



INDIANA AUDUBON QUARTERLY
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Cover photo: A few lucky birders saw this Pine Grosbeak at Bob Cotton's feeder in Merrillville,
Lake 10 December. Photo by Pete Grube

Back cover photo: Found by Steve Lima on 2 November, this first-cycle Little Gull graced Turtle
Creek Reservoir, *Sullivan* throughout the winter, here 22 February. Photo by Steve Lima

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Wanted: A few Good Birds. Try a Summer Bird Count in your local patch
John Kendall Warsaw, In. jeffro595@yahoo.com

Summer is here and while the flash of warblers and other sought-after migrants is mostly over, there are exciting finds yet to be made in our local patches. 2015's breeding season promises to be an exciting time in Indiana. I believe you will enjoy reading Amy Kearns' summary of last year's Summer Bird Count. Spring 2015 has provided some hints as well. This summer, local patch birds might include nesting Kites, Shrikes, Cuckoos, Blue-winged Teal, King Rails, Ospreys (exploding this year) and even more subtle gems like Sharp-shinned Hawk, Night-Herons, Upland Sandpiper and Sedge Wren. Will someone find a Trumpeter Swan fledgling in this state? How prevalent is the Northern Bobwhite in your county these days? Just how many Osprey or eagle nests are in your county? Changes are probably taking place in your own county. Personally, I am looking forward to seeing if we might have some Gadwall, Least Bittern, Black-billed Cuckoo and Lark Sparrows nesting here.

All it takes is writing down on a notepad what you hear and see as you cover areas that you are already travelling past. There is no minimum time investment and the data is sorely needed. As summer closes, filling out a simple form is quite easy.

Have fun with the Summer Bird Count! It is very easy to access the form online at the IAS website, under activities. Many species need your help to get attention—from Osprey nesting platforms to Swift towers. Assessing the status and distribution of many species can have positive impact on conservation aspects. Let's see if we can hit Amy's target of 46 counts!



Historic Osprey nest in Northwest Indiana, May 2015

Photo by Michael Topp

INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY SUMMER BIRD COUNT 2014

Amy Kearns 562 DNR Road, Mitchell, IN 47446

The Indiana Audubon Society held its 35th annual Summer Bird Count during June and July 2014. Weather during the count period started out warm and wet and ended cool and dry. Statewide, the month of June averaged 72.8°F. This was 1.9° above normal and the 23rd warmest June on record. Conversely, the state averaged only 69.5°F in July, which is 5.1° below normal and the 2nd coolest July on record. Precipitation in June was above average (18th wettest June on record), while July precipitation was below normal (49th driest July on record since 1895) (Indiana State Climate Office 2014).

There were 170 species found on the recent Summer Bird Count, which is below the mean of 191 and below last year's total of 188. Participation was similar to recent years with 26 counties represented. In its heyday in the late 80's, the SBC had participants in over 60 counties. Despite the lower participation in recent years, the mean number of counts is still 38 (or ten more counts than this year). Ninety-two observers found 139 species exhibiting breeding evidence, which is exactly the 35-year average. Individual birds, party hours and miles were all reported well below the mean (Table 1).

No new species, breeding evidence, or high counts were found this summer (Table 2). *Cass* had the highest species diversity with 117 species reported. *Cass* also was the only county to best their previous species high count (117/112) which was only just set the year before. Three other counties (*Johnson*, *Tippecanoe*, and *Vigo*) reported 100 species or more for the summer (Fig. 1, Table 2). The 20 most abundant species on the recent Summer Bird Count, in descending order, were: European Starling, Red-winged Blackbird, American Robin, House Sparrow, Canada Goose, Mourning Dove, Tree Swallow, Common Grackle, Barn Swallow, Northern Cardinal, Song Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, American Crow, American Goldfinch, Killdeer, Turkey Vulture, Gray Catbird, Mallard, Common Yellowthroat, and Wood Duck (Table 2).

Notable species with breeding evidence on the recent count were: Blue-winged Teal (territory in *Greene*, juveniles in *Tippecanoe*), Hooded Merganser (juveniles in *Starke*), Least Bittern (territory in *Greene*), Black-crowned Night-Heron (juvenile in *Lake*), Osprey (nestlings in *LaPorte* and *St. Joseph*), Sharp-shinned Hawk (feeding young in *Fountain*), Bald Eagle (breeding in 7 counties), Red-shouldered Hawk (breeding in 7 counties), Broad-winged Hawk (territories in *Lawrence* and *Starke*), Common Gallinule (territory in *Greene*, juveniles in *Lake*), King Rail (juveniles in *Lake* – the first juveniles reported since 2006), Sandhill Crane (juveniles in *LaPorte*), Black-necked Stilt (nest in *Gibson*, eggs in *Greene*), Upland Sandpiper (the highest number of individuals reported in 13 years, including territories in *Cass* and *St. Joseph*, and juveniles in *Miami*), Least Tern (nest in *Gibson*, eggs in *Greene*), Common Nighthawk (territories in *Marion* and *Vigo*), Eastern Whip-poor-will (territory in *Lawrence*), Peregrine Falcon (breeding in 3 counties), Loggerhead Shrike (nestlings in *Daviess*, territory in *Gibson*, eggs in *Orange*), Sedge Wren (territory in *Cass*), Marsh Wren (territory in *Greene*, juveniles in *Lake*), Worm-eating Warbler (territories in *Bartholomew*, *Harrison*, and *Johnson*), Prothonotary Warbler (territories in 4 counties and eggs in *Harrison*), Hooded Warbler (territories in 4 counties), Cerulean Warbler (territories in 4 counties), Lark Sparrow (juveniles in *Vigo*), and Henslow's Sparrow (breeding in 7 counties) (Table 2).

