

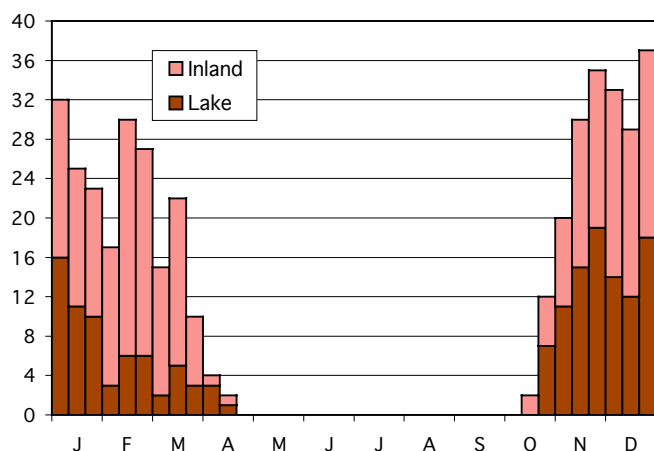
Northern Shrike

Lanius excubitor

Historical Information

First Published Record: A “Gray Shrike” specimen, taken by A.W. Butler in Franklin County 3 December 1880 (Mumford files) appears to constitute the state’s earliest formal record.

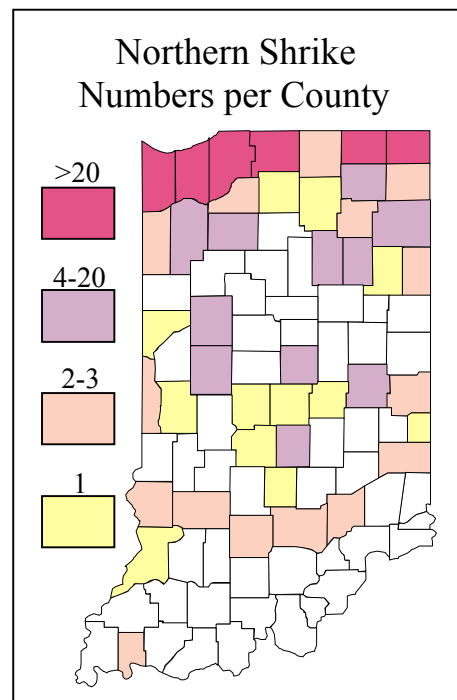
Butler (1898) deemed this shrike a “tolerably common winter resident” in the north, but an irregular rare visitor elsewhere. Keller et al. (1979) described it as an irregular very rare winter visitant in the north and casual in the balance of the state. Mumford and Keller (1984) considered the Northern Shrike a locally rare to uncommon winter resident in northern Indiana, and very rare in central Indiana.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some seven specimens are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson, unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				4
National Museum of Natural History				1
Philadelphia Academy of Sciences				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	6	7	n	7
Central Tier	7	8	n	7
Southern Tier	10	10	n	9
Entire State	6	7	n	7



Current Status

The Northern Shrike is an Uncommon (6) winter resident in the northern tier.

Occurrence

As shown on the distribution map the Northern Shrike occurs most frequently in northern tier of counties. Over the past two decades some 14.9 birds per year were recorded, but numbers vary considerably from year to year. Indeed, Butler (1898) described it as quite common at Brookville during the winter of 1880-81. Over the past 30 years major incursions occurred in 1976-77, 1981-82, 1986-87, 1995-96, 2000-01, and 2004-05.

Southerly Records

The southernmost record occurred in Vanderburgh County where Virgil and Doris Eicker examined two in hand after accidentally capturing them in a sparrow trap on 30 December 1972 (Keller et al. 1979).

Northern Shrike Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
6	23-Dec-1956	Lakefront	Raymond Grow	IAQ
3	02-Jan-1955	N. Lake Co	Raymond Grow	Grow
3	05-Dec-1986	Atterbury FWA	C.E. Keller	IAQ
3	29-Jan-2005	Kingsbury FWA	J.J. McCoy	INB
2	14-Nov-1981	Multiple Sites	H.E. Dancey	KJB
2*	14-Nov-1981	Beverly Shores	Fred Kase	IAQ
*Two birds were recorded on at least five additional occasions.				

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Winter	11-Oct-1993	3-Nov	Win. Res.	19-Mar	13-Apr-1957	370

References Cited

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 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.