



INDIANA AUDUBON QUARTERLY
VOL. 94, NO. 3 AUGUST, 2016

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The
INDIANA AUDUBON QUARTERLY
 (Formerly the Indiana Audubon Society Yearbook)
 Published in February, May, August and November by
 The Indiana Audubon Society, Inc.
Editor's Address: 2054 Heritage Ct., Valparaiso, IN 46385
Email: jeffro595@yahoo.com
Visit our website at <http://www.indianaaudubon.org/>

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Cover photo: This male Kirtland's Warbler was found by Matthew and Madison Beatty, Mari Aviles, and Kristin Stratton on 10 May at Cowles Bog, *Porter*. Photo by Matt Beatty.

Back cover photo: Another Kirtland's, a female was found 17 May at Whiting Park, *Lake* by John K. Cassady, Jeffrey J. McCoy, Lynn Vernon and K.J. Brock. Photo by Matt Kalwasinski.

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Letter from the Editor----

Six-plus years as Editor have flown by very quickly! I will be moving into retirement from work and Kathy and as we look forward to more travel and also relocation. The the reins of IAQ are being turned over to a very capable, Past IAS President, Brad Bumgardner.

I am looking forward to spending more time in the field. While watching 40+ birders on an *early* August day at Miller this weekend, a few of us in the “old birders club” marveled at how the number of birders afield has risen. It seems that an increasing number of great birds are being found by birders in this state from birders of all levels and in turn, “spark” birds seem to be created almost daily....Kudos to our members, volunteers and our Officers, who have made IAS membership a “must” for those who want more out of their birding experience. Thanks to all the Editors who have served IAQ during my tenure and to Ken Brock who has made his state wide and Dunes reports available for our use.

Field Notes - Spring 2016 (Mar. - May.)

Spring Field Notes Editor, Bob Carper (bobngc2157@yahoo.com)

WEATHER

Count March as the 7th month in a row that the state average temperature has exceeded normal. The assist was from by El Nino and this month the Maya Express. The March 2016 state average temperature of 47.1F was much above normal. Its 6.4F deviation was the largest this year so far and marks the 6th warmest March since 1895 in Indiana. Regionally March 2016 precipitation was near 130% of normal in northern and southern Indiana and about 140% of normal in central areas. Normal March precipitation ranges from 2.7" in the northeast to 4.2" in southwest Indiana.

April was one month but two seasons. The first half of April was cold with snow. Spring finally sprung the second half of the month with warmer days but with multiple severe weather events. April extremes balanced to render this month slightly above normal in both temperature and precipitation. Its 52.0F state average temperature was just 0.6F above normal, an April surprisingly close to normal despite the long spells of cold and warm. Regionally April 2016 precipitation was near 95% of normal in northern Indiana, 110% in central counties, and about 115% of normal in the south. Normal April precipitation ranges from 3.5" in northeast Indiana to 4.5" in the southwest corner of the state.

Cold weather dominated in May until the last week of the month. May began wet but a drying trend took hold in mid-May and continued into the final days of the month. Through May 23d only five May days were warmer than normal. The persistent cold was evident in the May state average temperature of 61.0F which was 1.0F below normal. Regionally May 2016 precipitation was near 80% of normal in northern Indiana: 70% in central counties: and about 90% of normal in the south. Normal May precipitation ranges from 3.8" in northeast Indiana to 5.0" in the south-central part of the state.

Weather info from <http://www.iclimate.org/summary.asp>

Highlights

Highlights included two Kirtland's Warblers and lingering Black Rail at Muscatatuck NWR.

Maybe the season highlight were the four Ruffs reported and photographed from different sections of the state. Overall in the Eastern U.S. there were only a few more seen than in the same time period in 2015, just more reported in Indiana in 2016. This can be seen by the concentrated purple squares on the following maps from eBird comparing 2016 to 2016.

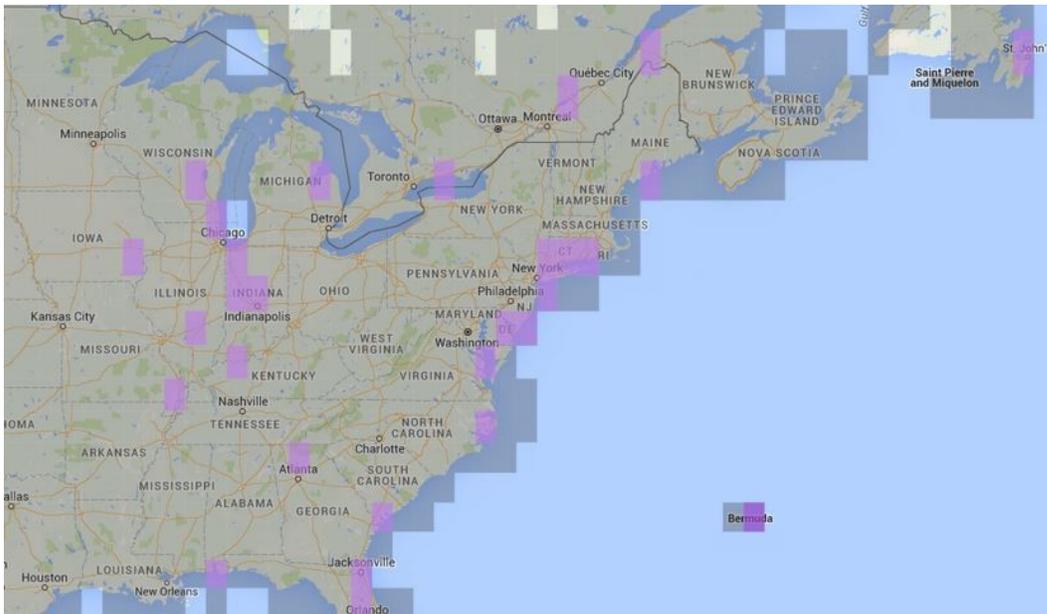


Figure 1 - Distribution of Ruff in Eastern U.S. from Mar-May 2016 - eBird

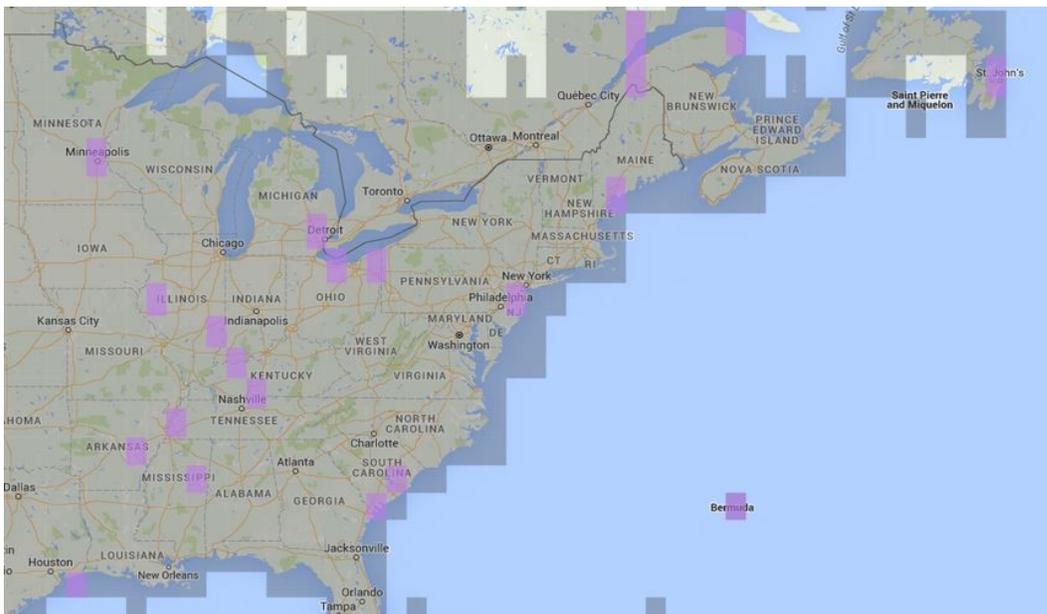


Figure 2 - Distribution of Ruff in Eastern U.S. from Mar-May 2015 - eBird

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Black-bellied Whistling Duck – One recorded at Stillwater Marsh, *Monroe* (Susan Hengeveld) 28 Apr. Additionally four reported the same day at Oxbow Lake, *Dearborn* (Jack Stenger) 28 Apr

Cinnamon Teal – A drake north of Monty's Station, Patoka NWR *Gibson* (Ed Hopkins) 5 Apr

Harlequin Duck – One female at Hammond Lakefront Park and Marina, *Lake*, 4 Mar (Michael Topp)

Pacific Loon – One observed at Michigan City, *LaPorte*, 10 Mar (Andrew Theus) Another was reported from Dunes State Park, *Porter* (Brendan Grube) 22 May



Figure 3 – Eared Grebe - One was present at Cane Ridge, Gibson 12 Mar (Evan Speck) FB

Neotropic Cormorant – One was reported on 6 Apr and an additional two were photographed at Turtle Creek Reservoir, *Sullivan*, (Michael Brown). Another was seen at Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center, *Marion*, 21 Apr (Ryan Sanderson)



Figure 4 - Neotropic Cormorant - Eagle Creek - photo Andy Belt



Figure 5 - Neotropic Cormorant – Turtle Creek – photo by Michael Brown



Figure 6 - Snowy Egret - One reported from Wolf Lake, *Lake*, 19 Apr (Matt Kalwasinski) FB

Little Blue Herons - Six alternate observed at Cane Ridge WMA, *Gibson*, 13 May, (Evan Speck)



Figure 7 - Cattle Egrets - Nine found in a field SE of Cane Ridge WMA, *Gibson*, (Evan Speck), 1 May FB

Glossy Ibis – One seen at Monty’s Station, *Gibson*, (Jeremy Ross), 4 May. Another reported at Goose Pond FWA, *Greene*, 11 May (Anthony Sipes)



Figure 8 - Black Vulture – Uncommon in *Vermillion*, 23 Mar (Michael Brown)

Swainson's Hawk – One found soaring with a kettle of Turkey Vultures off of exit 220 on I-65, *Jasper*, (Amy Hodson) 29 May

Yellow Rail – One reported from Kingsbury FWA, *LaPorte*, (Rob Ripma) 23 May

Black Rail – One reported calling about 15 times at Endicott Marsh in Muscatatuck NWR, *Jackson*, (Jack Stenger) 15 May

American Golden Plover - 161 recorded at Limberlost Swamp, *Adams*, 21 Apr (Jim Haw)



Figure 9 - Upland Sandpiper – Rural *Sullivan*, (Aidan Rominger) Apr 9, FB The returning ones reported at Grissom AFB, *Miami*, (Landon Nuemann) 22 April



Figure 10 - Upland Sandpiper - Kankakee Sands, (John Kendall) 23 April

Hudsonian Godwit – One reported at flooded field east of Gibson Lake, *Gibson*, (Evan Speck) 10 May. And another at Goose Pond FWA, *Greene*, (Amy Kearns) 10 May

Marbled Godwit – Four reported at Sullivan Place Rd, *Vigo*, (Michael Brown), 11 Apr
Two of the four were banded (see photo) Both of the Godwits banded were females that
were banded by Mr. Gregory D Balkcom on 12-3-2008 near St. Simons, Glynn County,
Georgia. This implies both birds were at least 8 years old or older.