Figure 1 gives current species totals and previous record counts by county. Table 2 details tallies and efforts for each county. Species with breeding evidence are designated in bold type. Codes for breeding evidence, in order of importance, are: **E**, **e** - Eggs seen; **Y**, **y** - Young at

nest: **J, j** - Juvenile being attended by an adult; **N, n** - Nest contents empty or not seen; **M, m** - nesting Material being carried by adult; **F, f** - Food being carried by adult; **T, t** - adult showing signs of being Territorial or located through breeding period in suitable area. An upper-case letter indicates that the breeding evidence was noted during the count period (1 June - 31 July), while a lower-case letter indicates that it was noted outside the count period.

We would like to invite more participation next year. If you are already extensively birding an area in June and July, please consider submitting a Summer Bird Count. Compiling a Summer Bird Count should require little extra effort if a birder is already keeping track of bird numbers and observer effort. You can record birds on a paper form and mail it in, or you can use the Excel form and email your results if you prefer that method (the compiler does). The Summer Bird Count has been contributing to our knowledge of Indiana's breeding birds since 1980. We would like to see half of the counties participating each year (or 46 counts). To participate, download the data form and instructions from the Indiana Audubon Website under Activities, or email akearns@dnr.in.gov.

Acknowledgments - Thanks to all participants (Appendix 1), especially those who submitted donations to help defray costs of publishing this count.

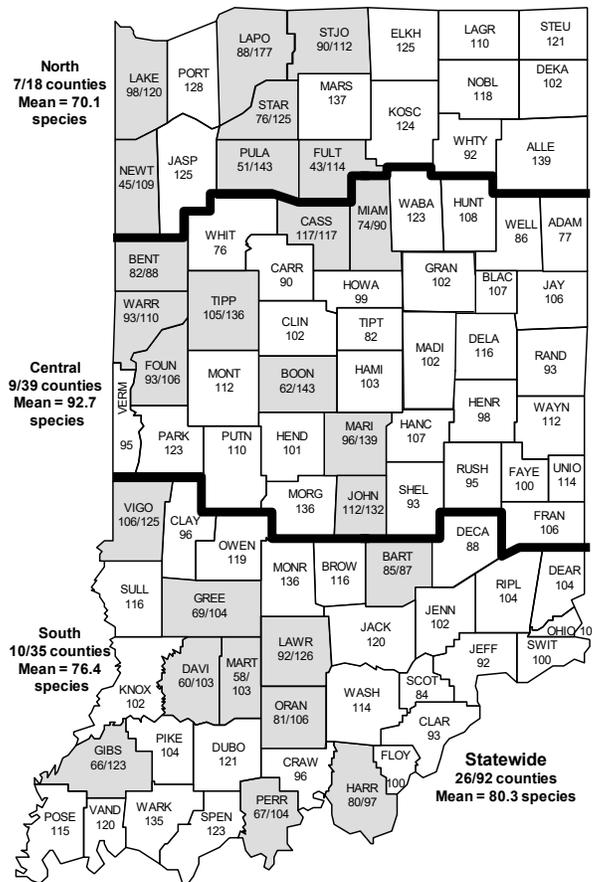


Figure 1. Current species totals and previous record counts by county.

Literature Cited

Indiana State Climate Office 2014 – www.agry.purdue.edu/climate/

Appendix 1. Summer Bird Count Participants by county during 2014 with the addresses of compilers in parentheses.

Bartholomew – Karl Werner (209 Moccasin Court, Greenwood, IN 46142), Jay Bolden, Bob Carper, Art Howard, Rob Rutledge.

Benton - Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur St., West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133).

Boone - Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur St., West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133).

Cass - Landon Neumann (4100 High St., Logansport, IN 46947), Bud Dodrill.

Daviess – Amy Kearns (80 Sunset Rdg., Mitchell, IN 47446), Lee Sterrenburg.

Fountain - Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur St., West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133).

Fulton - Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur St., West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133).

Gibson - Amy Kearns (80 Sunset Rdg., Mitchell, IN 47446).

Greene - Amy Kearns (80 Sunset Rdg., Mitchell, IN 47446).

Harrison – Del Striegel (40 Georgetown-Lanesville Rd., Georgetown, IN 47112).

Johnson – Karl Werner (209 Moccasin Court, Greenwood, IN 46142), Bob Carper, Cliff Chapman, Roger Hedge, Ann Hougham, Tom Hougham, Chuck Lunsford, Karen Lunsford.

Lake – Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133), Matt Kalwasinski (8115 Schreiber Dr., Munster, IN 46321).

LaPorte – Elizabeth McCloskey (1602 Michigan Ave., LaPorte, IN 46350).

Lawrence – Amy Kearns (80 Sunset Rdg., Mitchell, IN 47446), Noah Kearns.

Marion – Miles Zevin (700 N. Alabama, Apt. 1005, Indianapolis, IN 46204), Ted Lupino, Spike Selig.

Martin - Amy Kearns (80 Sunset Rdg., Mitchell, IN 47446).

Miami - Landon Neumann (4100 High St., Logansport, IN 46947), Bud Dodrill, Steve Doud, Jim Haw, Sandy Schacht.

Newton – Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133), Amy Kearns (80 Sunset Rdg., Mitchell, IN 47446).

Orange - Amy Kearns (80 Sunset Rdg., Mitchell, IN 47446).

Perry - Noah Kearns (80 Sunset Rdg., Mitchell, IN 47446).

Pulaski – Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133).

