

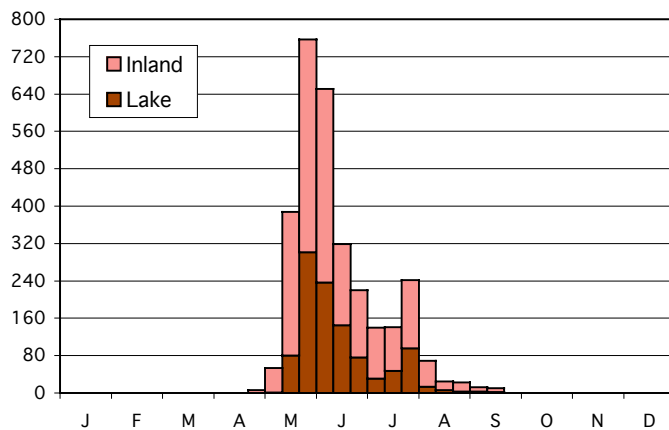
Willow Flycatcher

Empidonax traillii

Historical Information

First Published Record: This species was part of the “Traill’s Flycatcher” complex in Butler’s era, a fact that greatly complicates establishing the earliest date. Butler (1898) lists several nineteenth century “Traill’s” records, but it remains uncertain that they were in fact Willow Flycatchers. Consequently, it appears that J.A. Haw identified Indiana’s earliest definite Willow Flycatcher at Fox Island Park, Allen County on 2 June 1973 (Haw records).

Butler (1890) described “Traill’s Flycatcher” as a “summer resident, generally distributed, and locally common.” Keller et al. (1979) considered this non-descript flycatcher a common to fairly common (south) summer resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted an abundance decrease, but still considered it fairly common to common.



Current Status

The Willow Flycatcher is a Common (4) summer resident.

Occurrence

This close relative of the Alder Flycatcher is much more widespread and more frequently encountered than its kin. Indeed, the Willow Flycatcher has been reported in virtually every Indiana county, though formal records exist for only 72 counties. The distribution map suggests that the lowest density occurs in the central and southern tiers.

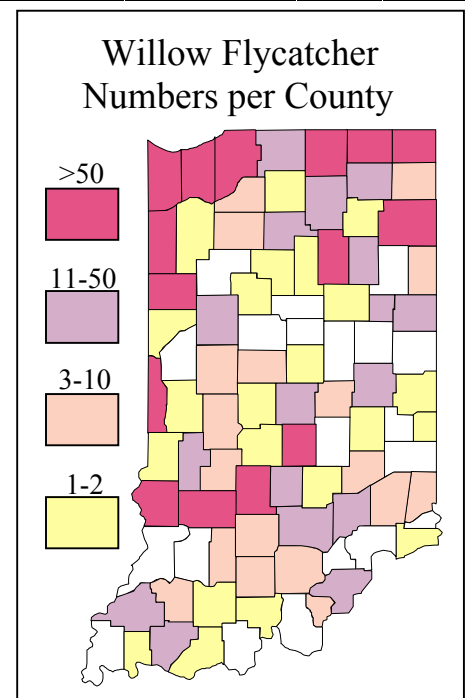
Migration

Singing birds allow easy identification of this plain flycatcher, which explains the numerous spring records. Fall migrants are more often silent; consequently the fall flight is poorly defined.

Status

Physical Evidence: At least three specimens are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				1
National Museum of Natural History				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	5	4	7
Central Tier	n	6	6	6
Southern Tier	n	5	5	7
Entire State	n	5	4	7



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) collected breeding evidence in 59 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks. This evidence was distributed uniformly across the state except for sparse reports from counties adjacent to the Ohio River. Mumford and Keller (1984) list egg dates from 6 June through 16 July. Casebere (2002) lists more than two-dozen nest records, all containing either eggs or young.

Willow Flycatcher Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/Summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
32	4-Jun-2005	Lakefront	J.K. Cassady	KJB
25	12-Jun-2004	Lakefront	S.R. Bagby	KJB
23	22-May-2004	Beverly Shores	J.K. Cassady	KJB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
11	03-Aug-2003	Multiple Sites*	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
6	1-Aug-2005	Greene Co	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
5	09-Aug-1998	Eagle Creek Park	R.F. Buskirk	IQM
*Universal Mine (10) and Chinook Mine (1)				

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	5-May-1985	16-May	29-May	14-Jun	Sum. Res.	525
Central	2-May-1987	11-May	26-May	8-Jun	Sum. Res.	74
South	21-Apr-1989	11-May	25-May	6-Jun	Sum. Res.	135
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	18-Jul	26-Jul	26-Aug	14-Sep-1981	79
Central	Sum. Res.	16-Jul	2-Aug	4-Sep	20-Sep-1988	38
South	Sum. Res.	20-Jul	30-Jul	26-Aug	20-Sep-1987	49

References Cited

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

Casebere, L.A. (2002) Northeastern Indiana Willow Flycatcher Nest Records, with a Comparison of Willow and Alder Flycatchers, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 80:1-10.

Castrale, J.S., E.M. Hopkins, and C.E. Keller (1998) Atlas of breeding Birds of Indiana, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 388 pp.

Haw records: personal field notes recorded by J.A. Haw, beginning in 1972.

Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller (1979) *Indiana Birds and Their Haunts*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 214 pp.

Mumford, R.E. and C.E. Keller (1984) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 376 pp.