

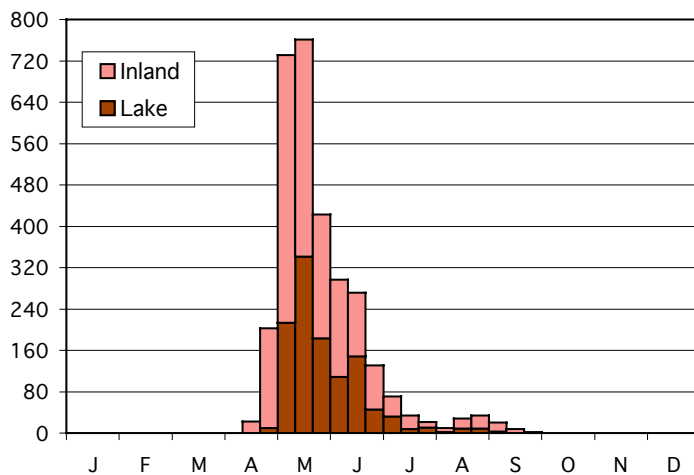
Cerulean Warbler

Dendroica cerulea

Historical Information

First Published Record: Indiana's earliest fully dated Cerulean Warbler record involved a specimen collected by A.W. Butler in Franklin County 9 May 1881 (Mumford files).

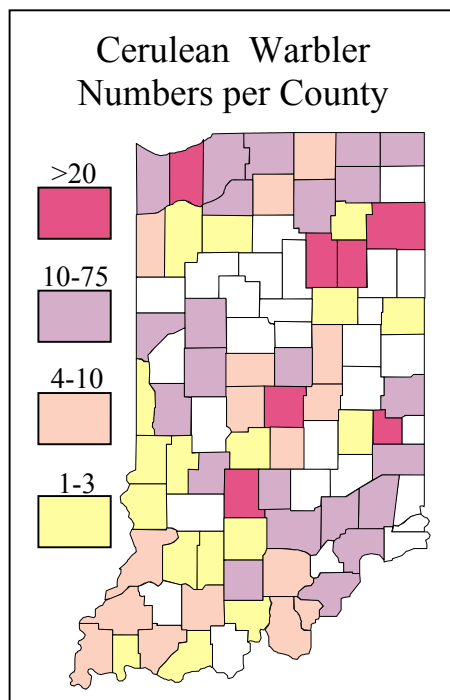
Butler (1898) described the "Blue Warbler" as locally, "the most common tree-inhabiting warbler, both during the migrations and in summer," in southeastern Indiana. Keller et al. (1979) considered it a fairly common summer resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed the Cerulean Warbler a fairly common summer resident, but rare in some areas.



Status

Physical Evidence: A remarkable 42 specimens are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				4
National Museum of Natural History				27
Milwaukee Public Museum				2
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				5
Univ. of Michigan Museum				4
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	5	5	7
Central Tier	n	6	6	7
Southern Tier	n	5	6	7
Entire State	n	5	5	7



Current Status

The Cerulean Warbler is Fairly Common (5) in spring and as a summer resident. It is Rare (7) in fall.

Occurrence

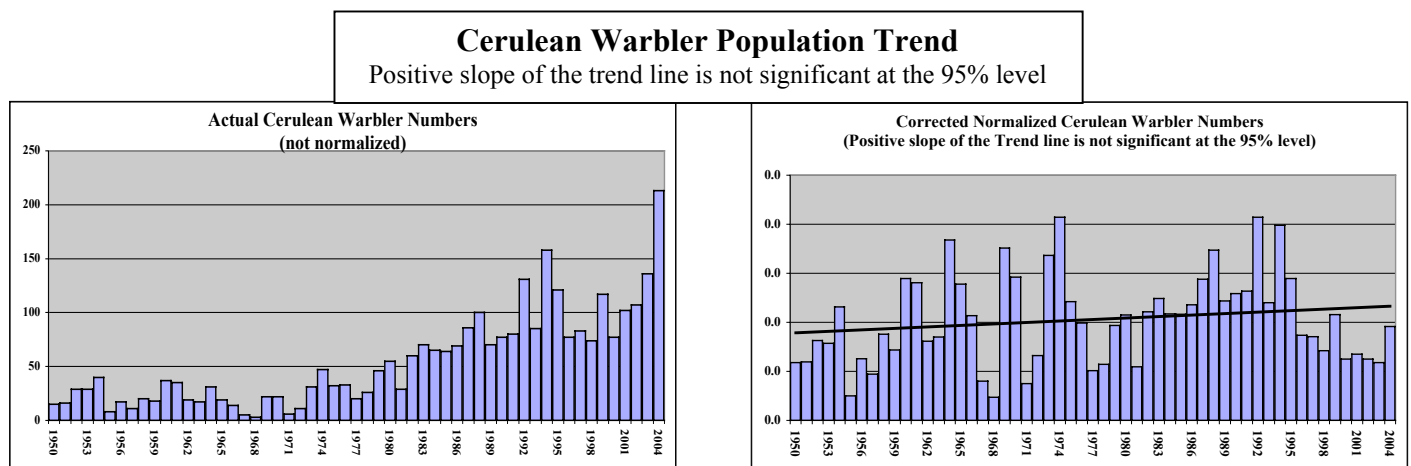
This breeding warbler is another member of the group that slips away inconspicuously as breeding activities wane in late summer (see migration histogram). Although it is most frequently encountered across the southern tier, Cerulean Warblers have been reported in at least 63 Indiana counties. As shown on the distribution map Cerulean Warblers are generally scarce in the central tier. As a migrant it ranks 14th in spring and 34th in fall.

Fall Migration

Autumn data are quite sparse, but indicate that the last stragglers depart in late September. However, Mumford and Keller (1984) reported a 4 October record, but gave no details or reference.

Population Trend

Although the 50-year population trend curve shows a slight positive slope, this slope is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level. Additionally, the corrected plot shows a precipitous decrease after 1995. The latter is consistent with Breeding Bird Survey data which show a statistically non-significant annual decline of 9.6 percent during the interval 1966 through 2004 (North American Breeding Bird Survey web page).



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in 21 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks, with the greatest concentration in the southern tier. It is currently listed as a species of special concern by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Active nests have been observed from 5 May through 23 June, but singing males have been heard well into August.

Cerulean Warbler Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/early Summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
31	08-May-1999	Indiana Dunes	L.S. Hinchman	BBC
27	09-May-1987	Dunes S.P.	B. Atzhorn (Squires)	KJB
20	11-Jun-2002	Big Oaks NWR	J.P. Lewis	BON
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
3	18-Aug-1989	National Lakeshore	K.J. Brock	KJB
2	12-Aug-1991	National Lakeshore	K.J. Brock	KJB
2*	13-Aug-1952	Washington Co	R.E. Mumford	REM
*2 were recorded on a dozen additional occasions				

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	17-Apr- 1890	5-May	15-May	3-Jun	Sum. Res.	620
Central	13-Apr-1976	27-Apr	9-May	29-May	Sum. Res.	223
South	13-Apr-1979	22-Apr	8-May	2-Jun	Sum. Res.	167
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	23-Jul	22-Aug	7-Sep	17-Sep-1996	69
Central	Sum. Res.	---	26-Aug	---	24-Sep-2003	24
South	Sum. Res.	---	21-Aug	---	25-Sep-1981	16



Migrant female Cerulean Warbler at Jeorse Park, East Chicago on 10 May 1995. Photo by J.K. Cassady.

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.

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