

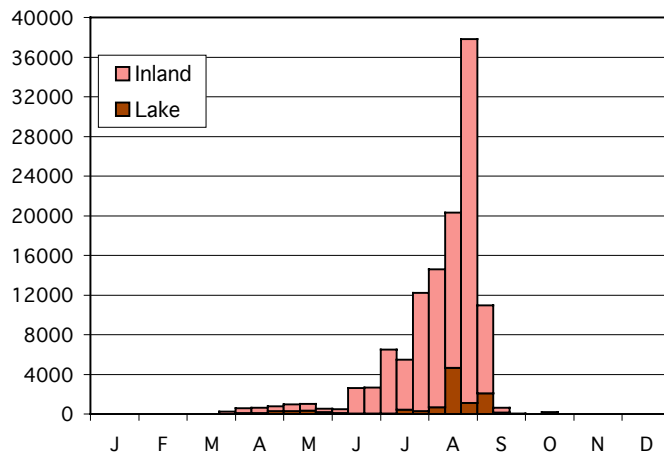
## Purple Martin

## *Progne subis*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1898) reported one at Brookville on 27 March 1882, which appears to constitute Indiana's earliest published date.

Butler (1898) considered the Martin a locally common summer resident. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a common migrant and locally abundant. Mumford and Keller (1984) described the Purple Martin as a common migrant and summer resident.



### Status

Physical Evidence: Some eight specimens, plus eggs, are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				1
National Museum of Natural History				3
Indiana State Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				3*
Milwaukee Public Museum				1
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	4	3	3
Central Tier	n	5	5	3
Southern Tier	n	4	3	4
Entire State	n	4	3	3

### Current Status

The Purple Martin is a summer resident and Very Common (3) fall migrant, though numbers have declined in recent years.

### Occurrence

This popular swallow has been recorded in all 92 of Indiana's counties. An average of 1770 Martins was reported annually over the past 20 years; however, totals for 2003 and 2004 were well below this mean. The days with five-digit tallies (see maximum count table) are apparently gone. Indeed, there are only two reports exceeding 1000 birds in the last 20 years: J.A. Haw reported 1600 at Salamonie Reservoir 16 August 2000 (Haw records) and Jed Hertz discovered a late August staging area at LaSalle FWA where his maximum count was 1810 on 26 August 2005 (IN-BIRD).

### Migration

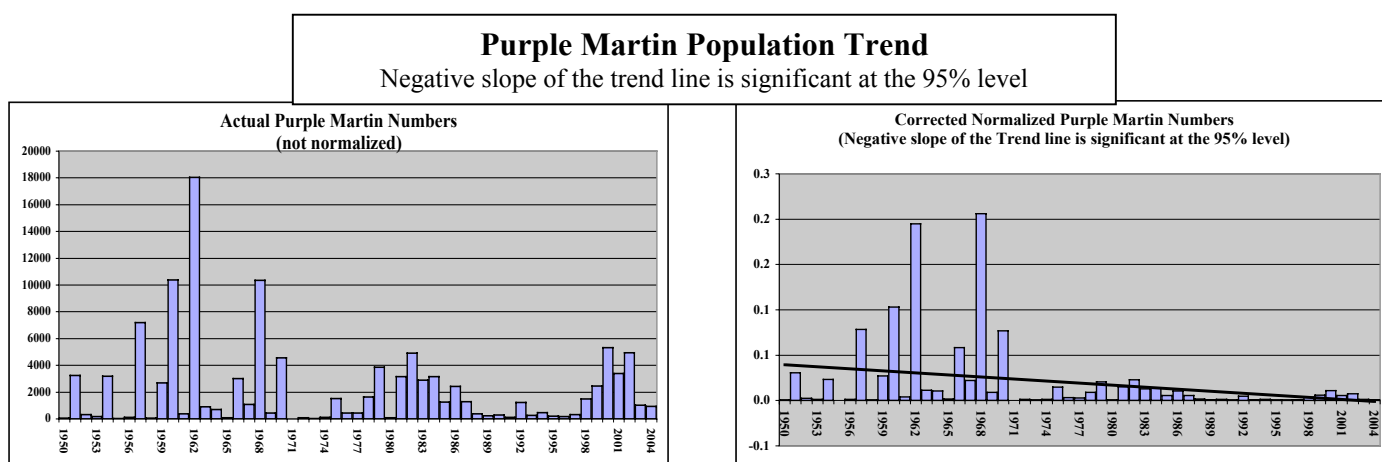
As is the case with many summer residents, determination of exact migration periods is difficult (that is, the problem in distinguishing migrants from summer residents blurs migratory patterns); consequently, migration envelopes were calculated only for the entire state.

## Extreme Records

Six October records exist, but the most noteworthy late record was described in detail by Bontrager (2006). According to Bontrager, Dave Yoder of Topeka (LaGrange County) maintained a 100 pair martin colony and enjoyed a successful 2005 nesting season with all local birds departing in late August. Surprisingly, on 18 September 2005 a pair of adult (at least two years old) Purple Martins appeared at the Yoder colony site and lingered well into November. The male was last seen 12 November and the female, cold and malnourished, had to be rescued on 18 November 2005. These birds provided Indiana's only November records.

## Population Trend

The 50-year data suggest that Indiana's Purple Martin population is in sharp decline. Negative slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



## Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) found evidence of breeding in 66 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks; most of these involved breeding confirmations.

## Purple Martin Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
300	12-May-1969	Marion Co	C.E. Keller	IAQ
116	23-May-2004	Daviess Co	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
110	08-May-1982	Atterbury FWA	Boyd Gill	IAQ
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
10000	22-Aug-1962	Indy Sewage Ponds	C.E. Keller	REM
10000	29-Aug-1968	Indy Sewage Ponds	C.E. Keller	REM
7000	03-Sep-1957	St Joseph Co	S.Bend Aud.Soc.	REM

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	4-Mar-1992	4-Apr	1-May	29-May	Sum. Res.	1022
Fall	Sum. Res.	20-Jul	12-Aug	5-Sep	18-Nov-2005	894

## References Cited

Bontrager, J.S. (2006) Purple Martin Narrative- Record Late Stragglers, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 84:48-50.

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.

Haw records: personal field notes recorded by J.A. Haw, beginning in 1972.

IN-BIRD, a Listserve 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.

Richards, R.L. (1987) The Vertebrate Collection of the Indiana State Museum: "Old" Specimens and Records, *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science* 97:547-570.