St. Joseph – Louise Fessenden (P.O. Box 303, Notre Dame, IN 46556), Tony Baldoni, Trice Berkley, Tim Cordell, John Davis, Dick Fessenden, Robert Fessenden, Audry Fleming, John Fleming, Laura Fuderer, Bert Harrison, Wendy Jones, Brian Miller, Scott Namestnik, Marge Riemenschneider, Vic Riemenschneider, Carole Riewe, Vicky Rydzynski, Jim Spier.

Starke – Elizabeth McCloskey (1602 Michigan Ave., LaPorte, IN 46350).

Tippecanoe – Barny Dunning (7509 North 75 East, West Lafayette, IN 47906), Russ Allison, Javier Borbon, Christopher Collins, Wes Homoya, Ed Hopkins, Diane Packett, Michael Retter, Patrick Ruhl, John Skene, Jeff Timmons, Susan Ulrich.

Vigo - Mary Beth Eberwein (6523 E. Tryon Dr., Pimento, IN 47866), Ann Black, Bruce Black, Joe Dickson, John Haag, Karen Henman, Marty Jones, Brenda Milliren, Phil Milliren, Peter Scott.

Warren – Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133).
SBC tallies here SBC efforts here.

Field Notes - Winter 2014-2015

John Kendall- jeffro595@yahoo.com

The winter weather pattern was “in like a lamb and out like a lion”. December was a bit warmer than usual and very dry, in fact precipitation was below normal throughout. As a fairly normal January waned, February brought temperatures ten degrees below normal. The usual presence of many early migrant species began on schedule in January. However, the increasingly harsh weather apparently stalled some species out in great numbers in the state’s southern tier.

Season highlights included record White-fronted Geese numbers, inland Harlequin Ducks, a long staying Little Gull at times with a Black-legged Kittiwake, a tantalizing Eider sp., an out of season Green Heron, return of the Ferruginous Hawk, good Snowy Owl numbers, a December White-eyed Vireo, and the all-too brief visit by a Pine Grosbeak. (Ken Brock)

The editor is indebted to Ken Brock for his statewide fall report, which is heavily referenced and at times, embedded in this year’s Fall Field Notes.

Reports were submitted by: Neal Miller & Leland Shaum ([The Michiana Meadowlark](#)), Jim Haw and Ken Brock.

Abbreviations:

FWA = Fish & Wildlife Area
NWR = National Wildlife Refuge
SP = State Park
SRA = State Recreation Area
GHA = Game Bird Habitat Area
TNC = The Nature Conservancy
m.ob.= many observers

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

GEESE & SWANS		
Species	Reported	STYM
GWFG	130,166	14,671
SNGO	1,346,406	231,721
ROGO	51	24.2
CAGO	190,224	69,180
CKGO	123	74.6
MUSW	566	352
TRUS	219	216
TUSW	574	286

Source-Ken Brock

Greater White-fronted Goose:- Amazingly, five winter counts exceeded the state’s previous maximum tally of (8015). Indiana’s highest count is now the (12,500) that Jerry I. Downs logged at Goose Pond FWA on 24 January.

Snow Goose:- On 4 January Chris Newman logged (250,000) at Lake Gibson and Jeremy Ross counted the same number in Pike Co. These two tallies tie for Indiana’s third largest count.

American White Pelican:- In contrast to winters just prior to 2014, only a handful of American White Pelicans were recorded-at Goose Pond, *Greene* 8-11 Feb. (Kathy McClain, Lee Sterrenburg, m.ob.).

DUCKS

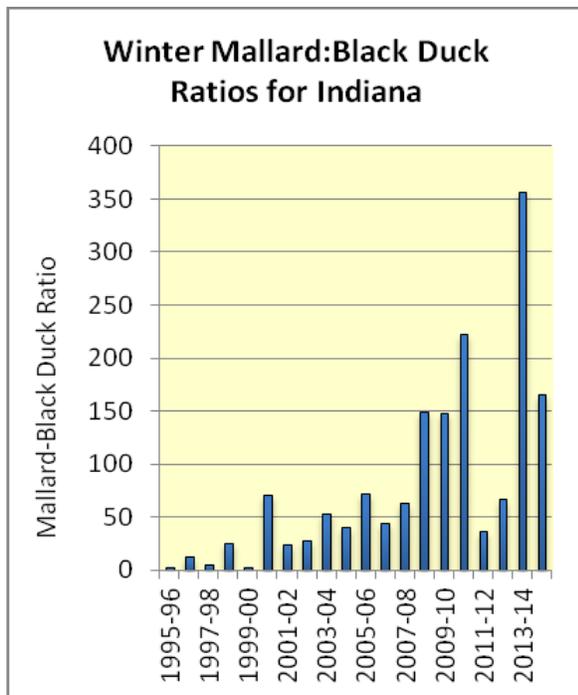
Dabblers numbers were good with only the Black Duck below average. It was a near average winter for bay ducks with only Ring-necked and both Scaup species below average (the presence of extensive late winter ice may will have delayed the arrival of these). Sea Ducks fared poorly with only the White-winged Scoter above the STYM. It was an above average winter for Mergansers.

American Black Duck:- Numbers of this large dabbler continue to decline. This winter 730 were reported (STYM=961). The below graph, which plots the ratio of Mallards to Black Ducks, reveals Indiana’s dwindling numbers compared to the Mallard.

Northern Pintail:- A fine count of (10,599), Indiana’s sixth largest, was logged at Goose Pond FWA on 4 February (DNR staff). However, the subsequent hard freeze eliminated open water sending the birds elsewhere.

