

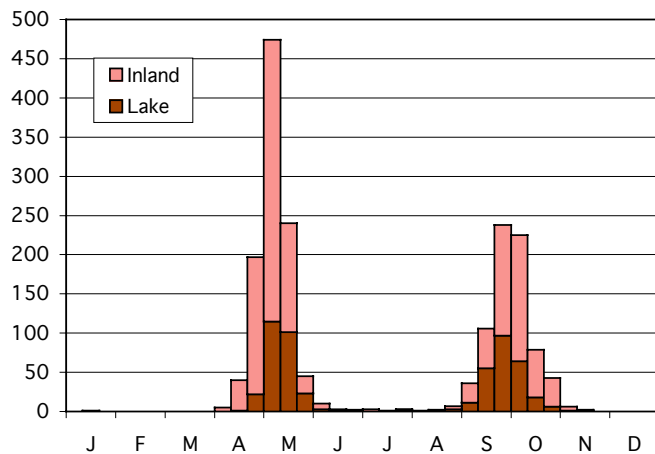
## Blue-headed Vireo

## *Vireo solitarius*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: A specimen collected in Franklin County on 8 May 1882 (Mumford files) appears to constitute the state's earliest formal record.

Butler (1898) considered this striking vireo a regular migrant, which was more common some years than others. Keller et al. (1979) deemed the "Solitary Vireo" an uncommon migrant. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted the appearance of several summer records, but provided no status assessment.



### Current Status

The Blue-headed Vireo is an Uncommon (6) migrant.

### Occurrence

Though never present in great numbers, this vireo is widespread, having been reported in at least 69 Indiana counties. Slightly more than 57 Blue-headed Vireos were reported annually over the past 20 years. As shown in the migration histogram spring and fall migrants appear in roughly equal numbers.

### Summer Records

The first summer report of this species occurred in the Indiana Dunes where C.T. Clark identified one 16 June 1968 (Mumford files). There are currently an additional dozen June records; however, all but three occurred in early June and likely represent tardy migrants. Seven July records, spanning the dates 4 July through 27 July, also exist. Mid-summer birds have been recorded in Brown County, Indiana Dunes, LaPorte County, Mengerson Preserve in Fort Wayne, Pigeon River FWA, Salamonie Reservoir, Steuben County, and Willow Slough FWA. Except for the Brown County record all were in the northern tier.

### Status

Physical Evidence: At least six Blue-headed Vireos are housed in North American museums, including three in the National Museum of Natural History (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and Richards 1987).

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

### Extreme Record

J.P. Lewis examined a Blue-headed Vireo in hand after it struck a window at Big Oaks NWR on 20 January 2006. This healthy appearing individual, which provided the state's only winter record, soon regained its faculties and flew away (IN-BIRD).

### **Breeding**

Nests have been reported as follows: by J.K. Hammerberg in Brown County State Park 29 May 1980 (Mumford and Keller 1984), by the South Bend Audubon Society at Potato Creek State Park 17 May 1981 (Mumford files), and by D.R. Whitehead in Brown County 25 May 1995 (Jackson 1996).

Blue-headed Vireo Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
10	7-May-1922	Lake Co	???	M&K
7	11-May-1996	Beverly Shores	K.J. Brock	KJB
7	12-May-1984	Fox Island Park	J.A. Haw	Haw
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
10	8-Oct-2005	Beverly Shores	B.J. Grube	KJB
6	20-Sep-1989	Indiana Dunes	L.S. Hinchman	LHi
6	10-Oct-1995	Pigeon River FWA	J.A. Haw	IAQ

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	17-Apr-2004	27-Apr	8-May	20-May	8-Jun-1992	448
Central	9-Apr-1999	25-Apr	7-May	16-May	25-May-1947	140
South	3-Apr-1995	16-Apr	30-Apr	15-May	5-Jun-1995	72
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	23-Jul-1982	11-Sep	28-Sep	12-Oct	19-Nov-2002	347
Central	31-Aug-1997	16-Sep	5-Oct	25-Oct	3-Nov-1985	114
South	5-Sep-1993	21-Sep	5-Oct	22-Oct	5-Nov-2003	54

### **References Cited**

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

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>

Jackson, S.F. (1996) Field Notes Summer 1995, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 74:138-159.

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.

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