Eastern Phoebes (16), and both Shrikes. Spring Mill had a Loggerhead Shrike, while the eight Northern Shrikes was the highest total in six seasons. Patoka Lake had the lone House Wren, always a good CBC find. A record high sixty-four Winter Wrens included eight from Cass County, six from Evansville, and three circles with five. Goose Pond had the only Marsh Wren this year.

The American Robin total (2,299) was the lowest in ten years despite nice counts from Ohio River (773) and White Water (660). Five circles had Gray Catbirds (6), including two from the Dunes, while Gibson found two of this season's five Brown Thrashers. American Pipits were unusually scarce (3), with only singles from Goose Pond, Michaela Farm-Oldenburg, and Ohio River. Whitewater had a good count of Cedar Waxwings (431).

Warbler highlights included Gibson's Orange-crowned Warbler, a Common Yellowthroat from Ohio River, and Terre Haute's Palm Warbler. Five circles contributed to the season's six Chipping Sparrows. A record 193 Fox Sparrows included nice counts from Muscatatuck (58) and Willow Slough (18). Willow Slough also had this year's lone Vesper Sparrow. The Lincoln's Sparrow total (5) was another new record thanks to a pair from the Dunes, and singles from Jamestown, Lake Monroe, and Spring Mill.



**Yellow-headed Blackbird at the Ross residence in Pike County. 02 January 2018. Photo by Isaac Ross.**

“Bird of the year” honors arguably goes to Pike County's Yellow-headed Blackbird. Sullivan County saved the Rusty Blackbird total from disaster, providing 2,044 of the season's 2,632 birds. The only Brewer's Blackbirds this year were a pair from Knox County. Breaking the trend of recent years, winter finches were represented by Lafayette's count week Red Crossbills, and two counts with Common Redpolls - the Dunes (48) and Southern Lake County (11).

## A Tale of Winter Birding on the Lakefront

**Kenneth J. Brock, Chesterton, IN**  
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Hoosiers are all too familiar with the winter birding doldrums. The kind of outing in which bird-of-the-day might involve choosing between an oily Starling and a streaky Song Sparrow. But on rare occasions wonderful birds do appear, even in the dead of winter: such was the case on 17 January 1998.

That midwinter day saw a high temperature of 28°F accompanied by a gloomy overcast with occasional light showers. Our birding contingent included John Cassady, Clyde Fields, Don Gorney, Lynea Hinchman, Jeff McCoy, and the author. Following tradition, our first stop was Michigan City Harbor, where we were greeted by an unusually dark **Snowy Owl**. Before we had fully savored the striking owl, Jeff yelled “Jaeger.” All eyes turned upward and reveled at the sight of an awesome **Pomarine Jaeger**, which ultimately landed a quarter-mile offshore. This day was looking unusually promising.



**Lake watchers at Michigan City Harbor. Wind shelter is difficult to find at the harbor. Photo by Pete Grube**

We then journeyed to Munster where a **Varied Thrush** had been frequenting a birder’s backyard. With moderate effort we nailed the thrush and then got a fantastic tip from Bob Hughes: a **King Eider** was at Jeorse Park on the East Chicago lakefront. At Jeorse an enormous ice raft had moved into the harbor and was only 20 feet from the beach. The ducks were confined to the narrow ribbon of water between the beach and ice. And sure enough, among the scaup and goldeneye was a splendid female King Eider, so close that John confirmed the occurrence with nice photos. Unreal.

After lunch we headed eastward and at the Port of Indiana bagged an adult **Red-throated Loon**. In those days this was still a Code-8 bird (i.e., one occurred about every two years). Although by today’s standards this did not constitute a rarity, in 1998 it was quite special.

Next was a trip to the LaPorte County dump, located on I-94, just south of Michigan City. This facility, which closed in 2002, was a marvelous location for winter gulls. In a short order we logged seven species, the best of which was a first-cycle **Iceland Gull** (Kumlien’s). In those days finding seven gull species was not a major accomplishment; as a matter of fact, the landfill’s presence rendered seven-gull days the norm.

The day’s final stop was at a rural home about a mile north of the Heron Rookery. Earlier in the week Clyde had seen Redpolls at the front yard feeder. We were welcomed by a flock of 40

redpolls. A search through the flock revealed one enormous redpoll, so big that John nicknamed it “megapoll.” It was fully the size of the nearby House Sparrows, towering over the other redpolls. Subsequent research revealed that this bird was a **Greater Redpoll**, a Common Redpoll subspecies that inhabits Greenland and Baffin Island (Brock (1998)).

Additional searching through the redpoll flock also yielded a frosty-white **Hoary Redpoll**, which provided a superb ending to this adrenalin elevating winter day. Indeed, in all the excitement we even forgot about selecting a bird-of-the-day. Which bird would you have chosen?

#### **Literature Cited**

Brock, K.J. (1998) The “Greater” Redpoll *Carduelis flammea rostrata* Returns to Indiana, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 76:112-114.

## 2017 Birder's Lists

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Many serious birders keep detailed lists of the species that they identify. They usually record the species name and the location of the observation. Many keep numerous lists. For most Indiana birders the main lists kept are for the ABA, the state of Indiana, and a county or two. Some keep life lists whereas others also complete year lists and day lists. Some lists can be as expansive as a world list or as small as a favorite park, a nearby woods, or their own backyard. This annual article is a place for Indiana birders to publicize their lists. Both life and year lists are published for World, North America, American Birding Association (ABA), Indiana, Indiana Counties, and home property. There is also a table for "Big Years" done by an Indiana birder. A big year is an attempt to identify by sight or sound a large number of birds in a calendar year within a geographic area. There have been big years done for the world, ABA, states, counties, and even home sites.

This year there were eighty-two people who submitted at least one list. This is 20 more than last year. The most popular list was the Indiana life list with 66 lists submitted. The deadline for the 2018 list report will be February 1, 2019. I plan to remind all those whose emails I have and to also use INBIRD to get the word out. Good luck to all of you in your birding endeavors.