Figure 11 - Marbled Godwits with bands - Vigo - photo by Michael Brown



Figure 12 - Reeve – One found at Pine Creek Gamebird Area, *Benton*, 26 Mar (Jeff McCoy),
Photo by John Kendall

Ruff – One at Northeast section of Monty's Station, Patoka River NWR, *Gibson*, 3 Apr (Jeremy Ross). Another was at Kingsbury FWA, *LaPorte*, 15 May (Jeff McCoy).



Figure 13 - Ruff - Kingsbury FWA - photo by Mike Bourdon



Figure 14 - Ruff - shown in relation to a Lesser Yellowlegs. *Hancock* 8 May (Don Gorney) FB

Laughing Gull – One at Limberlost Nature Preserve, *Adams*. 9 Apr, (Don Gorney)



Figure 15 - White-winged Dove - feeding in yard, Grant, 9 May, (Sally Craw Most), FB

Snowy Owl - One near Lagrange, *LaGrange*, was the latest for NE IN, 23 Mar – 14 Apr (Sam Plew)

Chuck-will's-Widow - One returned for the second year to Pigeon River FWA, *LaGrange*, (Sam Plew) 7 May

Western Kingbirds – pair returned, to the Evansville Airport, *Vanderburgh*, (Evan Speck) 8 May,

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – One reported from Pigeon River FWA, *LaGrange*, (Sam Plew) 28 May



Figure 16- Kirtland's Warbler - One found at Cowles Bog, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, *Porter*, (Matt Beatty), 10 May FB

Kirtland's Warbler – One spotted at Whiting Park, *Lake*, (Ken Brock) 17 May



Figure 17 - Yellow-headed Blackbird – one reported from Monty's Station, *Gibson*, (Aiden Rominger) 17 Apr FB



Figure 18 -Yellow-headed Blackbird - back at Grant Street Marsh, *Lake*. 4/20 (Matt Beatty) FB

And a note of thanks to Jim Haw and Michael Brown who took the time to submit summaries.

INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY SUMMER BIRD COUNT 2015

Amy Kearns 562 DNR Road, Mitchell, IN 47446

The Indiana Audubon Society held its 36th annual Summer Bird Count during June and July 2015. Weather during the count period was soggy. It was the wettest June on record (8.99") and the 7th wettest July on record (6.04"). There were frequent flash floods and agricultural crop losses were estimated at \$475 million. Temperatures were close to average; June was 0.5°F above normal and July was 1.3°F below normal (Indiana State Climate Office 2015).

Compiling the results of the Summer Bird Count was very exciting this year! Effort was high and the overall quality of counts was excellent. Participants found 203 species, which is the highest species total in over ten years, and is 15 species above average! It is also the first time since 2004 that over 200 species were reported. Participation was at its highest in ten years, with 33 counties represented (just five below the mean). The number of observers was up to 137, and they worked hard to record breeding evidence for 149 species (ten species above the mean). Individual birds, party hours, and miles were all reported well below the mean (Table 1).

Eleven counties reported 100 species or more: *Boone, Greene, Johnson, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Lake, Lawrence, Scott, Tippecanoe, Vigo, and Warren*. *LaGrange* had the highest diversity with 126 species, followed closely by *Tippecanoe* which reported 124 species. Two counties topped their previous high count: *LaGrange* (126/110) and *Scott* (115/84) (Figure 1).

Since this count is in its 36th year, new species are rarely added. This summer, however, TWO new species were added – a Fork-tailed Flycatcher from *Daviess*, and Golden-crowned Kinglets with juveniles from *LaGrange*. This means that the all-time species total for the Summer Bird Count now stands at 291! (No “summer doldrums” here! Indiana obviously has plenty of birds to see in the summer, including rarities). In addition to the aforementioned kinglets, breeding evidence was submitted for the first time ever for three other species: Whooping Crane (territory in *Gibson*), Monk Parakeet (nest in *Lake*), and Fish Crow (juveniles in *Gibson* and *Marion*) New high breeding evidence was reported for Double-crested Cormorant (nestlings in *Gibson*) and Blue-headed Vireo (feeding young in *LaGrange*). New high counts were recorded for 8 species: Double-crested Cormorant (3,160), Osprey (116), Black-necked Stilt (137), Dunlin (42), Pectoral Sandpiper (318), Least Tern (128), Eurasian Collared-Dove (46), and Fish Crow (11). The 20 most abundant species on the recent Summer Bird Count, in descending order, were: European Starling, Red-winged Blackbird, Double-crested Cormorant, American Robin, Canada Goose, Common Grackle, House Sparrow, Mourning Dove, Killdeer, Tree Swallow, Indigo Bunting, Northern Cardinal, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Song Sparrow, American Crow, Mallard, American Goldfinch, and Wood Duck (Table 2).

Further notable species with breeding evidence on the recent count were: Blue-winged Teal (territory in *Greene*), Hooded Merganser (juveniles in *Gibson, Kosciusko, and Lawrence*), Least Bittern (territory in *Greene*), Great Egret (territories in *Gibson, Greene, and Vigo*), Black-crowned Night-Heron (juvenile in *Lake, territory in Vigo*), Osprey (breeding in 7 counties), Bald Eagle (breeding in 10 counties), Red-shouldered Hawk (breeding in 8 counties), Broad-winged Hawk (territories in *Harrison* and

Lawrence), Common Gallinule (juveniles in *LaGrange* and *Lake*, territory in *Greene*), Sandhill Crane (juveniles in *Kosciusko* and *Tippecanoe*, territory in *St. Joseph*), Black-necked Stilt (demonstrating a notable range expansion with eggs in *Greene* and *Lake*, juveniles in *Tippecanoe*, nest in *Gibson*), Upland Sandpiper (territory in *St. Joseph*), Least Tern (eggs in *Gibson* and *Greene*), Common Nighthawk (territories in *Kosciusko*, *Marion* and *Vigo*), Chuck-will's-widow (territory in *Harrison*), Eastern Whip-poor-will (territories in *Harrison* and *LaGrange*), Peregrine Falcon (eggs in *Lake*, *Marion*, and *St. Joseph*), Alder Flycatcher (territories in *Kosciusko* and *LaGrange*), Loggerhead Shrike (nestlings in *Orange*, juveniles in *Daviess*, territory in *Gibson*), Sedge Wren (territories in *Greene* and *St. Joseph*), Marsh Wren (juveniles in *Lake*, feeding young in *Kosciusko*, territories in *Greene* and *LaGrange*), Worm-eating Warbler (territories in *Bartholomew*, *Harrison*, and *Lawrence*), Black-and-White Warbler (territory in *Kosciusko*), Prothonotary Warbler (breeding in 7 counties), Hooded Warbler (breeding in 5 counties), Cerulean Warbler (territories in 4 counties), Chestnut-sided Warbler (territory in *Kosciusko*), Lark Sparrow (nest in *Vigo*, territory in *LaGrange*), Henslow's Sparrow (territories in 5 counties), and Western Meadowlark (territory in *LaGrange*) (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 download an Excel form from the IAS website and email your results (the compiler prefers this method). 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.

Literature Cited

Indiana State Climate Office 2015 – <http://www.iclimate.org/summary.asp>

Appendix 1. Summer Bird Count Participants by county during 2015 with the addresses of compilers in parentheses.

Bartholomew – Karl Werner (209 Moccasin Court, Greenwood, IN 46142), Bob Carper, Mike Clay, Art Howard.

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

Boone – Roger L. Hedge (2605 Elizaville Rd., Lebanon, IN 46052), Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur St., West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133), Cloyce Hedge.

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

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

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

Elkhart – Leland Shaum (64580 Old County Rd. 17, Goshen, IN 46526), Lyndon Borkholder, Robert Guth, Kyle Miller, David Schwartz, Thaddaeus Shaum.

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), Jim Brown.

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

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

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

Johnson – Karl Werner (209 Moccasin Court, Greenwood, IN 46142), Paula Baldwin, Bob Carper, Cliff Chapman, Mike Clay, Ann Deutch, Tom Hougham, Shaun Ziegler.

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

Kosciusko – John Kendall (123 EMS C17 Lane, Warsaw, IN 46582).

LaGrange – Leland Shaum (64580 Old County Rd. 17, Goshen, IN 46526), Jacob Hochstetler, Marvin Hochstetler, Benjamin Miller, Cristy Miller, Leroy Miller, Perry Miller, Sam Plew, Floyd Schmucker, Thaddaeus Shaum, Fred Yoder, Mervin Yoder.

Lake – Matt Kalwasinski (8115 Schreiber Dr., Munster, IN 46321), Carolyn Marsh.

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

Marion – Miles Zevin (700 N. Alabama, Apt. 1005, Indianapolis, IN 46204), John Munshower, Spike Selig, Becky Lomax Sumner, Laurie Voss, Marty Williams.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Putnam – Carl Huffman (707 E. Seminary St., Greencastle, IN 46135), Whitney Morrill, Roxanne Pannell, Martha Rainbolt, Jerry Rud, Don Williams.

Scott – Amy Kearns (80 Sunset Rdg., Mitchell, IN 47446), Brian Lowry (1976 S. Comer Rd., Scottsburg, IN 47170), Kelsie Lowry, Melinda Lowry.

