

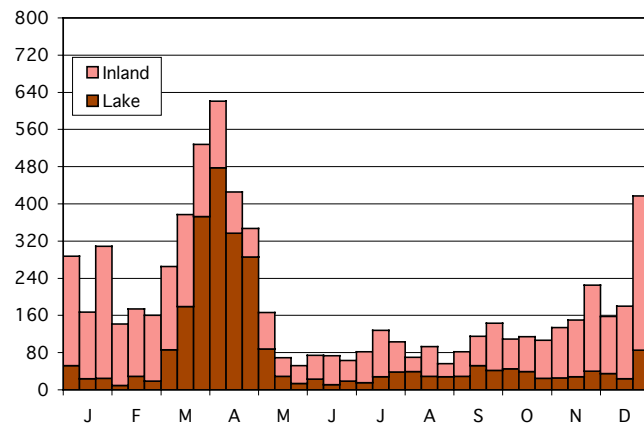
## American Kestrel

## *Falco sparverius*

### Historical Information

First Published record: Indiana's first published report of this species occurred 27 March 1877 when a specimen was collected in Marion County (Mumford files).

Butler (1890) considered the "Sparrow Hawk" a common resident, noting that " (it) is without a doubt our most common hawk." Keller et al. (1979) deemed this petite falcon a common migrant and uncommon resident; Mumford and Keller (1984) concurred with this assessment.



### Status

Physical Evidence: Some 22 skins are preserved in the nation's museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				1
Chicago Field Museum				4
National Museum of Natural History				7
Univ. of Michigan Museum				3
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				7
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	6	4	6	5
Central Tier	7	7	6	6
Southern Tier	6	6	7	6
Entire State	5	4	6	5

### Current Status

The American Kestrel is a permanent resident that is Common (4) in spring and Fairly Common (5) in fall. It is most difficult to find in summer when its status is reduced to Uncommon (6).

### Occurrence

The Kestrel remains quite widespread with reports from all 92 Indiana counties. The greatest numbers are recorded on the lakefront during spring hawk flights, which accounts for the dominant spring peak on the migration histogram.

### Roadside Sightings

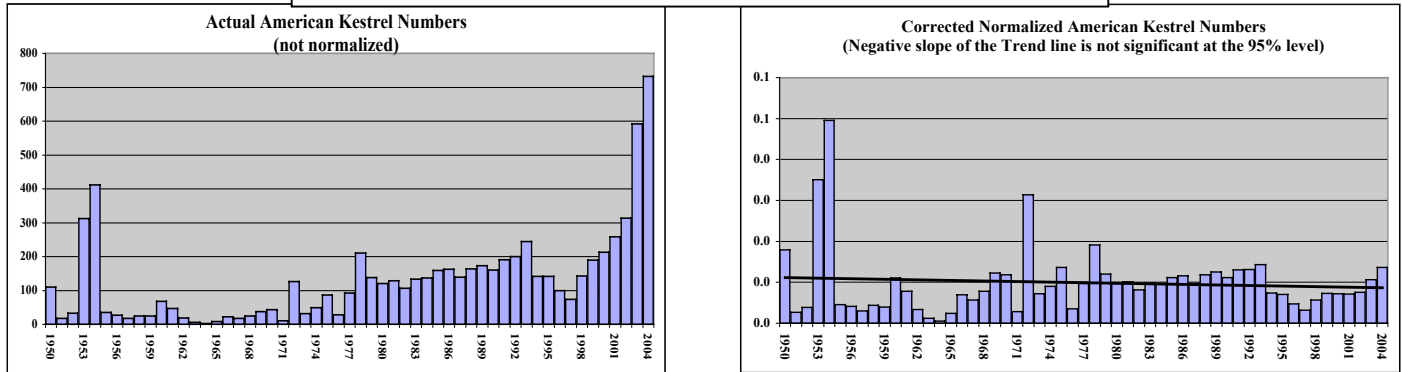
Observers traveling Indiana's highways have also tallied some fine daily totals. For example, during a 1958-59 winter trip from Evansville to Indianapolis C.E. Keller counted 41 Kestrels and R.E. Mumford observed 38 across seven southern Indiana counties on 22 February 1953 (Mumford files). However, the most impressive highway tally occurred during a 12 March 1978 drive from Indianapolis to the Falls of the Ohio, throughout which Larry Peavler et al. counted 72 Kestrels (Buck 1979).

### Population Trend

Observational data suggest a slight decline in the state's Kestrel population; however, the negative slope of the trend line shown below is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.

## American Kestrel Population Trend

Negative slope of the trend line is not significant at the 95% level



## Breeding

Butler (1898) referred to this small falcon as “everywhere common in summer.” Although Butler’s characterization remains valid, the Kestrel is less common in summer than in other seasons. Castrale et al. (1998) found breeding evidence in 79% of the state’s priority atlas blocks. These sites were distributed widely across Indiana. Mumford and Keller reported eggs during the interval 10 April to 19 July.

Maximum Single Party Counts						
Spring						
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.		
88	07-Apr-1993	Indiana Dunes	B. Atzhorn (Squires)	HMA		
84	09-Apr-1978	Mount Baldy	K.J. Brock	KJB		
72	12-Mar-1978	So. Central Ind.	Larry Peavler	IAQ		
Fall						
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.		
21	26-Nov-1995	Warrick Co	J.H. Campbell	IAQ		
20	30-Sep-1992	Parke Co	A.W. Bruner	IAQ		
16	14-Aug-2004	Miller Beach	J.K. Cassady	KJB		
Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	14-Mar	9-Apr	10-May	Sum. Res.	670
Central	Win. Res.	14-Mar	10-Apr	12-May	Sum. Res.	124
South	Win. Res.	12-Mar	8-Apr	13-May	Sum. Res.	141
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	2-Aug	30-Sep	18-Nov	Win. Res.	486
Central	Sum. Res.	25-Jul	18-Oct	27-Nov	Win. Res.	98
South	Sum. Res.	3-Aug	23-Oct	25-Nov	Win. Res.	184

## References Cited

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Butler, A. W. (1890) The Birds of Indiana, Appendix to *Transactions of the Indiana Horticultural Society for 1890* (available on the web).

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.

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.

Mumford files: An extensive accumulation of Indiana bird data on 5x7 file cards compiled by Professor R.E. Mumford of Purdue University, West Lafayette.