

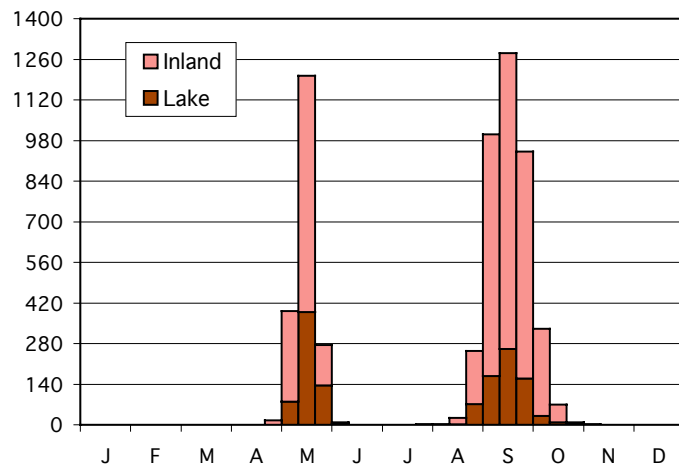
Bay-breasted Warbler

Dendroica castanea

Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1898) mentioned that Bay-breasted Warblers were reportedly common in Lake County in 1871, but provided no specific date. The earliest fully dated record, also from Lake County, occurred 3 October 1875 (Butler 1898).

Butler (1898) considered this warbler usually very rare in spring and much more common in fall. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a fairly common migrant. Mumford and Keller (1984) referred to the Bay-breasted Warbler as a fairly common spring and common fall migrant.

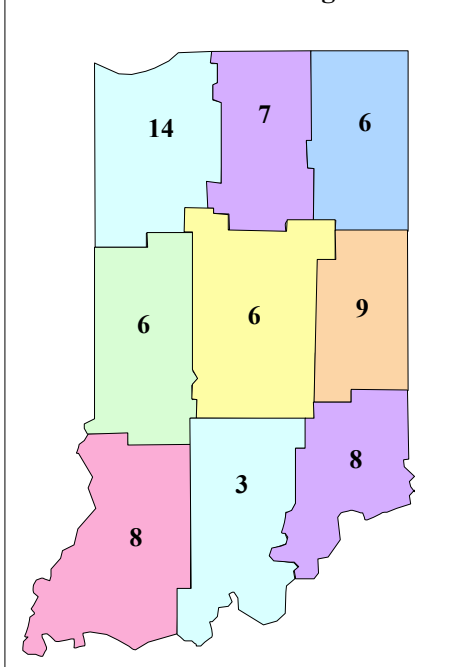


Status

Physical Evidence: Some 15 specimens are archived in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

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

Fall Abundance Rankings of the Bay-breasted Warbler in Nine Indiana Regions



Current Status

In accord with Mumford and Keller's 1984 assessment, the Bay-breasted Warbler remains a Fairly Common (5) spring and a Common (4) fall migrant.

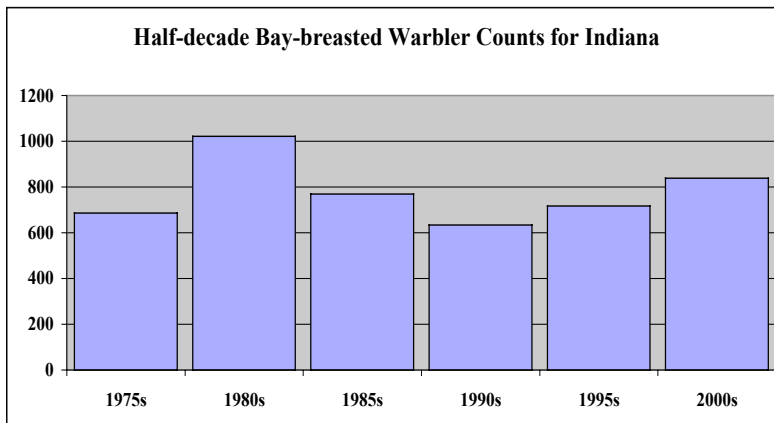
Occurrence

Bay-breasted Warblers have been recorded in more than 72 counties where it joins the migrant warbler flocks. However, annual totals vary widely from year to year especially during the fall flight. Over the past two decades statewide autumn totals have ranged from a maximum of 145 in 1995 to only 43 in 1997. The all-time highest annual counts occurred in the period 1982-1985 (see graph below). Note also that three of the six highest single party counts listed in the maximum count table came from this period. Other than an increase in the early 1980s (see graph), half-

decade totals have remained rather constant in recent years, despite a major increase in observer effort.

