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Cover photo: Common Redpoll near Indianapolis, Marion County, 13 January 2018. Photo by Aidan Rominger

Back cover photo: Snowy Owl at Indianapolis International Airport, Marion County, 15 January 2018. Photo by Beth Hardwick Beth.

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Letter from the Editor

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From the time Indiana Audubon was formed, some 120 years ago, birding and bird reporting has changed a great deal. Long gone are the phone chains of reporting rare sightings, and finding out about significant sightings months after it was first reported. Remnants of the former reporting are still seen in our own *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, where seasonal bird reports are published. Most birders today know of many of the sightings they are reading already. Digital resources like eBird and birding social media pages provide instant bird sightings and a chance to “chase” sightings the same day. We’ve seen these resources taken advantage strategically by big year birders to an expert degree.

Indiana Audubon has for years sponsored many bird counts that have also been printed in our various publications. Additionally, we’ve promoted other counts that were not specifically created or sponsored by the society. One great example is the 118-year National Audubon event known as the Christmas Bird Count. Indiana Audubon has also gone as far in the past as to publish all the count circle results. Through the years we have added summer bird counts, feeder bird counts, and more to our list of bird sightings that have been made available in our publications.

Times are changing. While birders are still birding and reporting sightings, the access to bird sightings is no longer dependent on written reports read months later. Digital sites give us hourly rare bird reports. Many of our members are using these sites in record number, making our own “old school” counts redundant and small in scale in comparison. With that, our participation in similar counts has decreased, making the total data set less useful for scientific analysis.

So, with that, you’ll find in the coming months and years that Indiana Audubon will continue to champion bird research and citizen science, but the direction we take in reporting bird sightings may change. Beginning with the Christmas Bird Count, Indiana Audubon is working in conjunction with National Audubon to provide a summary of the count season in Indiana. By going direct with the national database, we’re eliminating the repetitive reporting that compilers have had to do in the past to get published in our publications. The national database helps us streamline the process. You’ll find other counts may be discontinued as we evaluate participation and other methods that birders are using to submit their data. eBird has thrustured into the forefront as a great resource to not only submit and share your sightings, but also for scientists and ornithologists to gain access to the same data for scientific studies. Quite simply, your bird reports go farther there.

While it may appear to be the end of a legacy if we choose any one particular count to be discontinued, I hope you’ll see the potential future of change and going in a new direction. The times are certainly a changing and we’re excited about the possibility too!

Fall Indiana Field Notes 2017

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Autumn 2017 saw a flip-flop of warm temperatures and high pressure cold fronts. August started with seasonal temperatures then near 90° on the 21st, the day of the solar eclipse. The region experienced roughly 90- 95% coverage of the eclipse, with temperatures falling 5 to 8°, and a drop in humidity levels in the 30 to 45 minutes leading up to the mid-afternoon peak. Temperatures rose once again once the eclipse ended.

September ushered in Hurricane Harvey's remnants, with a cooler easterly flow and cold front. Hurricane Irma's influence continued cloudy, wet, and cooler temperatures on the 12th and 13th, departing to the northeast, and then a transition to warmer conditions. Much of central Indiana would experience their hottest temperatures of 2017 from the 20th through the 26th. The high of 93° on the 22nd was the warmest temperature officially recorded in Indianapolis for the year, and the warmest temperature on a Fall Equinox in recorded history. Abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions prevailed in nearly 40% of the state at the end of the month according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

October was dominated by warmth during the first half. A cold front, and the remnants of Hurricane Nate, brought cooler temperatures to the state. The first 23 days of October averaged the 5th warmest of record and the warmest since 2007. A shift in the jet stream allowed temperatures to fall below freezing by the morning of the 26th. Monthly precipitation totals ranged from slightly over two inches in north central Indiana to more than 11 inches in northwest Indiana.

November saw a strong cold front that moved across Indiana beginning on the 10th with highs in the low to mid 30s. Warmer air returned on the 24th and remained through the end of the month as high pressure dominated the weather across the Ohio Valley. Lowland river flooding returned to portions of eastern and southern Indiana for the first time since July. High water persisted from about 2 days to a week along the Wabash River. Three tornadoes occurred over central Indiana.

The warmer temperatures across the state combined with single-day strong north winds may have encouraged the rarities and migration irruptions that would welcome in the winter season.

Highlights included an adult female Magnificent Frigatebird, Ruffed Grouse, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Western Sandpiper, Little Gull, Barn Owl, and Harris's Sparrows. It was the best Kittiwake Flight in 11 years, a record Long-tailed Jaeger count on the lakefront, a late season Snowy Owl invasion and an incredible Red Crossbill irruption.

The editor is indebted to Dr. Ken Brock for his lakeshore fall report which was helpful in compiling this year's Fall Field Notes.

Abbreviations:

FWA = Fish & Wildlife Area

NA = Nature Area

NWR = National Wildlife Refuge

SP = State Park

SRA = State Recreation Area

GHA = Game Bird Habitat Area

WMA = Wildlife Management Area

WTF= Wastewater Treatment Facility

Species Accounts

Greater White-fronted Goose- 1 at Miller Beach, Lake, on 27 Sep reported by John Kendall, Jeff McCoy, and Matt Kalwasinski, making it the lakefront's 5th earliest fall arrival date. 20 reported by Bob Hugenard on 25 Oct in La Porte County.

Snow Goose- 2 light morphs at Central Avenue Beach, Porter, on 9 Sep, by Allee Forsberg and Kevin Cornell. Also on 9 Sep, at Michigan City Harbor, La Porte, 7 birds (2 light and 5 dark), were seen by the Ed Powers group. These reports are Indiana's 3rd earliest September records.

Ross's Goose – Amy Kearns estimated a high count of 300 in Owensville cornfields, Gibson County, on 27 Nov.

Cackling Goose – A high count of 20 was reported by Zach Pitman on 22 Nov at Fiddler Pond Park, Elkhart. Counties of Delaware, St. Joseph, and Union had reports from 30 Sep to 29 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan – High count of 26 on 12 Nov by Mark Welter at Universal Strip Mines, Vigo.

Tundra Swan – High count of 83 (Lakefront's 4th highest fall count) was reported on 19 Nov at Miller Beach, Lake, by lake watch birders.

Cinnamon Teal – Nick Kiehl and Aidan Rominger found a single bird at Celery Bog Nature Preserve, Tippecanoe, on 18 Sep.

Harlequin Duck – 5 were reported in Lake County in November. High count was 2 at Whiting Park, Lake, on 29 Nov by John Kendall.

Surf Scoter- High count of 49 were observed on 11 Oct by Brad Bumgardner and Brendan Grube at Indiana Dunes SP, Porter.

Black Scoter – High count of 25 reported by Ed Powers and the Stockbridge Audubon members on 4 Nov at Michigan City Harbor, La Porte.



Cinnamon Teal at Celery Bog, Tippecanoe County, 18 September 2017. Photo by Amy Hodson.

Long-tailed Duck – Best fall lakeshore flight since 1982 with 51 total reported. 1 on 15 Oct at Miller Beach, Lake, by John Cassady, Jeff McCoy, and lake watch birders provided the Lakefront's 5th earliest fall record.



Long-tailed Duck, photographed by Don Gorney at Michigan City Harbor, LaPorte County, 23 November 2017.

Common Goldeneye- Indiana's 4th August record was reported on 6 Aug by Zeke Escobedo and Matt Beatty at Miller Beach, Lake.

Common Merganser- High count of 51 by Ed Hopkins at Miller Beach, Lake, on 20 Nov was Indiana's largest fall count since 1959.

Common Loon - High Count of 411 by John Cassady on 19 Nov at Miller Beach, Lake.

Red-necked Grebe – Brendan Grube found an early bird on 23 Sep at Michigan City Harbor providing the lakefront's 3rd record for September. Observation reports in November include Hamilton, Lake, Marion, and Porter counties.

Western Grebe- For the second consecutive autumn there were no reports of this bird.

Eared Grebe – 1 at Eagle Creek Park, Marion, on 3 Sep, by the Sunday morning birders. 1 at Wakarusa WTP, Elkhart, on 29 Oct, by John Harley.

Magnificent Frigatebird- Indiana's 1st report in 9 years was 1 adult female first spotted by John Kendall at Miller Beach, Lake, on 22 Aug.

American White Pelican – High count at Goose Pond, Greene, was 750 on 12 Oct, by Don Gorney and Amy Kearns. Gibson, Grant, Hamilton, Marion, Monroe, Tippecanoe, Sullivan, and Wabash counties reported observations.

American Bittern – Matthias Benko had the state high count of 4 at Eagle Creek Park, Marion, on 19 Oct. High count of 2 by Stephanie Beilke at Dupont Natural Area, Lake, on 29 Sep tied the lakefront's highest fall count, in 1952.

