

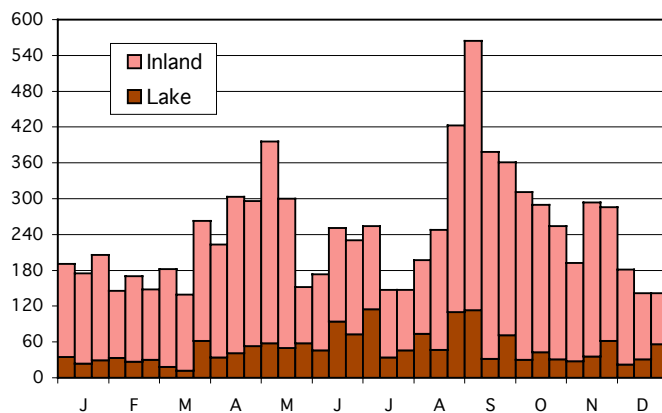
White-breasted Nuthatch

Sitta carolinensis

Historical Information

First Published Record: Indiana's earliest completely dated White-breasted Nuthatch report involved a specimen collected in Kosciusko County 15 September 1889 (Mumford files).

Butler (1898) considered the White-breasted Nuthatch a common resident throughout Indiana. Keller et al. (1979) also characterized it as a common resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed this nuthatch a common permanent resident.



Current Status

The White-breasted Nuthatch remains a Common (4) permanent resident.



White-breasted Nuthatch at Shipshewana on 3 February 2002.
Photo by J.K. Cassady.

Status

Physical Evidence: Some 18 specimens, plus eggs, are housed in the nation's museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

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

Occurrence

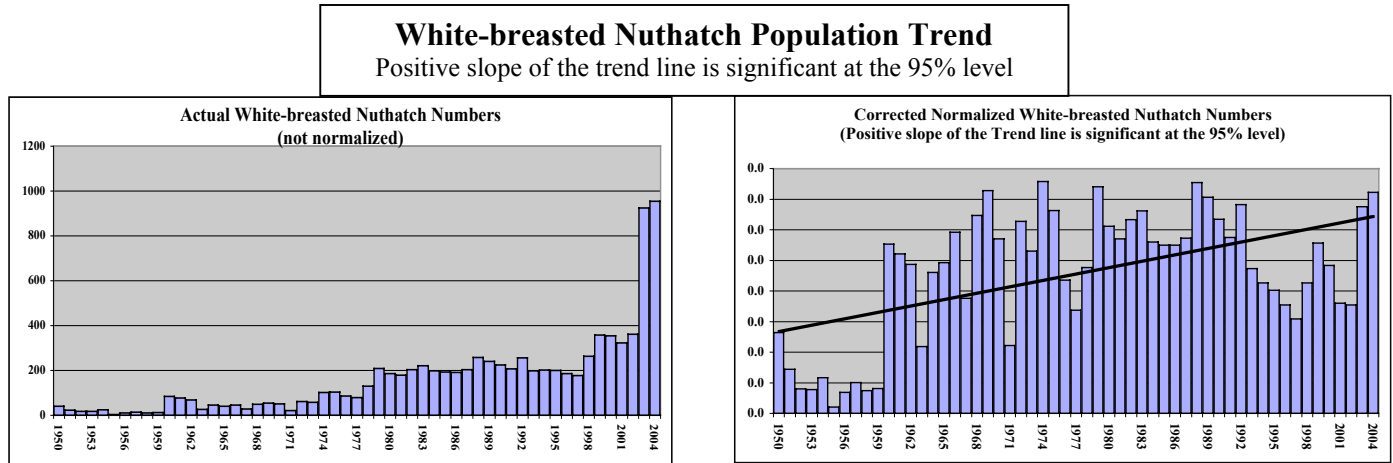
This widespread nuthatch has been reported in every Indiana county. Considerably more birds are reported from inland sites than along the lakefront (see migration histogram).

Migration

Though movements are usually quite subtle, this species is migratory. On 31 March 1981 hawk watchers at Mount Baldy (on the lakefront at the LaPorte – Porter County line) counted ten flying eastward along the lakefront. More impressively, in nearby Berrien County, Michigan flights of 100 birds were observed in October 1968 and 1975 (Mlodinow 1984). However, data in the migration histogram do not correlate well with these reports, and likely reflect observation bias. Therefore, migration envelopes were not calculated for this species.

Population Trend

Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in 89 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks; evidence was found in every county except Benton. Mumford and Keller (1984) report relatively few nesting records, but noted breeding activity from 3 March to 6 May.

White-breasted Nuthatch Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
32	30-Jun-2004	Multiple sites*	B.K. Jackson	BKJ
31	18-Nov-1990	Muscatatuck NWR	Steve Pelikan	NKE
31	22-Aug-2000	Monroe Co	C.L. Wood	INB
29	19-Jun-1999	Kankakee FWA	K.J. Brock	KJB
26	22-Jun-2001	Indiana Dunes	S.G. Mlodinow	SGM
25	17-Aug-2000	Lake Monroe	C.L. Wood	INB
*Dearborn (13), Ohio (6), Ripley (6), and Switzerland (7) Counties				

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.

Mlodinow, S.G. (1984) *Chicago Area Birds*, Chicago Review Press, Chicago, 220pp.

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.