

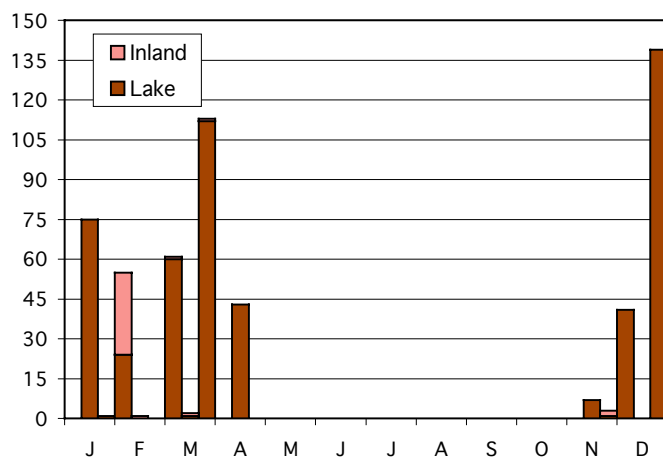
Bohemian Waxwing

Bombycilla garrulus

Historical Information

First Published Record: According to Butler (1897) J.E. Beasley collected 19 Bohemian Waxwings as they were flycatching over the White River in Indianapolis about 1856. However, the earliest fully dated report involved more than 100, which were reportedly killed in Whiting on 30 March 1880, and taken to a Chicago taxidermist (Woodruff 1907).

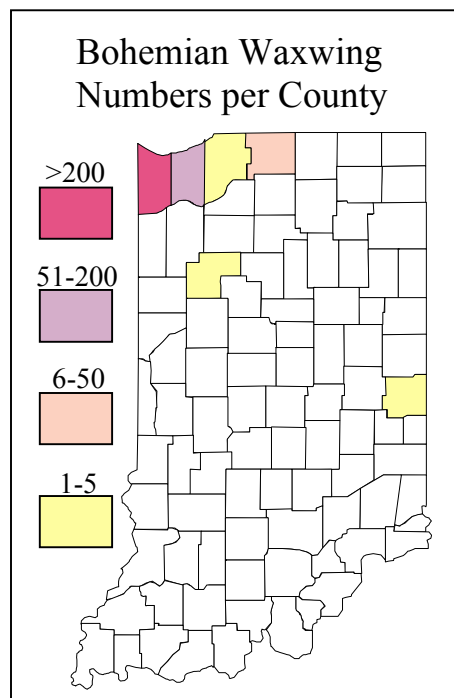
Butler (1898) characterized this large waxwing an irregular winter visitor in the north and casual farther south. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a casual winter visitant in northern and central Indiana. Mumford and Keller (1984) described the Bohemian Waxwing as a very rare and irregular winter visitor in the northern third of the state.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some 13 specimens are known to exist in various museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and Buskirk 2003).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				1
Chicago Field Museum				9
National Museum of Natural History				1
Milwaukee Public Museum				1
J. Moore Museum, Earlham College				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	9	n	n	8
Central Tier	n	n	n	n
Southern Tier	n	n	n	n
Entire State	9	n	n	8



Current Status

The Bohemian Waxwing is a Very Rare (8) visitor in northwestern Indiana.

Occurrence

The status of this north woods bird has changed markedly over the last 100 years or so. Some 91 percent of all Bohemian Waxwings reported in the state occurred prior to 1950. All of the very large counts (see maximum count table) occurred prior to 1921. Clearly, this waxwing is encountered considerably less often, and in lower numbers, than was the case a century ago. The “broken comb-tooth” pattern shown in the migration histogram reflects a modest number of records with many birds in most reports.

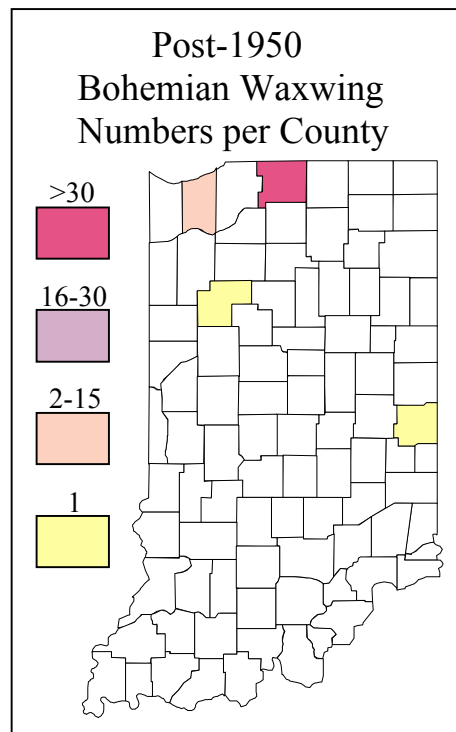
Extralimital Records

In addition to the 19 birds reportedly shot by Beasley about 1856, only one other dated report exists outside the northern tier. According to Buskirk (2003) a Richmond boy shot one (in a Starling flock) on 3 March 1962; the specimen is in the Joseph Moore Museum at Earlham College.

The state's only other report away from the northern border occurred in White County where I.W. Burr and others, saw one at Lake Freeman 17, 18, and 24 March 1962 (Mumford files). The Mumford files also mentioned a female in the C.A. Stockbridge collection labeled 1878, which was collected in Fort Wayne; this undated record was excluded from the distribution map.

"Modern" Records

Some 14 records have occurred since 1950; the largest of these, by a wide margin, consisted of a flock of 22 birds reported in South Bend by D. and M. Weddle 2 February 1964 (Mumford files). The distribution of post-1950 Bohemian Waxwings in Indiana is illustrated in the map on the right.



Bohemian Waxwing Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
100	30-Mar-1880	Whiting Park	H.K. Coale	FMW
100	21-Dec-1919	Miller Beach	H.L. Stoddard	HLS
75	18-Jan-1920	N. Porter Co	H.L. Stoddard	HLS
60	07-Mar-1920	West Beach	H.L. Stoddard	HLS
43	15-Apr-1920	Lakefront	H.L. Stoddard	HLS
40	04-Dec-1880	Whiting Park	R.A. Turtle	FMW

Migration Envelopes						
Entire state						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Winter	12-Nov-1989	16-Nov	Win. Vis.	30-Mar	15-Apr-1920	30

References Cited

Buskirk, W.H. (2003) Birds of the Whitewater Valley, unpublished manuscript.

Butler, A. W. (1897) The Unusual Occurrence of Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*) Far Inland, with Notes on Other Rare Birds, *Auk*, 14: 197-200.

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.

Woodruff, F.M. (1907) *Birds of the Chicago Area*. Chicago Acad. Sci., Bull. Nat. Hist. Surv., no. 6, 221 pp.