

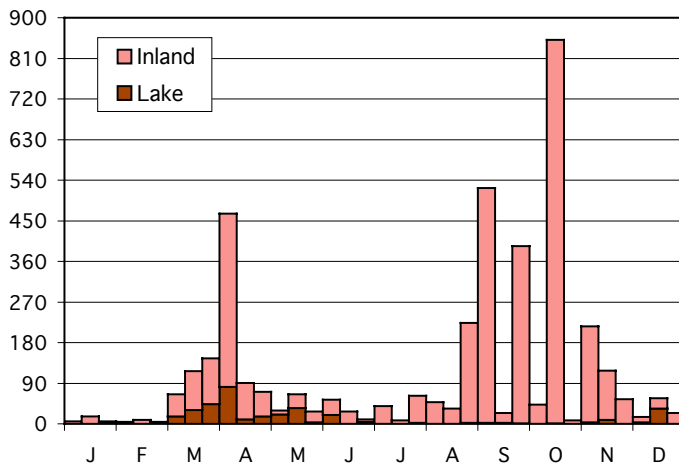
Brewer's Blackbird

Euphagus cyanocephalus

Historical Information

First Published Record: According to Mumford and Keller (1984) Brewer's Blackbird invaded Indiana after 1900; the state's first record was reported by W.M. Davis near Schererville on 8 April 1949 (Mayfield 1949).

Butler (1898) listed Brewer's Blackbird as hypothetical. Keller et al. (1979) described it as a rare summer resident in the north and a very rare migrant in central Indiana. Mumford and Keller (1984) considered Brewer's Blackbird a rare migrant and casual winter resident.



Status

Physical Evidence: At least two specimens are preserved in the National Museum (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	7	6	6	6
Central Tier	10	8	n	7
Southern Tier	7	10	n	6
Entire State	7	6	6	6

Current Status

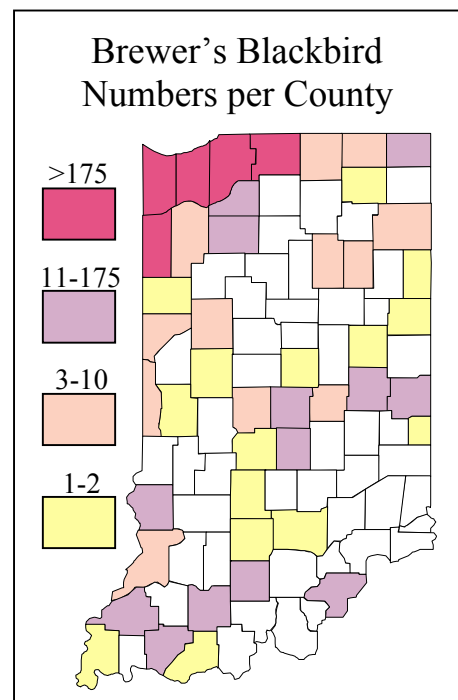
The Brewer's Blackbird is an Uncommon (6) migrant and local summer resident in western portions of the northern tier.

Occurrence

This western blackbird has been recorded in at least 45 Indiana counties, but most sightings come from northwestern Indiana (see distribution map). A majority of the recent reports occurred in southern LaPorte County where a summer colony was established in 1993, at the former Shamrock Sod Farm (near the intersection of U.S. 30 and Indiana 39).

Fall Migration

The "comb tooth" pattern shown for fall in the migration histogram reflects the autumn flocking tendency of this blackbird.

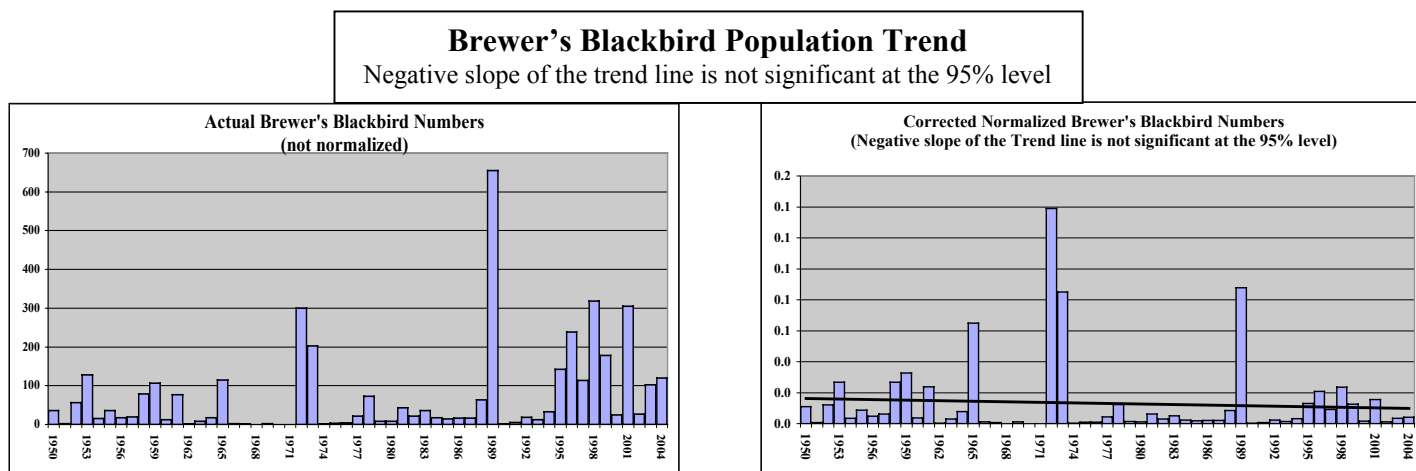


Extreme Records

The state's maximum tally, by a wide margin, consists of an impressive 655 birds reported by Marcie and Virgil Inman in St Joseph County on 15 October 1989 (Brown 1990).

Population Trend

The 50-year population data suggest that the Brewer's Blackbird population is fairly stable in Indiana. The slightly negative slope of the trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

Indiana's first nest was discovered by R.E. Phillips near Schererville on 11 May 1952 (Mumford, 1954). Castrale et al. (1998) reported no Brewer's Blackbirds in the Indiana Atlas project, but noted that previous nesting had occurred in Lake, LaPorte, and Porter Counties. Mumford and Keller (1984) listed eggs in the nest 17 May through 23 May.

Brewer's Blackbird Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
110	03-Apr-1965	Willow Slough FWA	H.C. West	HCW
75	05-Apr-1959	N. Porter Co.	J.E. Landing	JEL
62	12-Mar-1961	Marion Co	C.E. Keller	REM
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
655	15-Oct-1989	St Joseph Co	Marcie & Virgil Inman	IAQ
300	24-Sep-1972	St Joseph Co	Nancy Rea	DNR
240	03-Sep-1998	Shamrock Sod Farm	J.J. McCoy	IAQ

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	Win. Vis.	12-Mar	5-Apr	23-May	Sum. Res.	126
Fall	Sum. Res.	2-Aug	17-Sep	11-Nov	Win. Vis.	89

References Cited

- Brown, M.R. (1990) Field Notes Fall 1989, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 68:176-193.
- Butler, A. W. (1898) The Birds of Indiana, Indiana Department of Geology and Natural Resources Annual Report, 22:575-1187.
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- Mayfield, Harold (1949) Field Notes Spring 1949, *American Birds* 3:210-211.
- Mumford, R.E. (1954) Brewer's Blackbird nesting in Indiana, *Wilson Bulletin*, 66:61-63.
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