### 2017 Life Lists

#### World

The World list is simply a compilation of bird species seen anywhere in the world. It represents the results of a birder's travels all over the world. Clearly the more places a person visits, the larger the list. The total possible on this list is about 10500. This number has been slowly increasing with the discovery of new species and the fact that some species are split into two or more new ones. Sometimes two or more bird species are combined into one but the splits seem to occur more often. There were 45 lists submitted. This was 19 more than last year. This year, the top world lister was again Bob Walton with 8798. Bob is one of the top listers in the world. He is currently third in the world according to the ABA. One of his trips last year was to Guyana with Larry Peavler where he saw 428 species with 14 lifers. Rick and Debbie Read increased their world lists with several trips in 2017. They went to Argentina and the Antarctic, as well as, a cruise through the Lesser Antilles. Roger Hedge went on a trip to Belgium and the Netherlands in April and picked up 94 species in Europe, most of them lifers.

8798	Bob Walton	1352	Elvin Wilmot	581	Brad Bumgardner
4461	Larry Peavler	1222	Cloyce Hedge	556	Bob Carper
3805	Sue Ulrich	1158	Tom and Colleen Becker	439	Austin Broadwater
3803	Ted Ulrich	1150	Rick Folkening	426	Jonathan Yoerger
3548	Bill Buskirk	995	Gordon Chastain	426	Whitney Yoerger
2565	Bruce Glick	980	Mark Rhodes	415	Kevin Cornell
2382	Jim Hengeveld	880	Roger Hedge	390	Marietta Smith
2376	Susan Hengeveld	807	Carl Huffman	371	Kim Ehn

2107	Marjorie Carmony	776	Ed Powers	363	Perry Yoder
2073	Chuck Mills	762	Kirk Roth	341	Ben Cvangros
1950	John Kendall	741	Sam Plew	339	Keshava Mysore
1939	Peter Scott	627	Holly Meyers	301	Annie Aguirre
1595	Rick Read	620	Matthew Bowman	294	Margaret Bauer
1518	Debbie Read	599	Kathy Meyer	239	Stefany Boleyn
1385	Bob Kissel	589	Ryan Slack		

## North America

This list covers the region that is north of the Columbian-Panamanian border and includes the Caribbean. It is similar to the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) list but does not include Hawaii or Greenland. There are around 2000 possible species on this list. The top lister was Bob Walton with 1716. To get a large North American list a birder has to be serious about birding in Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean as well as the ABA area. This year there were 39 lists reported, 16 more than last year.

1716	Bob Walton	753	Ed Hopkins	415	Kevin Cornell
1329	John Kendall	746	Rick Folkening	411	Gary Langell
1285	Chuck Mills	730	Debbie Read	397	Austin Broadwater
1252	Jim Hengeveld	723	Carl Huffman	389	Amy Hodson
1249	Susan Hengeveld	715	John Cassady	371	Kim Ehm
1182	Peter Scott	653	Sam Plew	362	Vicky Whitaker
1131	Bruce Glick	598	Elvin Wilmot	341	Ben Cvangros
1070	Tom & Colleen Becker	597	Cathy Meyer	296	Annie Aguirre
989	Bill Buskirk	581	Brad Bumgardner	263	Jennifer McQuade
877	Cloyce Hedge	579	Matthew Bowman	239	Jonathan Yoerger
815	Gordon Chastain	568	Ryan Slack	239	Whitney Yoerger
813	Roger Hedge	521	Amy Kearns	238	Stefany Boleyn
805	Rick Read	508	Bob Carper	196	Margaret Bauer

## ABA Continental (Canada and the United States without Hawaii)

There is often some confusion about North American lists. The ABA list covers only the continental US, Canada and 2 French islands off the coast of Newfoundland. It includes Alaska and Hawaii. It does not include Greenland. The old ABA list which does not include Hawaii will now be called the ABA Continental. I hope that you are not confused by all of this. There are now 1103 species the official ABA list. The ABA added 105 species seen only in Hawaii in late 2017. Thirty-three of these were extinct species. Larry Peavler with 908 is in first place for the lists reported from Indiana. He was tied for second on the 2017 ABA report. He increased his list by four species last year. He did not report any Hawaiian birds. Mark Rhodes had a strong second place with 817. Evan Speck increased his list by 117. Roger Hedge went to south Florida and the Dry Tortugas and added 7 ABA Area lifers. David Crouch had his ABA life list augmented by a NW Washington State and pelagic trip. Kim Eln traveled to Seattle WA, Sacramento CA, Parkland FL, Milwaukee WI, Hamilton County NY, and did a West Indies (Cruise).

Matthew Bowman birded 27 US States, plus Guam and Japan. Mark Rhodes gained two and lost one. He was able to see Common Greenshank and Black-backed Oriole, but lost the Thayer's Gull. Chris Newman added three lifers in 2017: Northern Saw-whet Owl, Canada Warbler, and Purple Gallinule. Jeremy Ross also added 3 lifers: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Piping Plover, and Northern Saw-whet Owl. All seen in Indiana. Many birders were very sad about losing their lifer Thayer's Gull. It was combined with the Iceland Gull. There were 63 lists reported, 15 more than last year.

