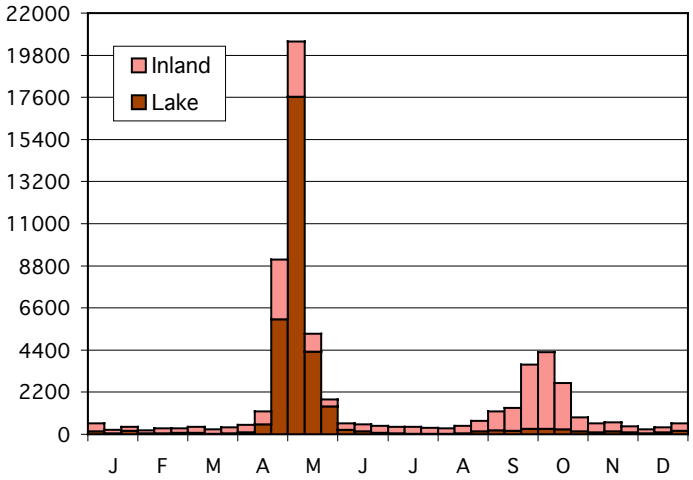
Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata*

Historical Information

First Published Record: The earliest fully dated Blue Jay record involved a specimen taken in Knox County 21 April 1881 (Mumford files).

Butler (1898) referred to the Blue Jay as "a common and well known resident." Keller et al. (1979) termed it a common resident and abundant migrant. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted that the Blue Jay was common and bred throughout the state.



Status

Physical Evidence: At least 20 specimens, plus nest and eggs, are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).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	5			
National Museum of Natural History	9**			
Milwaukee Public Museum	1			
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory	2			
Univ. of Michigan Museum	10*			
*Includes eggs **Includes nest & eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	**Spr**	**Sum**	**Fall**
Northern Tier	4	2	4	3
Central Tier	4	3	4	3
Southern Tier	5	3	5	3
Entire State	4	2	4	3

Current Status

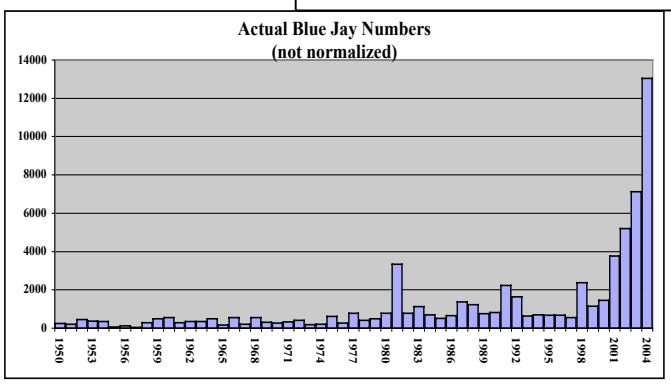
The Blue Jay is a permanent resident, which is Abundant (2) along the lakefront during spring migration.

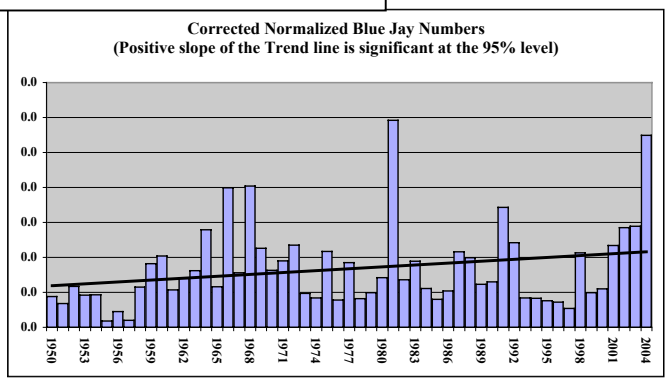
Occurrence

This widespread corvid has been recorded in every Indiana county. During spring migration the Blue Jay is more prevalent along the lakefront than at inland sites, whereas, the reverse is true in fall (see migration histogram).

Blue Jay Population Trend

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





Population Trend

The 50-year trend shows a statistically significant, at the 95 percent level, positive slope.

Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) obtained evidence of breeding in 99 percent of the 647 priority blocks; these data were distributed rather uniformly across the state. Mumford and Keller (1984) reported nest construction on 20 February and list egg dates from 4 April to 14 June.

Blue Jay Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	**Date**	**Location**	**Observer**	**Ref.**
2850	06-May-2004	Dunes St Park	K.J. Brock	KJB
2210	28-Apr-1981	West Beach	Raymond Grow	REM
2029	09-May-2004	Lakefront	J.J. McCoy	INB
Fall				
Number	**Date**	**Location**	**Observer**	**Ref.**
500	14-Oct-2001	Lake Lemon	J&S Hengeveld	INB
500	12-Oct-2003	Lake Lemon	J&S Hengeveld	INB
458	29-Sep-2004	Monroe Co	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	**Arrive**	**Peak**	**Depart**	**Latest**	**Records**
North	Win. Res.	1-Apr	5-May	29-May	Sum. Res.	987
Central	Win. Res.	30-Mar	5-May	29-May	Sum. Res.	796
South	Win. Res.	14-Mar	26-Apr	25-May	Sum. Res.	261
Fall						
	Earliest	**Arrive**	**Peak**	**Depart**	**Latest**	**Records**
North	Sum. Res.	12-Aug	23-Sep	2-Nov	Win. Res.	1050
Central	Sum. Res.	26-Jul	24-Sep	10-Nov	Win. Res.	1050
South	Sum. Res.	22-Aug	5-Oct	12-Nov	Win. Res.	207

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.

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.