Least Bittern – State totals of 10 were found in the counties of Gibson, Greene, La Grange, Lake, and St. Joseph.

Great Egret – High count of 575 was reported by Ron Giles on 7 Sep at Cane Ridge WMA, Gibson.

Snowy Egret – 1 juvenile at Carlson Oxbow Park, Lake, on 26 Aug by John Cassady, Lynea Hinchman, Randy Pals, & Lynn Vernon. High count of 3 at Patoka River NWR, Gibson, on 31 Aug by Jeremy Ross Family.

Little Blue Heron - 6 counties had observations reported, down from the 14 listed last year. Birds were observed at Goose Pond FWA, Greene, throughout the month of August with a high count of 10 reported by Amy Kearns and Gary Langell on 15 Aug

Cattle Egret – Only 1 reported in the state at the Falls, Clark, by Kathy Fisher on 27 Sep and again on 4 Oct.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – Cloyce Hedge found 1 in Boone County on 9 Aug. Vern Wilkins found a high count of 2 on 16 Aug in Greene County.

Black Vulture – 1 in Jasper County on 18 Aug by Gary Overdorf.

Mississippi Kite – High count of 4 on 5 Aug in West Lafayette, Tippecanoe, reported by Philip English. This is the 2nd year for nesting at this location. 1 to 3 birds found at Sodalist Nature Park, Hendricks, from 1 Aug to 26 Aug. Individual birds also reported in August in Jasper, Wayne, and Jackson counties.

Northern Goshawk - 1 reported on 11 Nov in Fort Wayne, Allen, by John Winebrenner.

Golden Eagle – 2nd ever sighting in Henry County, 1 on 24 Nov by Garrett MacDonald & Rose Swift in Mooreland.

Merlin – Sam Plew reported an early bird on 7 Aug in La Grange County.

Ruffed Grouse – 1 reported by Allee Forsberg, John Lindsey, Kevin Cornell, and Tyler Stewart on 29 Oct in Orange County.



Golden Eagle near Terre Haute, Vigo County, 19 November 2017. Photo by Mark Welter.

Sandhill Crane – The official DNR count from Jasper-Pulaski FWA, Jasper, was on 28 Nov at 12,090, again a lower count than the previous year.

American Avocet – High count in the state of 11 at Eagle Creek Park, Marion, by the Sunday morning birders on 3 Sep. Gibson, Greene, Lake, Monroe, and Porter counties had birds reported.

Black-bellied Plover – 1 at Wakarusa WTF, Elkhart, by Leland Shaum on the late date of 6 Nov.

Piping Plover – 1 at Jeorse Park, Lake, by Julie Bonnema on 1 Aug. Reported on Miller Beach, Lake, 1 on 3 Aug by Michael Topp and 1 on 12 Aug by Ryan Sanderson and Nick Kiehl.

Black-necked Stilt – High count of 10 seen near Patoka River NWR, Gibson, by birders on 19 Aug.

American Avocet – High count of 11 on 3 Sep by birders at Eagle Creek Park, Marion.

Semipalmated Plover- 208 counted on the lakefront. High count was 29 by John Cassady and birders at Wolf Lake, Lake, on 16 Sep.

Upland Sandpiper – 1 at Goose Pond FWA, Greene, on 15 Aug by Michael Brown, Amy Kearns, and Gary Langell. 2 at Elkhart Landfill, Elkhart, on 21 Aug by Eric Michael. 2 at Patoka NWR, Gibson, on 24 Aug by Jeremy Ross Family.

Whimbrel - Miller Beach, Lake, had the only reports with 1 observed on 19 Aug by Don Gorney and 1 observed on 31 Aug by John Cassady and birders.

Hudsonian Godwit – High count of 18 on 17 Aug by John Cassady and Dr. Ken Brock at Miller Beach, Lake. 1 on 27 Aug by Brad Bumgardner and Kristin Stratton at Michigan City Harbor, La Porte.

Marbled Godwit – 1 at Dunlapville Beach, Union, on 19 Sep by William Buskirk.

Red Knot – 1 juvenile, at Michigan City Harbor, Lake, on 26 Aug by Eric Michael and it lingered until 29 Aug when seen by Brad Bumgardner. This was Indiana's lowest season total since 2006.



White-rumped Sandpiper- High count of 62 at Goose Pond FWA, Greene, by Amy Kearns and Don Gorney on 20 Sep.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – 1 on 12 Aug by Vern Wilkins at Goose Pond FWA, Greene. 1 on 17 Aug by John Cassady at Michigan City Harbor, La Porte. High Count of 6 on 27 Aug by Ryan Sanderson in Boone County.

Red Knot at Michigan City Lighthouse, Laporte Co., 25 August 2017. Photo by John Kendall.

Western Sandpiper – Lakefront's 1st record in 2 years at Wolf Lake, Lake, on 11 Sep by Alan Bruner & Peter Scott. High count of 3 at Goose Pond FWA, Greene, between 17 Aug and 17 Aug.

Stilt Sandpiper- 36 on the lakefront was best flight since 1978. Peak count of 10 at Carlson Oxbow Park, Lake, on 5 Sep by John Cassady. High Count of 112 was reported on 13 Sep at Goose Pond FWA, Greene, by Amy Kearns and Gary Langell as part of the International Shorebird Survey.

Short-billed Dowitcher – High count of 12 by Amy Kearns and Don Gorney at Goose Pond FWA, Greene, on 18 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher – High count of 43 on 1 Nov at Cane Ridge WMA, Gibson by Vern Wilkins. Allen, Brown, Gibson, Greene, Kosciusko, Marion, and Whitley counties also had reports.

Willet – High Count of 26 was reported by Peter Scott on 8 Aug at Michigan City Harbor, La Porte. The fall total on the lakeshore was 87 with birds arriving 8 Aug and the last reported on 29 Aug. An additional 12 birds were reported in Gibson, Greene, and Union counties.

Wilson’s Phalarope – 2 on 26 Sep at Cane Ridge WMA, Gibson, by Thomas Anderson. 1 at Portage Lakefront, Porter, on 22 Oct by Eric Michael.

Red Phalarope- 1 at the Beverly Shores Lakefront, Porter, reported by John Cassady on 11 Nov and seen by other birders.

Red-necked Phalarope- High count of 3 at Miller Beach, Lake, on 15 Oct by John Cassady. At Woodburn WTF, Allen, 1 on 6 Nov by Bill Lambert.

Parasitic Jaeger – A high count of 14 was recorded during a “JaegerFest” day for birders at Miller Beach, Lake, on 31 Aug. No birds were reported in October, a first in 15 years.

Long-tailed Jaeger – Dr. Ken Brock confirmed a record 4 birds, 1 adult and 3 juveniles at Miller Beach, Lake, on 31 Aug, “JaegerFest”

day. 11 birders were at the lakefront for this 18th consecutive year of sighting this bird.

Franklin’s Gull – 1 on 7 Aug at Brookville Lake, Union, by William Buskirk. 1 on 9 Aug at Mounds SRA, Franklin, by Matthew Bowman. 1 on 22 Sep at Morse Reservoir, Hamilton, by Don Gorney.

Sabine’s Gull – The 4 reported this year were at the lakeshore. At Miller Beach, Lake, 1 was seen on 31 Aug by Jeff McCoy, 1 on 8 Sep by John Kendall, and 1 on 29 Sep by Don Gorney. At Michigan City Harbor, La Porte, 1 was seen on 22 Oct by Eric Michael.

Bonaparte’s Gull - High counts in August include 2 at Paynetown SRA, Monroe, on 14 Aug by Amy Kearns; 3 at Miller Beach, Lake, on 19 Aug by Matt Beatty; 3 at Michigan City Harbor, La Porte, by Eric Michael.

Little Gull – At Michigan City Harbor, La Porte, on 9 Sep, an adult identified by John Kendall and a juvenile by Jeff McCoy. Juvenile traveled west to Central Avenue Beach, Porter, on 10 Sep, where it was 1st noticed by Allee Forsberg & Kevin Cornell. Michael A. Topp found a first-winter bird at Miller Beach, Lake on 19 Oct.

Laughing Gull – 1 on 29 Sep at Miller Beach/Marquette Park by lake watch birders. Up to 3 birds seen in Marion County at Eagle Creek parks and Scott Starling Sanctuary. 1 during October at Cane Ridge WMA, Gibson.



One of 14 Parasitic Jaeger’s seen at Miller Beach on 31 August 2017. Photo by Jeff McCoy.

Iceland Gull (Thayer's) - On 16 November, lake watchers discovered 1 at Marquette Park, Lake.

Least Tern- John Kendall found 1 juvenile at Michigan City Harbor, La Porte on 18 Sep, providing the lakefront's 1st record since 23 Aug 2007 and 1st immature since 5 Oct 1985. Was seen through 22 Aug.