St. Joseph – Louise Fessenden (P.O. Box 303, Notre Dame, IN 46556), Alice Bentley, John Bentley, Susan Bertrand, Zach Carson, Tim Cordell, Joe Doherty, Kay Easton, Dick Fessenden, Robert Fessenden, Audry Fleming, John Fleming, Laura Fuderer, Martha Kummerer, Ellen Lechlitner, Mike Lechlitner, Marge Riemenschneider,

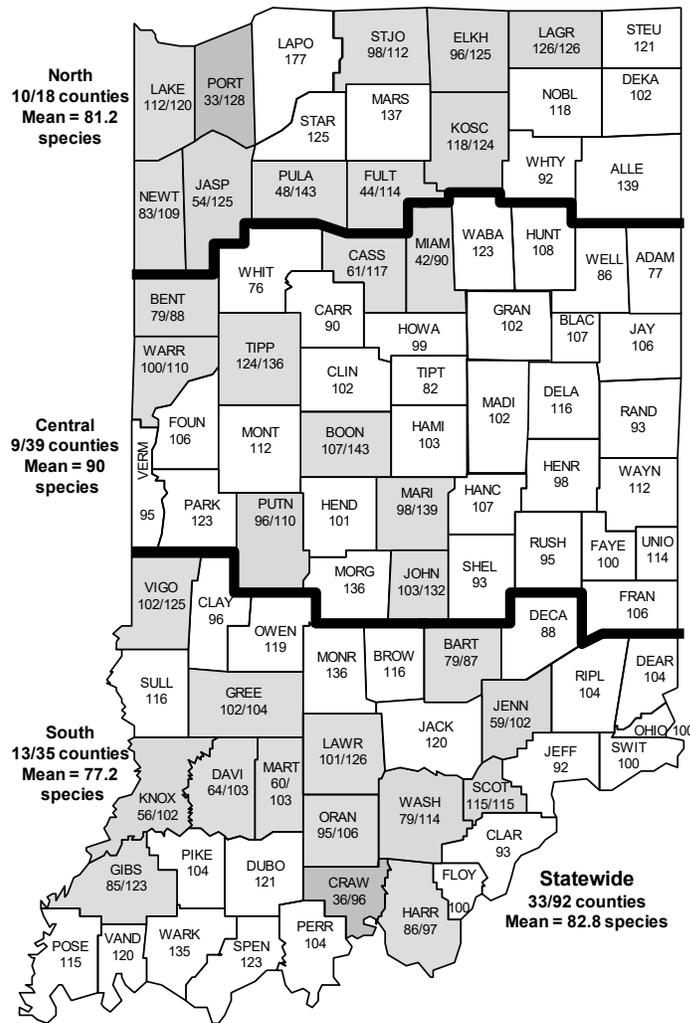
Vic Riemenschneider, Carole Riewe, Rick Rydzynski, Vicky Rydzynski, Ellen Schmidt, Sheila Smyth, Jim Spier, Melanie Trowbridge, Joan Tweedell, Casey Zillman.

Tippecanoe – Barny Dunning (7509 North 75 East, West Lafayette, IN 47906), Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur St., West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133), Russ Allison, Kat Braz, Michael Clay, Ricardo Escobada, Michael Levine, Marc Ribaud, Kirk Roth, Susan Schnerre, John Skene, Chuck Tuttle, Susan Ulrich, Nancy Whiting, Vern Wilkins, Karl Wood, Michael Yough.

Vigo - Mary Beth Eberwein (6523 E. Tryon Dr., Pimento, IN 47866), Ann Black, Bruce Black, Jagger Foster, Andrew Hoffman, Marty Jones, Brenda Milliren, Phil Milliren, Peter Scott, Amber Slaughterbeck, Stephanie Taylor.

Warren – Susan H. Ulrich (11907 E. 500 N., Otterbein, IN 47970).

Washington - Brian Lowry (1976 S. Comer Rd., Scottsburg, IN 47170).



INDIANA WINTER BIRD FEEDER COUNT – 2015-2016
John S. Castrale, 780 Lawrenceport Road, Mitchell, IN 47446

The statewide feeder count sponsored by the Indiana Audubon Society was continued for the twenty-third year during the winter of 2015-2016. The purpose of this survey is to obtain information about the relative abundance and distribution of birds frequenting feeders during winter months in Indiana. Planned as an annual activity, changes and population trends in bird populations may be tracked. A secondary objective of this project is to increase enjoyment of winter bird feeding.

Methods

A standardized form was developed that included 45 bird species expected to occur at feeders in Indiana. Space was also provided to write in additional, less common species. Survey periods were 6 consecutive days (20th-25th of the month) each during the months of November, December, January, and February. During these survey periods, participants were asked to record the maximum number of individuals of each bird species during any one observation period. Information about the feeder site, number of feeders, types of feeders, food provided, temperatures, and snow cover was also solicited from each participant.

The state was divided into north, south, and central regions in an identical way used in the Summer Bird Count (Kearns and Castrale 2010). Bird occurrence data were treated two ways. The maximum number of individuals of each species seen during each 6-day count period was averaged. Because this variable may be greatly influenced by a few feeders where a species may be unusually common or by flocking species, frequency of occurrence was also calculated. Not all count forms were usable. Some participants did not report total birds properly (cumulative total used instead of maximum count), so these figures were used only in calculating frequency and not average numbers. In rare cases, the identification skills of observers were questionable and the reports not used. Counts were analyzed by region, time period, and year. A statistical test (chi-square goodness of fit test) was used to determine differences in the frequencies in which species occurred by region and survey period. This test compares observed and expected (based on overall pattern of occurrence) frequencies and was only applied to species in which the expected number of occurrences in each cell was >5.

Results and Discussion

The winter of 2015-2016 was characterized by warmer than normal temperatures in all months (reports from the Indiana State Climate Office): November (+4.1°F), December (+11.1°F), January (+1.6°F), February (+2.8°F). December was the warmest since 1895. Precipitation was below normal in January (58% of normal), near normal in November (101%), and above normal in December (180%) and February (124%). The first snows of the winter fell during the November count period in northern and central Indiana. Snow cover ranged from 0-3" in central Indiana with up to 9" in South Bend. Minimum temperatures were in the teens to about 20° with highs in the 50's in the north to the 60's in southern Indiana. Snow cover was absent statewide from 20-25 December with temperatures ranging in the 60's for highs with lows in the 20's. January conditions were closer to normal with high temperatures in the 40's up to 50°F in southern Indiana with minimum temperatures reported in the single digits throughout the state. Snow cover ranged from 0-6" with the greatest amounts in northern and southern regions. February temperatures rebounded in February with highs in the 60's up to 72°F. Snow cover was mostly absent to 1" in southern and central Indiana, while a blizzard in northern Indiana had accumulations of up to 12".

Participation in the Winter Bird Feeder Count continued to decline and the 2015-2016 submissions were the lowest in its history, with the change mostly due to fewer counts in southern Indiana (Table 1). Most counts came from northern Indiana and should be considered when comparing annual abundance for species with strong regional trends (i.e., chickadees, Carolina Wren). Counties with the greatest participation were: St. Joseph, Allen, Marion, Lawrence, and Steuben. Individuals submitting counts are listed in Appendix I.

The overall number of species detected annually has not varied greatly over the years, especially the number of species that were found on >3% of counts (Table 1). The order of abundance for most species was similar to previous years, with House Sparrow again most numerous while those species occurring in 90% or more counts were Northern Cardinal, White-breasted Nuthatch, Dark-eyed Junco, Downy Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and American Goldfinch (Table 2). A few species (Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch) were reported at or near record high levels. This was a poor year for irruptive "winter finches", with fewer than average Purple Finch and Pine Siskin

numbers. For the first time in 23 years of counts, no Red-breasted Nuthatches were tallied.

Other species occurring with a relative frequency of <3% were Horned Lark, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Lapland Longspur, Rusty Blackbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-shouldered Hawk, Hermit Thrush, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Barred Owl, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Pine Warbler, and Chipping Sparrow,. Rare and unusual species are seldom documented by participants.

As in past years, about half of the species displayed statistically significant differences in regional occurrence (Table 3). Feeders in southern Indiana generally have a greater variety of species and most species with regional differences are found at higher levels in the south. Black-capped Chickadee, American Tree Sparrow, Eastern Bluebird, and Pine Siskin were found in greater numbers or more frequently in northern Indiana. House Sparrow, Pileated Woodpecker, and Brown Creeper were most frequently encountered in the central part of the state.

Only seven species showed significant differences in frequency among the four time periods surveyed and the mean number of species reported was lowest in December (Table 4). Differences were mostly due to higher values in later winter (American Tree Sparrow), especially for the European Starling and the three migratory blackbird species. Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles were also common during the November period. Fox Sparrows were reported most often during November, while Mourning Doves occurred less frequently in December.

Appreciation is extended to all participants in this count, especially those who donated to the printing costs.

Literature Cited

Kearns, A. and J. Castrale. 2010. Indiana Audubon Society Summer Bird Count - 2009. *Indiana Audubon Quarterly* 88:26-33.

Appendix I. Participants in the 2014-2015 Indiana Winter Bird Feeder Count.

North – *Allen*: Fox Island County Park, Ed & Cynthia Powers, Marty Ryan, Mark & Kim Weldon, Phil Wixom; *Lake*: Matt Kalwasinski; *LaPorte*: Dennis & Frances Richardson; *Marshall*: Lynn Vernon; *Porter*: Kim Ehn; *Saint Joseph*: John & Alice Bentley, Laura Fuderer, Lindsay & Scott Namestuik, Marge & Vic Riemenschneider, Leslie VanOverberghe; *Steuben*: Marie Laudeman, Pokagon State Park, Rita Smith, Fred & Jackie Wooley; *Whitley*: Stan Needham.

Central - *Adams*: Larry Parker; *Boone*: Cloyce Hedge, Roger Hedge; *Fountain*: Harmon Weeks; *Grant*: Joy Sellers; *Hancock*: Gail McNierney; *Hendricks*: Sue Arnold; *Marion*: Lou Anne Berriger, Gordon Chastain, Karen Dalman, Becky Lomax-Sumner; *Morgan*: Cindy Breedlove, Robert Gregory; *Tippecanoe*: Delano Arvin; *Warren*: Susan Ulrich.

South – *Dearborn*: Connie McNamee, Greg Mendell; *Floyd*: John Graf; *Greene*: Maureen Forrest, Jess Gwinn; *Knox*: Gary Bowman; *Lawrence*: Robert Barber, John Castrale, Amy, Noah, June, & Lyra Kearns; *Monroe*: Terri Greene, Cathy Meyer.

Table 2. Abundance of birds visiting feeders during the past five Indiana winters.