White-winged Scoter:- A late winter surge, which began in mid-February, elevated season numbers with 163 reported (STYM=118). About 9% of these birds were reported away from Lake Michigan.

Black Scoter:- Inland records included (2) that Del Striegel and Brian Johnson photographed in Jeffersonville (Clark Co) 6 December and a singleton at Adams Lake (LaGrange Co) on 14 December (James A. Haw). This bird was observed alongside a Surf Scoter.



Source: Ken Brock

Eider, sp.:- Don Gorney watched a female eider offshore at the Marquette Park Concession Stand, *Lake* 1 December. The bird may have been the state’s first Common Eider, but at the distance involved, details were not conclusive enough to firmly identify it as such. A handful of Alaskan ssp. v.nigrum Common Eiders ‘invaded’ the Great Lakes (Duluth area and Michigan) this winter.

Harlequin Duck:- Indiana’s first inland record since 1989 was discovered at The Precedent Office Park in Indianapolis on 8 December (Don Gorney, m.ob.). This is the states’ seventh record away from Lake Michigan (Ken Brock Birds of Indiana CD, 2006).



These two Harlequin Ducks made quite a splash in *Marion* 8 December Photo by Don Gorney

Long-tailed Duck:- There were 10 inland records this winter (STYM=7.3. The largest report consisted of (4) that James A. Haw found on Clear Lake (Steuben Co) on 6 December. These birds, which constitute a first county record, lingered until at least 14 December (Fred Wooley).

Common Goldeneye:- On 26 February Leland Shaum and Neal Miller visited the small Elkhart Co pond known as Pheasant Ridge Pond and counted a minimum of (1700) goldeneyes. This is Indiana's second largest count.

Common Merganser:- On January 20 Chicago birders January Randy Shonkwiler and Jeff Skrentny reported (3000) on Lake Michigan off the Hammond Marina. This number ties the state's second largest count and is effectively ties the state record of (3003).

Red-throated Loon:- The (11) seen at Eagle Creek Park on 16 February (Kirk Roth, Don Gorney, et al.) generated a new inland record; Indiana's previous inland maximum count was five.

Common Loon:- For the sixth consecutive winter this loon was reported in below average numbers. This year's total was 96, compared to the STYM of 215.

Eared Grebe:- Four birds were located-each in December; 6 December at Turtle Creek Reservoir (Steve Lima, Eric Ripma), *Sullivan*, Jeffersonville, *Clark* (Del Striegel and Eddie Huber), 7 December-Winona Lake, *Kosciusko* (John Kendall), and 20 December at Miller Beach, *Lake* (Jennifer Miller-yes, another Miller birder at Miller).

Western Grebe:- Only one bird was reported 4 December at Dunes State Park and 6 December at Port of Indiana (Brendan Grube, Jeff McCoy, m.ob.).

Red-necked Grebe:-2-4 birds were observed moving about Lake Michigan in December. 2 more were found inland (Turtle Creek Reservoir-13 December (Michael Brown, Carolyn Marsh, Sarah De La Rue) and 1 December at Mississinewa Reservoir, *Miami* (John Kendall).

American Bittern:- Brad Feaster logged Indiana's fifth January record at Goose Pond FWA on the 4th and DNR staff member Matt Bredeweg saw (1) in GS-11S on 22 January.

Green Heron:- Ryan Hamilton reported a flyby in Speedway (outside the Union Jack pub) on 4 January. This is Indiana's second January record.

Red-tailed Hawk:- Kirk Roth Reported a Harlan's at the Somerville Mines on 13 February. This is the state's 27th report of this race.

Ferruginous Hawk:- On 26 January Evan Speck discovered likely the same light-morph adult that wintered at the Somerville Mines last year. The 2014 bird was first reported on 22 January and the 2015 bird was found in the same general area as last year's bird.



Ferruginous Hawk with Rough-legged Hawk, Somerville Mine, Gibson 10 February

Photo by Marty Jones

Virginia Rail:- In February, three birders independently identified singletons in Pike and Warrick Counties, providing the southern tier's first February records. (Kevin Cornell, Neal Bogan and Jeremy Ross).

Greater Yellowlegs:- Vern W. Wilkins photographed (1) at Goose Pond on 28 December, tying Indiana's latest record.

GULLS

Black-legged Kittiwake:- Ben Cvengros photographed a first-cycle bird at Turtle Creek Res on 18 December. This is a first county record and the southern tier's 12th record.



Identified by photography: First-cycle Black-legged Kittiwake (below) with Bonaparte's Gull, 17 December Turtle Creek Reservoir, Sullivan Photo by Ben Cvengros

Little Gull:- The fall first-cycle bird at Turtle Creek Res (first reported 2 November 2014) was still present on 1 March (David Ward). This remarkable 119-day visit is unprecedented in the Hoosier record book.

Iceland Gull:- Remarkably, Bob Huguenard found (2) first-cycle birds at Potato Creek S.P. on 4 January. John C. Lindsey obtained photos. This is Indiana's fifth record away from Lake Michigan and the first ever report of multiple birds.



**Potato Creek Iceland Gulls
4 January**

Photo by Bob Huguenard

Lesser Black-backed Gull:- A second-cycle bird in Logansport on 23 January (Landon Neumann and Bud Dodrill), provided a first Cass Co record. Tom and Colleen Becker found an adult at Deam Lake (Clark Co) on 7 February (2nd county record).

