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Vol. 93, No. 4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

November 2015

Field Notes, Summer 2015
Kenneth J. Brock Statewide Report3

Cover photo: Amy Kearns and Lee Sterrenburg discovered Indiana's third record of Fork-tailed Flycatcher while conducting breeding bird surveys 30 June in *Daviess*. Photo by Amy Kearns.

Back cover photo: These Tundra Swans summered at the Grant Street Wetland, providing Indiana's first (modern) summering record for a pair. Michael A. Topp took this photo 20 June.

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Field Notes - Summer 2015 (June-July)

Kenneth J. Brock, Statewide Report

INDIANA: SUMMER REPORT 2015

Kenneth J. Brock

Highlights of the breeding season included: a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, record Glossy Ibis numbers, two White-winged Dove reports, an adult Rufous Hummingbird, Indiana's 3rd Fork-tailed Flycatcher, and summering Golden-crowned Kinglets.

Temperature & Precipitation at Indianapolis Departure from Normal		
	Temp (°F)	Rainfall (in)
Jun	+0.6	+4.11
Jul	-0.8	+8.59

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:- Joe Smith found (1) near the Ft Wayne Zoo on 17 July; Dave Messmann photographed it the following day. It lingered through the season. This is Indiana's 13th record and a first for Allen Co.



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Lake Shoaf, Fort Wayne Zoo 20 July Photo by Jeff Moore

Trumpeter Swan:- The pair reported at Grant Street Wetland in early May reappeared on 11 June (Matt Kalwasinski) and were present for the remainder of the season (Michael A. Topp et al.).

Common Merganser:- KJB observed a female perched on the outer breakwall at Michigan City Harbor on 2 June, providing the lakefront's first summer record.

American White Pelican:- It was a record summer for Indiana with 257 birds reported

(STYM=35.2). Highlights included a flock of (38) at Atwood Lake (LaGrange Co) on 11 June (Sam Plew) that provided the state's fifth largest summer count. Apparently this same group then moved to Kankakee FWA (Starke Co) where John and Karen Lindsey saw (38) on 18 June. White Pelicans also summered in Goose Pond FWA area with groups of 3 to 13 reported throughout the season.

Snowy Egret:- Jeffrey Timmons reported (2) at the Limberlost Swamp (Adams Co) on 13 June. This was a first site record and the second Snowy for the county.

Little Blue Heron:- For the third consecutive summer this heron was exceptionally scarce. This year's only report consisted of (1) seen by Gary Langell at Goose Pond FWA on 15 July (STYM=19.9).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:- This summer's only report consisted of (2) that Jeremy Ross identified at the Oatsville Bottoms on 26 July.

Glossy Ibis:- The *five reported this season constitute a new high for the summer season (STYM=0.45). In addition to the three-lakefront birds Terri Gorney reported (1) at Limberlost Swamp (Adams Co) on 10 June and James A. Haw confirmed it the following day. This is a first county record.

*The Limberlost bird is counted twice in my accounting scheme, as it occurred in both the first and second 10-day periods of the month. Actually, four birds is also a record summer count for the state.

Osprey:- On 20 June Michael A. Topp observed that the Gleason Park Osprey nest contained two young birds; one adult was also present. The second chick fledged on 24 July (Michael A. Topp). {Editor's note: Indiana DNR Biologists reported that this species is now breeding for the third consecutive year at levels above the pre-established criteria for removing it from the state endangered list. A recommendation was made to de-list this species.}

Mississippi Kite:- For the third consecutive summer the season total was in the mid-50s (STYM=18.8). The peak count was (5) at Scales Lake Co Park on 21 July (James H. Campbell). Brian Lowery found an adult male at Big Ox Creek (Scott Co) on 26 July, providing a first county record.

Northern Harrier:- On 26 June Amy Kearns reported (5) recently fledged young at Goose Pond FWA (GP11) being fed by the adults. This marks the second consecutive year of nesting at Goose Pond.

King Rail:- One walked out onto west Beverly Drive on 27 June (John K. Cassady, Randy J. Pals, & KJB). The location was near the ditch about 100 m west of the church.

SHOREBIRDS

American Golden-Plover:- Jeremy Ross reported (1) at Wheeling Bottoms on 21 July. Although this bird was in basic plumage and not likely a migrant, it constitutes Indiana's 13th earliest fall record.

Piping Plover:- See table (Season total =1; STYM=1.7).

Summer 2015 Piping Plover Records			
No	Date	Location	Observer
1	27-Jul	Miller Beach	M. Topp

Black-necked Stilt:- It was another fine summer for this recent immigrant. The season's peak count was the (117) that Amy Kearns counted at Goose Pond FWA on 9 June, which is Indiana's third largest daily count. The nest reported at the 129th Street wetland (Hammond) on 29 May was flooded by rising water on 1 June; three

eggs were observed floating in the inundated nest (Carolyn A. Marsh).

American Avocet:- See table (Season total =5; STYM=6.55).

