

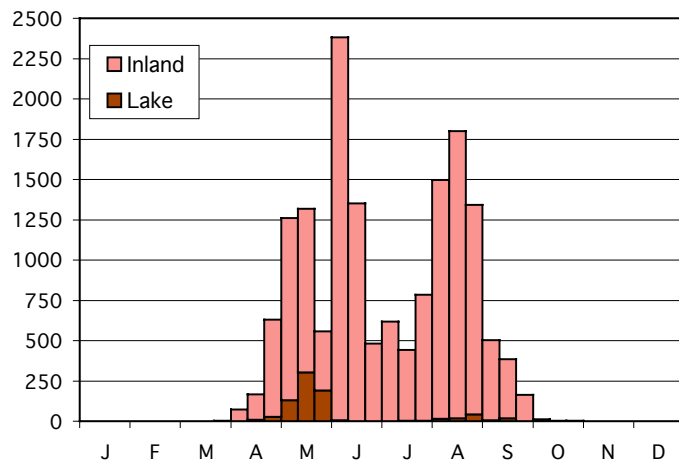
Cliff Swallow

Petrochelidon pyrrhonota

Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1898) mentioned that Cliff Swallows first nested in Franklin County in 1849, and the first fully dated record came from that same county on 12 April 1881 (Butler 1898).

Butler (1898) deemed this swallow less common than in former years, due to nest competition with the House Sparrow. Keller et al. (1979) considered it an uncommon migrant except in the south where it was rare. In summer it was uncommon in the north and rare in central Indiana. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted that the Cliff Swallow was apparently rare in Indiana prior to 1850, but numbers increased until about 1900. They characterized the Cliff Swallow as an uncommon migrant and a rare to uncommon local breeder.



Status

Physical Evidence: A specimen and an egg are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				1*
*Egg				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	5	5	6
Central Tier	n	4	5	3
Southern Tier	n	4	3	4
Entire State	n	4	3	3

Current Status

The Cliff Swallow is a Very Common (3) fall migrant and summer resident.

Occurrence

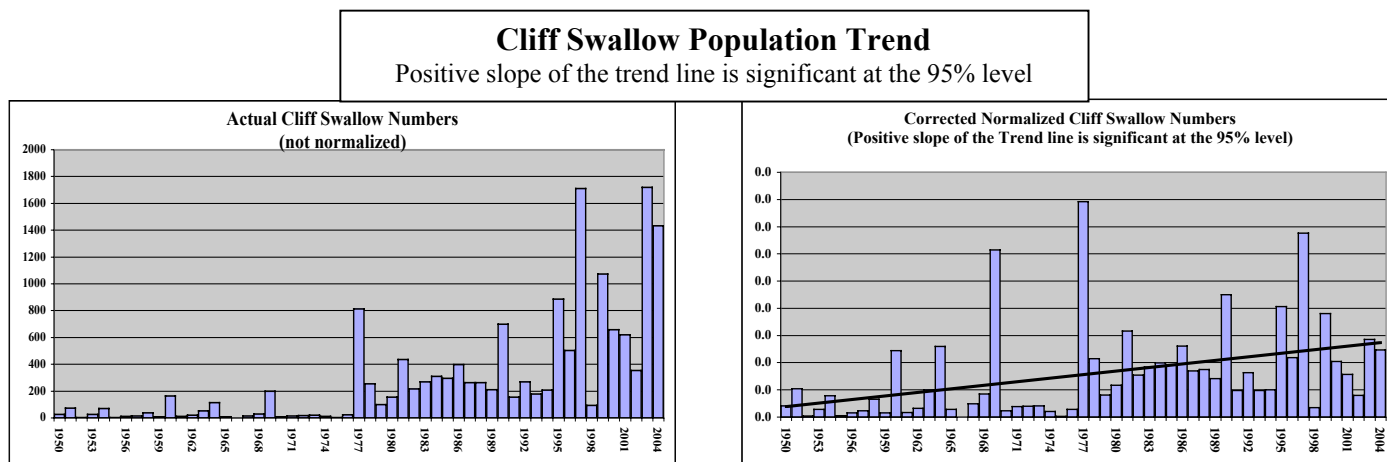
The state's Cliff Swallow population has varied widely over the years. As it favors human structures for constructing nests, this swallow was likely scarce in the pre-settlement era, but flourished as the state was settled. According to Mumford and Keller (1984) appearance of the House Sparrow in the mid-nineteenth century proved devastating to this species. Today this swallow has been recorded in at least 77 counties, but remains Indiana's least common swallow. It occurs most frequently in central and southern Indiana where it breeds regularly. The tall migration histogram peaks in June reflect large numbers of banded birds.

Extreme Record

Indiana has only two March records. The earliest, 26 March 2005, involved two birds identified at Lake Lemon by Jim and Susan Hengeveld (IN-BIRD). The other also consisted of two birds seen by Jim Campbell at Scales Lake, Warrick County, on 30 March 1996 (Lomax 1997).

Population Trend

Based on the 50-year trend Indiana's Cliff Swallow population has expanded over the last half-century. Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in eight percent of the state's 647 priority blocks and most of the nesting activity was in the southern half of the state.

Cliff Swallow Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/Summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
500	02-Jun-1990	Brookville Res.	Ned Keller	IAQ
400	29-Jul-1995	Posey Co	S.F. Jackson	IAQ
300	08-May-1999	Lake Waveland	A.W. Bruner	NNB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
700	11-Aug-1997	Putnam Co	A.W. Bruner	IAQ
700	21-Aug-1997	Putnam Co	A.W. Bruner	NNB
600	03-Aug-2003	Parke Co	A.W. Bruner	NAB

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	26-Mar-2005	23-Apr	15-May	10-Jun	Sum. Res.	545
Fall	Sum. Res.	20-Jul	18-Aug	18-Sep	30-Oct-1983	304

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 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.

Lomax, B. (1997) Field Notes Spring 1996, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 75:77-117.

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