Glaucous Gull:- On 6 December Bob Huguenard identified (1) at Potato Creek S.P., providing the fourth St. Joseph Co record and a first for this site. Brian Johnson photographed an adult at Ashland Park, Clark Co on 22 February. David Svetich and Lisa Combs also observed this bird. This is Indiana's 20th inland record, the 10th southern tier record, and a first Clark Co record. Additionally, Bog Huguenard reported a second-cycle bird on the St Joseph River (South Bend) on 28 February.

Great Black-backed Gull:- Steve Lima reported a first-cycle bird at Turtle Creek Reservoir on 17 January (a first county record). On 30 January Brian Johnson reported a first-cycle bird at Ashland Park (Clark Co), providing a first county record. On 3 February Brainard Palmer-Ball photographed this bird (also in Clark Co). This report is Indiana's 15th inland record.

Rock Pigeon:- The (2000) that Gary and Lisa Bowman counted in Vincennes on 9 December constitutes Indiana's second highest daily count. The maximum of (2500) was recorded 6 September 1964 in Tippecanoe Co.

Snowy Owl:- A nice "echo" flight occurred. For the season some 43 reports were made, and 63% of these appeared in December (Ken Brock). Project SNOWstorm tracking data has revealed the wide variation in size of winter territories. In carefully separating and counting this year's estimates appear to approach one-half of last year's record total.

White-eyed Vireo:- One was identified by five counters on the 22 December Topeka CBC. This is Indiana's fifth December record; the next latest report occurred 17 December 2011 in Terre Haute.

Red-breasted Nuthatch:- Surprisingly scarce throughout the winter with only 23 reported (STYM=84). This is Indiana's lowest season total since the winter of 2003-04.

Brown Creeper:- Reported in high numbers with a record 284 reported for the season (STYM=56).

Carolina Wren:- It was a record winter for this wren with an all-time high of 1053 reported (STYM=253).

Winter Wren:- Appeared in record numbers with 84 reported for the season (STYM=13.5). A record winter daily count (by one bird) was set on 2 December when John Meredig tallied (6) in Warrick Co.

American Pipit:- Rather scarce with only 22 reported (STYM=110).

Lapland Longspur:- Good winter numbers across the state were highlighted by the (3500) Evan Speck counted at Gibson Lake on 23 February. The latter is Indiana's third largest count.

Pine Warbler:-A single bird visited the *LaGrange* feeders of Kenneth Shrock on 10-20 December.



**Pine Warbler, Shrock feeders
*LaGrange***

Photo by Timothy Shrock

Yellow-rumped Warbler:- On 11 December Gary Binderim identified a female Audubon's (with yellow throat) in South Bend. The (63) that John Meredig counted on Eskew Road, Warrick Co on 31 January provided Indiana's second largest winter count.

Palm Warbler:- Christopher Newman found (1) in the area around Gibson Lake on 4 January. This is Indiana's fifth January record.

Chipping Sparrow:-eBird revealed a whopping 13 records spread across the state in February. Normally, 2.3 birds are seen in winter (Ken Brock, Birds of Indiana CD, 2006).

Clay-colored Sparrow:- Sam Plew reportedly photographed (1) at North Twin Lake, LaGrange Co on 5 December. This is the second December county record. Sam reported the bird again on 21 January.

Fox Sparrow:- Although one or two birds were reported occasionally throughout the winter, a distinct movement appeared to occur on 19 February when eight observers reported 25 at nine different locations (all but one in the southern tier). This was, however, during February's record cold spell, which might have just stimulated wintering birds to feed more actively, increasing their detectability.

Lincoln's Sparrow:- David StClair obtained a good look at (1) at the Marian College EcoLab on 28 December. From ten feet he noted a "Small sparrow, buffy chest with stripes, none on stomach, reddish cap with streak." This is Indiana's 23rd winter record. Gary and Lisa Bowman documented another on the 30 December Knox County CBC.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak:- The immature male that visited Steve Rose's Warrick Co residence in late November lingered until 16 December. This constitutes Indiana's seventh winter record.

Yellow-headed Blackbird:- Prior to this year only 10 Yellow-headed had ever been reported in December. Remarkably, three were logged this season. Amy Kearns reported a first-cycle male in Daviess Co on the 10th and Evan Speck found (2) first-cycle males at Bluegrass FWA on the 27th. Dan Collins found (1) at Bluegrass on 31 January; Aidan Rominger and Don Gorney found (2) there later that day.

WINTER FINCHES

Other than a surprise Pine Grosbeak, a single White-winged Crossbill, and above average Siskins, winter finches were mediocre to nonexistent.

Pine Grosbeak:- Amazingly, on 10 December an exquisitely plumed adult male appeared at the Merrillville feeder of Bob Cotton. This is Indiana's first record since 2004 and third since 1985.

White-winged Crossbill:- Sharon Sheron had (1) visit her DeKalb Co feeder on 30 and 31 December.

Common Redpoll:- Quite scarce with only a dozen reported (STYM=263). The season's peak tally was a flock of (6) that Lynn Vernon found at Reynolds Creek Gamebird Habitat Area (Porter Co) on 13 February.

Pine Siskin:- Reported in above average numbers with a season total of 1077, which is well above the STYM of 493.

2014 Birder's Lists

Chuck Mills 8600 Framewood Drive Newburgh, In 47630

ccmills@wowway.com

Many serious birders keep detailed lists of the species that they identify. They often 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, Indiana, and a county or two. Some just keep a life list others also do year lists and day lists. Some lists can be as expansive as a world list or as small as a favorite park, 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, ABA, Indiana, Indiana Counties, and home property.

This year there were fifty-eight people who submitted at least one list. The most popular list submitted was the Indiana life list with forty-three lists being sent to the editor. The deadline for the 2015 list report will be February 1, 2016. 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.