Summer 2015 American Avocet Records			
No	Date	Location	Observer
2	5-Jul	Goose Pond FWA	L. Neumann
1	11-Jul	Goose Pond FWA	L. Neumann
1	25-Jul	Miller Beach	L. Shaum
1	27-Jul	Limberlost, Adams Co	T. Gorney

Willet:- Reported in below average numbers with 49 tallied for the season (STYM=77.5).

Hudsonian Godwit:- Indiana's fourth June and latest spring record was logged on 13 June at Limberlost swamp, Adams Co (Edward M. Hopkins et al.). A photo, taken that same day, by Jeff Timmons revealed a juvenile-like plumage, suggesting that this individual is either an unusually drab adult female or a one year-old bird.

Marbled Godwit:- See table (Season total =5; STYM=5.75).

Summer 2015 Marbled Godwit Records			
No	Date	Location	Observer
5	17-Jul	Michigan City Harb	M. Kalwasinski

Least Sandpiper:- Surprisingly scarce. Only 166 were reported for the season (STYM=458), which is the lowest summer total since 1997.

White-rumped Sandpiper:- A tardy spring migrant, in LaGrange Co on 15 June (Sam Plew), tied Indiana's third latest spring date.

Baird's Sandpiper:- A record early juvenile was photographed at Goose Pond FWA on 28 July (Amy Kearns). The next earliest date for a juvenile was on 31 July.

Laughing Gull:- The season's only report consisted of a second-cycle bird photographed by Ben Cvengros at Cane Ridge WMA on 22 July.

Wilson's Snipe:- The (10) that John Velasquez counted at Limberlost (Jay Co) on 29 July constitutes a new high daily count for the summer season (by 2 birds).

Red-necked Phalarope:- Only one summer record (STYM=0.65), Doug Gerbracht found a molting adult in Newton Co on 30 July.

White-Winged Dove:- On 4 June one visited an Elkhart Co feeder (*fide* Leland Shaum) and another was reported at a Muncie feeder on 20 June (Steve Copeland). On approximately 15 July Benjamin Miller found a road-killed bird on State Road 120 in LaGrange Co.



White-winged Dove, Elkhart, 5 June
Photo by Leland Shaum

Rufous Hummingbird:- An adult male visited a feeder near Linden (Montgomery Co) on 14 July (Edward M. Hopkins). According to database records this a first county record and the all-time earliest fall arrival date (by 13 days).

Merlin:- For the third consecutive summer this species appeared in Indiana. This year in Valparaiso Brendan Grube saw a pair chasing a Red-tailed Hawk during the first week of June. On 8 July Brendan also observed a single Merlin pursuing a House Sparrow in Valparaiso. Additionally, Jeff Norris photographed a juvenile in Bloomington on 28 July (apparently two birds were present). The latter two records constitute Indiana's second and third July reports.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:- One that Barny Dunning et al. banded on Gilmore Ridge Road 3 June tied the southern tier's fourth latest spring record.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher:- Amy Kearns and Lee W. Sterrenburg found an immature near West Boggs Lake on 30 June. This is Indiana's third record.



Imm.Fork-tailed Flycatcher, 30 June, Daviess
Photo by Don Gorney

Blue-headed Vireo:- For the fifth consecutive year the Pigeon River FWA bird summered. This year's reports included 1 June (James A. Haw), 13 June (Leland Shaum), and 5 July (Sam Plew).

Golden-crowned Kinglet:- On 13 June Leland Shaum, Perry Miller, et al. found a singing bird in a big Norway Spruce grove at Pigeon River FWA (LaGrange Co). This is Indiana's second June record of this species. Four birds were found here on 5 July (Sam Plew).

Prothonotary Warbler:- It was a fine summer for this species with 269 reported across the state (STYM=108). Del Striegel logged the peak count of (22) on 3 June in the Harrison-Crawford State Forest.

Northern Waterthrush:- Janet Cook adequately described (1) at Stillwater on 30 July providing the state's first July, and earliest fall record by five days.

Blue Grosbeak:- The (19) that John Meredig counted along Eskew Road (Warrick Co) on 23 July constitutes Indiana's tenth largest tally and the fifth largest summer count. Perhaps the most

interesting report involved a first-cycle male at Pigeon River FWA (LaGrange Co) on 18 June and again on 2 July (James A. Haw). Likely this same individual was reported singing on 11 July by Robert Guth. Although there are previous LaGrange Co records, this is a first for Pigeon

River FWA. Blue Grosbeaks are still moving northward.

Dickcissel:- A hefty 1337 Dickcissels were tallied this summer (STYM=782). Steve Lima logged the season's maximum count of (45) at the Universal Mine on 9 June.

Conventions:- Summer totals are frequently compared to average seasonal counts in the "Dunes area" (Calumet Region or lakefront) over the past 20 years, including the present year. This value is abbreviated "TYM" for Twenty Year Mean. The term "STYM" refers to the twenty-year mean for the entire state. Species marked by "" were observed outside the lakefront area.