	Average number / feeder					Percent of counts					
	Year	15- 16	14-15	13- 14	12- 13	11- 12	15- 16	14-15	13- 14	12- 13	11- 12
	<i>Number of surveys</i>	154	175	189	184	192	154	175	189	184	192
Species											
House Sparrow	15.1	15.3	16.8	16.9	14.9	73	74	71	72	68	
American Goldfinch	9.2	12.9	11.9	10.4	11.4	90	91	93	89	91	
Northern Cardinal	8.9	10.4	10.2	9.6	9.7	97	95	97	98	98	
Dark-eyed Junco	8.7	9.0	12.8	8.4	7.4	95	97	97	93	94	
Mourning Dove	7.3	7.2	8.3	6.7	5.6	75	77	86	84	83	
House Finch	6.0	7.6	7.3	6.8	6.6	88	89	84	86	84	
European Starling	5.1	3.7	5.3	3.2	3.7	52	41	50	48	43	
Blue Jay	3.9	4.6	3.8	3.3	2.9	86	85	80	80	80	
Tufted Titmouse	2.9	2.9	2.5	2.6	3.0	83	87	83	80	89	
Downy Woodpecker	2.8	3.0	2.4	2.8	2.8	94	98	93	96	95	
White-breasted Nuthatch	2.3	2.2	1.9	2.2	2.3	96	95	91	95	92	
Brown-headed Cowbird	2.3	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.7	12	7	9	11	8	
Carolina Chickadee	2.2	2.5	2.1	2.1	2.7	60	62	65	57	64	
American Tree Sparrow	2.2	2.0	3.4	2.3	2.4	47	39	46	45	36	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.5	92	85	87	91	84	
White-throated Sparrow	1.2	1.5	1.9	0.9	1.0	35	38	39	26	30	
American Robin	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.8	21	19	16	23	14	
Wild Turkey	0.9	0.9	0.5	1.0	1.2	7	6	3	2	3	
Hairy Woodpecker	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.6	49	50	37	54	41	
Black-capped Chickadee	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.8	37	33	31	39	33	
Red-winged Blackbird	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.6	18	6	10	10	12	
American Crow	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	21	19	19	16	13	
Carolina Wren	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	41	48	44	43	46	
Purple Finch	0.6	1.0	0.2	0.5	0.7	23	25	11	20	22	
Common Grackle	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.3	12	2	8	9	9	
Pine Siskin	0.6	2.1	0.0	1.4	0.2	8	31	2	22	5	
Song Sparrow	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.8	40	39	51	39	43	
Northern Flicker	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	26	30	24	28	24	
Red-headed Woodpecker	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	<0.1	11	11	8	15	4	
Eastern Bluebird	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.4	10	11	8	9	15	
Cooper's Hawk	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	26	28	31	27	24	
White-crowned Sparrow	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	16	19	16	15	14	
Pileated Woodpecker	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	21	18	19	15	15	
Fox Sparrow	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.1	17	13	21	13	6	
Northern	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	<0.1	6	9	7	10	5	

Mockingbird										
Brown Creeper	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	15	13	17	12	12
Field Sparrow	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	4	<1	5	3	2
Eastern Towhee	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	6	13	20	11	13
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	4	5	7	4	6

Table 3. Regional abundance of birds frequenting feeders in Indiana during the winter of 2015-2016.

Species	Average number / feeder			Percent of counts			Test ^a	
	Region	North	Central	South	North	Central		South
	Number of surveys	68	55	31	68	55		31
House Sparrow		11.1	15.1	24.0	66	89	61	**
American Goldfinch		5.8	10.5	14.5	84	93	97	NS
Northern Cardinal		4.9	8.4	18.8	93	100	100	*
Dark-eyed Junco		8.3	8.1	10.7	93	96	100	NS
Mourning Dove		4.2	6.2	16.3	71	71	90	NS
House Finch		5.0	6.7	6.9	84	96	84	NS
European Starling		4.7	3.3	9.1	41	56	68	*
Blue Jay		2.5	3.3	8.0	88	75	100	**
Tufted Titmouse		2.0	2.9	4.7	71	89	100	***
Downy Woodpecker		2.1	2.8	4.3	91	93	100	NS
White-breasted Nuthatch		1.9	2.1	3.4	94	96	100	NS
Brown-headed Cowbird		4.8	0.5	0.1	12	16	6	NS
Carolina Chickadee		0.5	2.9	4.6	16	91	100	***
American Tree Sparrow		2.8	1.4	2.1	59	40	32	*
Red-bellied Woodpecker		1.2	1.8	2.9	93	85	100	NS
White-throated Sparrow		0.2	1.2	3.2	19	35	71	***
American Robin		0.4	0.6	2.8	15	22	32	NS
Wild Turkey		0.6	0.3	2.7	6	5	13	NS
Hairy Woodpecker		0.7	0.9	1.2	50	44	55	NS
Black-capped Chickadee		1.7	0.1	0.0	78	7	0	***
Red-winged Blackbird		1.4	0.2	0.6	19	15	23	NS
American Crow		0.5	0.6	1.4	21	15	35	NS
Carolina Wren		0.2	0.8	1.5	16	58	65	***
Purple Finch		0.2	0.5	2.0	7	20	61	***
Common Grackle		1.3	<0.1	0.2	18	4	13	NS
Pine Siskin		1.1	0.0	0.5	13	0	13	*
Song Sparrow		0.1	0.8	1.1	13	56	68	***
Northern Flicker		0.2	0.5	0.7	19	29	35	NS
Red-headed Woodpecker		0.5	0.1	0.6	10	9	16	NS
Eastern Bluebird		0.7	<0.1	0.0	21	4	0	***
Cooper's Hawk		0.2	0.3	0.7	19	25	42	NS
White-crowned Sparrow		0.2	0.5	0.3	13	20	13	NS
Pileated Woodpecker		<0.1	0.6	0.4	7	35	26	***
Fox Sparrow		0.1	0.2	0.8	9	16	35	**
Northern Mockingbird		0.0	<0.1	0.9	0	4	23	***
Brown Creeper		0.1	0.3	<0.1	12	25	3	*

Field Sparrow	0.0	<0.1	0.5	0	2	16	***
Eastern Towhee	<0.1	0.0	0.5	1	0	26	***
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0.0	<0.1	<0.1	0	7	6	NS
Mean no. species	14.5	16.6	19.8				

Table 4. Monthly abundance of birds frequenting feeders in Indiana during the winter of 2015-2016.

Species	Average number / feeder				Percent of counts				Test ^a	
	Month	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.		Feb.
	<i>Number of surveys</i>	38	40	40	36	38	40	40		36
House Sparrow	14.7	16.6	16.6	12.4	74	75	73	72	NS	
American Goldfinch	8.2	5.3	10.6	13.0	95	88	88	89	NS	
Northern Cardinal	5.4	7.0	13.7	9.5	95	95	100	97	NS	
Dark-eyed Junco	7.3	6.3	13.0	8.3	97	90	95	100	NS	
Mourning Dove	6.3	5.5	11.4	6.0	74	58	85	83	*	
House Finch	5.0	6.2	7.2	5.5	97	90	83	83	NS	
European Starling	6.3	2.1	7.3	4.7	37	25	70	78	***	
Blue Jay	4.0	3.7	4.4	3.6	87	80	88	89	NS	
Tufted Titmouse	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.6	82	85	83	83	NS	
Downy Woodpecker	2.3	2.5	3.1	3.1	92	90	93	100	NS	
White-breasted Nuthatch	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.2	97	98	95	94	NS	
Brown-headed Cowbird	0.6	0.0	2.4	6.6	13	0	15	22	*	
Carolina Chickadee	2.1	2.4	2.3	1.9	61	63	60	56	NS	
American Tree Sparrow	1.1	0.8	3.3	3.6	45	23	65	56	**	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1.5	1.7	2.0	1.8	89	93	90	94	NS	
White-throated Sparrow	0.9	0.6	2.1	1.1	37	28	45	31	NS	
American Robin	2.3	0.5	0.9	0.3	32	13	25	14	NS	
Wild Turkey	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.2	8	5	8	8	NS	
Hairy Woodpecker	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.9	45	43	55	53	NS	
Black-capped Chickadee	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.8	37	35	40	36	NS	
Red-winged Blackbird	1.8	0.1	0.1	1.4	21	8	3	44	***	
American Crow	0.5	0.4	1.1	0.7	18	20	25	22	NS	
Carolina Wren	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.5	47	38	43	36	NS	
Purple Finch	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.8	26	18	30	17	NS	
Common Grackle	0.3	0.0	0.1	2.3	18	0	5	25	**	
Pine Siskin	0.1	0.3	0.9	1.1	11	5	10	8	NS	
Song Sparrow	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.6	34	33	50	42	NS	
Northern Flicker	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.4	21	18	40	25	NS	
Red-headed Woodpecker	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.6	8	13	13	11	NS	
Eastern Bluebird	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.5	8	5	13	17	NS	
Cooper's Hawk	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.2	29	23	33	19	NS	
White-crowned Sparrow	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.4	18	8	23	14	NS	
Pileated Woodpecker	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	13	18	25	28	NS	

Fox Sparrow	0.4	<.01	0.5	0.2	26	5	25	11	*
Northern Mockingbird	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	3	5	8	8	NS
Brown Creeper	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	13	10	13	25	NS
Field Sparrow	<.01	0.1	0.2	0.1	5	3	5	3	NS
Eastern Towhee	<0.1	<.01	0.3	0.1	3	3	10	8	NS
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	5	0	10	0	NS
Mean no. species	16.5	14.1	17.6	17.2					

^aNS (not statistically different), * (statistically different at probability level of 5%),
 ** (statistically different at probability level of 1%), *** (statistically different at
 probability level of 0.1%).

THE 2016 INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY BIG MAY DAY BIRD COUNT

Summary by Matt Kalwasinski with technical assistance by Amy Wilms

The Big May Day Bird Count (BMDBC) was conducted state-wide on Saturday, May 14th, 2016. The objective of the BMDBC is to count the number of birds of each species that occurs in a participating county from midnight to midnight on the second Saturday in May. The data collected provides a valuable scientific record of the resident and migratory bird populations occurring each year in Indiana.

Weather conditions were not ideal with the average high temperature only 51.9 F and average low of 43.4 F across the state. Cloud cover, windy conditions, and minimal precipitation were common themes across the state.

Gibson, Green, Lake, Porter, and Vigo each reported 150+ individual species seen with Gibson County taking top honors this year with 180 species.

Fifty three of the 92 Indiana counties (57.6%) participated in this year's count (*See Indiana Map below.*)-Compared to last year (32 counties in 2015), this is a dramatic increase of additional participation and, according to the annual data collected since 1991, well above the average of 40.16. As a side note, we would like to applaud everyone's dedication to this event, be it your first year or your fortieth. (*See the "Years of Participation" as well as Participation List for his year.*)

With the additional coverage, over 12,000 more birds were seen this year compared to last year. However, this year's 128,958 birds reported are still below the average of just over 148,000. Ironically, even though the count had greater coverage across the state, three less species (241 compared to 244 last year) were reported.

Eleven species only had 1 individual reported, which included American Wigeon (Newton), Common Merganser (Jasper), Snowy Egret (Monroe), King Rail (Newton), Upland Sandpiper (St. Joseph), Wilson's Phalarope (Vigo), Barn Owl (Lawrence), Loggerhead Shrike (Lawrence), Golden-crowned Kinglet (Tippecanoe), Fox Sparrow (Adams), and Dark-eyed Junco (Tippecanoe).

Three species (Canada Goose, Northern Cardinal, and Song Sparrow) were reported in all 53 counties that participated.

