

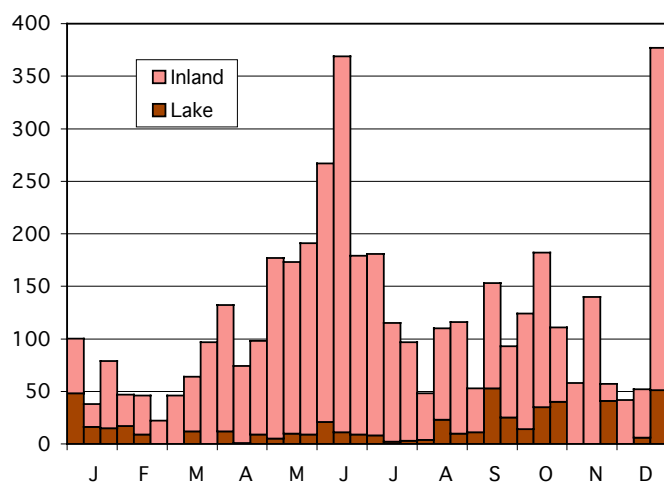
Northern Bobwhite

Colinus virginianus

Historical Information

First Published Record: A specimen collected in Carroll County 27 January 1874, provided the state's earliest completely dated record (Mumford files).

Butler (1890) deemed the "Quail" a resident, which was common in most places. Keller et al. (1979) considered it normally fairly common, but subject to cyclical population swings. Mumford and Keller (1984) provided no status estimate, but discussed this species' decline concluding, "... the future of this native quail in the state is not very bright."



Current Status

Today the status of this permanent resident varies from Fairly Common (5) to Rare (7), depending on the season.

Occurrence

Though Bobwhites have probably occurred in every Indiana county, records exist for only 79 counties. Mid-twentieth century hunting records indicate that most birds were taken in southern Indiana, with Brown County yielding highest numbers (Mumford and Keller 1984).

The large June counts in the Maximum Single Party Counts table, reflect numbers logged during Breeding Bird Surveys.

Modern spring whistle-count surveys conducted by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources indicate a drastic population decline associated with the hard winters in the mid and late 1970s. Numbers have subsequently rebounded; however, current levels remain below those recorded in the 1950s (data summary of population index provided by J.C. Pitman).

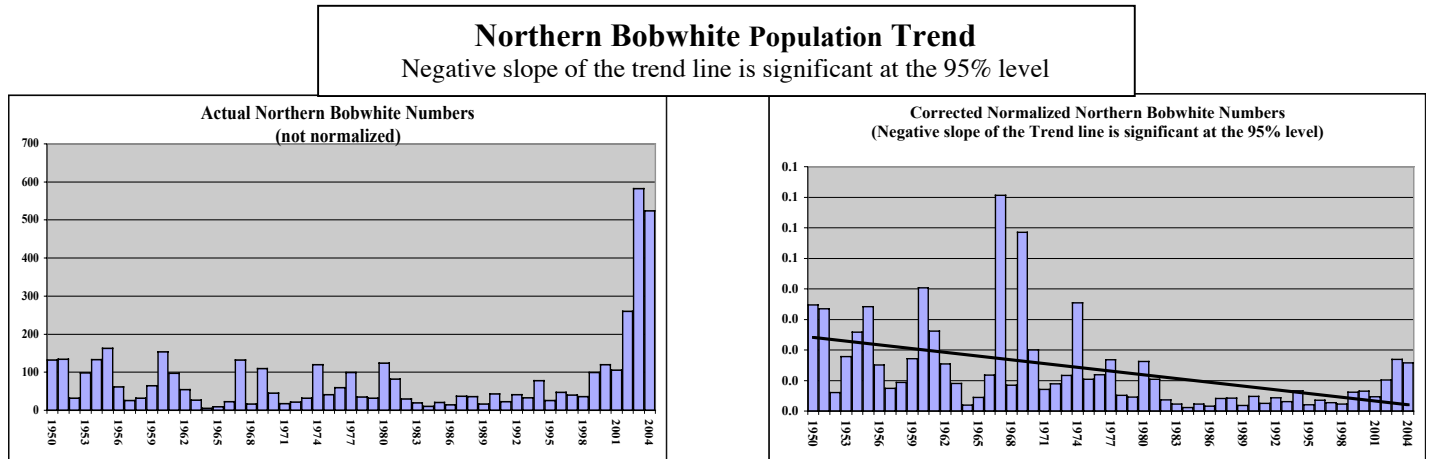
Status

Physical Evidence: Some 48 specimens are housed in the nation's museums as listed in the Status Table (S.F. Jackson, unpublished list and Richards 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				32
Univ. of Michigan Museum				6*
Philadelphia Academy of Sciences				1
Indiana State Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				8
*includes three eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	7	6	6	6
Central Tier	7	7	6	6
Southern Tier	7	6	5	6
Entire State	7	6	5	6

Population Trend

Negative slope of the trend curve is statistically significant at the 95 percent level, a result consistent with the declines reported in the Occurrence section.



Breeding

The Indiana Atlas project (Castrale et al. 1998) reported breeding evidence in 79% of the 647 priority blocks. Breeding data indicate that the earliest reported eggs were 16 May and the latest was 27 July and that downy chicks have been noted on 28 September.

Northern Bobwhite Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/Summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
86	18-Jun-2003	SE Indiana	J. & S. Hengeveld	INB
59	06-Jun-1999	SW Indiana	J. & S. Hengeveld	INB
44	11-May-1974	Vigo Co	???	DNR
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
45	17-Nov-1955	Miami Co	???	NIQ
35	02-Oct-1955	Marion Co	H.C. West	HCW
35	27-Dec-1955	Shades S.P.	???	DNR

References Cited

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

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 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.