Black Tern – High count at Miller Beach, Lake, on 11 Aug of 1164 during an 8-hour lake watch. This is Indiana's 2nd largest count. 1 late bird at Miller Beach, Lake, on 19 Oct by Michael Topp.

Short-eared owl – 1st fall report was 4 by Brendan Grube at Reynolds Creek G.H.A., Porter, on 14 Oct. Other counties with reports were Boone, Clay, Greene, Lake, Marion, and Tippecanoe.

Snowy Owl – A fall/winter irruption began with 1 reported in Lake County on 29 October by Zeke Escobedo. The next would occur on 12 Nov at Miller Beach, Lake, by Peter Scott. Other county sightings included Bartholomew, Carroll, Grant, Hancock, Henry, Huntington, Lagrange, Lake, La Porte, Orange, Porter, & Steuben.



Barn Owl- 1 at Lakefront Park Hammond, Lake, on 2 Nov by Carolyn Marsh. This is the 1st lakefront record in 6 years.

Mt. Comfort Airport Snowy Owl, Hancock County on 30 November 2017. Photo by Don Gorney.

Northern Saw-whet Owl – Fall Banding stations in Brown, Delaware, Fayette, Henry, and Porter counties yielded reports on eBird.

Common Nighthawk – Late sightings include 1 in Monroe County on 13 Oct by David Rupp and 1 in Lawrence County on 14 Oct by Noah & Amy Kearns.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - Lakefront's 2nd latest fall record on 2 Oct by Kim Ehn at Beverly Shores, Porter.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – 1 in Hendricks County on 16 Oct. Seen by many birders including Amy Kearns, Ed Hopkins and Matthew Bowman.

Loggerhead Shrike – High count of 5 reported by Amy Kearns in Orange County on 13 Aug. On 6 Aug, 1 by Daniel Maley in Daviess County. 1 on 28 Aug by Bob Mier in Gibson County.

Northern Shrike – 1 at Limberlost Swamp, Adams, by Kim Roll on 19 Oct. 1 at West Beach, Porter, by Allee Forsberg, Annie Aguirre, Kevin Cornell, & Tanner Troyer 28 Oct, a 1st sighting in 4 years. At Reynolds Creek GHA, Porter, 1 by Julie Gidwitz on 25 Oct, and 1 by Pete & Josh

Grube on 26 Nov. At Hancock County, 1 by Don Gorney on 30 Oct. At Prophetstown, Tippecanoe, 1 by Mark Arvin on 29 Nov.

Blue-headed Vireo – 1 on 6 Nov in Vigo County by Peter Scott.

White-eyed Vireo - 1 on 4 Nov in Lawrence County by Noah & Amy Kearns.

Warbling Vireo – 1 on 3 Nov at Celery Bog NA, Tippecanoe, by Fritz Davis.

Fish Crow – Up to 10 seen sporadically at a shopping area south of Eagle Creek Park, Marion from 24 Sep to 22 Nov. 1 at Eagle Creek Park, Marion, on 22 Nov by Eric & Rob Ripma and Aidan Rominger. Matthias Benko reported 1 on 25 Nov in eastern Marion County.

Red-breasted Nuthatch – 1 on 26 Aug at Yellowwood SF, Brown, by Vern Wilkins. 1 on 26 Aug at Elkhart River Preserve, Elkhart, by Annie Aguirre. 1 on 30 Aug at Pigeon River FWA, La Grange, by Sam Plew.

Sedge Wren – 1 on 3 Nov in Marion County by Gordon Chastain.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 1 on 10 Nov by Graham Montgomery in Wayne County at the I-70 rest area.

Swainson's Thrush – High count of 750 on 14 Sep at Elkhart River Preserve, Elkhart, by Annie Aguirre. Lakefront's 3rd highest count of 120 on 7 Sep at Indiana Dunes SP by Brad Bumgardner & Kristin Stratton.

Gray-cheeked Thrush – 1 near Columbus, Batholomew, on 4 Nov by Martha Crafton.

Golden-winged Warbler – 1 at Celery Bog NA, Tippecanoe on 1 Oct & 15 Oct by Fritz Davis. 1 at Patoka River NWA, Gibson, on 2 Oct by Evan Speck.



Tennessee Warbler: 1 at Rum Village Park, St. Joseph, on 1 Nov by Eric Michael. 1 at Grant County on 3 Nov by Kim Roll. 1 at Marion County on 3 Nov by Nick Kiehl.

Yard bird Golden-winged Warbler by Ben Cvengros in Parke County. 09 September 2017.

Nashville Warbler – 1 at Marion County on 3 Nov by Nick Kiehl. 1 at Prophetstown SP, Tippecanoe, on 6 Nov by Mark Arvin. 1 at Evansville, Vanderburgh, on 22 Nov by Alex Champagne.

Pine Warbler- 1 at Brookville, Franklin, on 27 Nov by Joseph Keating.

Grasshopper Sparrow - 1 on 4 Oct at Vigo County by Keith Michalski. 1 on 9 Oct at Marion County by Nick Kiehl.

Henslow's Sparrow - 2 on 1 Oct at Pine Creek GHA, Benton, by John Skene. 1 on 17 Oct at Goose Pond, Greene, by Amy Kearns & Julia Wilson, which stayed for 3 days.

LeConte's Sparrow – High count of 6 at Reynold's Creek GHA on 29 Oct by Brendan Grube. Jed Hertz reported 2 at Kankakee Sands NP, Newton, on 12 Oct. Amy Kearns, Julia Wilson, & Steve Bell reported 1 at Goose Pond, Greene, on 17 Oct. Annie Aguirre reported 1 at Greencraft Pond, Elkhart, on 3 Nov. Birders at Lebanon Business Park, Boone, observed a bird from 13 Oct through 26 Oct.

Nelson's Sparrow – High count of 4 at Lebanon Business Park, Boone, on 14 Oct by Matthias Benko. 3 at Lakefront Park Hammond, Lake, on 21 Oct by Nick Kiehl & Landon Neumann. Sightings also reported in Benton, Greene, and Lake County.

Harris's Sparrow – 1 at West Beach, Porter, on 25 Oct found by Ed Hopkins and then seen by other birders.

Blue Grosbeak - High count of 6 reported at Chinook Mine, Clay, on 6 Oct by Peter Scott. Birders reported sightings in Greene, Hancock, Newton, Jackson, and Warrick counties.

Western Meadowlark – 1 at Elkhart River Preserve, Elkhart, on 1 Oct by Eric Michael. 1 at Lebanon Business Park, Boone, on 13 Oct by Tyler Stewart, Allee Forsberg & Kevin Cornell. 1 at Reynolds Creek GHA, Porter, on 16 Oct by Kim Ehn, Kristin Stratton, & Brad Bumgardner.

Yellow-headed Blackbird - Neal Bogan reported 1 at Somerville Mine, Gibson, on 17 Nov.

Brewer's Blackbird- High count of 50 at St. Joseph County on 9 Aug by Eric Michael. Gibson County high count of 10 by Jeremy Ross Family on 9 Nov at Somerville Mines.

Red Crossbill – High count of 57 by Jeff Timmons on 29 Oct at Indiana Dunes SP, Porter. 17 reported by Brad Jackson on 1 Nov at Camp Tecumseh, Carrol. Elkhart, Lake, & Lawrence counties also had sightings reported.

Common Redpoll - High count of 10 at Indiana Dunes SP, Porter on 4 Nov by Annie Aguirre and Robert Guth. 1 at Kingsbury FWA, La Porte, on 25 Oct by Kim Ehn. 1 at Purdue University, Tippecanoe, on 28 Nov by Ed Hopkins. 25 were reported on the lakefront in Porter and Lake counties.

Pine Siskin – High count of 30 on 22 Oct by Brendan Grube at Indiana Dunes SP, Porter. Walt Cochran reported the only September sighting of 2 at Indiana Dunes SP, Porter, on 30 Sep.



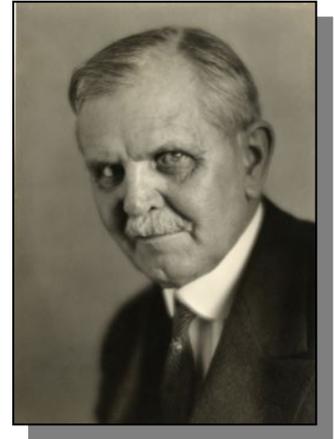
Female Red Crossbill at Indiana Dunes State Park, Porter Co., by Amy Hodson. 29 October 2017.

Indiana Audubon's Creation: 120 years for the Birds

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The following articles were discovered while searching newspaper archives in 2017. They come timely as Indiana Audubon is celebrating it's 120th anniversary in 2018.