908	Larry Peavler		655	Kirk Roth		411	Gary Langell
817	Mark Rhodes		653	Sam Plew		401	Brad Bumgardner
778	Jim Hengeveld		647	Bruce Glick		397	Debbie Read
766	Susan Hengeveld		631	Lou Anne Barriger		378	Leland Shaum
766	Bob Walton		627	Holly Meyers		375	Austin Broadwater
753	Ed Hopkins		619	Gordon Chastain		371	Kim Ehn
731	Ken Brock		587	Kathy Meyer		362	Vicky Whitaker
727	Peggy Harger-Allen		567	Matthew Bowman		360	Matt Kalwasinski
711	Chuck Mills		554	David Crouch		353	Thaddaeus Shaum
708	Bob Kissel		536	Tom and Colleen Becker		350	Neal Miller
706	Ed Powers		521	Amy Kearns		343	Marietta Smith
705	John Cassady		513	David Ayer		317	Chris Newman
698	Evan Speck		496	Ryan Slack		296	Annie Aguirre
697	Cloyce Hedge		492	Rick Folkening		270	Ben Cvengros
692	Marjorie Carmony		475	Carl Huffman		259	Jennifer McQuade
681	John Kendall		461	Rick Read		249	Gary Offerdorf
678	Theresa Schwinghammer		457	Larry Carter		241	Keshava Mysore
676	Cynthia Powers		451	Bob Carper		239	Jonathan Yoerger
674	Peter Scott		451	Elvin Wilmot		239	Whitney Yoerger
670	Roger Hedge		447	Bob Decker		238	Stefany Boleyn
663	Florence Sanchez		415	Kevin Cornell		196	Margaret Bauer

### ABA (Canada and the United States with Hawaii)

823	Jim Hengeveld		647	Bruce Glick		401	Brad Bumgardner
823	Bob Walton		627	Holly Meyers		375	Austin Broadwater
811	Susan Hengeveld		567	Matthew Bowman		371	Kim Ehn
753	Ed Hopkins		552	Bill Buskirk		300	Annie Aguirre
747	Ed Powers		517	Ryan Slack		270	Ben Cvengros
739	Chuck Mills		492	Rick Folkening		239	Jonathan Yoerger
735	Cloyce Hedge		480	Elvin Wilmot		239	Whitney Yoerger
733	Ken Brock		475	Carl Huffman		238	Stefany Boleyn
715	Cynthia Powers		415	Kevin Cornell		196	Margaret Bauer



## Indiana

Ed Hopkins added two to up his list to 392 and moved into sole possession of first place. There were 67 people who reported Indiana lists. This is up 15 from last year. Many people mentioned one or more of the three new prospective additions to the state check lists as their favorite bird of the year. These were Wandering Tattler, Golden-crowned Sparrow, and Mottled Duck. Annie Aguirre wrote that it was an honor to be able to document the Golden-crowned Sparrow. Lou Anne Barriger added the Muscatatuck Black Rail to her life list. John Cassady was happy to add Wandering Tattler to his state list. He also saw an Ivory Gull in Michigan.

Amy Kearns had a nice combo of three cool species on the same day: Ruff and Piping Plover, plus a Golden-crowned sparrow. She also found a Mottled Duck at Cane Ridge this year.

392	Ed Hopkins	324	Lou Anne Barriger	277	Austin Broadwater
391	Ken Brock	323	Sam Plew	272	Bill Buskirk
377	Larry Peavler	319	Kevin Cornell	272	Ted Ulrich
375	John Kendall	316	Matt Kalwasinski	271	John Meredig
374	John Cassady	315	Amy Hodson	271	Vicky Whitaker
373	Don Gorney	312	Neal Miller	268	Marietta Smith
367	Michael Topp	311	Cynthia Powers	264	Bob Carper
365	Michael Brown	310	David Ayer	264	Ryan Slack
363	Jim Hengeveld	310	Gordon Chastain	261	Bruce Glick
357	Roger Hedge	309	Marjorie Carmony	256	Ben Cvengros
355	Susan Hengeveld	309	Peggy Harger-Allen	252	Florence Sanchez
354	Chuck Mills	306	Thaddaeus Shaum	249	Carl Huffman
347	Ed Powers	305	Theresa Schwinghammer	247	Cathy Meyer
345	Cloyce Hedge	304	Chris Newman	238	Holly Meyers
344	Kirk Roth	302	Tom and Colleen Becker	217	Whitney Yoerger
340	Brad Bumgardner	301	Elvin Wilmot	215	Jonathon Yoerger
339	Amy Kearns	300	Jeremy Ross	208	Rick Read
333	Marty Jones	298	David Crouch	206	Keshava Mysore
332	Peter Scott	296	Kim Ehn	176	Stefany Boleyn
328	Bob Decker	294	Susan Ulrich	174	Margaret Bauer
326	Gary Langell	293	Matthew Bowman	160	Rick Folkening
325	Leland Shaum	287	Annie Aguirre	159	Debbie Read

## Indiana Counties

There were reports from 90 Indiana counties this year. This is up from the 76 reported last year. There are 92 counties in Indiana. There were only two without submitted lists: Fulton and Ohio. If you live in or near an unreported county consider doing some birding there so that we could have reports from all 92. Twenty-one counties had only one-person listing. The county with the most reported lists was Greene with 20. Greene was followed by Lake with 15 and Gibson with 12. All of these counties have numerous hot spots in them and definitely draw birders. The county list is a more restricted list. The list is limited to species seen in one Indiana County. The top list was 331 by Chuck Mills for Gibson. He

added two species. The second place list was Michael Topps 323 from Lake. There were only 8 other lists having 300 or more species. Lake had 4 lists that were over 300. What continues to amaze me is the number of people who have large lists from numerous counties. Don Gorney reported the most counties with 77. He had over 200 in 9 counties. Kurt Roth reported 41 counties, Bob Decker reported 16 counties, and Amy Kearns had lists for 13 counties.

