

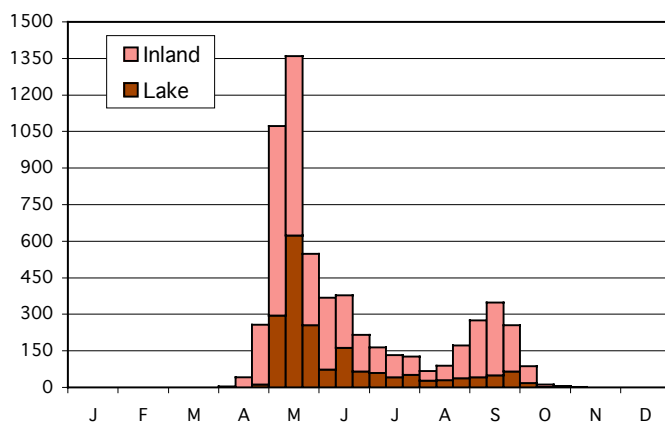
Scarlet Tanager

Piranga olivacea

Historical Information

First Published Record: A Scarlet Tanager collected in Franklin County 26 April 1881 (Mumford files) appears to constitute the state's first formal record.

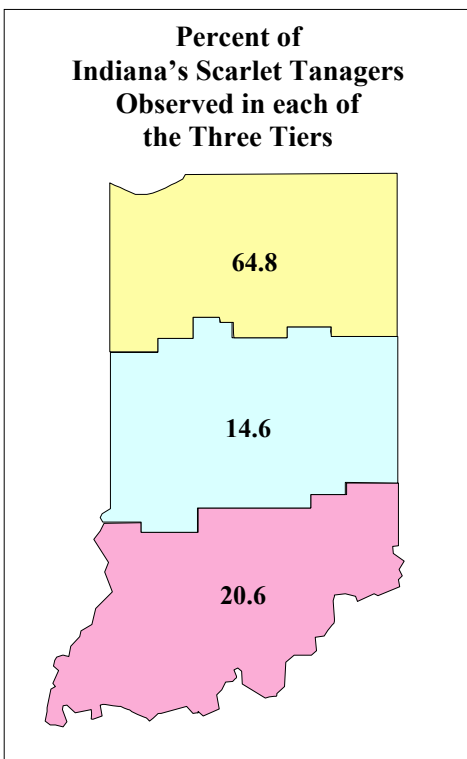
Butler (1898) considered the "Black-winged Redbird" a common summer resident throughout the state. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a fairly common summer resident and fairly common (north) to uncommon (south) summer resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) described the Scarlet Tanager as a fairly common migrant and most plentiful in summer across the northern third of the state.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some 25 specimens, plus eggs, are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).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				3
National Museum of Natural History				14
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				8
*Includes a clutch of eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	4	5	5
Central Tier	n	5	6	6
Southern Tier	n	5	6	6
Entire State	n	4	5	5



Current Status

The Scarlet Tanager is a Common (4) spring migrant, which is Fairly Common (5) as both a summer resident and fall migrant.

Occurrence

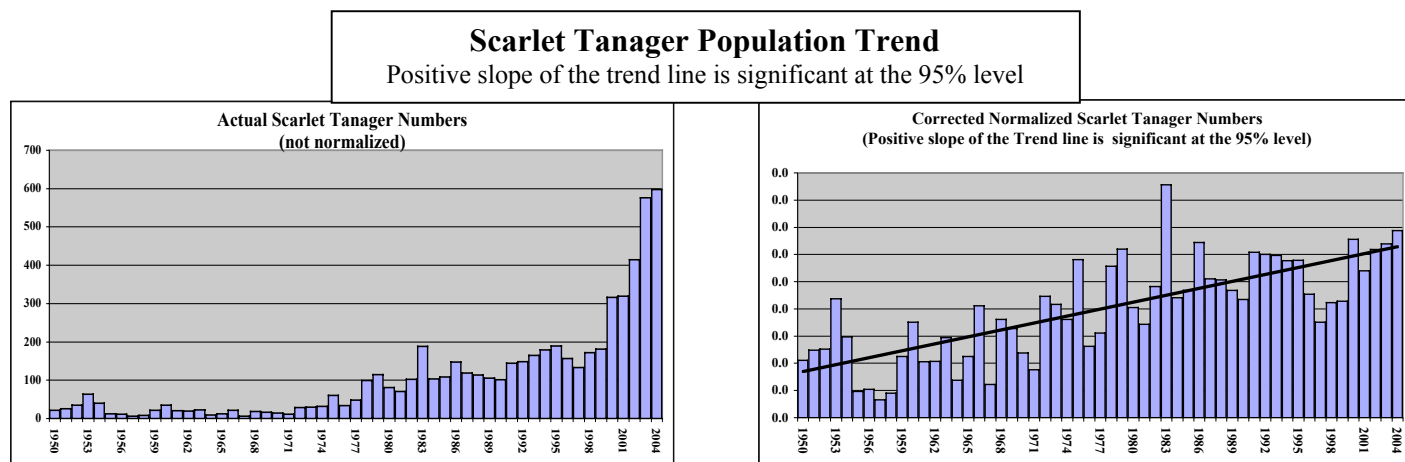
Having been reported in every Indiana county except Tipton, the Scarlet Tanager is Indiana's most common member of the genus *Piranga*. As suggested by previous authors the Scarlet Tanager is indeed most common in northern reaches of the state (see map). There is a distinct scarcity of birds in the central tier, no doubt attributable to a shortage of appropriate habitat.

Extreme Record

Most Scarlet Tanagers have left Indiana by mid-October; however, the state has a single November record. B.J. Grube found one in northern Porter County on 5 November 2003 (Brock 2004).

Population Trend

The 50-year population data suggest a prospering Scarlet Tanager population. Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

In the Indiana Atlas project breeding evidence was encountered in 63 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks (Castrale et al. 1998); the data were distributed widely across Indiana, but numbers were low in central and extreme southwestern portions of the state. Eggs have been reported from 25 May through 6 July, but R.E. Mumford observed fledglings, being fed by the female, in Jackson County 30 August 1952 (Mumford files) and in Eagle Creek Park Larry Peavler observed an adult feeding young in the nest on 25 August 2003 (Buskirk 2004).

Scarlet Tanager Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/early Summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
65*	16-May-2002	Lakefront	J.K. Cassady	KJB
44	14-May-1983	Pulaski Co	Geoff Keller	IAQ
43	06-Jun-2003	SW Indiana	L.W. Sterrenburg	NNB
*Longshore flight				
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
29	13-Sep-2000	Lake Monroe	C.L. Wood	INB
15	31-Aug-1994	Shades S.P.	A.W. Bruner	IAQ
12*	18-Sep-1989	Brown Co	C.E. Keller	IQM
*12 were observed on one additional occasion				

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records

North	10-Apr-1992	5-May	15-May	31-May	Sum. Res.	802
Central	12-Apr-1994	30-Apr	10-May	30-May	Sum. Res.	260
South	8-Apr-2001	21-Apr	5-May	5-Jun	Sum. Res.	240
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	13-Aug	9-Sep	29-Sep	5-Nov-2003	505
Central	Sum. Res.	24-Aug	19-Sep	8-Oct	12-Oct-1977	134
South	Sum. Res.	31-Aug	16-Sep	1-Oct	24-Oct-2003	153

References Cited

- Brock, K.J. (2004) Illinois and Indiana Region, Fall Migration 2003, *N. Am. Birds* 58:74-77.
- Buskirk, R.F. (2004) Field Notes Fall 2003 *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 82:107-130.
- 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.