

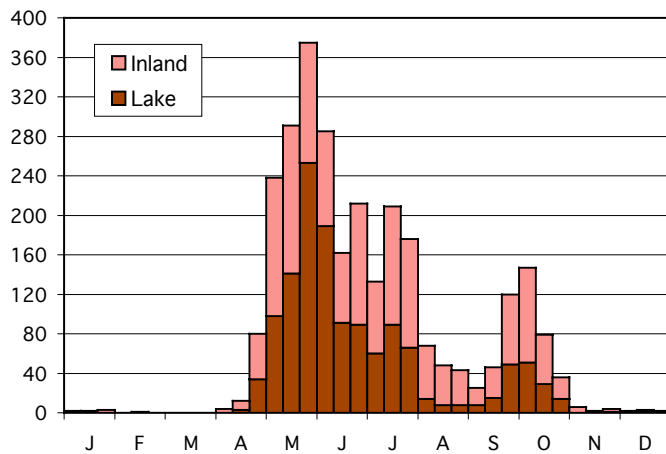
Marsh Wren

Cistothorus palustris

Historical Information

First Published Record: A Marsh Wren specimen collected at Brookville by A.W. Butler on 10 May 1885 (Butler 1898), appears to constitute the state's earliest formal record.

Butler (1898) considered the "Long-billed Marsh Wren" an abundant resident wherever marshes occurred. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a locally abundant summer resident in the north, but otherwise uncommon except in winter when it was casual. Mumford and Keller (1984) described this wren as a locally common to abundant summer resident and migrant in the north.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some eleven skins are known to be housed in North American museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				2
Chicago Field Museum				5
National Museum of Natural History				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				3
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	10	5	5	6
Central Tier	9	7	7	6
Southern Tier	8	7	7	6
Entire State	8	5	5	6

Current Status

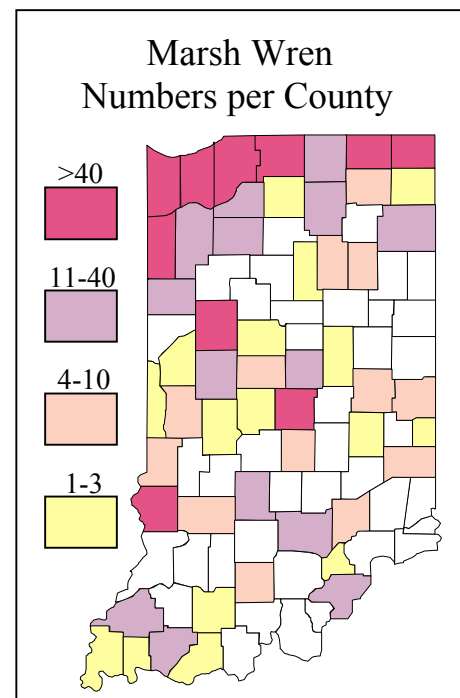
The Marsh Wren is a Fairly Common (5) spring migrant and summer resident in the northern tier.

Occurrence

As shown on the distribution map the Marsh Wren is primarily a bird of the northern tier and is especially prevalent in counties along the state's northern border. It is an Uncommon (6) to Rare (7) migrant in the balance of the state.

Winter Records

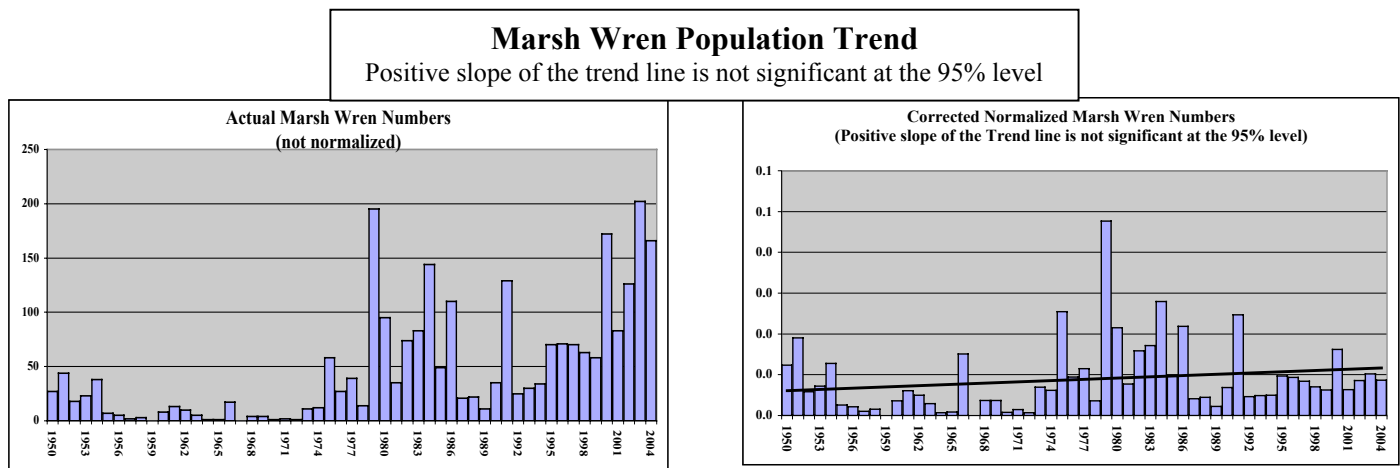
Though quite infrequent, winter birds are periodically reported in all three tiers. Records include nine in December, seven in January, and one in February. The most remarkable winter report consisted of four birds found by Jim and Susan Hengeveld at Goose Pond, Greene County on 21 December 2005 (IN-BIRD); all other winter reports involved singletons. Interestingly, L.A. Casebere found the single February bird at Pigeon River FWA on 15 February 1974 (Keller et al. 1979); otherwise all post-December



records come from the southern tier. Cover of the 2005 *Indiana Audubon Quarterly* (Vol. 83, No. 2) shows a Marsh Wren, photographed 26 December 2004 at Eagle Creek Park, dining on a minnow (also see Lomax 2005).

Population Trend

Although slope of the 50-year trend line is slightly positive, this slope is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has placed this species on the state's endangered list. Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in only two percent of Indiana's 647 priority blocks. The evidence was distributed across a dozen northern tier counties, five central tier counties, and two southern tier counties, clearly delineating the northward distribution of the breeding population. Mumford and Keller (1984) list eggs as early as 21 May and nest construction as late as 4 August.

Marsh Wren Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
75	30-May-1916	Long Lake	C.W.G. Eifrig	CEi
46	19-May-1984	St Joseph Co	T.T. Cable	IAQ
27	10-May-1986	Willow Slough FWA	E.M. Hopkins	IAQ
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
32	09-Oct-1983	Turtle Cr. Res.	Denny Jones	DNR
15	11-Oct-1982	Turtle Cr. Res.	Denny Jones	DNR
15	1-Aug-2003	Kankakee Sands	Jed Hertz	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	1-Apr-2004	29-Apr	17-May	4-Jun	Sum. Res.	473
Fall	Sum. Res.	21-Jul	17-Sep	16-Oct	26-Nov-1983	471

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.

Lomax, Becky (2005) Unusual Marsh Wren Behavior, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 83:111.

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

Last update: 25 Dec 2005