Representatives of the Indiana Academy of Science, the State Board of Education, the Indiana Humane Society, and the State Horticultural Society at the conference yesterday afternoon, decided to call a State meeting for April 26, when an Audubon Society will be formed. The purpose of the movement is to prevent the destruction of Indiana birds. The committee in charge of the arrangements for the meeting will send out a circular letter, hoping thereby to awaken an interest in the movement.



Stanley Coulter, founding member of the Indiana Audubon Society.

Source: Indianapolis News, Indianapolis, 30 Mar 1898, p. 10.

An Audubon Society: To Protect the Birds

Mrs. R.S. Taylor, of Fort Wayne, is Interested in the New Indiana Society

Some time ago the Indiana Academy of Science began the initiative for the formation of the Indiana Audubon Society, the purpose of which is to prevent the destruction of birds. Committees from this organization, the State Horticultural Society, the state board of education, the Indiana Humane Society and other organizations interested in humane movements, were appointed to consider the subject. There was a meeting at the state house, Indianapolis, yesterday, attended by Secretary Butler, of the state board of charities; Superintendent of Public Instruction Geeting, State Geologist Blatchely, Secretary Smith, of the Indiana Humane Society, and Messrs. C. E. Newlin, Wm. Watson Woollen and ex Judge R. W. McBride. It was decided to call a state convention for April 26, when the Audubon society will be formed. The following are the committee in charge of the work: Academy of Science, A. W. Butler, W. S. Blatchley, D. W. Dennis, R.W. McBride, Stanley Coulter, C. H. Eigemann, C.E. Newlin, Glenn Culbertson, S.E. Evans, W.W. Woolen, Indiana Union of Literary Clubs, Miss Minnie Cohn, of Brookville; Miss Lillie McTigue, of Auburn; Mrs. De Witt Banes, of Connersville; Mrs. J. P. Kenower, of Huntington; Mrs. Martha N. McKay, of Indianapolis; Mrs. A. O. Marsh, of Knightstown; Miss Mary E. Cardwill, of New Albany; Mrs. Alice J. Clark, of Vincennes; Mrs. R. S. Taylor, of Fort Wayne; Miss Harriet F. Case, of Muncie; Mrs. Mary Sutton, of Richmond; Indiana Horticultural Society, Prof. James Troop, of Purdue University; Mrs. W. W. Stevens, of Salem; J. C. Ratcliffe, of Richmond; Superintendent of Public Instruction Geeting, and Secretary Smith, of the Humane Society.

Circulars will be sent out today stating the purpose of the society to the protection of birds by awakening an interest in the vast amount of good they do. Children will also be interested and taught to appreciate the birds not only for their usefulness, but beauty. An effort of the society will be to arouse public sentiment against the cruel slaughter of wild birds for the purpose of the personal adornment.

Source: Fort Wayne Daily News, 30 Mar 1898, p. 5

Indiana Audubon Society: Protection of Birds the Object of A New Organization

A meeting to organize a State Audubon Society for the protection of birds was held yesterday in the State Agricultural rooms. The session opened with Judge R. W. McBride in the chair, and Prof. Stanley Coulter, and Miss Minnie Cohn as secretaries.

A paper by Amos W. Butler on "Bird Life in Indiana" discussed the different bird forms, past and present, of our State, their migrations, distribution and causes of destruction. The great majority of birds, the speaker said, were beneficial to man, and should be protected against destructive agencies, notable among which he cited the enormous slaughter for the demands of fashionable millinery. Since early days there has been a decrease of 75 percent. In the country at large, and not less than 45 percent in our own State. Superintendent D. M. Geeting spoke for the schools; and advocated a State Bird day, similar to Arbor Day.

On suggestion of W. S. Blatchley, State Geologist, the society will urge Congressmen to pass a bill to protect birds. W. S. Blatchley, James Troop, Joseph Swain, Mrs. Martha M. McKay, George L. Roberts and C.E. Newlin read papers this afternoon. Tonight papers will be read by George S. Cottman, Mrs. May Wright Sewall and William Watson Woollen.

Mr. Woollen in his paper referred to an address by Governor Mount in Illinois, in which he advocated the teaching of agriculture and horticulture in the common schools. The speaker said there are 8,000 school gardens in Austria, and 20,000 in France. Little can be done for forest preservation in this State, he said because there are no forest lands owned by the State. Mr. Woollen suggested that every school house ground be made an arboretum and ornithological garden. He said that there ought to be at least one graded or finishing school to be located on twenty to forty acres of land, to be owned by the township for school purposes and it should be forest land or be planted in forest trees. One-third of it should be used in teaching gardening and agriculture. By this means 25,000 acres of land would be dedicated to forestry and our birds.

The society elected the following officers:

President – R. W. McBride, Indianapolis

Vice-President – Stanley Coulter, Frankfort; Fanny W. Taylor, Fort Wayne; T. J. Charlton, Plainfield, and Martha H. McKay, Indianapolis

Recording Secretary – George S. Cottman, Indianapolis

Corresponding Secretary – A. W. Butler, Indianapolis

Press Secretary – Miss Minnie Cohn, Indianapolis

Treasurer – Sylvester Johnson, Indianapolis

Source: The Indianapolis News, Indianapolis, 27 Apr 1898, p. 7.

Indiana Audubon Society Summer Bird Count 2017

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The Indiana Audubon Society held its 38th annual and final Summer Bird Count during June and July 2017. So much has changed since this count was established in 1980! The internet has revolutionized information sharing. Bird sightings can now be shared worldwide from our fingertips in real time, and the citizen science website eBird.org allows data to be gathered easily and accurately. The Indiana Audubon Society is evolving to meet the needs of Indiana birders. Although this count is being retired, those interested in Indiana's breeding birds are encouraged to track their sightings in eBird. Breeding codes can be entered on the website or while using the eBird app. In addition, the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources will be looking for participants for the next Breeding Bird Atlas, set to begin in 2025. Those interested in the historic records gathered by the Summer Bird Count are encouraged to contact the author for an excel file containing an annual summary of species and breeding evidence from all 38 years of this count.

A total of 35 counties participated this year, which is two fewer than last year and slightly below average. Participants found 200 species, which is nine above average and the second highest species total in 13 years. Although the number of observers (128) was below average, they recorded breeding evidence for 144 species (an outstanding effort that is four species above the mean). Individual birds, party miles, and party hours were all reported well below the mean (Table 1).

Twelve counties reported 100 species or more: *Boone, Floyd, Greene, Harrison, Johnson, Kosciusko, Lake, Marion, St. Joseph, Tippecanoe, Vigo, and Warrick*. *Kosciusko* had the highest diversity for the second year in a row with a remarkable 127 species; *Greene* and *Tippecanoe* were close behind with 126 and 125 species, respectively. *Greene* (126/104) and *Harrison* (102/97) topped their previous county high count, while *Floyd* (100) and *Kosciusko* (127) tied their previous species count. Statewide, the average number of species reported per count was 81.6 (Figure 1).

I'm happy to report that even though this was the 38th and last year of the count, a new species was added (wandering tattler in *LaPorte*). This means the Summer Bird Count is retiring with 299 species, signifying excellent diversity during Indiana summers. A new nesting species for this count was added this year when state endangered trumpeter swans produced a cygnet in *Steuben*. New high counts were recorded for 8 species: mute swan (102>90), trumpeter swan (4>2), white-rumped sandpiper (110>17 with 80 from *Greene* and 30 from *Johnson*), Bell's vireo (206>167 thanks to 179 recorded in *Warrick*), marsh wren (98>89 with 34 coming from both *Lake* and *Porter*), prothonotary warbler (196>195 with 142 coming from *Warrick*), summer tanager (235>182 with the lion's share again coming from *Warrick*), and blue grosbeak

(537>174 with an incredible 419 individuals tallied in *Warrick*). Although not new high counts, very good numbers were reported for Northern bobwhite (260 is the best count since 2010, reported in 21 counties including a tally of 121 in *Warrick*) and black-billed cuckoo (28 is the best count since 2004, helped by 18 recorded in *Vigo*). The 20 most abundant species on the recent Summer Bird Count, in descending order, were: European starling, red-winged blackbird, Canada goose, American robin, bank swallow, tree swallow, indigo bunting, killdeer, mourning dove, common grackle, house sparrow, Northern cardinal, barn swallow, brown-headed cowbird, song sparrow, common yellowthroat, mallard, purple martin, American goldfinch, and American crow (Table 2).

