

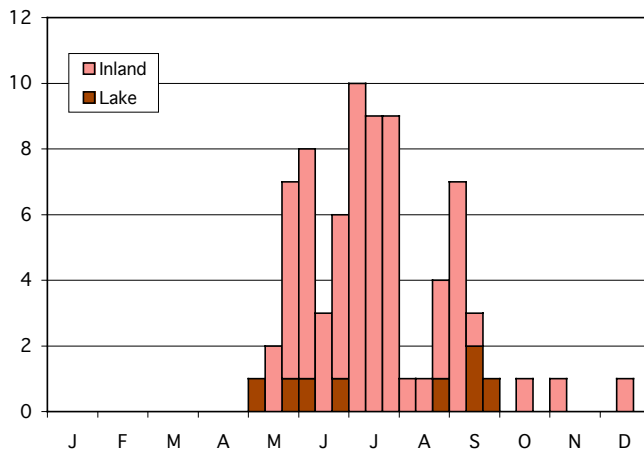
## Western Kingbird

## *Tyrannus verticalis*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: D.F. Boyd reported Indiana's first Western Kingbird in rural northern Porter County 6 June 1939 (Boyd notes).

Butler (1898) failed to mention this species. Keller et al. (1979) considered this handsome kingbird casual in Indiana. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted the presence of 19 records, but provided no status assessment.



### Status

Physical Evidence: There are no known Indiana specimens (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list), but numerous photos have been published.

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
No known specimens				0
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	9	8	9
Central Tier	n	10	n	n
Southern Tier	n	n	10	n
Entire State	n	9	8	9

### Current Status

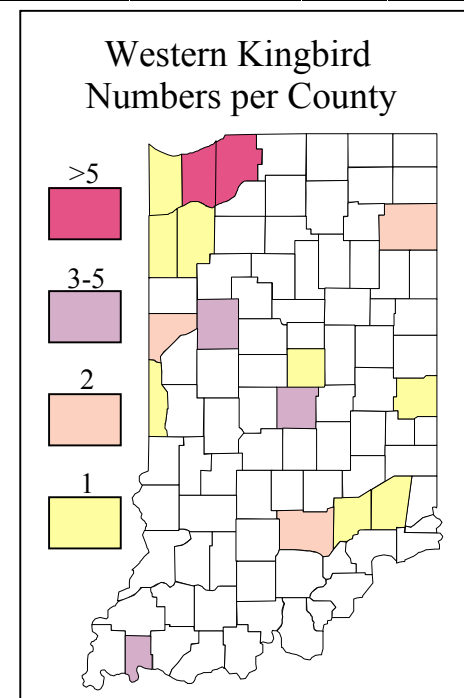
Numbers in the 20-Year abundance table indicate that the Western Kingbird is Very Rare (8) in summer. However, these data include reports of the Kingsbury FWA birds that nested annually throughout the 1993-1999 period. If these breeding records are disregarded the status is closer to Occasional (9).

### Occurrence

Western Kingbirds have been reported in 16 Indiana counties. Over the past 20 years an average of 2.6 birds per year has been reported (this includes the Kingsbury FWA nesting data). If the Kingsbury birds are removed an average of 0.6 Western Kingbirds was recorded over the past two decades.

### Extreme Records

A very late bird, seen by C.E. Keller at Sullivan Lake, Marion County on 2 November 1947, was described as, "hawking insects- all field marks observed with 7x50 binoculars" (Mumford files). The most remarkable late



report, however, was reported by J.B. Cope at the Hayes Arboretum, Richmond, Wayne County on 17 December 1971 (Buskirk 2003).

### Breeding

Indiana has two nesting records. B.J. Grube discovered the first breeding occurrence at a NIPSCO sub-station just outside the western boundary of Kingsbury FWA on 25 July 1993. Both adults and at least three fledglings were present (Jackson 1994). Observers the following day reported four young birds (Brock records). This site was occupied annually through 1999; however, after 1994 only one Western Kingbird was seen, which appeared to be mated with an Eastern Kingbird (Brock records).

The state's second breeding record occurred in Vanderburgh County, along old Henderson Road west of Evansville, where J.J. McCoy observed two adults carrying food to an apparent nest on 29 June 2003. Although the nest was never seen the adults repeatedly carried food to the same location in a sycamore and exited without the food (Hedge 2004).

Western Kingbird Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
5	25-Jul-1993	Kingsbury FWA	B.J. Grube	KJB
4	13-Jul-1999	Kingsbury FWA	J.A. Haw	Haw
3	27-Jul-1993	Kingsbury FWA	J.A. Haw	Haw
3	12-Jul-1994	Kingsbury FWA	C. Fields	KJB
3*	29-Jun-2003	Vanderburgh Co	J.J. McCoy	INB
*Includes two adults feeding unobserved young in a nest. Two birds were also recorded on three other occasions.				

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	9-May-2005	---	30-May	---	8-Jun-1996	18
Fall	16-Jul-1998	---	30-Aug	---	2-Nov-1947	23

### References Cited

Boyd notes. A compilation of field notes by D.F. Boyd, which is currently housed in the Indiana University Northwest Archives.

Brock records, Unpublished field notes and seasonal summaries compiled by K.J. Brock.

Buskirk, W.H. (2003) Birds of the Whitewater Valley, unpublished manuscript.

Butler, A. W. (1898) The Birds of Indiana, Indiana Department of Geology and Natural Resources Annual Report, 22:575-1187.

Hedge, R.L. (2004) Field Notes Summer 2003, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 82:81-108.

Jackson, S.F. (1994) Field Notes Summer 1993, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 72:77-91.

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.