

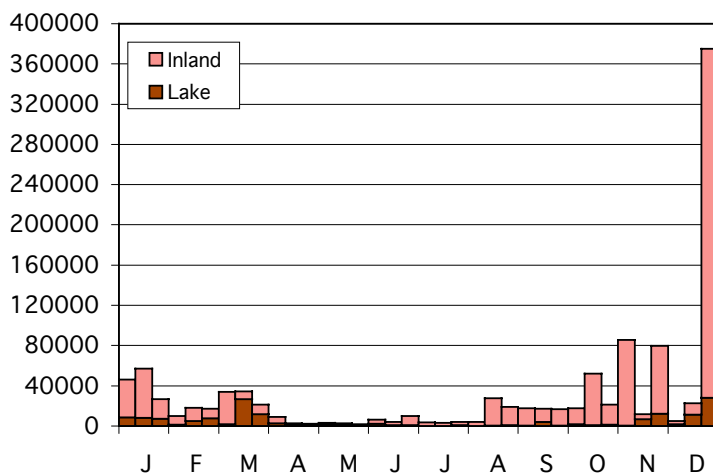
European Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

Historical Information

First Published Record: Mumford and Keller (1984) reported that Indiana's earliest European Starling occurred in LaPorte County 15 December 1919, when D.H. Boyd observed eight "feeding at a suet cage."

Butler (1898) did not mention this Old World species. By the second half of the twentieth century Keller et al. (1979) considered it an abundant resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) discussed the expansion of this species in Indiana and listed the Starling as an abundant permanent resident.



Current Status

The European Starling is a permanent resident that is Abundant (2) in fall and winter.

Occurrence

Following the state's first sighting in 1919 (see Historical section), the Starling has expanded to cover the entire state. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted that it had been reported in every portion of the state except the southwest. Today this widely detested species is pervasive throughout Indiana and is considered a serious threat to many native breeding species, especially cavity nesters.

Extreme Records

The 300,000 that Jim and Susan Hengeveld reported at Beehunter Marsh on 21 December 2005 were part of a ribbon of 1.0-1.5 million blackbirds that passed over the marsh in the morning; 30 percent of the flock was estimated to consist of Starlings (IN-BIRD). Mumford and Keller (1984) listed a count of 125,000 in Terre Haute, but provided no date or reference.

Status

Physical Evidence: Some 34 specimens are known to exist in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				7
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				15
Univ. of Michigan Museum				12
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	2	3	3	2
Central Tier	2	3	3	2
Southern Tier	2	3	3	2
Entire State	2	3	3	2

Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) collected breeding evidence in 98 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks, with evidence in every Indiana county. Mumford and Keller (1984) reported that the state's first Starling nest was found near Pendleton, Madison County on 5 April 1927.

European Starling Data						
Maximum Single Party Counts						
Entire Year						
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.		
300000	21-Dec-2005	Beehunter Marsh	J. & S. Hengeveld	INB		
70089	07-Nov-1965	Geist Reservoir	H.C. West	HCW		
50000	25-Nov-1954	Lawrence Co	R.E. Mumford	REM		
40000	14-Jan-2002	Wayne Co	W.H. Buskirk	INB		
26040	21-Dec-1963	Marion Co	H.C. West	HCW		
25040	09-Jan-1965	Geist Reservoir	H.C. West	HCW		

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	Win. Res.	10-Feb	6-Mar	2-Apr	Sum. Res.	2153
Fall	Sum. Res.	30-Jul	24-Sep	16-Nov	Win. Res.	1536

References Cited

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

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

IN-BIRD, a Listserv dealing with Indiana birds developed and maintained by P.W. Kelly. The records are archived at: <http://listserv.indiana.edu/archives/in-bird-1.html>

Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller (1979) *Indiana Birds and Their Haunts*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 214 pp.

Mumford, R.E. and C.E. Keller (1984) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 376 pp.

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