

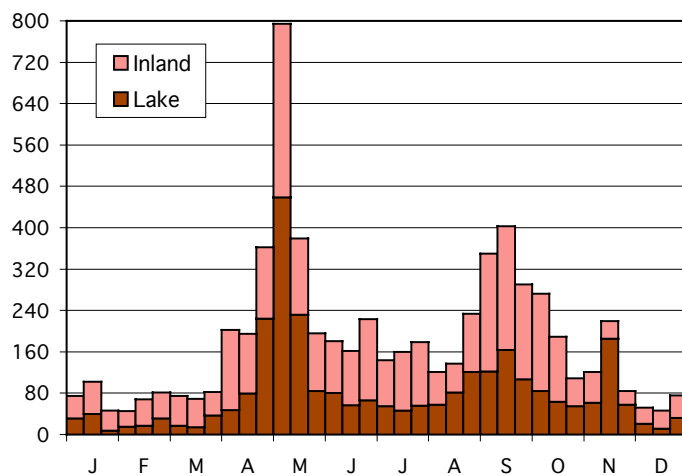
Red-headed Woodpecker

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

Historical Information

First Published Record: The earliest fully dated Indiana record involved a nest containing four eggs found in DeKalb County 13 June 1885 (Mumford files).

Butler (1898) considered the “Red-head” a resident, in variable numbers throughout the state, depending upon the mast crop. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it locally common to abundant. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted that the Red-headed Woodpecker was far less abundant than in Butler’s era, but still occurred throughout the state. They also suggested that winter numbers were related to food availability.



Current Status

The Red-headed Woodpecker is Common (4) in migration, Fairly Common (5) in summer, and Uncommon (6) in winter.

Occurrence

Numbers of this striking woodpecker vary from year to year, apparently depending on the availability of the appropriate food. Over the past 20 years an average of 200 birds per year was reported with a maximum annual total of 646 in 2004 and a minimum of 54 in 1987. It is quite widespread and was recorded in every Indiana county during the Atlas project (Castrale et al. 1998).

Extreme Records

The largest daily counts occur mainly in fall; consequently, the 80 birds counted by K.P. Able on 6 April 1962 is quite remarkable. This estimated count was made during a trip to Jasper-Pulaski FWA and apparently included birds observed there and at other locations (Buskirk, W.H. 1962).

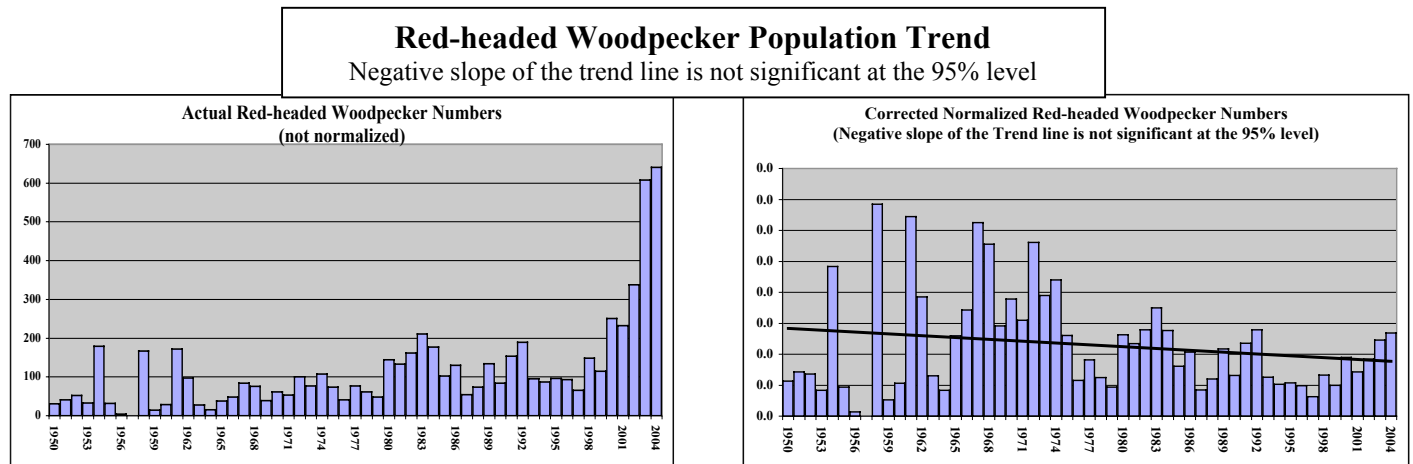
Status

Physical Evidence: Some 42 specimens and eggs are preserved (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				7
National Museum of Natural History				18*
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				7
Univ. of Michigan Museum				7*
Milwaukee Public Museum				1
Philadelphia Academy of Science				2
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	6	4	5	5
Central Tier	7	6	6	6
Southern Tier	6	6	6	4
Entire State	6	4	5	4

Population Trend

Although negative slope of the trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level, the 50-year trend suggests a decline.



Breeding

The Indiana Atlas project recorded breeding evidence in a remarkable 85 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks. Most nests are reported in May and June, but on 4 September 1999 A.W. Bruner observed adults feeding young at Willow Slough FWA (Buskirk 2000).

Red-headed Woodpecker Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
80	06-Apr-1962	NW Indiana	K.P. Able	IAQ
35	08-May-1971	Tippecanoe Co	I.W. Burr	IAQ
31	24-Apr-2004	Dunes S.P.	R.J. Pals	INB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
100	15-Nov-1958	Dunes S.P.	J.E. Landing	JEL
74	16-Nov-2003	Dunes S.P.	R.J. Pals	INB
62	20-Sep-1954	Jackson Co	R.E. Mumford	REM

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	Win. Res.	29-Mar	6-May	30-May	Sum. Res.	1018
Fall	Win. Res.	30-Jul	13-Sep	30-Oct	Sum. Res.	958

References Cited

Buskirk, W.H. (1962) Regional Reports, Northern Region Spring 1962 *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 40:14-17.

Buskirk, R.F. (2000) Field Notes Fall 1999 *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 78:127-134.

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.

IN-BIRD, a Listserve dealing with Indiana birds developed and maintained by P.W. Kelly. The records are archived at: is <http://listserv.indiana.edu/archives/in-bird-1.html>

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.