

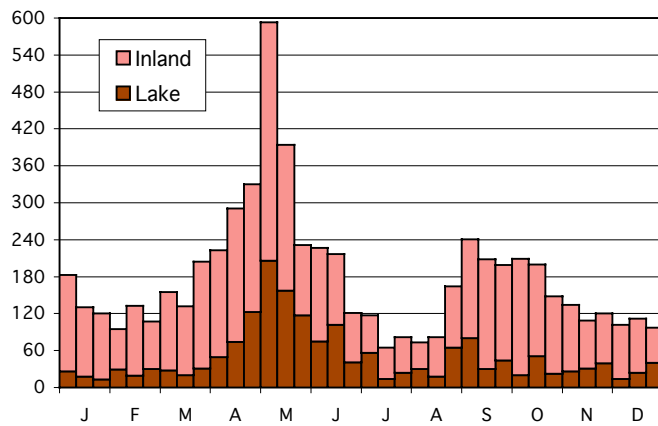
## Red-bellied Woodpecker

## *Melanerpes carolinus*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: An individual collected in Franklin County 25 October 1887 provided Indiana's earliest fully dated record (Mumford files).

Butler (1898) considered the "Zebra Woodpecker" a resident that was rare in the north and more common southward. Keller et al. (1979) noted that it was common to fairly common in summer, but rare during winter in the north and common in winter in the south. Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed it generally common throughout most of the state.



### Current Status

The Red-bellied Woodpecker is a permanent resident, which is Common (4) in spring and fall and Fairly Common (5) at other times.

### Occurrence

This widespread woodpecker has been reported in all 92 Indiana counties. Over the past 20 years an average 286 birds have been reported annually in the state.

### Migration

Although this handsome woodpecker appears sedentary, there are indications of a weak migration. This evidence includes some two-dozen records in the lakefront traps where they do not breed. In spring hawk watchers frequently see birds flying along the lakeshore.

### Extreme Record

W.H. Buskirk and J.B. Cope recorded the state's high count of 40 in eastern Franklin County on 5 January 2002. This total was garnered while they were conducting a "mini-CBC" that involved only two observers (IN-BIRD).

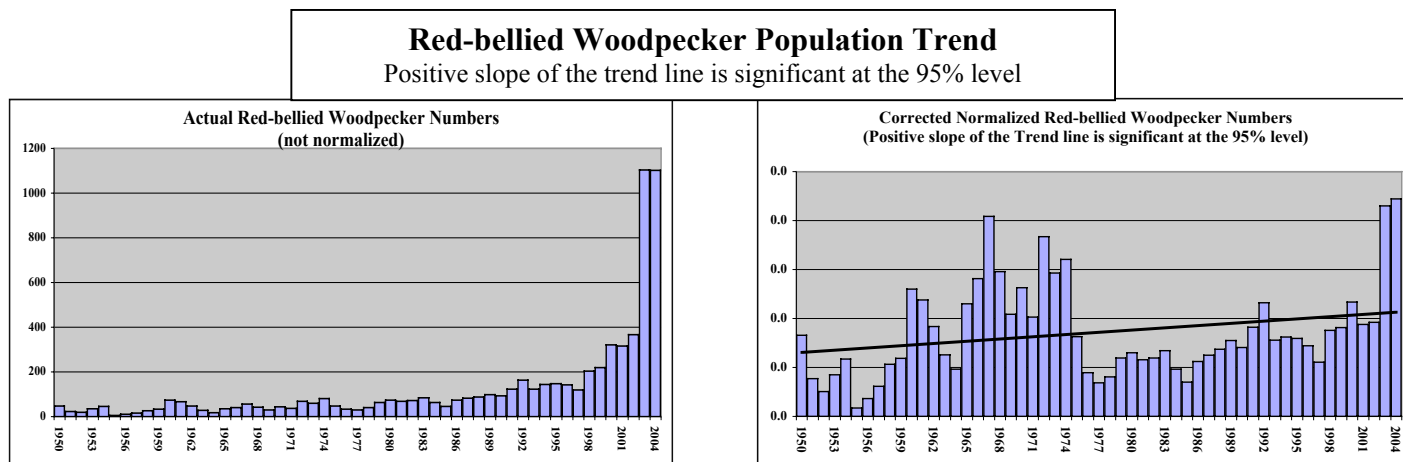
### Status

Physical Evidence: At least 35 specimens are archived in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Carnegie Museum of Natural History				1
Chicago Academy of Sciences				1
Chicago Field Museum				6
National Museum of Natural History				14
Philadelphia Academy of Science				2
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				8
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2
Milwaukee Public Museum				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	6	4	5	4
Central Tier	5	4	6	5
Southern Tier	5	5	6	5
Entire State	5	4	5	4

## Population Trend

Based on the 50-year population trend it appears that Indiana's Red-bellied Woodpeckers are hale and hearty. Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



## Breeding

The Indiana Breeding Bird Atlas (Castrale et al. 1998) reported nesting evidence in 87 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted the excavation of a nest cavity on 24 March and eggs as late as 31 August. S.R. Bagby observed an adult feeding young in the nest hole as late as 15 September 2005 (pers. comm.).

## Red-bellied Woodpecker Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
40	05-Jan-2002	Franklin Co	W.H. Buskirk	NKE
23	5-Jun-2004	Monroe Co	Ross Brittain	NNB
21	04-May-2003	Tippecanoe Co	E.M. Hopkins	EMH
20	10-May-1992	Kankakee FWA	R.S. Plank	IAQ
19	24-Apr-2004	Multiple Sites	R.J. Pals	INB
18	30-Jun-2004	S.E. Indiana	B.K. Jackson	BKJ

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	Win. Res.	17-Mar	1-May	30-May	Sum. Res.	1298
Fall	Win. Res.	11-Aug	27-Sep	15-Nov	Sum. Res.	921

## References Cited

Butler, A. W. (1898) The Birds of Indiana, Indiana Department of Geology and Natural Resources Annual Report, 22:575-1187.

Castrale, J.S., E.M. Hopkins, and C.E. Keller (1998) *Atlas of breeding Birds of Indiana*, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 388 pp.

IN-BIRD, a Listserv dealing with Indiana birds developed and maintained by P.W. Kelly. The records are archived at: <http://listserv.indiana.edu/archives/in-bird-l.html>

Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller (1979) *Indiana Birds and Their Haunts*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 214 pp.

Mumford files: An extensive accumulation of Indiana bird data on 5x7 file cards compiled by Professor R.E. Mumford of Purdue University, West Lafayette.

Mumford, R.E. and C.E. Keller (1984) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 376 pp.