

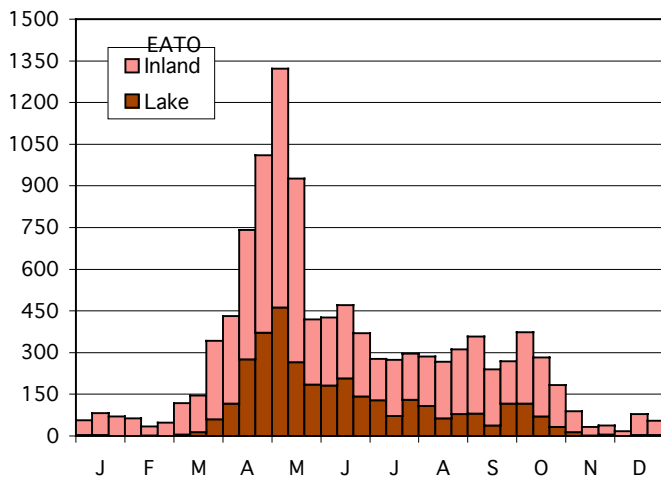
Eastern Towhee

Pipilo erythrophthalmus

Historical Information

First Published Record: An Eastern Towhee taken in Franklin County 1 April 1879 (Mumford files), appears to constitute the state's earliest formal report.

Butler (1898) deemed the "Towhee" a common resident in southern Indiana. Keller et al. (1979) considered it a common summer resident and uncommon to very rare in winter. Mumford and Keller (1984) described the "Rufous-sided Towhee" as a common summer resident, "with local exceptions."



Current Status

The Eastern Towhee is a Common (4) migrant and summer resident. It is Fairly Common (5) in the southern tier during winter.

Occurrence

The "Towhee" is quite common during the warmer months and is very widespread (recorded in all 92 Indiana counties). It inhabits scrub and savannah habitats. This striking bird tends to be more vocal in spring; consequently, the largest daily counts occur during that period.

Winter Records

Though numbers are reduced in winter, the Eastern Towhee is in reality a permanent resident in the state. Indeed, over the past 20 years an average of 9.8 winter birds has been reported annually; during this period it was not reported in only two years, 1986 and 1998. H.F. Wright recorded the maximum winter count of 16 in Marion County on 7 February 1932 (Mumford files).

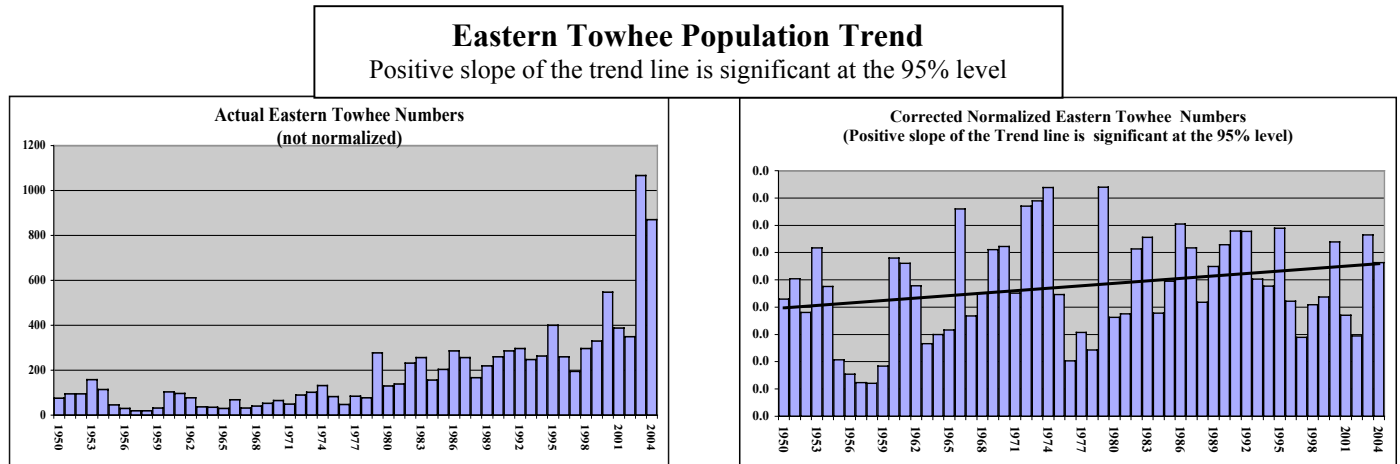
Status

Physical Evidence: At least 30 specimens, plus eggs and a nest, are archived in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				4
Chicago Field Museum				8
National Museum of Natural History				9*
Milwaukee Public Museum				2
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				8
Univ. of Michigan Museum				4*
*Includes eggs Nest at Nat. Museum				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	7	4	4	4
Central Tier	7	4	6	4
Southern Tier	5	4	5	5
Entire State	5	4	4	4

Population Trend

The Eastern Towhee population appears to be stable. Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in 85 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks. Mumford and Keller (1984) gave egg dates from 15 April through 20 August.

Eastern Towhee Data

Maximum Single Party Counts

Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
88	14-May-1983	Pulaski Co	Geoff Keller	IAQ
82	11-May-1995	Jasper-Pulaski FWA	R.S. Plank	IAQ
64	30-Apr-2003	Franklin Co	W.H. Buskirk	INB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
20	01-Aug-1979	Willow Slough FWA	T.T. Cable	REM
15	26-Sep-1961	Baileytown	V. Reuter-skiold	VRS
14	31-Aug-1994	Shades S.P.	A.W. Bruner	NNB

Migration Envelopes

Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Vis.	2-Apr	1-May	30-May	Sum. Res.	1265
Central	Win. Res.	24-Mar	25-Apr	19-May	Sum. Res.	366
South	Win. Res.	10-Mar	13-Apr	20-May	Sum. Res.	295
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	29-Jul	10-Sep	17-Oct	Win. Vis.	904
Central	Sum. Res.	28-Jul	27-Sep	3-Nov	Win. Res.	242
South	Sum. Res.	25-Jul	20-Sep	7-Nov	Win. Res.	188

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.