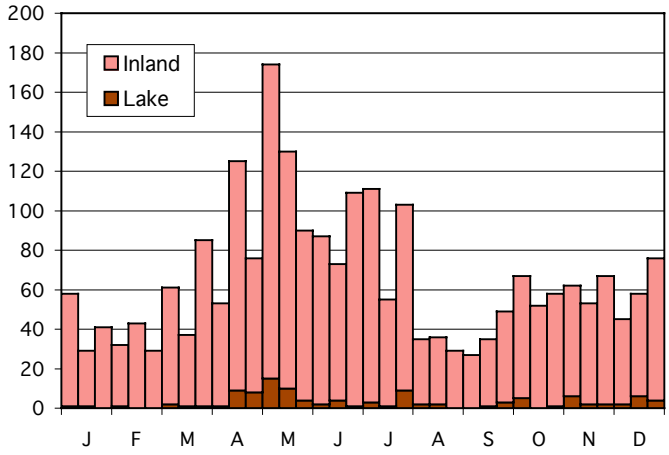
Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*

Historical Information

First Published Record: According to Butler (1898), Haymond noted this species in Franklin County in 1869. However, the earliest fully dated report involved young, barely able to fly, taken by A.W. Butler in Brookville 29 June 1880 (Butler 1898).

Butler (1898) considered the Mockingbird a rare summer resident in the southern half of the state and accidental farther north. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it uncommon to rare in the north, common in central Indiana, and abundant in the south. Mumford and Keller (1984) characterized the Mockingbird as common in the southern third of the state and uncommon in the northern third. They also proposed a post 1940 expansion possibly associated with widespread planting of multiflora rose.



Status

Physical Evidence: Three known specimens are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				**No.**
National Museum of Natural History				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				1
Philadelphia Academy of Sciences				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	**Spr**	**Sum**	**Fall**
Northern Tier	7	6	6	7
Central Tier	6	6	6	6
Southern Tier	6	5	6	6
Entire State	6	5	6	6

Current Status

The Northern Mockingbird is a permanent resident, which is Fairly Common (5) during spring in the southern tier.

Occurrence

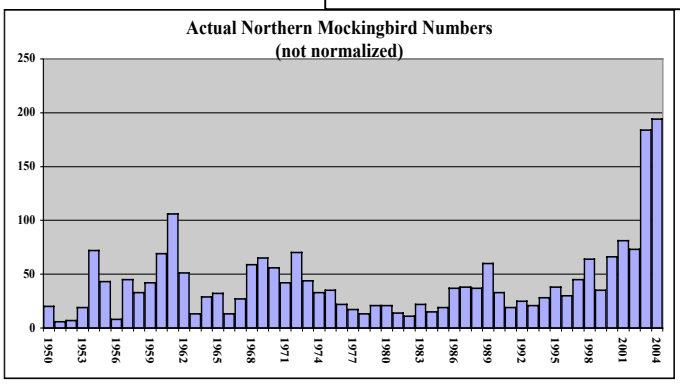
Although the Mockingbird is primarily a bird of the southern half of the state, it has been reported in every Indiana county except Whitley. It is not frequently encountered along the lakefront. A fairly distinctive spring movement is evident on the migration histogram, but there is no clear indication of a corresponding fall flight.

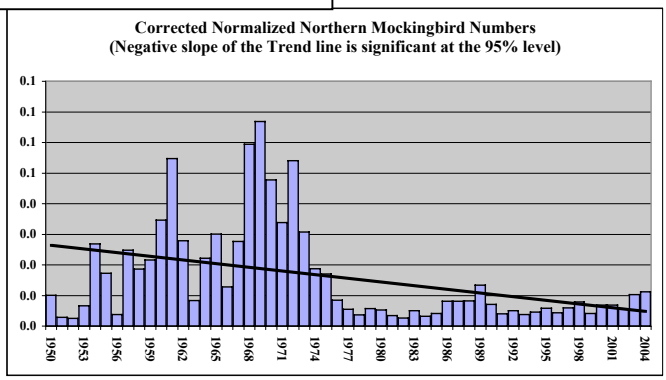
Population Trend

Surprisingly, the 50-year population data suggest a precipitous decline in the state's Mockingbird population. This drop occurred in the mid-1970s, and numbers have remained flat at this lower level over the last 30 years. Negative slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level. Castrale and Donaldson (1986) also reported a decline in Mockingbirds that began about 1970 and attributed it to the hard winters of the 1970s. In contrast, the Breeding Bird

Surveys show a statistically non-significant increase of 1.5 percent annually during the interval 1964 – 2004 (North American Breeding Bird Survey web page).

Northern Mockingbird Population Trend
Negative slope of the trend line is significant at the 95% level





Breeding

The Indiana Atlas project collected breeding evidence in every southern and central tier county except for Carroll (Castrale et al. 1998). Eggs have been reported from 14 April through 1 July (Mumford and Keller 1984).

Northern Mockingbird Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	**Date**	**Location**	**Observer**	**Ref.**
30	28-Jul-2004	Daviess Co	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
28	20-May-1961	Tippecanoe Co	H.C. West	HCW
24	20-Apr-1957	Warrick Co	C.E. Keller	REM
Fall				
Number	**Date**	**Location**	**Observer**	**Ref.**
11	21-Nov-2003	Daviess Co	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
7	24-Nov-2002	Summit Lake	S.A. Pancol	INB
6	20-Nov-1957	Tippecanoe Co	???	NIQ

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	**Arrive**	**Peak**	**Depart**	**Latest**	**Records**
Spring	Win. Res.	28-Mar	4-May	4-Jun	Sum. Res.	522
Fall	No distinctive migration evident					

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. and L. Donaldson (1986) Summer distribution and population trends of Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, and Northern Mockingbird in Indiana. *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science,* 95:195-201.

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

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

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