Further notable species with breeding evidence on the recent count were: blue-winged teal (territory in *Greene*), great egret (territories in *Greene*, *Porter*, and *Vigo*), black-crowned night-heron (territory in *Greene*), Mississippi kite (juvenile in *Tippecanoe*), osprey (breeding in 5 counties), sharp-shinned hawk (territories in *Steuben* and *Washington*), bald eagle (breeding in 10 counties), broad-winged hawk (territories in *Lawrence* and *Steuben*), common gallinule (juveniles in *Greene*, territory in *Steuben*), Sandhill crane (breeding in 6 counties), black-necked stilt (eggs in *Greene*, juveniles in *Tippecanoe*), black tern (territory in *Greene*), least tern (eggs in *Greene*), black-billed cuckoo (territories in *Boone*, *Steuben*, and *Vigo*), barn owl (juveniles in *Greene*, territory in *Harrison*), common nighthawk (territory in *Marion*), Chuck-will's-widow (territory in *Harrison*), Eastern whip-poor-will (territory in *Harrison*), peregrine falcon (breeding in 4 counties), monk parakeet (nest in *Lake*), alder flycatcher (territory in *Porter*), loggerhead shrike (eggs in *Orange*, nestlings in *Daviess*), sedge wren (territories in *Benton*, *Greene*, and *St. Joseph*), marsh wren (territories in *Greene* and *Porter*), worm-eating warbler (territories in *Bartholomew*, *Harrison*, *Johnson* and *Warrick*), Prothonotary Warbler (breeding in 7 counties), Hooded Warbler (breeding in 6 counties), Cerulean Warbler (territories in *Bartholomew*, *Harrison*, and *Johnson*), Chestnut-sided Warbler (territory in *St. Joseph*), and Henslow's Sparrow (breeding in 9 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.

Acknowledgments - Thanks to all participants (Appendix 1), especially those who participated in this count year after year. Although this count has ended, your contribution of valuable data is greatly appreciated, and is still helpful for understanding Indiana's breeding birds during the years 1980-2017.

Appendix 1. Summer Bird Count Participants by county during 2017 with the addresses of compilers in parentheses.

Bartholomew – Karl Werner (209 Moccasin Court, Greenwood, IN 46142), Jay Bolden, Chuck Lunsford, Karen Lunsford, Barb Otte, 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), Lee Casebere, Cloyce Hedge.

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

Daviess – Amy Kearns (80 Sunset Rdg., Mitchell, IN 47446), Allisyn Gillet, Gary Langell.

Dearborn – Bob Decker (22883 Mockingbird Ln., Sunman, IN 47041).

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

Floyd – Joe Caruso (425 Powder House Ln., New Albany, IN 47150), Debbie Caruso.

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

Greene - Amy Kearns (80 Sunset Rdg., Mitchell, IN 47446), Don Gorney, Gary Langell, Landon Neuman.

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

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

Johnson – Karl Werner (209 Moccasin Court, Greenwood, IN 46142), Bob Carper, Kim Charles, Ann Hougham, Tom Hougham.

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

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

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

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

Marion –Miles Zevin (700 N. Alabama, Apt. 1005, Indianapolis, IN 46204), Gordon Chastain, John Munshower, Spike Selig, Becky Lomax Sumner, Michael White.

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).

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

Perry - Jim Campbell (2766 Keystone Ct., Newburgh, IN).

Porter –Kim Ehn (343 Rankin St., Porter, IN 46304), Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur St., West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133), Amy Kearns (80 Sunset Rdg., Mitchell, IN 47446), Joe Bailey, Gary Langell.

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

Ripley – Bob Decker (22883 Mockingbird Ln., Sunman, IN 47041).

Spencer – Amy Kearns (80 Sunset Rdg., Mitchell, IN 47446), Gary Langell.

St. Joseph – Louise Fessenden (P.O. Box 303, Notre Dame, IN 46556), Alice Bentley, John Bentley, Trice Berkley, Richard Fessenden, Robert Fessenden, Audry Fleming, John Fleming, Laura Fuderer, Carol Goodall, Wendy Jones, Ellen Lechlitner, Sherry Manison, Mark Mankowski, Mary Jo Mankowski, Dick Niemi, Marge Riemenschneider, Vic Riemenschneider, Carole Riewe, Nancy Shephard, Jim Spier.

Steuben – Bruce Matasick (3099 Lakeshore Dr., Mount Dora, FL 32757). **Tippecanoe** – Barny Dunning (7509 North 75 East, West Lafayette, IN 47906), Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur St., West

Lafayette, IN 47906-1133), Russ Allison, Del Arvin, Kyle Arvin, Matthew Bowman, Liz Brewer, Michael Clay, Steve Lira, Parks Marion, Nelson Moore, John Skene, Tyler Stewart, Ruth Thomas, Gale Turco, Chuck Tuttle, Susan Ulrich, Karl Wood.

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

Warren – Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur St., West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133), Susan H. Ulrich (11907 E. 500 N., Otterbein, IN 47970).

Warrick – Jim Campbell (2766 Keystone Ct., Newburgh, IN), Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur St., West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133), John Meredig.

Washington – Jeff Sells (8350 S. Riverview Ct., Pekin, IN 47165).

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

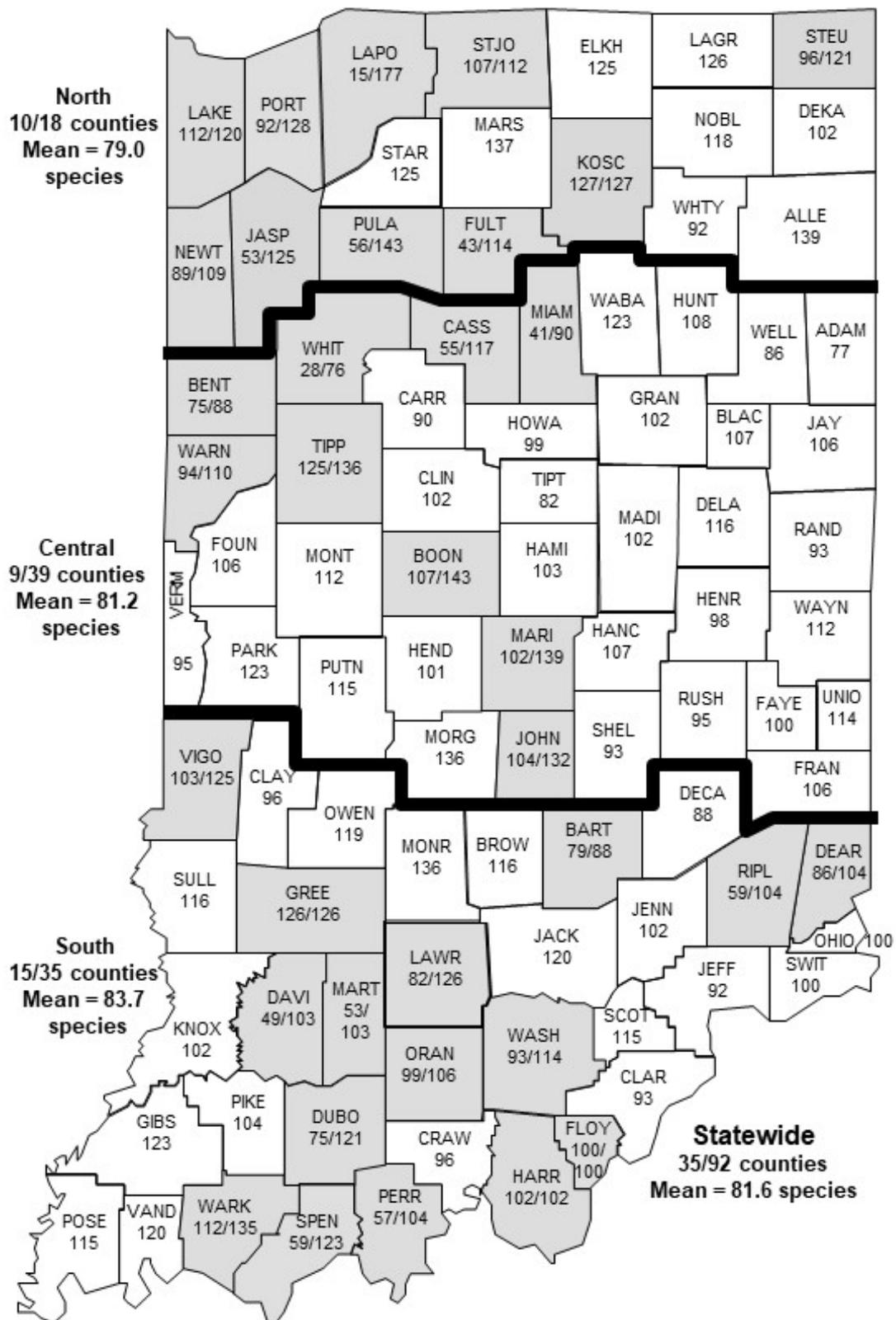


Figure 1. Current species totals and previous record counts by county.