<b>County</b>		<b>Birder</b>		<b>County</b>		<b>Birder</b>
Adams	109	Don Gorney		La Porte	305	Ken Brock
Allen	272	Ed Powers			292	John Cassady
	206	Don Gorney			217	Ed Hopkins
	131	Sam Plew			206	Ed Powers
	102	Bob Decker			202	Don Gorney
	67	Kirk Roth			192	Brad Bumgardner
Bartholomew	103	Don Gorney			183	Kim Eln
Benton	231	Ed Hopkins			162	Matt Kalwasinski
	126	Don Gorney			107	Bob Decker
	79	Kirk Roth			91	Kirk Roth
Blackford	174	John Valasquez		Lawrence	214	Amy Kearns
Boone	262	Cloyce Hedge			159	Gary Langell
	256	Roger Hedge			138	Don Gorney
	151	Don Gorney		Madison	111	Don Gorney
	129	Peggy Harger-Allen			60	Kirk Roth
	124	Whitney Yoerger		Marion	271	Don Gorney
	119	Jonathan Yoerger			262	Gordon Chastain
	89	Austin Broadwater			245	Kirk Roth
	85	Kirk Roth			221	Amy Hodson
Brown	282	Jim Hengeveld			168	Austin Broadwater
	146	Ryan Slack			167	Whitney Yoerger
	110	Don Gorney			164	Jonathon Yoerger
	105	Bob Decker			156	Matthew Bowman
	93	Kirk Roth			133	Bob Decker
Carrol	53	Kirk Roth			126	Margaret Bauer
Cass	124	Florence Sanchez			110	Stefany Boleyn
	104	Don Gorney			105	Rick Folkening
Clark	204	Tom & Colleen Becker		Marshall	244	Neal Miller
	100	Don Gorney			100	Don Gorney
Clay	208	Peter Scott		Martin	100	Don Gorney
	157	Michael Brown		Miami	111	Don Gorney
	122	Don Gorney		Monroe	303	Jim Hengeveld
	79	Kirk Roth			268	Gary Langell
Clinton	108	Don Gorney			215	Amy Kearns
Crawford	86	Amy Kearns			203	Kirk Roth
	81	Tom & Colleen Becker			193	Cathy Meyer
Daviess	176	Amy Kearns			141	Don Gorney
	126	Gary Langell			132	Bob Decker
	133	Don Gorney		Montgomery	126	Don Gorney
	59	Kirk Roth		Morgan	120	Kirk Roth

De Kalb	102	Don Gorney			117	Don Gorney
Dearborn	198	Bob Decker		Newton	273	Ed Hopkins
	102	Don Gorney			203	Don Gorney
	64	Kirk Roth			139	Kirk Roth
Delaware	110	Don Gorney			121	Matt Kalwasinski
Decatur	100	Don Gorney		Noble	178	Sam Plew
Dubois	154	Amy Kearns			123	Don Gorney
Elkhart	262	Leland Shaum		Orange	220	Amy Kearns
	247	John Cassady			138	Gary Langell
	228	Bruce Glick			100	Don Gorney
	219	Annie Aguirre		Owen	107	Don Gorney
	215	Neal Miller		Parke	204	Peter Scott
	82	Keshava Mysore			155	Ben Cvengros
	81	Kirk Roth			131	Michael Brown
Fayette	110	Brad Bumgardner			110	Don Gorney
	103	Don Gorney		Perry	110	Amy Kearns
	58	Stefany Boleyn		Pike	256	Jeremy Ross
	53	Kirk Roth			161	Amy Kearns
Floyd	206	Tom & Colleen Becker			151	Vicky Whitaker
Fountain	149	Ed Hopkins			106	Don Gorney
	100	Don Gorney			60	Kirk Roth
Franklin	190	Bill Buskirk		Porter	319	Ken Brock
	172	Bob Decker			309	John Kendall
	107	Don Gorney			304	John Cassady
Gibson	331	Chuck Mills			290	Brad Bumgardner
	282	Evan Speck			248	Kim Eln
	262	Marietta Smith			242	Ed Hopkins
	265	Jeremy Ross			239	Matt Kalwasinski
	256	Amy Kearns			232	Ed Powers
	263	Chris Newman			224	Don Gorney
	253	Vicky Whitaker			161	Sam Plew
	230	David Ayer			152	Bob Decker
	201	John Meredig			138	Kirk Roth
	200	Tom & Colleen Becker			101	Austin Broadwater
	173	Don Gorney			101	Keshava Mysore
	150	Bob Decker			88	Stefany Boleyn
Grant	100	Don Gorney		Posey	194	John Meredig
Greene	268	Jim Hengeveld			147	Evan Speck
	268	Amy Kearns			94	Vicky Whitaker
	264	Michael Brown			52	Bob Decker
	252	Gary Langell		Pulaski	145	Don Gorney
	251	Don Gorney		Putnam	213	Rick Huffman
	229	Kirk Roth			107	Don Gorney
	224	Peter Scott			56	Kirk Roth
	212	Ed Hopkins		Randolph	200	Larry Carter
	206	Evan Speck			73	Don Gorney
	202	Bob Decker		Ripley	172	Bob Decker

	194	Tom & Colleen Becker		108	Kirk Roth
	167	Kathy Meyer		103	Don Gorney
	153	Matthew Bowman	Rush	162	Marjorie Carmony
	135	Gordon Chastain		100	Don Gorney
	131	Jeremy Ross	Scott	115	Tom & Colleen Becker
	103	Austin Broadwater		104	Don Gorney
	81	Margaret Bauer	Shelby	106	Don Gorney
	62	Keshava Mysore	Spencer	255	David Ayer
	55	Jonathon Yoerger		210	John Meredig
	55	Whitney Yoerger	St Joseph	245	John Cassady
Hamilton	245	Kevin Cornell		240	Neal Miller
	225	Don Gorney		180	Leland Shaum
	187	Kirk Roth		173	Bruce Glick
	183	Gordon Chastain		144	Keshava Mysore
	151	Bill Buskirk		103	Don Gorney
	78	Whitney Yoerger		72	Roth
	59	Jonathon Yoerger	Starke	122	Kim Eln
Hancock	206	Don Gorney		108	Don Gorney
	158	Mark Rhodes		64	Kirk Roth
	103	Rick Folkening	Steuben	208	Holly Meyers
	67	Kirk Roth		163	Sam Plew
Harrison	150	Tom & Colleen Becker		129	Don Gorney
	118	Amy Kearns		128	Bruce Matasick
Hendricks	193	Matthew Bowman	Sullivan	267	Michael Brown
	116	Don Gorney		215	Peter Scott
	88	Kirk Roth		184	Don Gorney
Henry	155	Bill Buskirk		161	Gary Langell
	150	Don Gorney		107	Kirk Roth
	134	Kirk Roth	Switzerland	66	Don Gorney
Howard	155	Florence Sanchez	Tippecanoe	293	Ed Hopkins
	100	Don Gorney		227	Tyler Stewart
	87	Kevin Cornell		166	Matthew Bowman
	56	Kirk Roth		139	Kirk Roth
Huntington	184	Ed Powers		137	Don Gorney
	110	Don Gorney		91	Bob Decker
Jackson	236	David Crouch	Tipton	164	Elvin Wilmot
	214	Tom & Colleen Becker		107	Don Gorney
	191	Kirk Roth		74	Kevin Cornell
	174	Amy Kearns	Union	248	Bill Buskirk
	143	Bob Decker		130	Bob Decker
	112	Don Gorney		118	Don Gorney
	108	Margaret Bauer		118	Kirk Roth
Jasper	108	Don Gorney	Vanderburgh	234	Chris Newman
	52	Kirk Roth		218	Evan Speck
Jay	101	Don Gorney		208	John Meredig
	52	Kirk Roth		161	Chuck Mills
Jefferson	119	Kirk Roth		99	Kirk Roth