Once again, Red-winged Blackbirds were the most numerous species found with 10,326 reported, followed by American Robin, European Starling, Canada Goose, and Common Grackle. Top honors for the most numerous Neotropical migrant was Barn Swallow (5,382) with Tree Swallow next. (*See tables below.*)

Most Numerous Resident Bird Counts 2007-2016

Species	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average
Red-winged Blackbird	12241	10583	12743	10232	9947	10010	9555	N/A	10786	10326	10,714
American Robin	8532	8085	9990	11545	8987	9554	7765	N/A	7948	8524	8,992
European Starling	9262	8517	10026	11594	8327	7198	7163	N/A	6950	9135	8,686
Canada Goose	6747	6719	6896	6694	5413	7391	5613	N/A	6240	8501	6,690
Common Grackle	7319	5938	5905	5894	5203	4871	3984	N/A	4066	4876	5,340
House Sparrow	3393	3386	3560	3281	3435	3935	3232	N/A	3888	3252	3,485
Northern Cardinal	3684	3595	3351	2914	3360	3312	3129	N/A	3386	2937	3,296
Ring-billed Gull	3355	2534	3568	4941	2779	1823	2518	N/A	1980	4252	3,083

Mourning Dove	3193	2915	2878	2459	2803	3181	2863	N/A	2309	2242	2,760
American Goldfinch	3170	2946	3054	2441	2479	2398	2564	N/A	2165	1955	2,575
Brown-headed Cowbird	2617	2449	2976	2421	2157	2384	2342	N/A	1936	1966	2,361
Mallard	1997	2050	1817	2098	1830	1858	1724	N/A	1723	1900	1,889
American Crow	1418	1472	1787	1806	1710	1701	1617	N/A	1694	2044	1,694
Song Sparrow	1819	1864	1619	1340	1599	1872	1594	N/A	1439	1443	1,621
Rock Pigeon	1092	1302	1278	1425	1006	825	1241	N/A	1246	1341	1,195

Most Numerous Neotropical Migrant Bird Counts 2007-2016

Species	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average
Barn Swallow	2178	2087	3098	4854	3102	2400	3852	N/A	1915	5382	3,208
Tree Swallow	2475	2421	3777	4294	2330	1883	4426	N/A	1925	4462	3,110
Indigo Bunting	2234	2009	2295	1420	2358	2751	1573	N/A	1829	1439	1,990
Gray Catbird	2009	2186	1994	1342	1725	1903	1687	N/A	1877	1585	1,812
Common Yellowthroat	1485	1834	1659	1210	1749	2396	1765	N/A	1615	1364	1,675
Chipping Sparrow	1792	1991	1930	1493	1610	1777	1249	N/A	1484	1432	1,640
Cliff Swallow	2001	1202	1721	1893	1097	2387	1615	N/A	788	1959	1,629
Chimney Swift	1619	1746	2264	1301	1397	1771	1540	N/A	1170	575	1,487
Yellow Warbler	1375	1811	1480	1113	1426	1576	1439	N/A	1567	1038	1,425
Baltimore Oriole	1424	1369	1508	1031	1286	1309	1212	N/A	1530	1258	1,325
Purple Martin	1028	1537	1508	907	1738	1550	984	N/A	983	1051	1,254
Northern Rough-winged Sw.	877	992	1974	1878	858	633	1644	N/A	634	1504	1,222
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	653	863	1277	782	976	961	1022	N/A	1134	973	960
House Wren	1052	1302	1225	789	747	900	714	N/A	781	654	907
Bank Swallow	582	745	881	1847	505	709	832	N/A	388	1504	888

Thank you to all the compilers and observers for their participation, and on behalf of the Indiana Audubon Society, we look forward to your continued participation next year on Saturday, May 13, 2017.

Years of Participation - After the 2016 May Count			
<i>*If you see an error or an omission, please contact me at matkawasinski@yahoo.com</i>			
40 years or more	30 years or more	20 years or more	10 years or more
Chuck Mills	Dick Fessenden	Joan Tweedell	Shannon Lee
Vic Riemenschneider	Louise Fessenden	Susan Bagby	Jan McGowan
Marge Riemenschneider	Dick Davis	Mike Donnelly	Linda Leliaert
Gene Coleman	Joe Long	Carole Riewe	Michael R. Brown

	Kathy Long	Mary Beth Eberwein	Steve Lima
	Larry Parker	Jo Borrer	Lynda McGinnis
	Joy Bower	John Cassady	Bob Brodman
	Kevin Carlson	Scottie Theiss	Denise Sobieski
	John Bentley	Carol Hyatt	Kim Harmon
	Alice Bentley	Carolyn Marsh	Dakin Polan
	Cindy Conway	Wendy Cassady	
	Gordon Hug	Jim Simon	
	Bill Poindexter	Margaret Tamar	
	Rosemary Toepp	Christine Salberg	
	Stuart Jenkins	Jim Sweeney	
	Mary Ann Jenkins	Michael Topp	
	Larry Lock	Nancy Reiter	
	Pat Lock	Phil Snider	
	Kathy Fuller	Jenny Snider	
	Laura Fuderer	Ken Tweedell	
	Bob Leliaert	Dick Bonness	
	Dennis Richardson	Kathy Strecker	
	Dave Reichlinger		
	Barb Dodge		

2016 Participant List

1. **Adams, Compiler:** Terri Gorney **Observers:** Terri Gorney, David Reichlinger, Curt Burnette, Bill Hubbard, Randy Lehman, Larry Parker, Janet Parker, Dema Hackenjos, Judy Isch, Karen Swygart, J. Swygart, Elaine Bluhm, Bud Marble, Edith Arnold, Lauretta Bodle, Tammy Driskill, Gerry Hilty, Mrs. Hilty
2. **Allen, Compiler:** Ed Powers **Observers:** Jim Haw, Ed Powers, Cynthia Powers, David Ward, Mark Derloshon, Rodger Rang, Sandy Schacht, Valerie Pelz, Galen Yordy, Stephanie Wagner, Sue Zwierko, Kim Miser
3. **Bartholomew, Compiler:** Alex Warnick **Observers:** Shae Warnick, Sonnie Warnick, Steven Warnick
4. **Boone, Compiler & Observer:** Dwight Moser
5. **Brown, Compiler:** Marcia Walker **Observers:** Jennifer Schall, David Rupp
6. **Clark, Compiler:** Stuart Jenkins **Observers:** Stuart Jenkins, Mary Ann Jenkins, Larry Lock, Pat Lock, Scottie Theiss, Del Streigle, Kathy Strecker, Carol Hyatt, Kathy Webster, Margie Wehder, Valerie Buehler, Dakin Polan, Ron Reinner
7. **Crawford, Compiler:** Stuart Tower **Observer:** Stuart Tower
8. **Dearborn, Compiler:** Bob Decker **Observers:** Bob Decker, Ann Decker, Jack Stenger
9. **DuBois, Compilers and Observers:** John Linsey, Karen Lindsey
10. **Elkhart, Compiler:** Linsday Grossman **Observers:** Trice Berkely, John Davis, Rose Marie Tinder-O'Brien, Mary Kauffmann-Kennel, LouAnne Hostetler, Emma Wynn, Lindsay

- Grossmann, Ben Grossmann, John Harley, Robert Guth, Annie Aquirre, Ronda DeCaire, Marilyn Horvath, Jon Kauffmann-Kennel, Ray Troyer, Allen Peachy, Gail Shelter, Brent Mann, Gregg Beitler
11. **Fayette, Compiler:** Amy Wilms **Observers:** Carl Wilms, Cyndi Routledge, John Kerr, Barbara Kerr, Mary Yandell, Michael Hall, Catherine Henman, Kelly Henderson
 12. **Floyd, Compiler:** Joseph Caruso **Observers:** Joseph Caruso, Deborah Caruso
 13. **Franklin, Compiler & Observer:** Bill Buskirk
 14. **Gibson, Compiler:** Charles Mills **Observers:** Dan Collins, Ben Fritz, Charles Mills, Chris Newman, Jeremy Ross, Evan Speck, Margaret Thomas, Richard Vernier, Sue Vernier, Vicky Whitaker, Kevin Coleman, Marietta Smith
 15. **Grant, Compiler:** Jessica Tinklenberg **Observers:** David Aronson
 16. **Greene, Compiler:** Jess Gwinn **Observers:** Gary Langell, Cathy Meyer, Jo Hargesheimer, Don Allen, Ray Brumfiel, Jess Gwinn, Maureen Forrest, Donald Hall, Anne Roberts, Gary Horton, Joan ten Hoor, Scott Evans, Joe Bailey, Jim Brown, Lee Sterrenburg, Jerry Downs, Sam Downs, Bill Holladay, Jim Hengeveld, Susan Hengeveld, Jeff Regiel, Caitlyn King
 17. **Hamilton, Compiler:** Amanda Smith **Observers:** Enochs, Wiesler, Bray, Cornell, Starling, Jackson, Smith
 18. **Hancock, Compiler:** Gail McNierney **Observers:** Ben Hess, Gail McNierney
 19. **Harrison Compiler:** Stuart Tower **Observer:** Stuart Tower
 20. **Howard, Compiler:** Samuel Morrow **Observers:** Samuel Morrow
 21. **Jackson, Compiler:** Donna Stanley **Observers:** Jane Herndon, Bob Herndon, Rich Sodano, Brittany Kiel, Terri Moore, Jennifer Thomas, Bridget Martin, David Crouch, Darlena Graham, Donna Stanley
 22. **Jasper, Compiler:** Tim Rice **Observers:** Tim Rice, Bob Brodman
 23. **Jefferson, Compiler:** Bill Poindexter **Observers:** Bill Poindexter, Dick Davis, Kevin Carlson, Kim Kring, Andy Simpson, Kalya Simpson, Matt Demaree, Brent Lindquist, Gretchen Linquist
 24. **Jennings, Compiler:** Donna Stanley, **Observers:** Bob Herndon, Jane Herndon, David Crouch
 25. **Johnson, Compiler:** Tom Hougham **Observers:** Tom Roseman, Ann Deutch, Tom Hougham, Bob Carper, Paula Baldwin
 26. **Lake, Compiler:** Lynda McGinnis **Observers:** Daniel Arendas, Joy Bower, Gene Coleman, DeNay Cortez, Jose Cortez, Sarah dela Rue, Barb Dodge, Loyce Fandrei, Tim Ferguson, Donna Gonzalez, Jolene Hanchar, Kim Harmon, David Homrich, Kathy Homrich, Bob Huguenard, Carolyn Marsh, Gayle McBride, Lynda McGinnis, Ed Morweiser, Christine Salberg, Jim Strange, Linda Strange, Jim Sweeney, Michael Topp, Rick Welton
 27. **LaPorte, Compiler:** Denise Holmes **Observers:** Jim Jessup, Susan Bagby, Nancy Reiter, Denise Holmes, Pennie Lombard, Lloyd Lombard, Jim Simon, Margaret Carson, Elizabeth McCloskey, Dennis Richardson, Frances Sipocz-Richardson, John Brugos, Jo Brugos, Cleo Juhasz
 28. **Lawrence, Compiler:** Amy Kearns **Observers:** Amy Kearns, Noah Kearns, Howard Detweiler, Don Gorney, Dan Leach
 29. **Madison, Compiler:** Jeff Timmons **Observers:** Jeff Timmons, Lois Rockhill

