

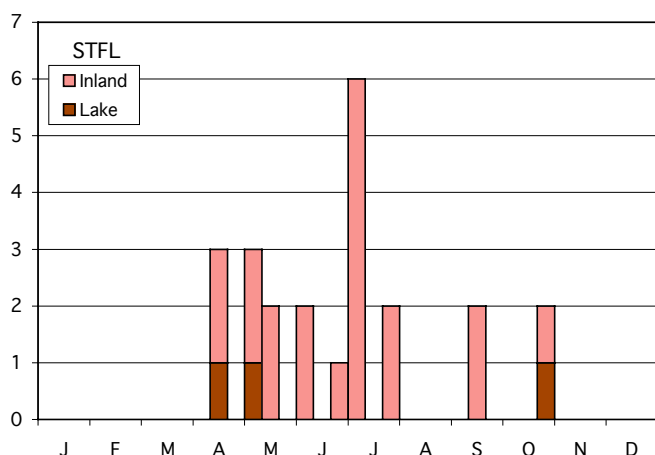
## Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

## *Tyrannus forficatus*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: A bird discovered by K.E. Bartel at Wolf Lake (northwestern Lake County) on 3 May 1947 (Bartel 1948), appears to constitute the state's earliest record.

Based on a Missouri record, Butler (1898) added this remarkable flycatcher to Indiana's hypothetical list. Keller et al. (1979) considered it accidental. Mumford and Keller (1984) mentioned eight Scissor-tailed Flycatcher records, but rendered no status assessment.



### Status

Physical Evidence: There are no known specimens from Indiana, but several photos have been published. One of these is on the front cover of the *Indiana Audubon Quarterly* 1986 Vol. 64, No. 2.

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
No known specimens				0
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	10	10	n
Central Tier	n	10	10	10
Southern Tier	n	10	n	10
Entire State	n	9	10	10

### Current Status

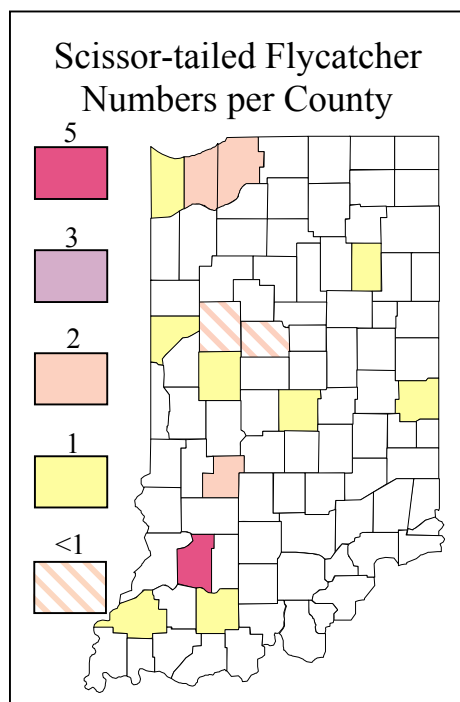
The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is Occasional (9) in spring and Accidental (10) in summer and fall.

### Occurrence

Except for the breeding record (see below) the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is a visitor to Indiana. As of fall 2004 the state had some 18 records, which were scattered across 14 counties. Over the past 20 years an average of 0.3 birds has been reported annually. The striped pattern in Clinton and Tippecanoe Counties (see distribution map) represents a single bird that appeared in both counties.

### Breeding

Despite its rareness in the state, Indiana has a breeding record. In 1974 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers successfully bred in Daviess County, producing three fledglings (Howell and Theroff 1976).





Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
Tippecanoe County 12 September  
2004. Photo J.J. McCoy

### Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Data

#### Maximum Single Party Counts

Entire State				
No	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
3	08-Jul-1974	Daviess Co	Howell & Therooff	REM
2	28-Jul-1976	Owen Co	Tom Alexander	REM
1	03-May-1947	Wolf Lake	Karl Bartel	AUK
1	13-Apr-1963	LaPorte Co	J.I. Downs	IAQ
1	03-May-1975	Daviess Co	W.B. Barnes	REM
1	26-Jun-1978	Marion Co	C.E. Keller	IQA
1	09-May-1980	Warren Co	Wm. Ringer	REM
There are ten additional records of single birds.				

#### Migration Envelopes

Entire State						
	Earliest	Arr.	Peak	Dept	Latest	Recs
<b>Spring</b>	13-Apr-1963	---	3-May	---	6-Jun-1984	10
<b>Fall</b>	28-Jul-1976	---	---	---	31-Oct-1931	5

### References Cited

Bartel, K.E. (1948) Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in the Chicago area, *Auk*, 65:614.

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

Howell, D. and E. Therooff (1976) Scissor-tailed Flycatcher breeding in southwestern Indiana, *Auk* 93:644-645.

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.

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