Jennings	162	David Crouch		Vermillion	217	Peter Scott
	104	Don Gorney			207	Michael Brown
	63	Kirk Roth			146	Ben Cvengros
Johnson	215	Bob Carper			109	Don Gorney
	117	Don Gorney			108	Kevin Cornell
	107	Kirk Roth			101	Amy Kearns
Knox	107	Don Gorney		Vigo	263	Peter Scott
Kosciusko	250	John Kendall			235	Michael Brown
	102	Don Gorney			191	Ben Cvengros
LaGrange	273	Sam Plew			176	Marty Jones
	249	Leland Shaum			143	Don Gorney
	194	Bruce Glick			121	Kirk Roth
	119	Don Gorney		Wabash	213	Ed Powers
Lake	323	Michael Topp			111	Don Gorney
	314	Ken Brock		Warren	196	Ed Hopkins
	317	John Cassady			100	Don Gorney
	309	John Kendall		Warrick	238	Chuck Mills
	293	Ed Hopkins			237	Evan Speck
	273	Matt Kalwasinski			233	John Meredig
	254	Don Gorney			210	Chris Newman
	253	Ed Powers			163	David Ayer
	224	Brad Bumgardner			122	Kirk Roth
	218	Kim Eln		Washington	102	Don Gorney
	200	Kirk Roth		Wayne	222	Bill Buskirk
	191	Bob Decker			101	Don Gorney
	142	Sam Plew		Wells	100	Don Gorney
	113	Austin Broadwater			66	Ed Powers
	56	Keshava Mysore		White	165	Rich Read
					119	Gary Overdorf
					106	Don Gorney
					75	Debbie Read
				Whitley	78	Don Gorney

## Property Lists

The property list covers all species seen while standing on the land of your homestead. This can be as small as the balcony of an apartment or as large as several hundred acres. The size of your property, the quality of the habitat, and the length of time birding your place greatly affect the possibilities. Jim and Susan Hengeveld have one of the largest property lists in the United States. With 260 species. There were reports from 26 counties and from 31 people.

Count	Birder	County	Description
260	Jim and Susan Hengeveld	Brown	About a quarter of an acre of land at the east end of Lake Lemon on the south shore. There are some tall oaks, a few ashes, a bunch of smaller trees and some brush. The shallow end of the

			lake is to the north, a channel to the west, a patch of cattails to the east with a wooded swampy area across the street from the house.
208	Clint Murray	Montgomery	Lye Creek Prairie Burn, 80 acres
202	Neal Miller	Marshall	80 acre dairy farm with 2 acres woods, a small pond, 9 acres native prairie, an overgrown fence row, and the farm is bordered on one side by a mature woods.
183	Ken Brock	Porter	One acre that borders the Little Calumet River (actually part of the flood plain is on the property) and about three miles south of Lake Michigan.
183	Leland Shaum	Elkhart	A 24 acre small farm with six acres of woods, about an acre of native prairie, a pond, hayfield, and pasture. It is surrounded mostly by open farmland and woods, with one side being a four lane highway and a five acre retention pond area of water and grass/weeds
168	Gordon Chastain	Marion	30 acres condo association property including White River flood plain and woods 4 miles from Downtown Indianapolis
165	Bob Walden	Allen	4 acres, old farm, a top old glacial ridge. Populated with wide variety of trees and bushes. 1/4 acre pond and drainage to marsh below. Overlooks 3 ponds and a seasonal flooded marsh.
163	Tom and Coleen Becker	Floyd	A suburban/rural 1.1 acre lot on cul-de-sac adjacent to ~15 acres of mixed hardwoods. Also, adjacent to ~7-8 acre lake
163	Jeremy Ross	Pike	6 acres, .5 acre shallow pond, 2 acres of crop, 2 acres of native pollinators, the rest being young trees and bushes bordered by deciduous hardwoods on the west, and crop fields with wide fencerows on the rest.
164	Peter Scott	Vigo	50 acres in Nevins Township, northeast Vigo County
160	Marietta Smith	Gibson	116 acre farm with 80 acres in crops. The rest is wooded with a 2 acre marsh.
159	Marjorie Carmony	Rush	Rural farm
153	Gary Langell	Monroe	1.18 rural acres
140	Amy and Noah Kearns	Lawrence	A one acre clearing surrounded by 2 acres of cedar trees
132	David Ayer	Spencer	A 60 acre tract consisting mostly of agricultural fields. The south portion of the property contains a house and barn with a yard and scattered trees. A small creek also runs through the property.
132	Tom Hougham	Johnson	2 square mile block of land with a 450 acre lake. It has a couple of CILTI preserves on its periphery
131	Chuck Mills	Warrick	A .5 acre wooded lot backing up to a 40 acre

