

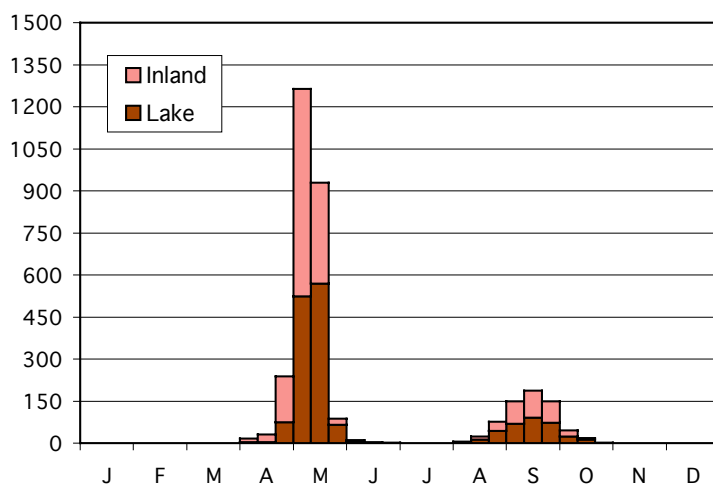
## Northern Waterthrush

## *Seiurus noveboracensis*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: A Northern Waterthrush collected in Marion County on 14 May 1875 (Mumford files) appears to constitute Indiana's first formal record.

Butler (1898) considered "Grinnell's Water Thrush" the common form in Indiana noting that migrants occurred throughout the state. He characterized the eastern form as a generally rare migrant, which is common some years. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a fairly common migrant. Mumford and Keller (1984) characterized the Northern Waterthrush a fairly common migrant and a locally casual summer resident in northeastern Indiana.



### Status

Physical Evidence: At least 19 specimens are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and Richards 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				7
National Museum of Natural History				8
Indiana State Museum				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				1
Milwaukee Public Museum				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	4	8	6
Central Tier	n	5	8	6
Southern Tier	n	6	n	6
Entire State	n	4	8	6

### Current Status

The Northern Waterthrush is a Common (4) spring and Uncommon (6) fall migrant. It is Very Rare (8) in Summer.

### Occurrence

Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes are quite difficult to separate visually. This is in part attributed to their physical similarities and in part due to their furtive habits. As a result many non-singing birds may well have been misidentified, which obscures the data of both species. The Northern Waterthrush has been reported in some 70 Indiana counties. In abundance it ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in spring and 19<sup>th</sup> in fall.

### Subspecies

Two forms, which are not distinguishable in the field, have been reported in Indiana. In contrast to Butler's 1898 assessment, the subspecies *S. n. noveboracensis* is apparently the most commonly encountered form, but specimens of the western form *S. n. notabilis* (Grinnell's Waterthrush) are known (Butler 1898 and Ford 1956). The western form is generally whiter below and the bill is slightly larger.

### Summer Records

Northern Waterthrushes have been reported in ten of the last 20 summers. Most summer records occurred during the first week of June and almost certainly involved tardy spring migrants. However, a half-dozen records have been reported after mid-June. The latest of these involved one discovered in LaGrange County by L.A. Casebere 25 June 1975 (Keller et al. 1986) and a singing bird identified at Willow Slough FWA by T.T. Cable on 24 June 1983 (Brock 1984). However, the most remarkable Northern Waterthrush record involved a nest that D.P. Siminski discovered at Pigeon River FWA in June 1982 (Brock 1983).

### Extreme Records

Information in the Mumford files indicates that a Northern Waterthrush was reported near Bloomington on 27 March (no year given). Burr (1979) noted that Merritt S. Webster identified this waterthrush on the 26 December 1966 Lafayette Christmas Bird Count. The 62 Northern Waterthrushes reported in Dunes State Park by L.S. Hinchman on 11 May 1996, were associated with a major weather related fallout (Brock 1997).

### **Breeding**

In the Indiana Atlas Project Castrale et al. (1998) found evidence of breeding in two counties: Porter and Wells. In addition the 1982 nest found at Pigeon River FWA confirmed breeding in the state.

#### **Northern Waterthrush Data**

<b>Maximum Single Party Counts</b>				
<b>Spring</b>				
<b>Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observer</b>	<b>Ref.</b>
62	11-May-1996	Dunes St Park	L.S. Hinchman	BBC
29	10-May-1950	Multiple Sites	R.E. Mumford	REM
25	11-May-1996	Gibson Woods	Joy Bower	KJB
<b>Fall</b>				
<b>Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observer</b>	<b>Ref.</b>
6	14-Sep-1993	Gibson Woods	Joy Bower	KJB
6	19-Sep-1987	Vigo Co	Eugene Muench	NIQ
5*	24-Sep-1985	Vigo Co	Eugene Muench	IAQ
*5 were reported on one additional occasion				

<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>	3-Apr-1998	30-Apr	10-May	19-May	7-Jun-1974	729
<b>Central</b>	2-Apr-2004	26-Apr	8-May	19-May	3-Jun-1981	248
<b>South</b>	1-Apr-2000	17-Apr	4-May	13-May	30-May-1994	114
<b>Fall</b>						
	<b>Earliest</b>	<b>Arrive</b>	<b>Peak</b>	<b>Depart</b>	<b>Latest</b>	<b>Records</b>
<b>North</b>	5-Aug-1955	27-Aug	14-Sep	3-Oct	20-Oct-1961	314
<b>Central</b>	12-Aug-2004	30-Aug	15-Sep	30-Sep	26-Oct-2000	150
<b>South</b>	13-Aug-1881	30-Aug	20-Sep	7-Oct	11-Oct-1998	48

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