

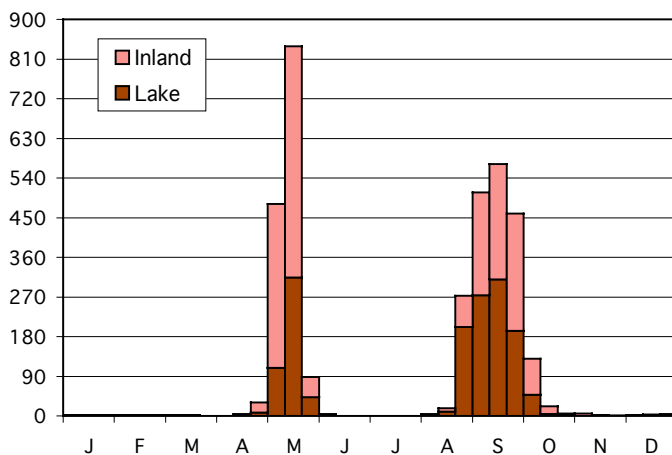
## Cape May Warbler

## *Dendroica tigrina*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: A bird reported in Indianapolis on 7 May 1878 (Butler 1898), is apparently Indiana's earliest published record.

Butler (1898) noted that this warbler was generally considered rare everywhere. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it an uncommon migrant. Mumford and Keller (1984) described the Cape May Warbler as an uncommon migrant and casual winter resident.

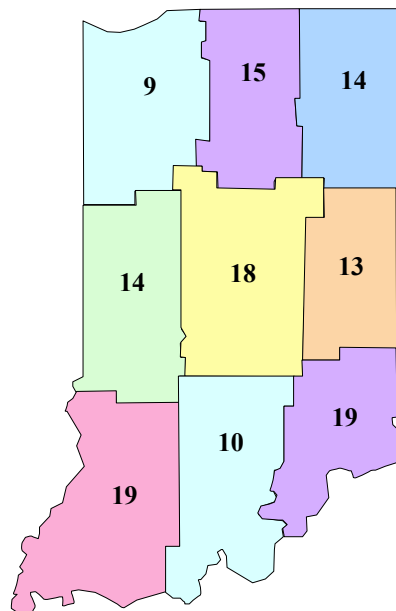


### Status

Physical Evidence: Some 17 specimens are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				11
Univ. of Michigan Museum				4
Milwaukee Public Museum				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	5	10	4
Central Tier	7	6	9	6
Southern Tier	9	6	n	5
Entire State	n	5	10	4

**Fall Abundance Rankings of the Cape May Warbler in Nine Indiana Regions**



### Current Status

The Cape May Warbler is a Common (4) fall migrant and is Fairly Common (5) in spring.

### Occurrence

Cape May Warblers, which are more common in fall than spring, have been recorded in more than 65 Indiana counties. In northwestern Indiana autumn migrants are unusually plentiful, as this species comprises the ninth most common warbler during the fall flight (see map). Curiously, fall Cape Mays also rank quite high in the south central region. A few spring stragglers have dallied in the state, providing four records between 1 and 3 June.

### Winter Records

Most autumn migrants depart by the end of November, but eleven winter records exist. Five of these were in December, five occurred in January and two in February (one bird was present in both January and February). Chamberlain et al. (1980) described one of the February

reports, which involved an individual that lingered in Lawrence County from 2 February until 19 March 1980. Remarkably, R.S. Gregory saw two Cape May Warblers in Morgan County on 12 and 22 December 1978 (Mumford files). The most recent winter Cape May involved a female that spent the last half of winter at a feeder outside the School of Public and Environmental Affairs building at Indiana University Bloomington; it was discovered by Vicky Meretsky about 15 January 2005 and was still present 22 March 2005 (Brock 2005).

#### Extreme Records

In concert with a major fallout, this species proved extraordinarily abundant in the lakefront traps in late May 2005. On 19 May 2005 J.J. McCoy counted a record 60 (35 at State Line Woods and 25 at the Hammond Sanctuary) and two days later S.R. Bagby et al. counted 24, all females, in the above traps plus the George Lake woodlot.

#### **Cape May Warbler 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>
60	19-May-2005	Lake Co traps	J.J. McCoy	INB
24	21-May-2005	Lake Co traps	S.R. Bagby	KJB
23	16-May-2002	Indiana Dunes	J.K. Cassady	KJB
<b>Fall</b>				
<b>Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observer</b>	<b>Ref.</b>
31	28-Aug-1986	Lakefront	K.J. Brock	KJB
25	16-Sep-1999	Forsythe Park	W.S. Serafin	KJB
23	11-Sep-1999	Lakefront traps	S.R. Bagby	KJB

<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>	18-Apr-1985	6-May	13-May	20-May	3-Jun-1992	453
<b>Central</b>	20-Apr-1996	5-May	13-May	20-May	2-Jun-1997	179
<b>South</b>	1-Mar-2005	29-Apr	9-May	14-May	30-May-1972	84
<b>Fall</b>						
	<b>Earliest</b>	<b>Arrive</b>	<b>Peak</b>	<b>Depart</b>	<b>Latest</b>	<b>Records</b>
<b>North</b>	10-Aug-1952	29-Aug	12-Sep	29-Sep	26-Nov-2000	780
<b>Central</b>	8-Aug-1982	6-Sep	21-Sep	10-Oct	7-Nov-1961	174
<b>South</b>	20-Aug-1977	7-Sep	23-Sep	6-Oct	19-Nov-1989	103

#### **References Cited**

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

Chamberlain, D.R., R.C. Steele, and L. Mittino Gray (1980) Cape May Warbler Observed at Spring Mill State Park in Winter, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 58:138-139.

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.

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