			mature woods
127	Bob Decker	Dearborn	A secluded ridgetop consisting of 12.1 acres. The yard is native wildflowers. The rest is an old field with goldenrod, grasses, and other native wildflowers, several berry species, many young cedars, a small locust grove, and a 4 acre woods- primarily oak-hickory and maple. Surrounding the property is grassland on the North side, old growth woods on the east, secondary forest on the south with a large creek. The west side has three small ponds, grassland, a woodlot and a small yard.
119	Vicky Whitaker	Gibson	Mixed lot, 17 1/2 acres. Fallow fields, mature hardwood trees. Evergreens and lots of scrubby areas.
117	Ryan Slack	Brown	7 acre forest with 2 ponds.
112	Ben Cvengros	Parke	Country yard consisting of 3 acres surrounded by deciduous forest and an apple orchard on one side. No pond or water source other than a tiny creek that runs in a ravine. The forest is sloped with many ravines.
110	Kirk Roth	Marion	Its .3 acre of suburban lawn on the north side of Indy. Mostly mowed lawn the edges are mature trees, including maple, Black Walnut, and Northern Hackberry. There are a variety of shrubs.
98	Matt Kalwasinski	Lake	A suburban backyard – 75 ft. wide x 300 ft. long. Multiple evergreen bushes & trees along with deciduous trees and plants. A large pond in the middle of the backyard, which has a small bog connected to it.
85	Lou Anne Barriger	Marion	1.5 suburban acres close to Eagle Creek Park.
84	Cloyce Hedge	Boone	Urban yard (90 X 150 feet) in Lebanon, Indiana.
79	Bob Kissel	Monroe	Older suburban development, mixed woods, lawns, and ½ mile from Griffey Lake.
70	Holly Meyers	Whitley	95 Acre Farm land with 20+ Acres in Wildlife Habitat and a 10 acre lake
64	Margaret Bauer	Marion	1/8 acre in northwestern Indianapolis subdivision, former farmland, largely mowed lawn with a few small trees; borders a retention pond.
53	Kim Elm	Porter	Urban 5000 square feet with two large spruce trees and a manmade 10 foot all year running stream.
52	Rick Folkening	Hancock	1/3 acre residential lot with a neighborhood pond.

## 2017 Year Lists

### World Year List



Twenty-four people reported world year lists, ten more than last year. A note about a record that was not submitted here but one that should be of interest to Indiana birders. The world big year record was set in 2016 when Arjan Dwarshvis of the Netherlands saw 6833 species

713	John Kendall	335	Brad Bumgardner	245	Perry Yoder
688	Rick Folkening	330	Kevin Cornell	228	Stefany Boleyn
631	Jim Hengeveld	320	Cloyce Hedge	225	Whitney Yoerger
630	Susan Hengeveld	301	Annie Aguirre	223	Jonathon Yoerger
587	Matthew Bowman	287	Tom and Colleen Becker	222	Keshava Mysore
548	Chuck Mills	271	Austin Broadwater	197	Ryan Slack
388	Carl Huffman	264	Ben Cvengros	182	Margaret Bauer
371	Kim Ehn	253	Sam Plew	83	Holly Meyers

### North America Year List

There were 26 reported North America year lists. This is double last year's reports. The top list was submitted by Evan Speck with 682. The top year list since I've been doing this report is 703 by John Kendall in 2015.

682	Evan Speck	313	Amy Hodson	253	Sam Plew
631	Jim Hengeveld	307	Gary Langell	227	Stefany Boleyn
630	Susan Hengeveld	298	Kim Ehn	225	Whitney Yoerger
561	Matthew Bowman	285	Annie Aguirre	223	Jonathon Yoerger
548	Chuck Mills	285	Amy Kearns	220	Rick Folkening
498	John Kendall	271	Austin Broadwater	197	Ryan Slack
335	Brad Bumgardner	271	Vicky Whitaker	182	Margaret Bauer
331	Carl Huffman	269	Cloyce Hedge	153	Jennifer McQuade
330	Kevin Cornell	264	Ben Cvengros	83	Holly Meyers

### ABA Year Lists

In many years the ABA reports some lists that are near or even above 700. A big ABA year for an Indiana birder involves not only birding heavy in Indiana but also going to South Texas, South Florida, Southeast Arizona, the west coast, maybe Alaska, and doing several pelagic trips. All this would have to be done in one year. The top ABA big year by an Indiana birder was Evan Speck with 682 which broke the previous record of 611. To even get over 400 involves some serious birding in various parts of the ABA area. There were 36 submitted lists by Indiana birders which was 10 more than last year. The top list reported to the ABA was by Yve Morrel of Florida and was 813 plus 4 provisional species. A provisional species is one that will only be counted if the ABA Records committee accepts it. Ruben and Victor Stoll of Tennessee had 813 plus three provisional species, just one less than what Yve recorded. Evan Speck saw 682 species and made 23 trips to find birds. Often, he went back to the same place but during a different season. Some of the places that he birded were: Southern and Central California, Alaska, Newfoundland, South Florida including Key West, Texas, Arizona, and Northern Minnesota in the winter. He made pelagic trips off both coasts. He was not on a true big year. He had just retired and

was wanting to travel to places he had not had time to see while he was still working. He still ended up 6<sup>th</sup> on the ABA Big Year list for 2017.

Matthew Bowman birded 27 US States and saw 561 species. He photographed 524 of the 561 on his ABA year list (93.4%) and got audio for 6 more that he did not have photograph (for a total of 530 or 94.5%). John Kendall birded in Arizona, Florida, and Oregon to get a year list of 498.

Only one person reported an ABA list that was larger than the ABA Continental list that they reported. That person was Cloyce Hedge who saw 320 ABA including Hawaii.