2014 Birder's Life Lists

World

The World list is simply a compilation of the bird species seen anywhere in the world. It represents the results of a birders travels all over the world. Obviously the more places a person visits, the larger the list. The total possible on this list is about 10324. This number has been slowly increasing as more species are discovered and more species are split into two or more new ones. The top world lister was again Bob Walton with 8506. Bob is one of the top listers in the world. He is currently second in the world by 233 species. Last year he birded in Cambodia, southern Thailand, and northern Wallacca, an isolated island area of Indonesia located between Borneo and New Guinea. Bob has been in 49 states, all 12 Canadian Provinces, and 72 countries. Barney Dunning added 80 species on a trip with his students to Costa Rica. It was his first trip south of Mexico. They saw 210 species in the 10 days they were there. Larry Peavler birded in Costa Rica and Columbia twice, Ecuador and Peru once, and Alaska three times.

8506	Bob Walton	978	Gordon Chastain
4100	Larry Peavler	854	Rick Read
2309	Jim Hengeveld	820	Landon Neumann
2303	Susan Hengeveld	791	Roger Hedge
2107	Marjorie Carmony	780	Ed Powers
2019	Chuck Mills	717	Debbie Read
1873	Peter Scott	568	Dan Collins
1872	Geoff Williamson	462	Brad Bumgardner
1336	Elvin Wilmot	360	Marietta Smith
1314	John Kendall	251	Kim Ehn
1274	Barney Dunning		

North America

This list covers the region that is north of the Columbian-Panamanian border and includes the Caribbean. It is similar to the AOU list but does not include Hawaii or Greenland. There are around 2000 possible species on this list. The top lister is Bob Walton with 1700. 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.

1700	Bob Walton
1314	John Kendall
1224	Chuck Mills
1084	Peter Scott
804	Gordon Chastain
670	John Cassady
568	David Reichlinger
465	Bob Carper
325	Matt Kalwasinski
251	Kim Ehm

ABA (Canada and the United States)

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 but not Hawaii or Greenland. There were 987 species on last year's official ABA list. Larry Peavler with 894 is in first place for the listers from Indiana. He was third on the 2014 ABA report. He increased his list by 8 last year. Mark Rhodes had a strong second place with 814. Many people reported splits and new ABA listing rules as a main reason that their list went up. You may now list extirpated exotic birds that you once saw. There were 38 lists reported. Leland Shaum added 36 from a trip to Colorado. Larry Peavler stated that his favorite new species was the Collared Plover.

894	Larry Peavler	632	Kirk Roth
814	Mark Rhodes	626	Steve Doud
772	Jim Hengeveld	619	Barny Dunning
763	Bob Walton	618	Gordon Chastain
761	Jim Haw	568	David Reichlinger
758	Susan Hengeveld	531	Dan Collins
735	Ed Hopkins	527	Landon Neumann
715	Peggy Harger-Allen	512	Amy Kerns
710	Ken Brock	511	David Crouch
705	Ed Powers	455	Larry Carter
692	Marjorie Carmony	448	Elvin Wilmot
688	Chuck Mills	408	Bob Carper
675	Cynthia Powers	392	David Ayer
670	John Cassady	374	Leland Shaum

668	John Kendall	338	Liz Day
664	Geoff Williamson	325	Matt Kalwasinski
654	Peter Scott	311	Marietta Smith
648	Sam Plew	311	Vicky Whitaker
646	Roger Hedge	251	Kinberly Ehn

Indiana

Ed Hopkins added one species and stayed in the lead. Ken Brock was in second place only 2 behind Ed. There were 43 people who reported Indiana lists. The rarities continue to flow into Indiana and I am becoming more convinced that a 400 species list is a real possibility. There are 423 species on the official Indiana list with 3 being considered extinct and 3 extirpated. So there are 417 possible. Ed only needs twelve. Amy Kearns added 4 with her favorite being a displaying Upland Sandpiper. Alan Bruner indicated that his list is completely unassisted and not a result of a hotline, IN-BIRD, or someone telling him where the bird was. He did no chasing and had no prior knowledge of the bird's presence that day. He also does not use playback. Brad Bumgardner said that his best new bird for Indiana was the Pine Grosbeak.

388	Ed Hopkins	311	Sam Plew
386	Ken Brock	310	Cynthia Powers
373	John Cassady	309	Marjorie Carmony
373	Larry Peavler	308	Gordon Chastain
371	Peter Grube	305	Dan Collins
370	Don Gorney	305	Peggy Harger-Allen
370	Jim Haw	304	Bob Decker
363	John Kendall	303	David Ayer
359	Jim Hengeveld	302	Bob Walton
358	Steve Doud	301	Dave Reichlinger
355	Roger Hedge	300	Barny Dunning
350	Susan Hengeveld	299	Elvin Wilmot
347	Chuck Mills	291	Matt Kalwasinski
347	Ed Powers	283	Larry Carter
338	Kirk Roth	279	Chris Newman
331	Brad Bumgardner	277	Geoff Williamson
328	Marty Jones	270	Jeremy Ross
326	Amy Kerns	266	Marietta Smith
321	Alan Bruner	255	Vicky Whitaker
321	Peter Scott	228	Bob Carper
320	Leland Shaum	221	Kimberly Ehn
316	Landon Neumann		

Indiana Counties

There were reports from 57 Indiana counties this year. This is up from the 45 reported last year. There are 92 counties in Indiana. There are 35 without a submitted list. If you live in or near an unreported county consider doing some birding there so that we could have reports from all 92. Thirty counties had only one person listing. The county with the most reported lists was Gibson with 11. Gibson was followed by Porter County with 8 reports. The county list is a more restricted list. The list is limited to species seen in one Indiana County. Some counties are blessed with a wide variety of habitat such as Gibson County, Green County, and all of the counties along the lakefront. Some in the great corn desert such as Cass County mostly have farm fields with little opportunity for a diversity of species. The top list is 323 by Chuck Mills for Gibson County. The second place list is Ken Brock's 317 from Porter County. There were only 5 other 300 plus lists. Lake County had 3 lists that were over 300. What continues to amaze me is the number of people who have large lists from numerous counties. Jim Haw again led with the most counties reported with 16 all with at least 150 species. This is very impressive. Bob Decker had 14 counties reported. Ed Powers and David Reichlinger reported lists for 12 counties. Tom Becker reported 9 counties that are mostly in southern Indiana.

