

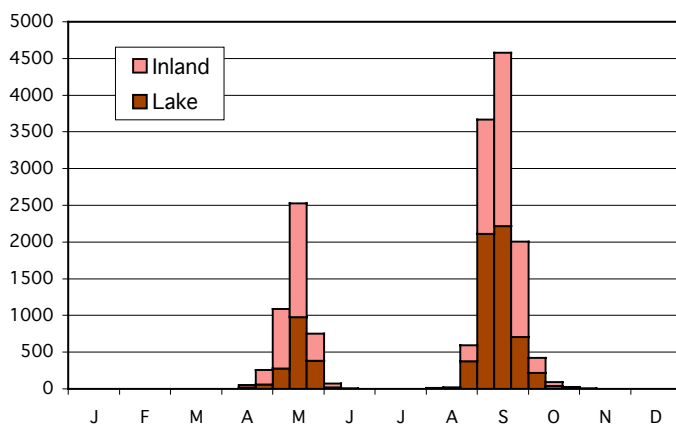
## Swainson's Thrush

## *Catharus ustulatus*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: Brayton (1879) mentioned the presence of this thrush in northern Indiana, but the earliest specifically dated report occurred at Brookville where A.W. Butler observed one 8 May 1882 (Butler 1898).

Butler (1898) considered the "Olive-backed Thrush" a common migrant and possible rare breeder. Keller et al. (1979) listed it as a common migrant, which was casual in winter in the south. Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed this thrush a common migrant and very rare winter resident.



### Status

Physical Evidence: At least 30 specimens are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Carnegie Museum of Natural History				2
Chicago Field Museum				1
National Museum of Natural History				16
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				8
Univ. of Michigan Museum				3
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	4	7	3
Central Tier	n	4	7	3
Southern Tier	n	4	8	3
Entire State	n	4	7	3



Winter Swainson's Thrush on State Park Boundary Road, Indiana Dunes State Park 31 January 1981. Photo by K.J. Brock.

### Current Status

Swainson's Thrush is a Common (4) to Very Common (3) migrant.

### Occurrence

This migrant *Catharus* thrush appears in considerably greater numbers in fall than in spring. Indeed, the autumn numbers exceed those in spring by a factor of 2.5. The Swainson's Thrush has been

reported in more than 78 counties and roughly ten are reported for every Gray-cheeked Thrush, a very similar *Catharus* thrush.

### Extreme Records

Spring Swainson's Thrushes frequently dally well into June, creating some 60 records for that month. Of these reports only one occurred later than the 16<sup>th</sup>: Joy Bower reported one in her Hammond yard 21 June 2003 (Hedge 2004). Most remarkable, among a handful of winter Swainson's Thrush reports, was one observed (and photographed) in Dunes State Park 31 January 1981 (Kleen 1981 and Brock notes).

### **Swainson's Thrush Data**

<b>Migration Envelopes</b>						
<b>Spring</b>						
	<b>Earliest</b>	<b>Arrive</b>	<b>Peak</b>	<b>Depart</b>	<b>Latest</b>	<b>Records</b>
<b>North</b>	29-Mar-2004	2-May	15-May	25-May	10-Jun-1955	902
<b>Central</b>	7-Apr-1998	30-Apr	15-May	26-May	6-Jun-1993	424
<b>South</b>	17-Apr-1975	27-Apr	11-May	25-May	5-Jun-1968	184
<b>Fall</b>						
	<b>Earliest</b>	<b>Arrive</b>	<b>Peak</b>	<b>Depart</b>	<b>Latest</b>	<b>Records</b>
<b>North</b>	29-Jul-1962	1-Sep	14-Sep	30-Sep	9-Nov-85	1298
<b>Central</b>	25-Jul-1981	5-Sep	17-Sep	5-Oct	25-Nov-71	845
<b>South</b>	25-Aug-1962	10-Sep	21-Sep	4-Oct	5-Nov-61	187

<b>Maximum Single Party Counts</b>				
<b>Spring</b>				
<b>Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observer</b>	<b>Ref.</b>
65	11-May-1996	E. Beverly Shores	J.J. McCoy	KJB
61	11-May-1996	Geist Reservoir	R.F. Buskirk	IAQ
55	19-May-1984	Dunes St Park	W.H. Buskirk	KJB
<b>Fall</b>				
<b>Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observer</b>	<b>Ref.</b>
350	13-Sep-2000	Lake Monroe	C.L. Wood	INB
220	21-Sep-2003	Monroe Co	J. & S. Hengeveld	INB
202	20-Sep-2003	Monroe Co	J. & S. Hengeveld	INB
All three of the above represent nocturnal flight counts.				

### **References Cited**

Brayton, A.W. (1879) A Catalogue of the Birds of Indiana, *Transactions of the Indiana Horticultural Society*, pp. 144-146.

Brock notes: personal field notes and seasonal summaries beginning in 1972.

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

Hedge, R.L. (2004) Field Notes Summer 2003, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 82:81-108.

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

Kleen V.M. (1981) Field Notes Winter 1980-81, *American Birds* 35:304-307.

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