Migration

The migration histogram confirms earlier author's observations that this warbler is more common in fall than spring. Indeed for the entire state the Bay-breasted ranks 17th in spring and 8th in fall; however, autumn abundances are not uniform across the state. For example, fall Bay-breasted Warblers are considerably less common in northwestern Indiana, where it ranks 14th among fall migrants, than elsewhere in the state (see map). Even more remarkably, *D. castanea* is the 3rd most common fall warbler in south-central Indiana (see map).



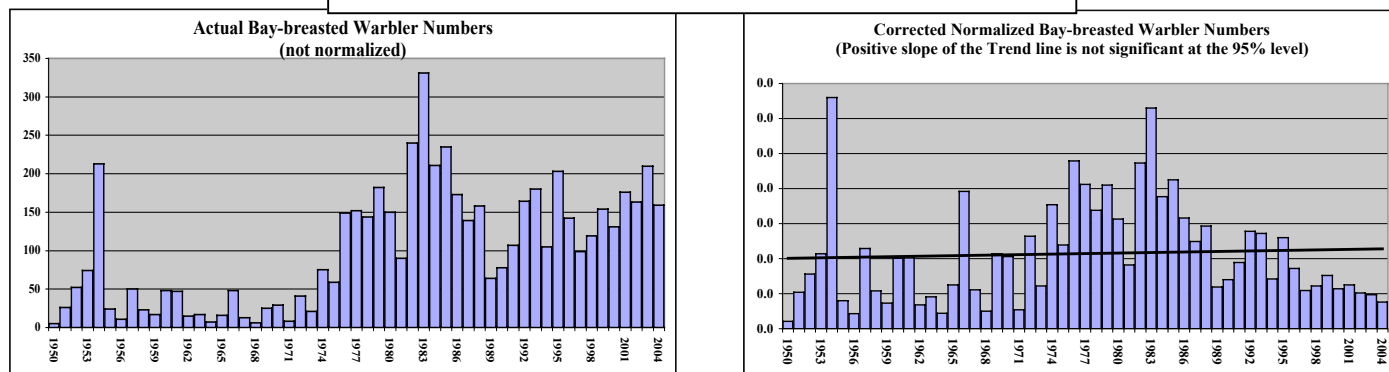
Summer Records

A half-dozen late migrants have been reported in northern Indiana during the first three days of June. S.R. Bagby recorded the only other summer Bay-breasted in the Indiana Dunes at Furnessville on 23 July 1995 (Brock 1995).

Population Trend

Abundance trend data are consistent with a decline in the Bay-breasted population over the past 20 years. The 50-year population data is ambiguous. Though slightly positive in slope, the trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level. The corrected plot also shows a consistent decline since the mid-1980s.

Bay-breasted Warbler Population Trend
Positive slope of the trend line is not significant at the 95% level



Bay-breasted Warbler Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
43	17-May-1946	Marion Co	C.E. Keller	REM
39	14-May-1983	Wayne Co	W.H. Buskirk	IAQ
30*	14-May-1983	Dunes St Park	Steve Getty	KJB
*30 were reported on two additional occasions				
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
61	20-Sep-1954	Multiple Sites*	R.E. Mumford	REM
50	22-Sep-1982	Lake Waveland	A.W. Bruner	REM
31	08-Sep-1979	Fox Island Park	J.A. Haw	Haw
*Lawrence Co (55) and Jackson Co (6)				

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	24-Apr-1975	8-May	15-May	24-May	3-Jun-1997	506
Central	26-Apr-1969	6-May	15-May	23-May	31-May-1983	184
South	25-Apr-1996	3-May	9-May	18-May	28-May-1983	89
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	23-Jul-1995	31-Aug	12-Sep	28-Sep	1-Nov-1980	801
Central	21-Aug-1978	5-Sep	20-Sep	6-Oct	1-Nov-1983	457
South	21-Aug-1988	8-Sep	23-Sep	9-Oct	23-Oct-1965	247

References Cited

Brock, K.J. (1995) Middlewestern Prairie Region, Breeding Season 1995, *Nat. Audubon Soc. Field Notes* 49:932-937.

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

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.

Last modified: 12 Oct 2005