County		Birder	County		Birder
Adams	179	Jim Haw	La Porte	301	Ken Brock
	103	Dave Reichlinger		285	John Cassady
Allen	295	Jim Haw		255	Jim Haw
	270	Ed Powers		199	Ed Powers
	261	Dave Reichlinger		111	Matt Kalwasinski
	68	Bob Decker		63	Kim Ehn
Boone	256	Roger Hedge	Lawrence	207	Amy Kearns
Brown	274	Jim Hengeveld	Marion	263	Don Gorney
	62	Bob Decker		259	Gordon Chastain
Cass	245	Landon Neumann		145	Dave Reichlinger
Clark	191	Tom Becker	Martin	134	Amy Kearns
Crawford	81	Amy Kerns	Miami	180	Jim Haw
	76	Tom Becker	Monroe	292	Jim Hengeveld
Daviess	156	Amy Kearns		202	Amy Kearns
Dearborn	150	Bob Decker		109	Bob Decker
Decatur	8	Bob Decker	Newton	223	Jim Haw
Dubois	146	Amy Kearns		170	Ed Powers
Elkhart	258	Leland Shaum		133	Dave Reichlinger
	236	John Cassady		66	Kim Ehn
Floyd	200	Tom Becker	Noble	206	Jim Haw
Franklin	166	Bob Decker		173	Dave Reichlinger
Gibson	323	Chuck Mills		112	Ed Powers
	278	Dan Collins	Orange	212	Amy Kerns
	266	Evan Speck	Perry	102	Amy Kearns
	260	Marietta Smith	Pike	232	Jeremy Ross

	239	Amy Kearns		159	Amy Kearns
	234	Vicky Whitaker		140	Vicky Whitaker
	229	Jeremy Ross		22	Bob Decker
	218	David Ayer	Porter	317	Ken Brock
	204	Chris Newman		304	John Kendall
	174	Tom Becker		300	John Cassady
	58	Bob Decker		276	Brad Bumgardner
Greene	253	Jim Hengeveld		257	Jim Haw
	247	Amy Kearns		232	Ed Powers
	216	Don Gorney		216	Matt Kalwasinski
	199	Evan Speck		165	Kim Ehn
	190	Tom Becker	Randolph	200	Larry Carter
	145	Bob Decker	Ripley	155	Bob Decker
	88	Vicky Whitaker	Rush	162	Marjorie Carmony
Hamilton	150	Don Gorney	St Joseph	214	John Cassady
Hancock	168	Don Gorney	Scott	111	Tom Becker
Harrison	125	Tom Becker	Spencer	255	David Ayer
	115	Amy Kearns	Sullivan	179	Amy Kearns
Henry	171	Jim Haw	Starke	72	Ed Powers
	122	Dave Reichlinger	Steuben	243	Jim Haw
Huntington	252	Jim Haw		174	Ed Powers
	182	Ed Powers		157	Dave Reichlinger
	119	Dave Reichlinger	Tipton	162	Elvin Wilmot
Jackson	202	Tom Becker	Union	110	Bob Decker
	159	Amy Kearns	Vanderburgh	223	Chris Newman
	115	Bob Decker		185	Dan Collins
Jay	168	Jim Haw		133	Chuck Mills
Jefferson	20	Bob Decker	Vigo	250	Peter Scott
Johnson	207	Bob Carper	Wabash	265	Jim Haw
Kosciusko	189	Jim Haw		212	Ed Powers
	113	Dave Reichlinger		155	Dave Reichlinger
LaGrange	264	Sam Plew	Warrick	227	Evan Speck
	253	Jim Haw		226	Chuck Mills
	242	Leland Shaum		202	Dan Collins
	173	Ed Powers		167	Chris Newman
	146	Dave Reichlinger		141	David Ayer
Lake	315	Ken Brock		62	Vicky Whitaker
	313	John Cassady	Wells	64	Ed Powers
	304	John Kendall	Whitley	159	Jim Haw
	252	Ed Powers		104	Dave Reichlinger
	248	Jim Haw			
	237	Matt Kalwasinski			
	101	Kim Ehn			

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 spent birding your place greatly affect the possibilities. Jim and Susan Hengeveld have one of the largest property lists in the United State. Their site is located on Lake Lemon. There were reports from 15 counties and from 18 people. This is an increase of 6 locations.