30. **Marion, Compiler:** Don Gorney **Observers:** Mark Rhodes, Mark Welter, Jeanette Frazier, Kirk Roth, Don Gorney
31. **Miami, Compiler:** Seth Loe **Observers:** Seth Loe, Cynthia Loe, Monte Loe, Carsten Loe, Sullivan Loe, Beverly Miller
32. **Monroe, Compiler:** Terrie Green **Observers:** Jack Haddan
33. **Morgan, Compiler:** Deborah Cooney **Observers:** Joni James, Tim Street, Deborah Cooney
34. **Newton, Compiler:** Ed Hopkins **Observers:** Ed Hopkins
35. **Noble, Compiler:** John Winebrenner **Observers:** John Winebrenner, Lisa Silvey, Tim Yoder, Will Searer, James Yoder, Lisa Silvey, Morris Duffy, Joe Bontrager, Ted Hemingway, Thomas Eichner, Mary Helfrich, Eric Helfrich, Rod Strayer, Susan Beck, Richard Bontrager, Rosie Bennett, Larry Biebrich, Ron Korte, Tedra Hemingway
36. **Orange, Compilers and Observers:** John Linsey, Karen Lindsey
37. **Parke, Compiler:** Alan Bruner **Observers:** Alan Bruner, Gary Hockett, Andrew Hoffman, Kayla Leach, Judy Leahy, Rusty McIntyre, Kyle Rush, Tammy Turner, Patsy Steffen
38. **Porter, Compiler:** Ken Brock **Observers:** Cathy Anderson, Ken Brock, Mari Aviles, Madison Beatty, Matt Beatty, Saj Braner, Brad Bumgardner, Phill Dresher, Susan Cohen, Tim Cole, Perry Cozza, Kim Ehn, Tom Edwards, Kathie Fritz, Brendan Grube, Bettie Haller, Bruce Haller, Nicole Haller Braner, Lynea Hinchman, Matt Kalwasinski, John Kendall, Richard Knutson, Bernie Konrady, Patrick Krueger, Robert LeMay, Jeff McCoy, Randy Pals, Tom Rice, M. Penny Starin, Kristin Stratton, Jack Swelstad, Erik Troske
39. **Putnam, Compiler:** Carl Huffman **Observers:** Carl Huffman, Clint Maddux, Dana Maddux, Martha Rainbolt
40. **Randolph, Compiler:** Connie Howell **Observers:** Connie Howell, Tom Howell, Steve Howell, Nina Howell, Kay Ulrey, Mariah Howell, Sue Goodman, Bill Goodman
41. **Spencer, Compiler:** David Ayer **Observers:** John Meridig
42. **St. Joseph, Compiler:** Louise Fessenden **Observers:** Bob Leliaert, Linda Leliaert, John Bentley, Alice Bentley, John Cassady, John Kaehr, Scott Namestnik, Lindsay Namestnik, Jo Borrer, Vic Riemenschneider, Marge Riemenschneider, Carol Goodall, Richard Fessenden, Louise Fessenden, Robert Fessenden, Gordon Hug, Joe Long, Alan Kieffeber, Phil Snider, Jenny Snider, Joan Tweedell, Ken Tweedell, Jim Spier, Laura Fuderer, Carole Riewe, Michael Klingerman, Cindy Conway, Michael Donnelly, Kim Sieradzki, Lynn Vernon, Jennifer Bowman, Shannon Lee, George Bernard, Jennifer Betz, Jan McGowan, Ben Niedbalski, Heidi Gray, Rosemary Toepp, Linda Laney, Chuck Golubski
43. **Starke, Compiler:** Kim Eh **Observers:** Kim Ehn, Kristin Stratton
44. **Tippecanoe, Compiler:** Barny Dunning **Observers:** Delano Arvin, Kevin Arvin, Mark Arvin, Sara Benham, Joyce Brattian, Michael Brattian, Barb Brown, Barny Dunning, John Skene, Becky Theller, Larry Theller, Chuck Tuttle, Quinnell Gutwein
45. **Union, Compiler:** Jon Crouch **Observers:** Jon Crouch, Joyce Crouch, Jim Crouch
46. **Vanderburgh, Compiler:** Stephen Heeger **Observers:** Sharon Giles, James Lodato, Sharon Sorenson, Vivian Ruff, Rosalyn Schmitt, Allan Langen, Chris Langen, Ron Giles, Carolyn Barron, Steve Heeger, Pam Kimsey, Jim Kimsey, Marcia Onnybecker, David Sue Litov, Karen Krahling, Lisa Hoffman, Marilyn Swonder, John Van Hoy, Lois Schmidt, Sara Alvey, Carol Christman, Ron Giles

47. **Vigo, Compiler:** Peter E. Scott **Observers:** George Bakken, Laura Bakken, Dick Bonness, Michael Ray Brown, Nicholas Brown, Jane Chestnut, Mary Beth Eberwien, Marty Jones, Carissa Lovett, Ellen Lunsford, Bill Mitchell, Andy Prothero, Denise Prothero, Denise Sobieski, Katie Spicer, Tamar, Kathy Wlekinski, Ben Cvengos, Daniel Griggs, Adeladie Hudson, Steve Lima, Margaret Moga, Dylan Nesty, Peter Scott, Amber Slaughterbeck, Max Spicer, Miriam Spicer
48. **Wabash, Compiler:** April Raver **Observers:** Diann Hall, Ervin Hall, Kelly Martin, Rosemarie Jeffrey, Robert Cooper Member, Steve Doud, Alexandria Forsythe, Connie Doud, April Raver
49. **Warren, Compiler:** Susan H. Ulrich **Observers:** Susan Ulrich, Bill Crane, Barbara Crane, Joanna Billiard, Ellen Tobias, Louise Decker, Shelly Foran
50. **Warrick, Compiler:** Jim Campell **Observers:** Jim Campbell, Mary Jo Campbell
51. **Washington, Compiler** Stuart Tower, **Observers:** Amber Shelton
52. **Wayne, Compiler:** Jim Seaney **Observers:** Seaney, Ron Williams, Rose Marie Othmer
53. **Wells, Compiler:** Kathy Fuller **Observers:** Kathy Fuller, Linda Burke, Carolyn Graham, Patty Isch, Mick Jackson, Elaine Johnson, Norma Lavanchy, Pam Olsen, Susan Price, Mark Toetz, Lisa Toetz, Lisa Weikel

2016 INDIANA COUNTY PARTICIPATION MAP – 53 OUT OF 92 COUNTIES

Yellow = a participating county



Year	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
May Count Date	11	9	8	14	13	11	10	9	8	13
Total Counties	39	41	42	43	42	39	45	47	44	45
Total Species Observed	229	229	228	224	228	246	249	242	248	243
Total Birds Counted	149,990	169,504	154,130	154,343	158,533	166,232	191,971	178,202	167,902	160,214
Total Observers	537	576	554	533	537	630	637	656	585	577
Total Observer Hours	1,968	2,157	1,957	2,110	1,842	1,759	2,432	2,245	1,804	1,828
Birds Per Observer	279	294	278	290	295	264	301	272	287	278
Birds Per Observer Hour	76	79	79	73	86	95	79	79	93	88

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
May Count Date	12	11	10	8	14	13	12	10	9	8
Total Counties	47	41	42	40	40	39	36	36	42	34
Total Species Observed	234	241	240	238	236	241	239	243	251	233
Total Birds Counted	164,728	140,532	153,567	162,991	141,504	148,920	131,598	129,535	141,604	128,137
Total Observers	553	499	480	506	498	476	446	488	487	487
Total Observer Hours	1,817	1,390	1,516	1,904	1,808	1,637	1,761	1,676	1,701	1,745
Birds Per Observer	298	282	320	322	284	313	295	265	291	263
Birds Per Observer Hour	91	101	101	86	78	91	75	77	83	73

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
May Count Date	14	12	11	N/A	9	14
Total Counties	29	35	31	N/A	32	53
Total Species Observed	237	236	238	N/A	244	241
Total Birds Counted	119,710	132,737	120,694	N/A	116,729	128,958
Total Observers	461	476	414	N/A	376	403
Total Observer Hours	1,563	1,670	1,490	N/A	1,449	1,462.41
Birds Per Observer	260	279	292	N/A	310.449	319.995
Birds Per Observer Hour	77	79	81	N/A	80.5583	88.1821

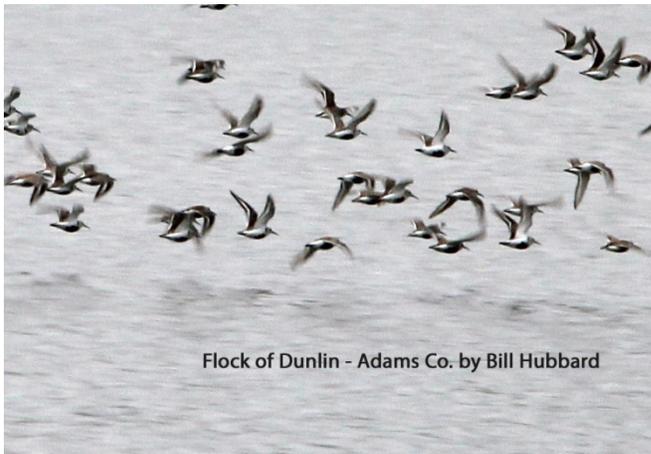
	mean	high	low
May Count Date	11	14	8
Total Counties (92 possible)	40.16	53	29
Total Species Observed	238.32	251	224
Total Birds Counted	148,519	191,971	119,710
Total Observers	514.88	656	414
Total Observer Hours	1,788	2,432	1,390
Birds Per Observer	289.298	322	260
Birds Per Observer Hour	83.5496	101	73



Snowy Egret - Monroe Co. by Vern Wilkins



Mourning Warbler - Madison Co. by Jeff Timmons



Flock of Dunlin - Adams Co. by Bill Hubbard



Sanderlings - Porter Co. by Matt Kalwasinski



Bell's Vireo - Wabash Co. by Alex Forsythe



Solitary Sandpiper - Clark Co. by Stuart Jenkins



Pair of Blue-winged Teal- St. Joseph Co.
by Laura Fuderer



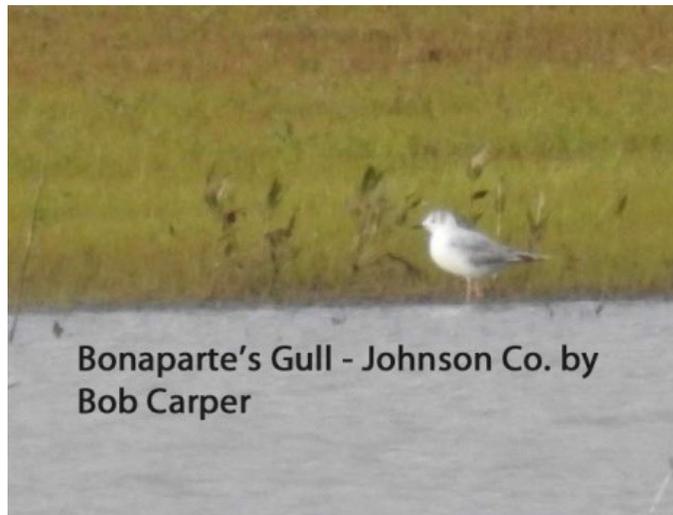
Swainson's Thrush - Jasper Co. by
Bob Brodman



Sedge Wren - Wabash Co.
by Alex Forsythe



Veery - Porter Co. by
Matt Kalwasinski



Bonaparte's Gull - Johnson Co. by
Bob Carper

2015 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, 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.

