

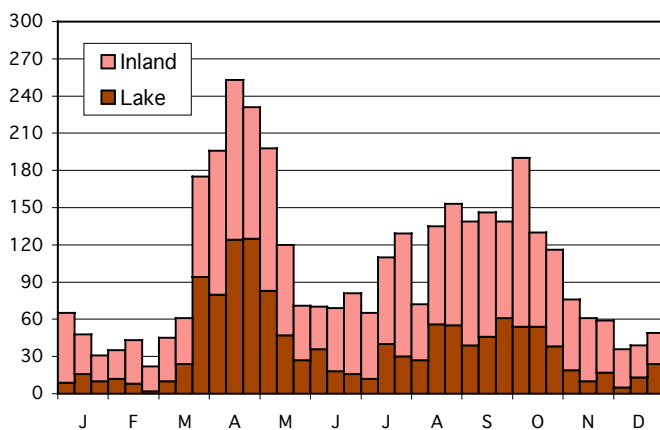
Belted Kingfisher

Ceryle alcyon

Historical Information

First Published Record: According to the Mumford files a mounted female in the C.A. Stockbridge collection was taken 10 August 1868; this constitutes the state's earliest fully dated record.

Butler (1898) considered the Kingfisher a common summer resident and a permanent resident in southern portions of the state. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a common summer resident, which became rare to uncommon in winter. Mumford and Keller (1984) described it as a permanent resident, in small numbers, throughout the state.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some ten specimens, plus eggs, are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

| STATUS TABLE | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Specimens | | | | |
| Museum | | | | No. |
| Chicago Field Museum | | | | 4 |
| National Museum of Natural History | | | | 1 |
| Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory | | | | 3 |
| Univ. of Michigan Museum | | | | 4* |
| *Includes eggs | | | | |
| 20-Year Abundance Table | | | | |
| | Win | Spr | Sum | Fall |
| Northern Tier | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| Central Tier | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Southern Tier | 6 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| Entire State | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 |

Current Status

The Belted Kingfisher is Fairly Common (5) during migration and Uncommon (6) at other times.

Occurrence

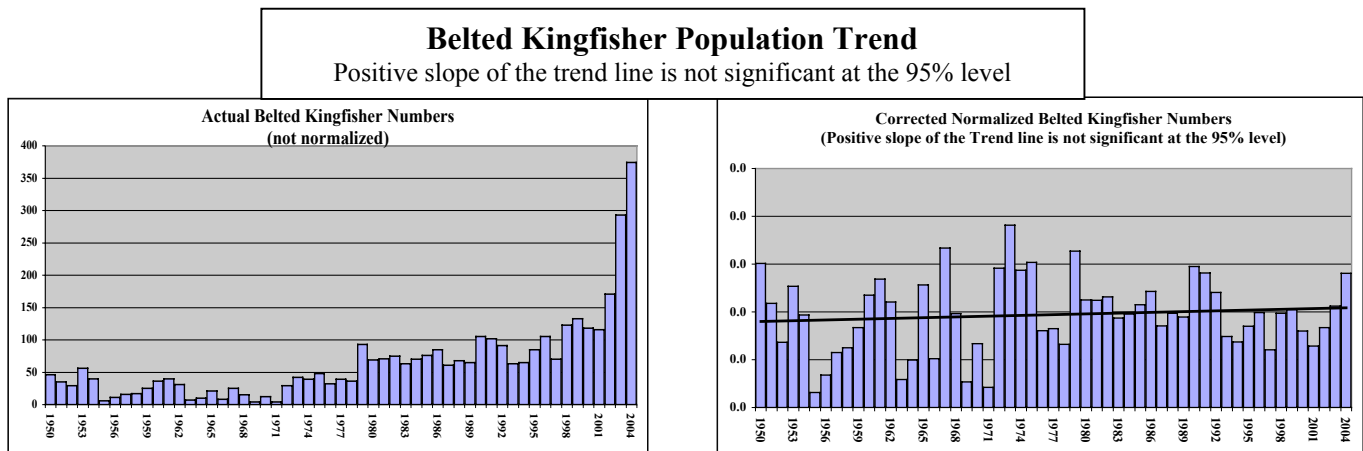
This familiar and widespread bird has been reported in at least 91 counties. Over the past two decades an average of 112 birds per year has been recorded in the state.

Extreme Records

Only a handful of double digit counts has been reported. The largest consisted of 16 birds counted by B.K. Jackson in Dearborn, Ohio, Ripley, and Switzerland Counties (see maximum count table) during a 30 June 2004 summer bird census (pers. comm.). Indiana's second largest tally (15 birds) was logged by Steve Glass on 21 October 1972 along a nine mile stretch of the Whitewater River southeast of Metamora, Franklin County (Carter 1973).

Population Trend

The slightly positive slope of the trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

According to Castrale et al. (1998) the Indiana Atlas program recorded breeding evidence in 65 percent of the 647 priority blocks. The greatest density of confirmed nesting occurred in a belt across the southern portion of the central tier. Eggs have been reported from 7 April through 21 May and adults have been observed feeding young as late as 3 July (Mumford files).

| Belted Kingfisher Data | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Maximum Single Party Counts | | | | |
| Spring/Summer | | | | |
| Number | Date | Location | Observer | Ref. |
| 16 | 30-Jun-2004 | Multiple sites* | B.K. Jackson | BKJ |
| 10 | 8-Jul-2004 | S.E. Indiana | B.K. Jackson | BKJ |
| 8 | 01-Apr-1940 | Marion Co | H.F. Wright | REM |
| *Dearborn(5), Ohio(2), Ripley(4), and Switzerland(5) Counties | | | | |
| Fall | | | | |
| Number | Date | Location | Observer | Ref. |
| 15 | 21-Oct-1972 | Franklin Co | Steve Glass | IAQ |
| 7 | 15-Aug-1979 | Willow Slough FWA | T.T. Cable | REM |
| 7* | 24-Aug-1985 | Pigeon River FWA | J.A. Haw | Haw |
| *7 were reported on one additional occasion | | | | |

| Migration Envelopes | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|
| Spring | | | | | | |
| | Earliest | Arrive | Peak | Depart | Latest | Records |
| North | Win. Res. | 24-Mar | 20-Apr | 22-May | Sum. Res. | 731 |
| Central | Win. Res. | 14-Mar | 21-Apr | 20-May | Sum. Res. | 138 |
| South | Win. Res. | 13-Mar | 18-Apr | 15-May | Sum. Res. | 84 |
| Fall | | | | | | |
| | Earliest | Arrive | Peak | Depart | Latest | Records |
| North | Sum. Res. | 29-Jul | 17-Sep | 2-Nov | Win. Res. | 797 |
| Central | Sum. Res. | 30-Jul | 19-Sep | 15-Nov | Win. Res. | 148 |
| South | Sum. Res. | 31-Jul | 8-Oct | 12-Nov | Win. Res. | 118 |

References Cited

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

Carter, A.L. (1973) Field Notes Fall 1972, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 51:85-93.

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

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.