Table 2. 2017 Summer Bird Count tally

ANNUAL BREEDERS

	BART	BENT	BOON	CASS	DAVI	DEAR	DUBO	FLOY	FULT	GREE	HARR	JASP	JOHN	KOSC	LAKE	LAPO	LAWR
Canada Goose	47 J		396 J			18	2	69 j		174 J	15		209 J	150	222	6	
Mute Swan			4 J										2	60	6 J		
Wood Duck		21 J	34 J		1	2		36 j	2	156 J	2 T		13 J	19	280 J		
Mallard	4	21 J	135 J			2		10	2	128 J	2		80 J	54	228 J	12 J	
Blue-winged Teal										4 T					8		
Hooded Merganser			1														
Northern Bobwhite	14 T	14 T	7 T		11 T	6		6		7 T	4 T	1			2		15 T
Ring-necked Pheasant		17 J							4								
Wild Turkey	6 J	6	2			22 Y		8 j		3	8 T			35			16 J
Pied-billed Grebe			2 J							5 T				12	2		
American Bittern															1		
Least Bittern										1				4			
Great Blue Heron		26	20		1	3		7		93 T	6 Y		13 N	38	98 Y		
Green Heron			1		1			7		2 T	2		4	6	5		
Black Vulture						5		1			4						5
Turkey Vulture	29	5	19		9 T	24	14	12		20 T	6	1	20	48	3		17 T
Osprey											1			39	8 Y		
Sharp-shinned Hawk								1									
Cooper's Hawk			2			2		2			1		3	8			
Bald Eagle		1	1					1		5 Y	4 J		2 n	6	7 Y		1
Red-shouldered Hawk	4		1			7 Y	1	13		5 T	3 T		5 J	1			1
Broad-winged Hawk								2			1			2			2 T
Red-tailed Hawk	6	7	8 J		5 T	4		4	1	5 T	4 T	1	5 T	16	9 Y		2
Virginia Rail														2	4		
Sora														8	1		
Common Gallinule										22 J				2	4		
American Coot			1							2 T				5	3		
Sandhill Crane										2 T				27	3		
Killdeer	3 T	58	101 J	16	44 T	11 Y	4	6	13	330 E	6 T	19	149 J	100	131 T		3
Spotted Sandpiper			7					2		9 T	1		5 T	9	41 J	2	
American Woodcock										6 j			1	4	3		
Rock Pigeon			11		78 T		5	1		2 T			7	28	38		4
Eurasian Collared-Dove			1		2					2	1 T						
Mourning Dove	5	35 T	145 T	27	74 T	43	49	51	34	24 T	10 Y	28	68 j	69	38 J		80 T
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	19 T	1	4	1		13	1	21	1	6 T	9 T		19 T	6			12 T
Black-billed Cuckoo			1 T			1					1		1	2			
Barn Owl										2 J	1 T						
Eastern Screech-Owl			1					3			1 T			1			
Great Horned Owl								1					1	1			
Barred Owl			3 J			1	1	3			2 T		1	6			
Common Nighthawk								1						8	2		
Chuck-will's-widow										2 T							
Eastern Whip-poor-will						2	1	5		4 T							
Chimney Swift	4		13	5	2	1	11	31	5	6 T		4	32	36	17		14
Ruby-throated Hummingbird			2	1		16	1	1		2	5 T		11 J	22	3		1
Belted Kingfisher		1	3		1	1		3		5 T	1 T		4 T	8	2		
Red-headed Woodpecker			3		2 T	2	4	4	5	5 T	2 T	2	2 T	4	1		4
Red-bellied Woodpecker	13 T	2	36 T	11		6	15 F	19	1	1	4 T	2	20 J	26	7 J		19
Downy Woodpecker	4 T	2	17 T	1		5	4	4		3 T	1 T	1	12 T	36	13		6
Hairy Woodpecker	1		1			1	1	4		1	1 T		1	4	2		1
Northern Flicker	2	3	8	1	3 T	2	8	3		3 T	2 T	1	4 J		11		5
Pileated Woodpecker	16 T		3			3	1	7		1	2 T		15 T	12			6 T
American Kestrel			6 T	1	3 T	3	1	12 j		11 J	2 T		4 J	8	4		5 J
Peregrine Falcon								1						1			
Eastern Wood-Pewee	25 T	2	20 T	9		15	20	19	1	10 T	10 T	3	49 J	25	7		23 T
Acadian Flycatcher	17 T		9 T	3		18	10	15		3 T	16 T		48 T	4			12 Y
Alder Flycatcher														1			
Willow Flycatcher	4 T	4	11	1			1			10 T			5 T	18	13		
Least Flycatcher						1				2							
Eastern Phoebe	12 T	3	13	2	1	12	11	24 e		7 T	2 T	1	12 J	9	5		5
Great Crested Flycatcher	11 T	2	18 T	4		2	12	7		2 T	8 T		8 T	6	5		14 T
Eastern Kingbird	8 T	9	9	2	3	6	11	20	1	10 T	3 j	3	7 M	15	23 N		10 M
Loggerhead Shrike					8 Y					2							
White-eyed Vireo	15 T		3 T	1		3	3	16		10 T	3 T		11 J	4			4
Bell's Vireo										7 T			2 T				
Yellow-throated Vireo	9 T	1	2	4		1		12		2	2 T		12 T	8			8
Warbling Vireo	2 T	6	29 T	11	3 T	3	2	10	1	11 T	2 T	6	7 T	28	21 N		10
Red-eyed Vireo	22 T	1	18 T	5		4	10	17	1	5 T	11 T		76 T	6	4		24 T
Blue Jay	10	5	22 T	2		9	19	18	2	3 T	13 T	7	21	14	19		11 T
American Crow	28	19	42 T	13		23	27	43	5	15 T	18 T	14	68 J	25	6		59 J
Horned Lark		9	12	8	4 T				9	12 T	1	5	14	12	3		
N. Rough-winged Swallow	15	1	21			15	3	20	1	2 T	4 T		11 N	24	9		8
Purple Martin			30 N		139 N	115	1	2		30 E			5 J	200	32 J		3
Tree Swallow	3	537	14 E		7 T	6	11	18		465 T	8 E		35 J	68	164 J		
Bank Swallow		5						9		1910 T		1	8	21	17 N	128	
Barn Swallow	35	70 Y	79	8	47 T	33	52	42	6	64 T	75 T	3	45 J	88	75 J	13	13
Cliff Swallow		33 Y	5	5			5	1		25 T		9	8	6 N			19
Carolina Chickadee	16 T	3	12 T	2		8	4	24		9 T	2 T		20 J	2			21 J
Black-capped Chickadee														25	3		
Tufted Titmouse	29 T		29 T	6		11	26	30		10 T	5 T	2	32 J	23	2		42 T
White-breasted Nuthatch	7 T	1	18 T	1		9	8	10			18 T	2	39 J	24	4		15 T
Brown Creeper														2			
House Wren	19 T	23 T	103 Y	18	7 T	19 F		6	11	5 T	2	10	20 J	10	24 E		6 E
Sedge Wren		4 T								6 T							
Marsh Wren										1 T				21	34		
Carolina Wren	3 T	6	22 T	2	5 T	14 F	18	25		10 T	6 T	1	21 j	9	3		27 T
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4 T		11 T	1		4	14	26		8 T	4 T		16 F	8	1		15 T
Eastern Bluebird	3		6		6 T	14	10	37	1	20	8 Y	2	15 F	36	3		10 T
Veery			1											4			
Wood Thrush	31 T	1	11 T			3	20	14		3 T	22 T	1	80 J	6	2		21 F
American Robin	6 T	80 F	303 E	74	58 T	25 J	44 F	51	46	25 T	8 J	61	134 N	56	137 J		53 T
Gray Catbird	24 T	10	40	11		13	7	6	2	7 T	2 T		46 T	37	28		5 T
Northern Mockingbird	1 T	5	5 T		26 T	11	8 F	26	1	15	3 T	5	5 T		5 J		11 T
Brown Towhee	14 T	3	19 E	1	8 J	13	6	11	3	10 T	3 T	2	16 T	8	3		10 T
European Starling	14	293	657 J	69	189 J	177	122 Y	118	14	200 T	30 T	29	202 N	100	265 J		146 J
Cedar Waxwing	4	4	8 T			14	1	11		3 T	5 T	2	11	22	6		13
Ovenbird	3 T					3					8 T			26 T	2		
Worm-eating Warbler	1 T									7 T			15 T				