Count	Birder	Location	Description
257	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.
207	Clint Murray	Montgomery	Lye Creek Prairie Burn, 80.acres
179	Steve Doud	Wabash	160 acres- forest, creek bottom, landscape nursery, orchard, grass fields
179	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
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
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

157	Gordon Chastain	Marion	30 Acres suburban condo property adjoining White River
154	Peter Scott	Vigo	50 acres in Nevins Township, northeast Vigo County
135	Amy and Noah Kearns	Lawrence	A one acre clearing surrounded by 2 acres of cedar trees
130	Chuck Mills	Warrick	A .5 acre wooded lot backing up to a 40 acre mature woods
129	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.
127	Ed Powers	Allen	A country yard, wooded, about one acre. Residences on either side, farm field front and back.
108	Vicky Whitaker	Gibson	Mixed lot, 17 1/2 acres. Fallow fields, mature hardwood trees. Evergreens and lots of scrubby areas.
98	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.
92	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.
51	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.

2014 Birder's Year Lists

World Year List

Only 5 people reported world year lists. Jim Hengeveld had the largest.

771	Jim Hengeveld
768	Susan Hengeveld
381	John Kendall
347	Chuck Mills
251	Kim Ehn

North America Year List

There were 5 reported North America year lists. The top list was submitted by John Kendall.

381	John Kendall
347	Chuck Mills
336	Bob Carper
261	Matt Kalwasinski
251	Kim Ehn

ABA Year Lists

In most 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, 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 Mark Rhodes with 506. He also had the top list last year. To even get over 400 involves some serious birding in various parts of the ABA area. ABA list leader Mark Rhodes is trying for 550 this year. Wendy Anderson's list was the result of her birding in Indiana, Texas, and several northern plains states.

506	Mark Rhodes	275	Bob Carper
404	Jim Hengeveld	272	Chuck Mills
401	Susan Hengeveld	261	Matt Kalwasinski
391	Kirk Roth	261	Amy Kearns
378	John Kendall	251	Kimberly Ehn
358	David Crouch	216	Ed Powers
320	Sam Plew	206	Wendy Anderson
316	Theresa Schwinghammer		

Indiana Year Lists

Thirty 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 18 such lists last year. Brendan Grube indicated that his birding was almost exclusively and extensively done in the Indiana Dunes this year.

307	Ed Hopkins		257	Amy Kearns
304	Don Gorney		256	Brad Bumgardner
286	Kirk Roth		251	Jim Hengeveld
285	Landon Neumann		247	Susan Hengeveld
283	John Cassady		247	Matt Kalwasinski
283	John Kendall		241	Tim Griffith
283	Evan Speck		236	Chuck Mills
279	Brendan Grube		224	Dan Collins
277	Theresa Schwinghammer		221	Kimberly Ehn
274	Peter Scott		219	David Crouch
273	Leland Shaun		213	David Ayer
269	Mark Rhodes		210	Bob Decker
265	Jeremy Ross		200	Ed Powers
260	Chris Newman		196	Bob Carper
260	Sam Plew		178	Cynthia Powers

Indiana County Year List

There were 26 counties with at least one year list reported. This is an increase of 2. John Kendall had the top list with 253 for Lake County. The Big Year record for an Indiana county in the five years that I have been editing the lists is John Kendall's 259 for Lake County in 2011. No one got close this year. Is 275 possible? Any year list over 200 for a county represents some serious birding. Bob Decker reported lists for 14 counties. Young birder Landon Neumann worked hard in 2013 to set a big year record of 220 for Cass County. This year without as much effort he broke it with 223. Evan Speck's big year with 242 seen in Gibson County is probably a record. Chuck Mills' best year with over 35 years of records is only 224.

County		Birder	County		Birder
Allen	63	Bob Decker	Lake	253	John Kendall
Brown	179	Jim Hengeveld		193	Matt Kalwasinski
	174	Susan Hengeveld		101	Kim Ehn
	61	Bob Decker	Laporte	64	Matt Kalwasinski
Cass	223	Landon Neumann		63	Kim Ehn

Dearborn	132	Bob Decker		Lawrence	154	Amy Kerns
Decatur	8	Bob Decker		Marion	211	Don Gorney
Franklin	135	Bob Decker		Monroe	201	Jim Hengeveld
Gibson	242	Evan Speck			193	Susan Hengeveld
	210	Jeremy Ross			155	Amy Kerns
	191	Amy Kerns			99	Bob Decker
	187	Chuck Mills		Orange	166	Amy Kerns
	186	Chris Newman		Pike	214	Jeremy Ross
	17	Gibson			22	Bob Decker
Greene	181	Jim Hengeveld		Porter	240	John Kendall
	176	Susan Hengeveld			223	Brad Bumgardner
	163	Don Gorney			163	Kim Ehn
	157	Amy Kerns			158	Matt Kalwasinski
	81	Bob Decker		Ripley	126	Bob Decker
Hamilton	14	Bob Decker		Union	26	Bob Decker
Handcock	88	Don Gorney		Vanderburgh	175	Chris Newman
Jackson	94	Bob Decker			103	Chuck Mills
Jefferson	20	Bob Decker		Warrick	143	Chuck Mills
Johnson	177	Bob Carper			138	Chris Newman
La Grange	248	Sam Plew				

Property Year Lists

The Big Year record for an Indiana property list in the five years of my editing this report is 175 seen by Jim and Susan Hengeveld in 2012. This year the Hengevelds had the best list with 169. 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.

Count	Birder
169	Jim and Susan Hengeveld
126	Peter Scott
107	Amy and Noah Kearns
98	Jeremy Ross
84	Chuck Mills
80	Tim Griffith
57	Matt Kalwasinski
41	Kirk Roth

Other Lists

John Kendall has photographed 336 species in Indiana.
Marty Jones has photographed all 328 birds on his state list.
John Cassady has photographed 611 ABA species.
So many birders now photograph most of the life list birds that they observe that we might want to start an ABA and an Indiana life list of photographed species.
May you have the best of luck in your birding adventures in 2015.