682	Evan Speck	311	Kirk Roth	225	Whitney Yoerger
561	Matthew Bowman	307	Gary Langell	223	Chris Newman
508	Chuck Mills	292	Kim Eln	223	Jonathon Yoerger
502	Mark Rhodes	287	Tom & Colleen Becker	222	Keshava Mysore
498	John Kendall	285	Annie Aguirre	221	Ed Powers
411	Theresa Schwinghammer	285	Amy Kearns	200	Ben Cvengros
349	Jim Hengeveld	271	Austin Broadwater	197	Ryan Slack
348	Susan Hengeveld	271	Vicky Whitaker	189	Cathy Meyer
335	Brad Bumgardner	269	Cloyce Hedge	182	Margaret Bauer
331	Carl Huffman	267	Matt Kalwasinski	166	Rick Folkening
330	Kevin Cornell	253	Sam Plew	153	Jennifer McQuade
328	David Crouch	227	Stefany Boleyn	83	Holly Meyers

## Indiana Year Lists

Thirty-nine Indiana year lists were submitted. To work on an Indiana Big Year a birder must bird both the Lake front and southwestern Indiana. They must spend a lot of time at Miller Beach, Kankakee Sands, Eagle Creek, Goose Pond, Cane Ridge and other bird magnet areas. They must be willing and able to drop everything and race to the location of a species that they have not seen yet this year. INBIRD is a great resource for any Big Year birders. Facebook birding groups are also providing great resources. Any list over 250 for a year in Indiana is very impressive. There were 24 such lists last year. Two birders tied for the top list in 2017. Ed Hopkins and Tyler Stewart both saw 308. Five birders reported lists that were over 300. Tyler stated that in his Indiana Big Year list that he birded in 45 different counties and travelled nearly 39,000 miles over the course of the year. He said that it had been a fun year of birding and he would like to thank all of the great people he met along the way. Kevin Cornell just missed tying for the lead with 308. Kevin Cornell just missed tying for the lead with 307. Don Gorney who seems to make the 300 club ever year had 304. Amy Hodson “the bubbly birder” had 301. I think that this is the first time that a female birder has made the 300 club.

308	Ed Hopkins	262	Evan Speck	207	Perry Yoder
308	Tyler Stewart	258	Peter Scott	199	Ben Cvengros
307	Kevin Cornell	257	Jeremy Ross	199	Theresa Schwinghammer
304	Don Gorney	254	Kim Ehn	195	Keshava Mysore
301	Amy Hodson	250	Matt Kalwasinski	194	Ed Powers

292	Matthew Bowman	250	Neal Miller	189	Rick Huffman
291	John Cassady	244	Michael Brown	183	Kathy Meyer
290	John Kendall	240	Chuck Mills	177	Gary Overdorf
288	Brad Bumgardner	239	Sam Plew	175	Cloyce Hedge
287	Ken Brock	233	Jim Hengeveld	166	Cynthia Powers
282	Bob Decker	233	Susan Hengeveld	163	Ryan Slack
279	Annie Aguirre	230	Kirk Roth	162	Stefany Boleyn
276	Amy Kearns	229	John Meredig	161	Vicky Whitaker
271	Gary Langell	227	David Crouch	159	Margaret Bauer
266	Leland Shaun	222	Chris Newman	119	Elvin Wilmot
265	Michael Topp	216	David Ayer	113	Jennifer McQuade
263	Austin Broadwater	213	Whitney Yoerger	112	Rick Fokening
262	Thaddaeus Shaum	212	Tom & Colleen Becker	83	Holly Meyers
		211	Jonathon Yoerger		

### Indiana County Year List

There were 50 counties with at least one year list reported. This is a decrease of 8. John Kendall had the top list with 251 for Lake County. The Big Year record for an Indiana county in the six years that I have been editing the lists is John Kendall's 259 for Lake County in 2011. Is 275 possible? Any year list over 200 for a county represents some serious birding. There were 20 such lists. There were three 200 plus lists for both Lake and Porter counties. Greene County had reports from 13 people.

County		Birder		County		Birder
Allen	158	Greg Majewski		Lawrence	168	Amy Kearns
	55	Bob Decker			151	Gary Langell
Benton	129	Ed Hopkins		Marion	165	Whitney Yoerger
Boone	165	Cloyce Hedge			160	Jonathon Yoerger
	120	Whitney Yoerger			159	Kirk Roth
	113	Jonathon Yoerger			158	Austin Broadwater
	76	Austin Broadwater			143	Amy Hodson
Brown	199	Jim Hengeveld			133	Matthew Bowman
	196	Susan Hengeveld			109	Margaret Bauer
	129	Ryan Slack			82	Bob Decker
	69	Bob Decker			79	Stefany Boleyn
Clark	118	Tom & Colleen Becker			52	Rick Fokening
Davies	115	Gary Langell		Marshall	200	Neal Miller
Dearborn	158	Bob Decker		Monroe	218	Gary Langell
Elkhart	213	Annie Aguirre			194	Jim Hengeveld
	192	Leland Shaum			190	Susan Hengeveld
	57	Keshava Mysore			160	Amy Kearns
Fayette	58	Stefany Boleyn			146	Cathy Meyer
Floyd	119	Tom & Colleen Becker			71	Bob Decker
Gibson	226	Evan Speck		Newton	183	Ed Hopkins
	184	Jeremy Ross		Noble	100	Sam Plew