MARI	MART	MIAM	NEWT	ORAN	PERR	PORT	PULA	RIPL	SPEN	STJO	STEU	TIPP	VIGO	WARK	WARN	WASH	WHIT	Total	Areas	ANNUAL BREEDERS										
496	J		91	J	15	J	11	86	J	107	158	J	72	J	539	J	503	J	275	J	27	J	28	Y	3716	24	Canada Goose			
																										102	8	Mute Swan		
22	J	1	3	T	19	J		24	J		29	J	7	T	51	J	109	J	39	J	47	J	8	Y	925	23	Wood Duck			
86	J		3		1			49	J		107	J	15	T	158	J	42	T	106	J	2		18	Y	1265	23	Mallard			
																										13	3	Blue-winged Teal		
																										4	3	Hooded Merganser		
	1		10		4	T				1	6				1	25	T	121	T	2		2	T		260	21	Northern Bobwhite			
																										67	8	Ring-necked Pheasant		
																										250	18	Wild Turkey		
																										28	8	Pied-billed Grebe		
																										1	1	American Bittern		
																										8	4	Least Bittern		
171																										718	22	Great Blue Heron		
6																										94	19	Green Heron		
																										36	8	Black Vulture		
41																										795	31	Turkey Vulture		
4	N																									93	8	Osprey		
																										4	4	Sharp-shinned Hawk		
11	J																									54	16	Cooper's Hawk		
7	m																									66	20	Bald Eagle		
5	Y	1																								115	20	Red-shouldered Hawk		
1																										11	7	Broad-winged Hawk		
7	T																									198	26	Red-tailed Hawk		
																										6	2	Virginia Rail		
																										10	3	Sora		
																										31	5	Common Gallinule		
																										20	8	American Coot		
																										71	8	Sandhill Crane		
29	j																									1901	31	Killdeer		
5																										104	16	Spotted Sandpiper		
																										16	6	American Woodcock		
22																										493	19	Rock Pigeon		
																										8	5	Eurasian Collared-Dove		
71	J	9	3	28	85	T	4	43	T	18	6	125	78	T	55	J	52	T	127	J	229	Y	31	J	25	N	19	1788	34	Mourning Dove
3	8																									269	26	Yellow-billed Cuckoo		
																										28	10	Black-billed Cuckoo		
																										6	4	Barn Owl		
																										17	10	Eastern Screech-Owl		
1																										13	8	Great Horned Owl		
2																										46	15	Barred Owl		
21	T																									50	7	Common Nighthawk		
																										4	2	Chuck-will's-widow		
																										24	5	Eastern Whip-poor-will		
103																										466	27	Chimney Swift		
20	T																									200	22	Ruby-throated Hummingbird		
2																										71	21	Belted Kingfisher		
3	T																									143	26	Red-headed Woodpecker		
27	J	8	1	10	12	T	3	7	T	11	5	24	N	13	T	28	N	35	N	66	J	13	J	6	N	451	31	Red-bellied Woodpecker		
45	J	1	9	1	10	T	1	2	2	33	F	15	T	28	N	37	J	46	J	16	J	6	Y	361	29	Downy Woodpecker				
9	N																									68	22	Hairy Woodpecker		
9	N																									181	28	Northern Flicker		
7	T	1	1	3	5	T	5	2	2	23	T	18	J	13	13	T	14	T	6	8	T	153	24	Pileated Woodpecker						
6	T																									157	24	American Kestrel		
3	J																									13	7	Peregrine Falcon		
25	T	8	3	22	21	T	24	5	7	14	7	21	T	12	T	36	48	J	144	T	23	T	6	T	664	32	Eastern Wood-Pewee			
15	T	12	2																							376	24	Acadian Flycatcher		
1																										4	3	Alder Flycatcher		
11	T																									222	20	Willow Flycatcher		
																										5	4	Least Flycatcher		
19	T	7	3	3	7	T	3	9	T	1	6	10	12	J	4	T	11	49	Y	47	J	6	N	6	N	322	32	Eastern Phoebe		
17	T	5	1	11	9	T	5	5	T	2	4	4	18	N	6	J	20	T	18	64	T	9	T	3	T	291	28	Great Crested Flycatcher		
20	T	2	1	10	18	N	3	29	T	1	3	10	35	J	26	J	15	28	T	63	T	13	T	6	T	423	33	Eastern Kingbird		
																										26	3	Loggerhead Shrike		
4	T	6	1																							284	25	White-eyed Vireo		
1	T																									206	9	Bell's Vireo		
5	T																									152	25	Yellow-throated Vireo		
40	T	3	6	22	10	T	5	4	1	4	2	26	T	13	T	21	T	18	J	33	T	7	4	T	1	372	34	Warbling Vireo		
29	T	14	1	18	25	T	23	8	T	3	19	17	J	8	T	14	18	T	113	T	18	10	T	542	30	Red-eyed Vireo				
49	2																									548	31	Blue Jay		
32	25	4	8	26	T	4	16	T	12	11	21	67	T	24	T	56	142	J	200	T	34									

Forster's Tern
 Olive-sided Flycatcher
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 Swainson's Thrush
 Mourning Warbler
 Fox Sparrow
 Total Species
 Total Individuals

																1	
79	75	107	55	49	86	75	100	43	126	102	53	104	127	112	15	82	
905	2576	4069	610	1528	1330	1071	1786	341	5426	650	488	2708	2657	3718	477	1400	

	BART	BENT	BOON	CASS	DAVI	DEAR	DUBO	FLOY	FULT	GREE	HARR	JASP	JOHN	KOSC	LAKE	LAPO	LAWR
Total Number of Parties	3	1	4	1	3	1	1	1	1	4	2	1	5	1	2	1	2
Total Number of Observers	6	1	5	1	3	1	1	2	1	4	2	1	5	1	2	1	2
Party Miles - Foot	2	2.50	17.8	0.2		14		9.8	0.15	6	5	0.20	22.1		16.7	1	2
Party Miles - Car	36	33	80.8	20	110	0	22.5	56.7	11	91	6	17	58		0	0	27.5
Party Miles - Other (see below)	0	0	5.5	0		45			0		0	0	3		0	0	1
Party Miles - TOTAL	38	35.5	104	20.2	110	59	22.5	65.5	11.2		11	17.2	83.1		16.7	1	30.5
Party Hours - Foot	2.75	9.12	20.7	2.05	1.25	12		14.4	1.15	13.8	5	1.5	39		24.6	5.97	1.75
Party Hours - Car	9.5	3.88	11.9	1.25	21.3	0	3.5	9.5	0.75	28.3	3	1.38	9.8		0	0	4.5
Party Hours - Other (see below)	0	0	5.72	0		6			0		0	0	3		0	0	0.75
Party Hours - TOTAL	12.3	13	38.3	3.3	22.5	18	3.5	25.9	1.9	42	8	2.88	51.8		24.6	5.97	7
PH. Pasture/Grassland	0.5	2.31	7.53	0.31	15	5	1	5.82	0.22	1	2	0.06	0		1	0	0.5
PH. Agriculture Cropland	0	2.9	7.49	1.33	6.75	1	1	0.67	0.94	1	2	1.92	2.75		2	0	0.5
PH. Brushy Fields	4.75	2.66	3.61	0.61		8	0.25	4.42	0.22		0	0.25	2.5		35	0	0.25
PH. Deciduous Woodlands	5	1.05	6.3	0.41		1	1	5.47	0.22	2	2	0.15	12		2.5	0	2.75
PH. Coniferous Woodland	0	0	0	0		0.1		0.5	0	0.25	1	0	0.3		0	0	1
PH. Marshes/Swamps	0.5	0.52	1.18	0	0.25	0.2		4.73	0	36.8	0	0	1.05		7.5	0	
PH. Lakes/Ponds	0.5	2.35	1.45	0		0.7			0		0	0	5		5.5	5.97	
PH. Rivers/Streams	1	0.51	2.09	0.31	0.5	2	0.25	3.68	0.06	1	1	0.05	1.1		4.5	0	2
PH. Urban/Suburban/Parks	0	0.7	7.65	0.33		0		0.63	0.22		0	0.44	27.1		1	0	
PH. - TOTAL	12.3	13	37.3	3.3	22.5	18	3.5	25.9	1.88	42	8	2.87	51.8	0	59	5.97	7

Are the Jaegers Really Arriving Earlier?

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Abstract

A majority of the current jaegers observed on southern Lake Michigan appear in September, whereas historically most were reported in October. This suggests temporal migration changes; however, it is possible that this is an apparent change resulting from more thorough coverage. Perhaps, in the 1950s birders rarely watched for jaegers in September. This treatment provides evidence that timing of the annual jaeger flights on Lake Michigan has truly changed.

Introduction

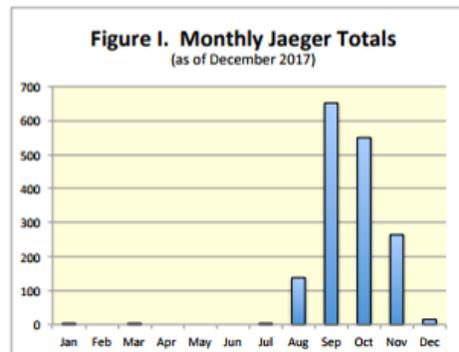
Raymond Grow (1914–1988) was a Gary resident and an accomplished naturalist. In the mid-1950s he established the fact that migrating jaegers appear annually along the Indiana lakefront. Raymond was also the first to note that most jaegers appear on days with stiff northerly winds associated with strong cold fronts. Indeed he often referred to these raw autumn days with powerful north winds as “jaeger days”



The Indiana lakefront is well known for its annual jaeger flights. This juvenile Pomarine, likely the rarest jaeger on the lakefront, was photographed at Michigan City Harbor in 2010. Photo by John K. Cassady.