This year there were fifty-six people who submitted at least one list. The most popular list submitted was the Indiana life list with forty-seven lists submitted. The deadline for the 2016 list report will be February 1, 2017. 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.

2015 Birder's 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 10300. 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. This year, the top world lister was again Bob Walton with 8553. Bob is one of the top listers in the world. He is currently second in the world according to the ABA. The top list reported to the ABA was 9053. Last year Bob birded in Vietnam where he picked up 26 life birds (lifers). He took a safari to Kruger National park that yielded no new birds but he saw lots of mammals. Barny Dunning added six world lifers: three on a trip to Florida, two on a trip to Sweden and one on a split of gull species in Australia and New Zealand. Splits are often called arm-chair species.

8553	Bob Walton	1077	Cloyce Hedge
4490	Larry Peavler	977	Mark Rhodes
3377	Bill Buskirk	800	Roger Hedge
2312	Jim Hengeveld	780	Ed Powers
2305	Susan Hengeveld	730	Sam Plew
2107	Marjorie Carmony	660	Carl Huffman
2052	Chuck Mills	584	Rick Folkening
1938	Geoff Williamson	570	Dan Collins
1847	Peter Scott	547	Brad Bumgardner
1724	John Kendall	362	Marietta Smith
1280	Barny Dunning	301	Kim Ehn

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 is Bob Walton with 1701. 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 the increase in lists reported was from 10 to 22.

1701	Bob Walton	744	Ed Hopkins
1318	John Kendall	742	Kirk Roth
1259	Chuck Mills	630	Carl Huffman
1131	Jim Hengeveld	622	Barny Dunning
1129	Susan Hengeveld	549	Rick Folkening
1124	Bill Buskirk	547	Brad Bumgardner
1096	Geoff Williamson	493	Bob Carper
1086	Peter Scott	456	Larry Carter
860	Mark Rhodes	315	Marietta Smith
804	Gordon Chastain	301	Kim Ehm
768	Cloyce Hedge	285	Jeremy Ross

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 897 is in first place for the lists reported from Indiana. He was second on the 2015 ABA report. He increased his list by three last year. Mark Rhodes had a strong second place with 815. Many people again reported that splits and new ABA listing rules were a main reason that their lists increased. You may now list extirpated exotic birds that you once saw. There were 46 lists reported. Thaddaeus Shaum who is only 14 has an ABA list of 375. Leland, his father, says that he is way ahead of where he was at 14. Kim Ehn scored a Red Phalarope for her 300 ABA lifer. In Michigan she was lucky to see a Sharp-tailed Grouse land on the roof of a house. Roger Hedge picked up Key-west Quail-dove and LaSagra's Flycatcher on a fast trip to Florida. He also got the Ohio Brambling. Chuck Mills saw a Tufted Flycatcher in Arizona after a very difficult and rocky four-mile mountain hike. A day later he bumped into Ed Hopkins in Huachuca Canyon who had also seen the Tufted Flycatcher. While talking with Ed he got his nemesis bird the Northern Pigmy Owl. Bob Carper added 28 by taking a trip to Colorado. Theresa Schwinghammer has seen 595 species without birding in either California or Alaska.

897	Larry Peavler	629	Steve Doud
815	Mark Rhodes	622	Barny Dunning
774	Jim Hengeveld	618	Gordon Chastain

763	Bob Walton	595	Theresa Schwinghammer
761	Jim Haw	550	Michael Topp
760	Susan Hengeveld	533	Dan Collins
743	Ed Hopkins	515	Amy Kearns
731	Ken Brock	504	Bill Buskirk
715	Peggy Harger-Allen	456	Larry Carter
705	Ed Powers	449	Rick Folkening
697	Chuck Mills	436	Bob Carper
692	Marjorie Carmony	395	David Ayer
675	Cynthia Powers	375	Leland Shaum
673	John Kendall	358	Rick Huffman
671	John Cassady	348	Matt Kalwasinski
664	Geoff Williamson	347	Thaddaeus Shaum
660	Peter Scott	319	Vicky Whitaker
656	Roger Hedge	315	Marietta Smith
650	Sam Plew	301	Kin Ehn
649	Florence Sanchez	292	Chris Newman
643	Cloyce Hedge	285	Jeremy Ross
633	Kirk Roth	285	Betty Wallace

Indiana

Ken Brock added four species for Indiana and moved into first place with 390 species identified. Ed Hopkins added one to up his list to 389. The 400 Indiana life list keeps getting closer and closer. There were 47 people who reported Indiana lists. The rarities continue to flow into Indiana. Many people mentioned the Black-tailed Godwit found in northern Gibson County in April as a favorite new life list bird. Amy Kearns said that her favorite lifer was the Fork-tailed Flycatcher that she saw in Daviess County. She also saw 3 Godwit species in April in Gibson County. She said that we are lucky to have the Patoka River NWR where so many rare shorebirds were found in the spring of 2015. We are so lucky to have great birding hot spots in Indiana, like Goose Pond, Patoka River NWR, Cane Ridge-Tern Bar Slough, the lakefront, and Eagle Creek, but we are also so lucky to have all of these areas heavily birded by competent people who are very ready and able to get the word out.

390	Ken Brock	310	Bill Buskirk
389	Ed Hopkins	309	Marjorie Carmony
375	Larry Peavler	309	Gordon Chastain
374	John Cassady	308	Dan Collins
373	Don Gorney	307	David Ayer
370	Jim Haw	306	Peggy Harger-Allen
366	John Kendall	305	Bob Decker
361	Steve Doud	302	Barny Dunning
361	Jim Hengeveld	301	Thaddaeus Shaum
360	Michael Topp	299	Matt Kalwasinski

357	Roger Hedge	290	Chris Newman
352	Susan Hengeveld	283	Larry Carter
352	Chuck Mills	279	Jeremy Ross
347	Ed Powers	277	Geoff Williamson
343	Cloyce Hedge	268	Marietta Smith
338	Kirk Roth	266	Vicky Whitaker
331	Brad Bumgardner	252	Florence Sanchez
331	Amy Kerns	248	Kim Ehn
330	Marty Jones	247	Ben Cvangros
327	Peter Scott	240	Bob Carper
323	Leland Shaum	231	Betty Wallace
323	Lou Anne Barriger	208	Carl Huffman
322	Sam Plew	95	Rick Folkening
311	Cynthia Powers		

Indiana Counties

There were reports from 66 Indiana counties this year. This is up from the 57 reported last year. There are 92 counties in Indiana. There are 26 without submitted lists. 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 12. Gibson was followed by Lake and Porter Counties, both with 10 reports. There were 8 reports from Greene. 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. 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 327 by Chuck Mills for Gibson County. He added four. The second place list is Ken Brock's 318 from Porter County. There were only five other lists having 300 or more species. Lake County had three lists that were over 300. What continues to amaze me is the number of people who have large lists from numerous counties. Amy Kearns reported the most counties with 22. Jim Haw reported 18 all with at least 120 species. This is very impressive. Bob Decker had six counties reported that were mostly in the southeastern part of the state. Ed Powers reported lists for 11 counties. Tom and Colleen Becker reported lists for eight counties that are mostly in southern Indiana. Tom and Colleen mostly bird together and their lists are combined.

County		Birder	County		Birder
Adams	192	Jim Haw	Lawrence	208	Amy Kearns
Allen	295	Jim Haw	Marion	266	Don Gorney
	270	Ed Powers		262	Gordon Chastain
Benton	231	Ed Hopkins		244	Mark Rhodes
Boone	261	Cloyce Hedge		172	Amy Kearns

	256	Roger Hedge		72	Rick Folkening
Brown	274	Jim Hengeveld	Martin	134	Amy Kearns
	109	Amy Kearns	Miami	120	Jim Haw
Cass	124	Florence Sanchez	Monroe	291	Jim Hengeveld
Clark	200	Tom & Colleen Becker		207	Amy Kearns
Crawford	81	Amy Kearns	Newton	271	Ed Hopkins
	76	Tom & Colleen Becker		224	Jim Haw
Daviess	156	Amy Kearns		170	Ed Powers
Dearborn	150	Bob Decker	Noble	207	Jim Haw
Dubois	146	Amy Kearns	Orange	212	Amy Kearns
Elkhart	259	Leland Shaum	Parke	181	Peter Scott
	243	John Cassady	Perry	105	Amy Kearns
Floyd	204	Tom & Colleen Becker	Pike	241	Jeremy Ross
Franklin	168	Bob Decker		159	Amy Kearns
	165	Bill Buskirk		150	Evan Speck
Gibson	327	Chuck Mills		143	Vicky Whitaker
	285	Dan Collins	Porter	318	Ken Brock
	279	Evan Speck		305	John Kendall
	262	Marietta Smith		301	John Cassady
	249	Vicky Whitaker		280	Brad Bumgardner
	248	Amy Kearns		257	Jim Haw
	244	Chris Newman		240	Ed Hopkins
	244	Jeremy Ross		232	Ed Powers
	239	Tim Griffith		222	Matt Kalwasinski
	226	David Ayer		152	Geoff Williamson
	192	Ed Hopkins		128	Amy Kearns
	186	Tom & Colleen Becker	Posey	134	Evan Speck
Greene	255	Jim Hengeveld		109	Dan Collins
	251	Amy Kearns		55	Vicky Whitaker
	228	Don Gorney	Putnam	188	Rick Huffman
	199	Evan Speck	Randolph	200	Larry Carter
	197	Ed Hopkins	Ripley	160	Bob Decker
	192	Tom & Colleen Becker	Rush	162	Marjorie Carmony
	184	Peter Scott	St Joseph	216	John Cassady
	165	Bob Decker	Scott	113	Tom & Colleen Becker
Hamilton	210	Mark Rhodes		112	Amy Kearns
	202	Don Gorney	Spencer	255	David Ayer
Hancock	175	Don Gorney	Starke	81	Ed Powers
	60	Rick Folkening	Steuben	243	Jim Haw
Harrison	131	Tom & Colleen Becker		174	Ed Powers
	116	Amy Kearns	Sullivan	243	Peter Scott
Henry	172	Jim Haw		191	Amy Kearns
	14	Rick Folkening	Tippecanoe	277	Ed Hopkins
Howard	155	Florence Sanchez	Union	224	Bill Buskirk
Huntington	254	Jim Haw		117	Bob Decker