	178	Chris Newman		Orange	151	Amy Kearns
	170	Chuck Mills			122	Gary Langell
	165	Amy Kearns		Parke	152	Peter Scott
	145	Vicky Whitaker			118	Ben Cvengros
	143	Tom & Colleen Becker		Pike	210	Jeremy Ross
	132	John Meredig		Porter	239	John Kendall
	103	Bob Decker			220	Brad Bumgardner
Greene	227	Amy Kearns			207	Kim Eln
	213	Gary Langell			159	Matt Kalwasinski
	192	Peter Scott			127	Bob Decker
	163	Jim Hengeveld			84	Stefany Boleyn
	161	Susan Hengeveld			64	Keshava Mysore
	153	Ed Hopkins		Posey	154	John Meredig
	147	Bob Decker		Putnam	178	Rick Huffman
	98	Austin Broadwater		Ripley	121	Bob Decker
	87	Tom & Colleen Becker		Spencer	179	David Ayer
	79	Margaret Bauer			175	John Meredig
	70	Jeremy Ross		St Joseph	210	Neeal Miller
	51	Jonathon Yoerger			136	Keshava Mysore
	51	Whitney Yoerger		Starke	72	Kim Eln
Hamilton	212	Kevin Cornell		Steuben	108	Bruce Matasick
	75	Whitney Yoerger			102	SamPlew
Handcock	75	Rick Folkening			79	Holly Meyers
Harrison	120	Tom & Colleen Becker		Sullivan	184	Michael Brown
Hendricks	176	Matthew Bowman		Tippecanoe	217	Tyler Stewart
Howard	66	Kevin Cornel			197	Ed Hopkins
Jackson	179	David Crouch			149	Matthew Bowman
	151	Tom & Colleen Becker			138	Gary Overdorf
	87	Margaret Bauer			65	Bob Decker
	82	Bob Decker		Union	156	Bill Buskirk
Jennings	80	David Crouch		Vanderburgh	159	John Meredig
Johnson	158	Bob Carper			135	Chris Newman
Kosciusko	221	John Kendall			121	Evan Speck
La Grange	236	Sam Plew			93	Chuck Mills
	173	Leland Shaum		Vermillion	70	Ben Cvengros
Lake	251	John Kendall		Vigo	212	Peter Scott
	247	Michael Topp			149	Ben Cvengros
	219	Matt Kalwasinski		Warren	105	Ed Hopkins
	170	Kim Eln		Warrick	203	John Meredig
	166	Ed Hopkins			176	Evan Speck
	155	Brad Bumgardner			142	Chris Newman
	113	Austin Broadwater			121	Chuck Mills
	110	Bob Decker		White	72	Gary Overdorf
Laporte	191	Ed Hopkins				
	128	Kim Eln				
	89	Brad Bumgardner				
	55	Bob Decker				

## Property Year Lists

There were 19 property year lists submitted. The Big Year record for an Indiana property list in the five years of my editing this report is 185 seen by Jim and Susan Hengeveld in 2015. Information concerning the county that the property is located in and a brief description of the property can be found in the property life list table earlier in this article

180	Jim and Susan Hengeveld	70	Holly Meyers
133	Peter Scott	69	Vicky Whitaker
126	Tim Hougham	60	Matt Kalwasinski
115	Jeremy Ross	59	Chuck Mills
111	Gary Langell	52	Margaret Bauer
104	Tom & Colleen Becker	50	Kim Eln
99	Bob Decker	44	Gary Overdorf
82	Amy and Noah Kearns	37	Rick Folkening
79	Ben Cvengros	35	Cloyce Hedge
77	Kirk Roth		

## Indiana Birder's Big Year Lists

These are the top big years done by an Indiana birder. The numbers were determined by looking at the list articles for the past 7 years as well as communication with several Indiana birders. I'm certain that there are big years for unreported counties and big years that are larger than the numbers that are reported here. Please let the compiler know if you wish to add to the list or challenge some of the numbers that are listed. No totals under 200 will be published in this table. David Ward from Fort Wayne set a new world big year record in 2016 for an Indiana birder. He made 6 major birding trips that year: #1 Namibia, Botswana, #2 Zambia, Malawi, #3 Spain, France (Corsica), Western Sahara, Morocco, #4 Greece, Cyprus, Georgia. #5 Philippines, and #6 Columbia.

Evan Speck set a new ABA record with 682. He made 23 trips covering most of the birding hot spots in the ABA.

Location	Year	Number	Birder
World	2016	1337	David Ward
North America	2015	703	John Kendall
ABA	2017	682	Evan Speck
Indiana	2016	315	Don Gorney
Cass County	2014	223	Landon Neumann
Clark County	2015	205	Brian Johnson
Gibson County	2015	257	Evan Speck
LaGrange County	2014	248	Sam Plew
Lake County	2011	259	John Kendall
Marion County	2014	212	Don Gorney
Marion County	2016	212	Kirk Roth
Pike County	2016	227	Jeremy Ross

## Other Lists

Matthew Bowman for his ABA year list photographed 524 of the 561 (93.4%).

John Kendall has photographed 345 Indiana species.

Marty Jones has photographed all 333 birds on his state list.

Michael Topp has photographed 352 Indiana bird species

John Cassady has photographed 666 ABA species.

Sue Arnold saw 323 on a trip to South Africa.

Amy Kearns reported a work property list of 130 at the Mitchell Fish and Wildlife office.

Larry Peavler has seen 2397 species in South America.

Greg Majewski saw 158 species all in Allen County on a green birding big year. All were seen on foot or by bicycle. His green life list is now 187. In 2014 Dorian Anderson biked 17,830 miles, visited 28 states, and saw 617 petroleum free ABA species. Both Greg and Dorian are to be praised for their efforts. If there is enough interest, I would like to start a green birding table next year.

## Thoughts

Why is listing important? I decided to include the answer to that question as it has been written in past two year's articles. For me it has often encouraged me to go into the field. If I don't go today, I might not see that Common Loon or a Golden-winged Warbler this year. Often, I might not find my target bird but see something entirely unexpected. Peter Scott indicated that the county list was causing him to bird more in nearby counties. Amy Kearns said the following"

*"I think listing by county is important. It encourages the reporting of a full list of birds heard or seen at a location, instead of just a single species of which a photograph is taken and shared online. I also like that birders working on a county list might discover a rarity, or a previously unknown location for wintering or breeding populations of uncommon species or species of conservation concern. Birders working on a county list that get out in June and July can simultaneously conduct a Summer Bird Count, which contributes valuable information to help us understand the breeding bird population in Indiana."*

Some Indiana lists appear only in ebird and some are only located on the ABA webpage in the list section. There are some birders who do not use either service but who still send me lists. I view this article as a way to draw everybody to the same page so to speak.

Several of you mentioned planned trips in 2018. May you have the best of luck in your birding adventures in 2018 and don't forget to keep your lists updated.

## Acknowledgments

I want to thank all of you who took the time to submit your lists this year. Of course, any mistakes present are solely my responsibility.

