

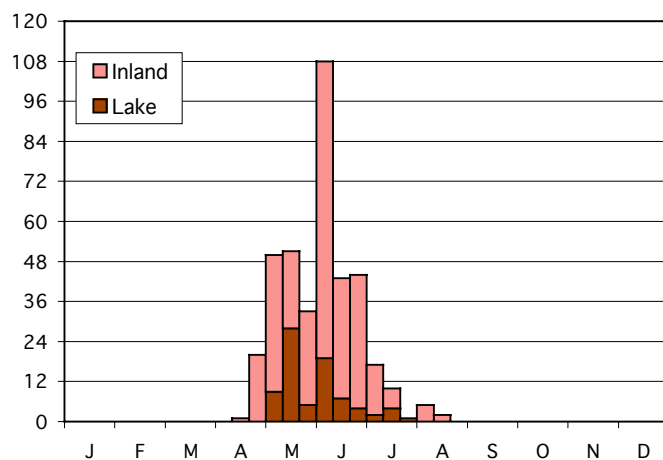
Chuck-will's-widow

Caprimulgus carolinensis

Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1929) reported that Robert Ridgway and Wm. Brewster identified this species in Knox County 20 April 1878. Indiana's first specimen was found dead in Indianapolis in April or May 1908 (Butler 1929).

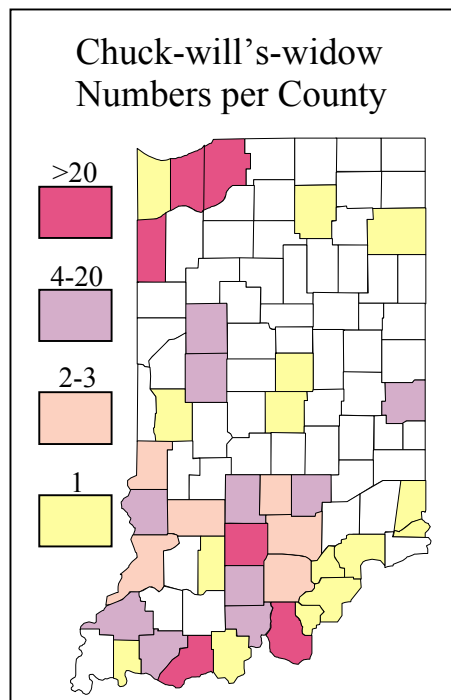
Butler (1898) considered this nightjar "not uncommon" in the lower Wabash Valley. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it casual in the north, and very rare in central and southern Indiana. Mumford and Keller (1984) suggested that it was "probably rare to uncommon locally in suitable habitats in the southern half of Indiana and rare to absent elsewhere."



Status

Physical Evidence: Two specimens from Indiana are preserved (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).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
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	7	7	n
Central Tier	n	9	n	n
Southern Tier	n	6	6	8
Entire State	n	6	6	8



Current Status

The 20-Year numbers displayed in the abundance table are inaccurate, as the lakefront population no longer exists. In the southern tier it is Uncommon (6) in spring and summer.

Occurrence

As shown on the distribution map this large nightjar is most prevalent in the southern tier. Statewide, an average of 12.1 birds per year was reported over the last 20 years, but 8.8 of these were in the southern tier.

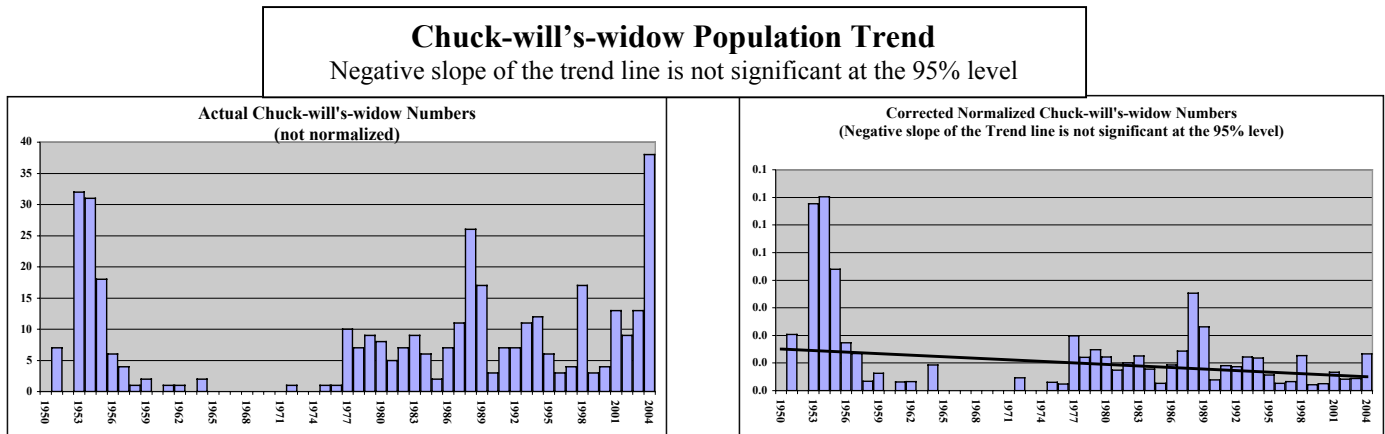
Outlying populations

This species periodically establishes new local populations outside the established southern tier breeding grounds. This occurred at the Willow Slough FWA in 1977, when a calling bird was first detected 20 May (Buck 1978). Chuck-will's-widows, including a nest with young (Arvin 1981), were reported annually through 1982. No birds were

reported in 1983 and a single record occurred in 1984, but none subsequently. Similarly, a calling bird was first heard at Mount Baldy (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore) 18 June 1981 (Buck 1982). This population appeared robust as R.S. Plank counted seven to nine birds in 1989 (Jackson 1990); but after occupying the site for 18 consecutive years, these Chucks failed to appear in 1999 or in subsequent years (Brock records).

Population Trend

Although the trend line shows a distinct negative slope, this negative slope is not significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

During the Indiana Atlas project nesting was not confirmed, but summer birds were detected in 20 counties, all but two of which (LaPorte and Porter) were in the southern tier (Castrale et al. 1998). The state's first confirmed nesting occurred at Willow Slough FWA when D.Z. Arvin discovered a nest containing two eggs on 7 June 1980 (Arvin 1981).

Chuck-will's-widow Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
22	24-Jun-1953	Harrison Co	R.E. Mumford	REM
18	14-Jun-1954	Harrison Co	R.E. Mumford	REM
18	03-Jun-1955	Harrison Co	M.P. Kahl	REM
8	07-Jun-1998	Spencer Co	David Dugas	IAQ
7	07-Jun-1989	LaPorte Co	R.S. Plank	KJB
7	27-Apr-1954	Harrison Co	R.E. Mumford	REM
7	05-Jun-1988	Crawford Co	J.S. Castrale	IAQ

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Summer	16-Apr-1977	2-May	Sum. Res.	17-Aug	25-Aug-04	168

References Cited

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