

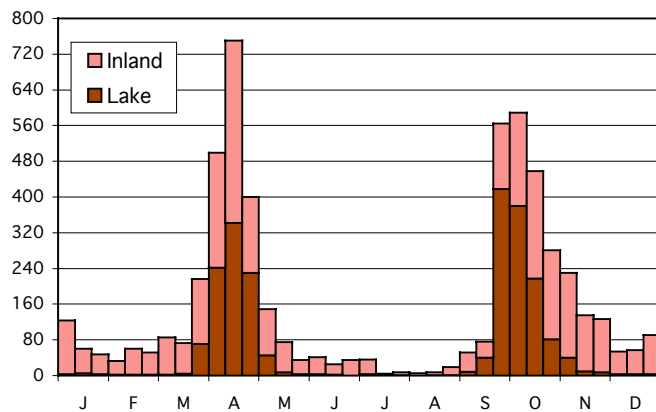
Brown Creeper

Certhia americana

Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1898) reported this species in Warren County 15 September 1878, which appears to constitute the state's earliest published record.

Butler (1898) deemed the Brown Creeper a very common migrant and irregular winter resident throughout the state. Keller et al. (1979) described it as a common migrant and rare to uncommon (south) winter resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) provided no status assessment.



Status

Physical Evidence: At least 17 specimens are archived in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				8
National Museum of Natural History				4
Milwaukee Public Museum				2
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	6	4	7	4
Central Tier	6	5	7	5
Southern Tier	6	6	7	6
Entire State	6	4	7	4

Current Status

Though Rare (7) in summer, the Brown Creeper is a permanent resident, which is Common (4) in migration.

Occurrence

This inconspicuous little bird has been recorded in at least 77 Indiana counties. Although the Brown Creeper is primarily a migrant and winter resident, over the past two decades it has, primarily through the work of Don Gorney, become recognized as a rare breeding species. In noting that all but two of Indiana's dozen or so breeding records occurred after 1981, Gorney (2000) raised the possibility that this species might be expanding its breeding range.

Fall Migration

Along the lakefront autumn migrants arrive, often in substantial numbers, during the last week of September. These large reports account for the steep increase in lakefront numbers during the final third of September (see migration histogram). These migrant waves have also provided some of the larger fall single day tallies (see maximum count table).

Unaccepted Large Count

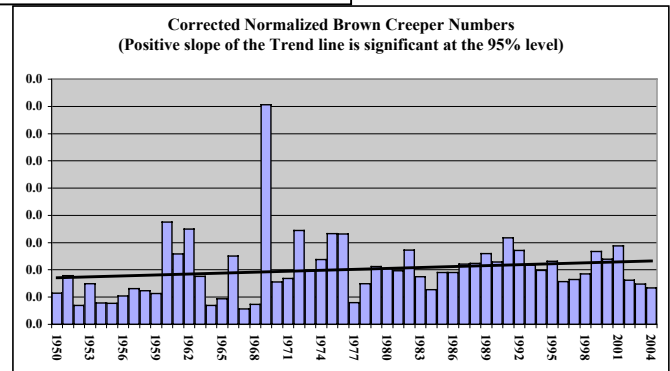
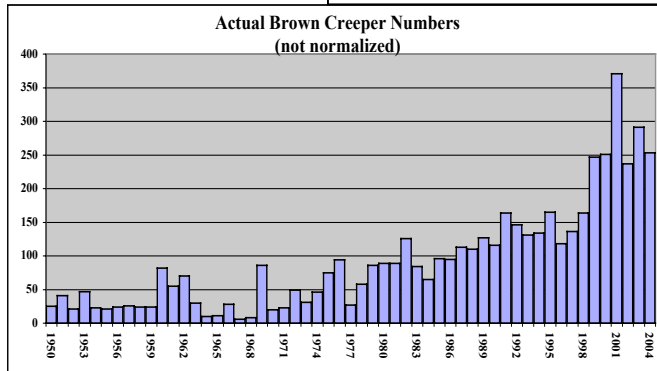
A count of 50 was reported 9 November 1969 in a tabulation of birds from Eagle Creek Park (*Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 48:75), but it is unclear that this was a single party effort; consequently, this record was omitted.

Population Trend

Although the positive slope is quite gentle, it is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.

Brown Creeper Population Trend

Positive slope of the trend line is significant at the 95% level



Breeding

Mumford and Keller (1975) provided a brief historical summary of breeding in Indiana. Butler (1898) noted that breeding occurred in northeastern Indiana, and reported a 8 May 1882 nest containing six eggs in Steuben County. During the Indiana Atlas project Castrale et al. (1998) found breeding evidence in only one percent of the state's 647 priority blocks. This evidence came from Brown, Clay, Jasper, LaPorte, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, Spencer, St. Joseph, Steuben, Wabash, and Warrick Counties. Gorney (2000) summarized the state's breeding records, noting nesting in Allen, LaPorte, Marion, Marshall, Posey, Pulaski, Steuben, St. Joseph, and Wabash Counties.

Brown Creeper Data

Maximum Single Party Counts

Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
47*	16-Apr-1960	Lakefront	Simon Segal	IQA
30	24-Apr-1916	Cowles Bog	C.W.G. Eifrig	CEi
19	20-Apr-2002	Multiple Sites	Don Gorney	INB
*Dead birds on beach following a storm kill.				
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
50	28-Sep-1931	Whiting Park	D.H. Boyd	DBo
25	07-Oct-2005	Lakefront	Don Gorney	INB
21	28-Sep-2001	Miller Beach	P.B. Grube	INB

Migration Envelopes

Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	29-Mar	16-Apr	10-May	Sum. Vis.	722
Central	Win. Res.	13-Mar	14-Apr	10-May	Sum. Vis.	226
South	Win. Res.	9-Mar	6-Apr	3-May	Sum. Vis.	81

Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Vis.	21-Sep	7-Oct	5-Nov	Win. Res.	851
Central	Sum. Vis.	29-Sep	21-Oct	11-Nov	Win. Res.	278
South	Sum. Vis.	6-Oct	25-Oct	19-Nov	Win. Res.	75

References Cited

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.

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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 (1975) An Annotated Check List of Indiana Birds, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 53:28-59.

Mumford, R.E. and C.E. Keller (1984) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 376 pp.