According to the venerable Raymond Grow, “October is the jaeger month on Lake Michigan.” Decades ago he shared this tidbit with the author on numerous occasions. No one questioned this statement, as Ray was the local jaeger expert. Brock (1986) also stipulated that the jaeger flights peaked about 14 October, a result consistent with Raymond’s contention. In recent years, however, it has

become quite apparent that more jaegers appear in September than any other month; in fact, as shown in Figure I, September jaegers currently outnumber October birds by 652 to 550.



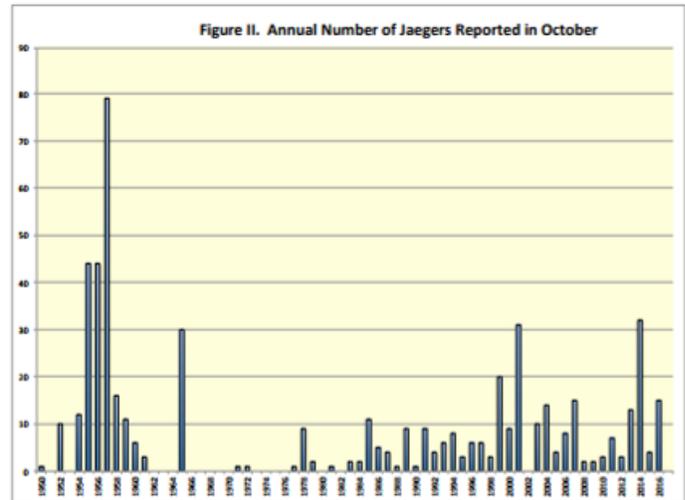
Historical Data

Upon the author’s arrival in the state Ray Grow was the undisputed authority on lakefront birds. Indeed, Raymond still holds the highest daily jaeger count record for the state: he logged a remarkable 61 birds at Miller Beach on 6 October 1953. However, it should be noted that in Raymond’s day birders simply counted every jaeger seen, making no effort to eliminate duplicates. In contrast contemporary lakewatchers make a concerted effort to avoid counting individual birds more than once.

Ray Grow was also aware that jaegers occasionally occurred in September, as on 16 September 1953 he logged 16 jaegers at Baileytown, a settlement now displaced by the construction of Bethlehem Steel (currently known as ArcelorMittal Steel).

In that era, however, systematic lakewatches were not conducted.

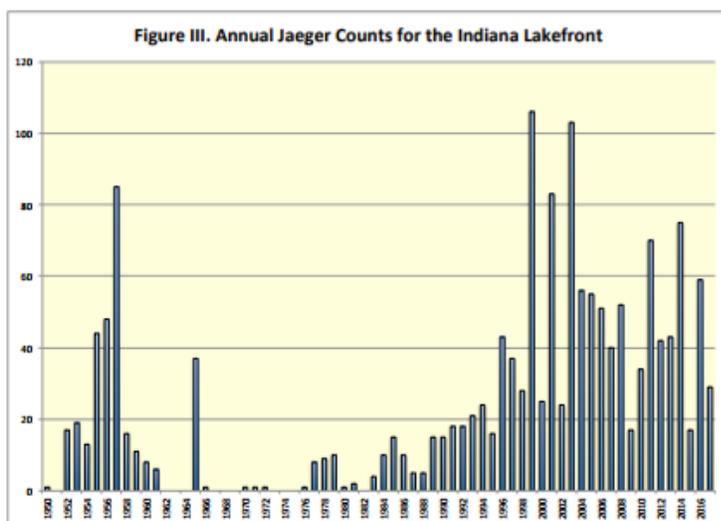
Figure II shows the number of jaegers reported annually during the month of October. That graph clearly reveals that October numbers have declined since the “golden days” of the 1950s. This decrease occurred despite the fact that today there are ten to twenty times more observers than were present in the 1950s. Interestingly, the enormous October counts of the mid-1950s have never been duplicated.



In his study of jaeger migration on Lake Ontario (based on data collected through 1994), Sherony (1999) noted that the primary migration peak occurred during the second week of October, further supporting the contention that the main flight occurred in that month. However, Sherony also reported a much smaller peak in the first week of September.

Modern Data

About 1989 Hoosier birders discovered that conducting regular lakewatches from the shores of Lake Michigan was an exceptionally productive birding activity. Indeed, today each autumn cold front brings scores of birders to the lakefront where they spend hours observing birds migrating on the lake. This more organized effort has generated a significant increase in the number of jaegers reported annually (see Figure III). Accordingly, 1989 provides an appropriate break between the historical records the “modern” (post-1988) data.



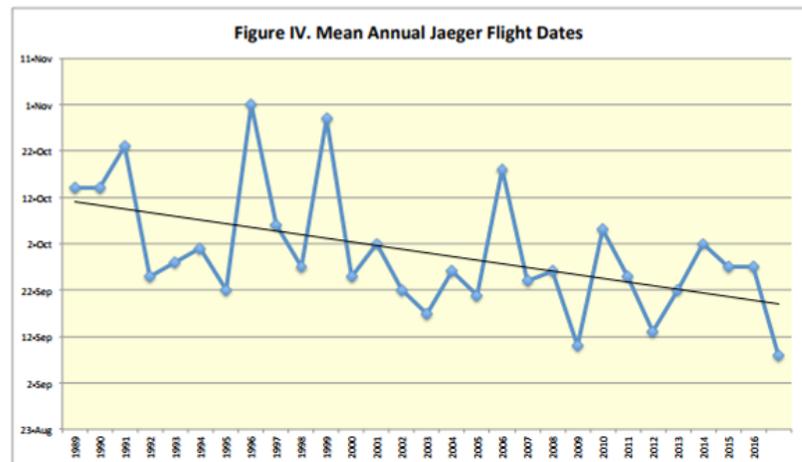
Reports from these lakewatches have yielded some 1195 modern jaeger records, providing a strong sample on which analysis can be conducted. In this “modern” sample annual jaeger totals range from 15 in 1989 and 1990, to 106 in 1999, with a mean of 42 jaegers per year.

Analysis

To address the change in migration date issue, a combination of all jaeger records (Pomarine, Parasitic, Long-tailed, and unidentified jaegers) was employed. In this composite sample 82% of the identified jaegers were Parasitic Jaegers, indicating that the sample is dominated by *Stercorarius parasiticus*. Of the aged birds about three quarters were young birds.

To assess yearly changes in the flight the average date of all reported jaegers was calculated for each fall season. For example, 15 jaegers were reported in 1989 and the mean date of these birds was 14 October; that value, along with annual means for other years within the 1989 to 2017 period, are plotted in Figure IV.

Figure IV also displays a least squares regression curve (inclined black line). Note that the regression line slopes downward toward the right, indicating that the average annual dates are becoming earlier. Randall J. Pals ran a sophisticated statistical analysis on this data and obtained a slope of -0.8877 ± 0.2119 days per year at the 95% confidence interval. Consequently, over the 29 years under consideration, jaegers are arriving about 25.7 days earlier than they did in 1989. Thus, based on the regression curve the mean jaeger flight date occurred on 12 October back in 1989, but today the birds arrive on 18 September. This conclusion is quite surprising, as most North American song birds are currently departing later (rather than earlier) than they did 30 years ago.



Conclusions

Thus, data collected over the last 29 years reveal that the average jaeger flight is in fact arriving much earlier than it did in 1989, substantiating Ray Grow's claim that, "October is the jaeger month on Lake Michigan." Raymond was definitely correct back in 1956, as the average 1989 jaeger flight occurred in mid-October; however, over the last three decades the mean date has gradually migrated to mid-September. Interestingly, the 2017 flight included a total of 23 jaegers on 31 August, suggesting that the average migration may be changing to an even earlier date.

Possible Causes

It is well established in the ornithological literature that birds modify their behavior to accommodate environmental changes. For example, many studies document the fact that spring migrants arrive earlier than they did two or three decades ago (Brock and Pals (2015), Crick (2003), Miller-Rushing et al. (2008), and Mills (2005)). These studies propose that spring migrants arrive earlier as global warming causes vegetation to develop earlier. A few studies also suggest that autumn song birds are departing later, presumable for the same reason. This latter case cannot be applied to the Lake Michigan jaeger migration, as jaegers are departing the Arctic

breeding grounds earlier rather than later. However, it is well known that global warming effects are more pronounced at high latitudes. Perhaps in this warmer climate jaegers are nesting earlier allowing juveniles to fledge and depart the tundra earlier.

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