	184	Ed Powers		Vanderburgh	229	Chris Newman
Jackson	203	Tom & Colleen Becker			217	Tim Griffith
	162	Amy Kearns			210	Evan Speck
	115	Bob Decker			185	Dan Collins
Jay	169	Jim Haw			139	Chuck Mills
Jennings	124	Amy Kearns		Vermillion	201	Peter Scott
Johnson	212	Bob Carper			100	Amy Kearns
Kosciusko	235	John Kendall		Vigo	258	Peter Scott
	193	Jim Haw		Wabash	265	Jim Haw
LaGrange	270	Sam Plew			213	Ed Powers
	254	Jim Haw		Warren	190	Ed Hopkins
	245	Leland Shaum		Warrick	228	Evan Speck
	173	Ed Powers			226	Chuck Mills
Lake	316	Ken Brock			218	Tim Griffith
	314	John Cassady			202	Dan Collins
	305	John Kendall			184	Chris Newman
	291	Ed Hopkins			143	David Ayer
	253	Matt Kalwasinski			114	Amy Kearns
	252	Ed Powers		Wayne	199	Bill Buskirk
	248	Jim Haw		Wells	121	Jim Haw
	227	Don Gorney			64	Ed Powers
	162	Amy Kearns		Whitley	160	Jim Haw
	124	Geof Williamson				
La Porte	303	Ken Brock				
	287	John Cassady				
	256	Jim Haw				
	200	Ed Powers				
	142	Matt Kalwasinski				

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. Their site is located on Lake Lemon. There were reports from 20 counties and from 23 people. This is an increase of five locations. Betty Wallace's yard harbored a Green-tailed Towhee during the winter of 2014-2015. You should always be alert because you never know what will turn up in your backyard.

Count	Birder	County	Description
259	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.
206	Clint Murray	Montgomery	Lye Creek Prairie Burn, 80 acres
180	Steve Doud	Wabash	160 acres- forest, creek bottom, landscape nursery, orchard, grass fields
180	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
159	Gordon Chastain	Marion	30 Acres suburban condo property adjoining White River
158	Peter Scott	Vigo	50 acres in Nevins Township, northeast Vigo County
144	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.
139	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.
130	Chuck Mills	Warrick	A .5 acre wooded lot backing up to a 40 acre mature woods
128	Ed Powers	Allen	A country yard, wooded, about one acre. Residences on either side, farm field front

			and back.
110	Vicky Whitaker	Gibson	Mixed lot, 17 1/2 acres. Fallow fields, mature hardwood trees. Evergreens and lots of scrubby areas.
109	Terry Ballenger	Hamilton	Urban residential and approx. 40 X 80 feet. There are several different types of feeders; brush piles; and a water source.
105	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.
98	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.
95	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.
88	Betty Wallace	Huntington	Urban yard four blocks from downtown Huntington. Large shrubs and large trees with many flowerbeds. Two small ponds.
78	Cloyce Hedge	Boone	Urban yard (90 X 150 feet) in Lebanon, Indiana.
67	Carl Huffman	Putnam	A yard in the central portion of a small town. There are about 5,000 square feet. Mostly grass with some large old trees, mostly deciduous but one Norway Spruce.

2015 Birder's Year Lists

World Year List

Ten people reported world year lists. John Kendall who made a trip to Ecuador to see 586 species had the largest list with 889. A note about a record that was not submitted here but one that should be of interest to Indiana birders. A new world big year record was set this year. Noah Stryker observed 6042 species in a 365 day marathon covering all seven continents. He smashed the old record by well over 1000 species. He worked in cooperation with the National Audubon Society. Someone is already working this year to top him. The largest world year list that I know about for an Indiana birder is Chuck Mills with 1070 seen in 2007. I'm certain that there are others larger than this. If so let the list compiler know.

886	John Kendall
611	Mark Rhodes
471	Geoff Williamson
467	Chuck Mills
455	Jim Hengeveld
453	Susan Hengeveld
408	Rick Folkening
348	Carl Huffman
256	Ed Powers
251	Kim Ehn

North America Year List

There were 11 reported North America year lists. The top list was submitted by Mark Rhodes with 611. Does anyone know of an Indiana birder with a larger North American or ABA year list?

611	Mark Rhodes
471	Geoff Williamson
467	Chuck Mills
455	Jim Hengeveld
453	Susan Hengeveld
408	Rick Folkening
351	John Kendall
348	Carl Huffman
338	Ed Hopkins
259	Bob Carper
251	Kim Eln

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, 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 611. He also had the top list last year. To even get over 400 involves some serious birding in various parts of the ABA area. There were 17 submitted lists. The top list reported to the ABA was 712 and the top ebird list was 736. Mark's list is the largest Indiana ABA birder year list reported in the 5 years that I have been doing this report. Mark has also had the only lists that were over 500. He mentioned last year that he was going to try for 550. He was very successful with 611 species observed. He beat his goal by 61 species. He said that he spent more time birding than in any previous year in over 40 years of birding. He birded in Minnesota in January. In February he sought birds in New York and New Jersey. Texas, Arizona, and California were birded in late March and early April. He worked Florida in June. Then he did Colorado, Washington, and Oregon in early October. He also noted that he only had one lifer, but saw a great number of really nice birds. Apparently he did this without going to Alaska. Dave Crouch birded in Arizona, Montana, Ohio, North Dakota, and New Mexico in addition to Indiana for his 350 species.

611	Mark Rhodes		297	Carl Huffman
485	Theresa Schwinghammer		292	Sam Plew
455	Jim Hengeveld		285	Tim Griffith
453	Susan Hengeveld		281	Amy Kearns
357	Chuck Mills		278	Geoff Williamson
351	John Kendall		259	Bob Carper
350	David Crouch		256	Ed Powers
333	Rick Folkening		251	Kim Eln
299	Matt Kalwasinski			

Indiana Year Lists

Thirty-one 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 16 such lists last year.

313	Don Gorney		248	Jim Hengeveld
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310	Ed Hopkins		248	Mark Rhodes
285	John Cassady		247	Susan Hengeveld
282	John Kendall		233	Dan Collins
281	Kirk Roth		230	Kim Ehn
278	Evan Speck		225	Chuck Mills
274	Amy Kearns		219	Theresa Schwinghammer
268	Leland Shaun		216	Tim Griffith
268	Michael Topp		214	Tom & Colleen Becker
266	Peter Scott		206	Ed Powers
262	Thaddaeus Shaum		203	David Ayer
259	Chris Newman		203	Bob Carper
259	Sam Plew		198	Bob Decker
256	Jeremy Ross		183	Rick Huffman
251	Matt Kalwasinski		169	Cynthia Powers
250	Brad Bumgardner			

Indiana County Year List

There were 28 counties with at least one year list reported. This is an increase of 2. Evan Speck had the top list with 257 for Gibson 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. Is 275 possible? Any year list over 200 for a county represents some serious birding. There were 14 such lists. Evan Speck's big year with 257 seen in Gibson County is surely a record for that county. Chuck Mills' best year with over 40 years of records birding in Gibson County is only 224.

County		Birder		County		Birder
Benton	141	Ed Hopkins		Laporte	111	Matt Kalwasinski
Brown	197	Jim Hengeveld		Lawrence	167	Amy Kearns
	192	Susan Hengeveld		Marion	28	Rick Folkening
Dearborn	122	Bob Decker		Monroe	189	Jim Hengeveld
Floyd	137	Tom & Colleen Becker			180	Susan Hengeveld
Franklin	100	Bob Decker			138	Amy Kerns
Gibson	257	Evan Speck		Newton	200	Ed Hopkins
	225	Dan Collins		Orange	124	Amy Kearns
	223	Jeremy Ross		Pike	210	Jeremy Ross
	220	Chris Newman		Porter	231	John Kendall
	201	Amy Kearns			213	Brad Bumgardner
	194	Chuck Mills			198	Ed Hopkins
	166	Vicky Whitaker			143	Matt Kalwasinski
	141	Ed Hopkins		Putnam	163	Rick Huffman
Greene	184	Peter Scott		Ripley	103	Bob Decker
	176	Amy Kearns		Tippecanoe	202	Ed Hopkins
	169	Jim Hengeveld		Union	28	Bob Decker

	169	Susan Hengeveld		Vanderburgh	161	Chris Newman
	122	Bob Decker			135	Evan Speck
	122	Ed Hopkins			98	Chuck Mills
Handcock	35	Rick Folkening		Vigo	199	Peter Scott
Johnson	167	Bob Carper		Warren	114	Ed Hopkins
Kosciusko	216	John Kendall		Warrick	127	Chris Newman
La Grange	228	Sam Plew			122	Evan Speck
Lake	246	John Kendall			121	Chuck Mills
	212	Matt Kalwasinski				
	192	Ed Hopkins				

Property Year Lists

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 this year. 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. It has been sad to see Tim Griffith leave Indiana and move to Jackson Wyoming. This will be the last property list that he will submit. Tim leaves after having made a very positive influence on birding in Southwest Indiana. He will be sorely missed.

Count	Birder
185	Jim and Susan Hengeveld
127	Peter Scott
112	Amy and Noah Kearns
129	Jeremy Ross
105	Bob Decker
100	Tom & Colleen Becker
81	Tim Griffith
74	Chuck Mills
42	Carl Huffman
27	Rick Folkening

Other Lists

Marty Jones has photographed all 330 birds on his state list.

Michael Topp has photographed 351 Indiana bird species

John Cassady has photographed 614 ABA species.

Lou Anne Barriger reported her new list, a train list. She saw 41 species on an Amtrak trip from Indianapolis to Colfax California. It always pays to stay alert.

Thoughts

Why is listing important? 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.

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.

Several of you mentioned planned trips in 2016. Some Indiana birders plan to go to birdy counties in Asia, Africa, and areas south of the US border. Many of you mentioned plans to go to numerous hot birding spots in the US.

May you have the best of luck in your birding adventures in 2016 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. A big thanks goes to Allisyn Gillet for her time in editing this summary. The article is much better because of her efforts. Of course any mistakes present are solely my responsibility.

