

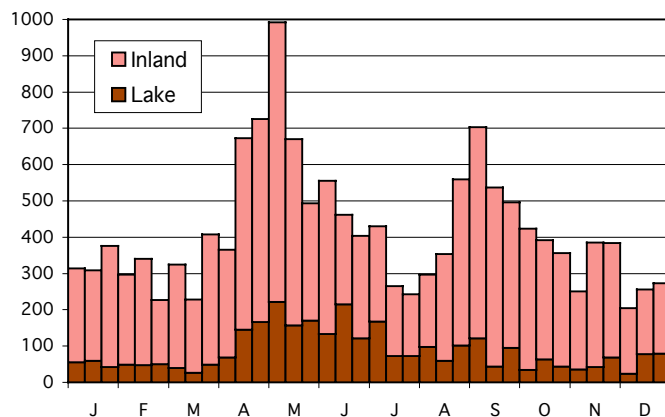
Tufted Titmouse

Baeolophus bicolor

Historical Information

First Published Record: A pair, reported by H.K. Coale in Starke County 1 January 1884 (Butler 1898), appears to constitute the state's earliest published record.

Regarding this species Butler (1890) wrote, "Abundant resident in the southern part of the State, becoming rarer as one proceeds northward until it is unknown as a resident about half way from Indianapolis to the northern State line. North of its resident range it appears occasionally as a straggler, generally in autumn, spring and winter." Keller et al. (1979) considered it a common resident in the north and abundant elsewhere. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted expansion of this species into northern Indiana, but provided no status assessment.



Current Status

Today the Tufted Titmouse is a Common (4) resident throughout the state.

Occurrence

Having moved northward at least 70 miles since Butler's 1898 publication the Titmouse is now Common (4) in the northern tier. However, its advancement has not proceeded far beyond northern Indiana as Mlodinow (1984) reports it as uncommon in the Chicago area north of I-80. It is now quite widespread with reports from every Indiana county.

Migration

Although movements are usually cryptic, the Tufted Titmouse does undertake migrations. According to Mumford and Keller (1984) Butler implied migration and today numbers in the northern tier are lowest in winter (see 20-year abundance table). The most compelling evidence, however, comes from nearby Berrien County, Michigan where Walter Booth observed 115 titmice migrating along the lakefront on 10 October 1975 (Mlodinow 1984). It is still quite likely

Status

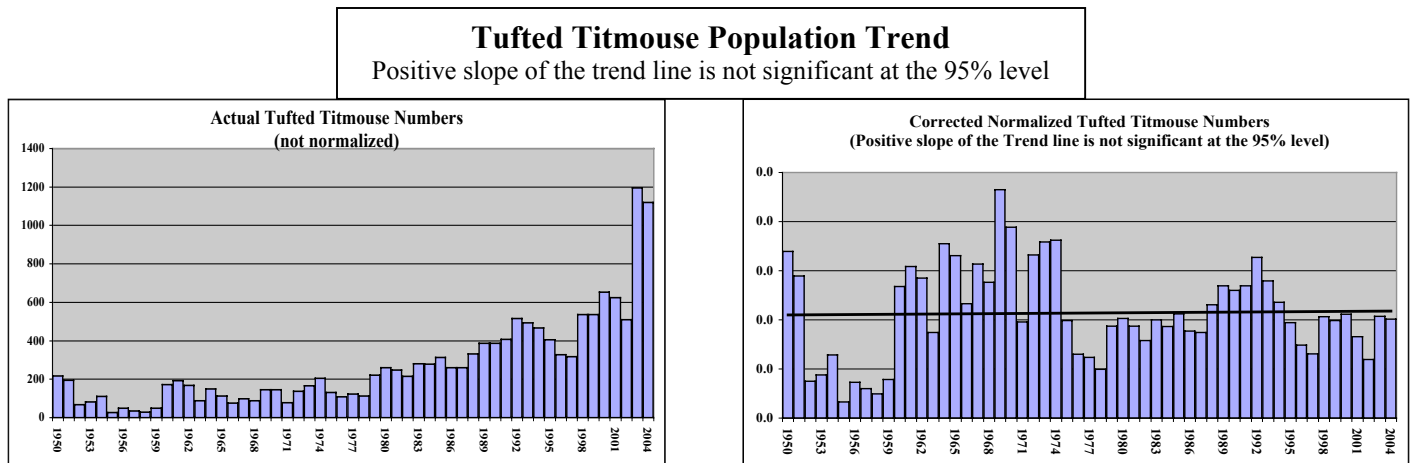
Physical Evidence: At least 17 specimens, plus eggs and nest, are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

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

that much of the “apparent migration” visible on the migration histogram results from observation bias (see introductory section of Species Accounts).

Population Trend

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



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in 94 percent of the state’s 647 priority blocks scattered across 91 counties. Mumford and Keller (1984) reported nest building in mid-April and young in the nest on 1 May. Nesting activity has been reported through mid-June.

Tufted Titmouse Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
81	18-Nov-1990	Muscatatuck NWR	Steve Pelikan	NKE
57	30-Jun-2004	S.E. Indiana	B.K. Jackson	BKJ
40	17-Aug-2000	Lake Monroe	C.L. Wood	INB
30	26-Dec-1940	Marion Co	H.F. Wright	REM
29	24-Apr-2004	Multiple Sites	R.J. Pals	INB
27	14-Apr-2002	Indiana Dunes	S.R. Bagby	SBa

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	Win. Res.	16-Mar	29-Apr	31-May	Sum. Res.	1656
Fall	Sum. Res.	22-Jul	11-Sep	20-Nov	Win. Res.	1549

References Cited

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