

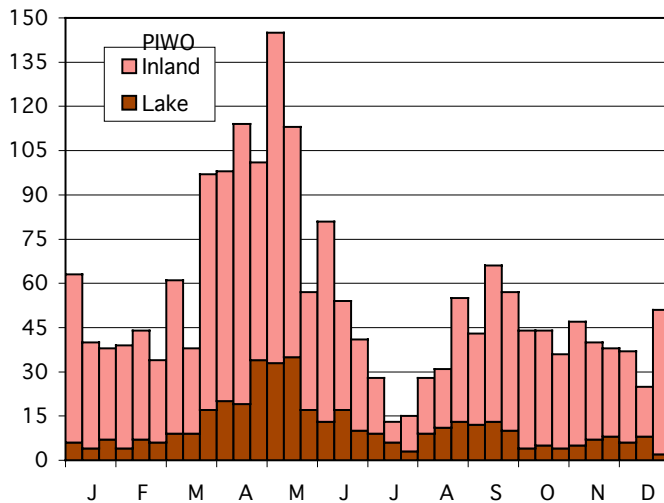
## Pileated Woodpecker

## *Dryocopus pileatus*

### Historical Information

**First Published Record:** Butler (1898) mentioned “it is about thirty years since I can hear of its occurrence in Franklin County,” implying its presence in the 1860s. However, a male collected by R.B. Trouslet in Valparaiso on 25 April 1887 (Mumford files), provides Indiana’s earliest published report.

Butler (1898) referred to the “Black Woodcock” as a “Resident, confined to the more heavily-timbered and more inaccessible portion of the State.” Keller et al. (1979) considered it an uncommon to fairly common summer resident and rare to common winter resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted that numbers of this formerly common woodpecker declined during Butler’s era, but that a range expansion began in the 1950s.



### Status

**Physical Evidence:** Ten specimens are known to exist in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards 1987).

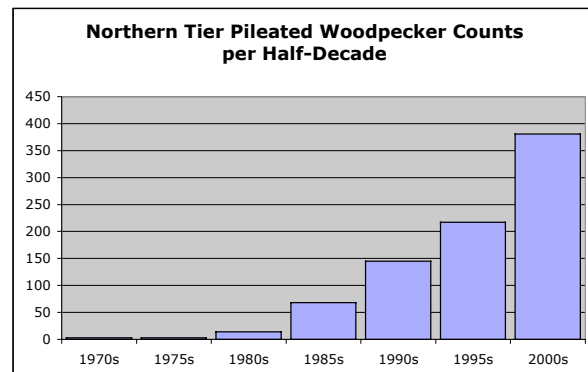
| STATUS TABLE                       |     |     |     |      |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Specimens                          |     |     |     |      |
| Museum                             |     |     |     | No.  |
| Chicago Field Museum               |     |     |     | 1    |
| National Museum of Natural History |     |     |     | 7    |
| Indiana State Museum               |     |     |     | 1    |
| Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory   |     |     |     | 1    |
| 20-Year Abundance Table            |     |     |     |      |
|                                    | Win | Spr | Sum | Fall |
| Northern Tier                      | 6   | 6   | 6   | 6    |
| Central Tier                       | 6   | 6   | 6   | 6    |
| Southern Tier                      | 6   | 5   | 6   | 6    |
| Entire State                       | 6   | 5   | 6   | 6    |

### Current Status

The Pileated Woodpecker is basically an Uncommon (6) permanent resident, which becomes Fairly Common (5) in spring.

### Occurrence

This large woodpecker has been reported in at least 82 counties. The range expansion mentioned by Mumford and Keller (1984) still continues as the Pileated population is currently expanding northward. This is dramatically illustrated by northern tier numbers per five-year period plotted in the graph on the right.

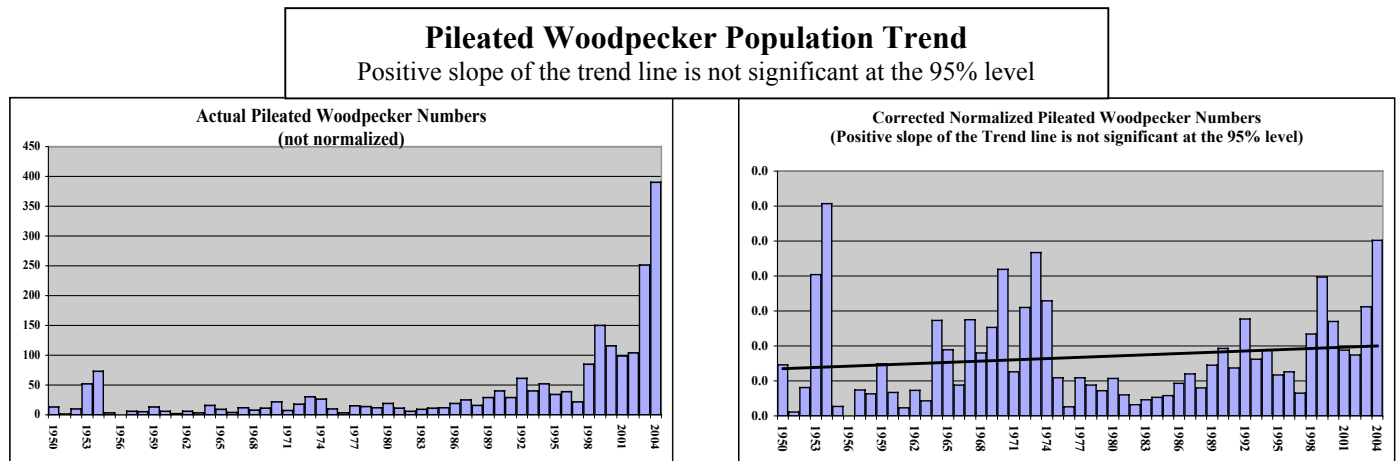


## Migration

Although it is an exaggeration to refer to the Pileated Woodpecker as a migrant, it displays a predisposition to wander in spring. This tendency, along with increased vocalization associated with nesting, likely accounts for the distinctive spring peak shown on the migration histogram.

## Population Trend

Although the northward expansion of this species is well established (see graph above), the positive slope of the 50-year trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



## Breeding

The Indiana Atlas project obtained breeding evidence in 44 percent of the 647 priority blocks (Castrale et al. 1998). The majority of these confirmations occurred in the southern tier; only two counties (St. Joseph and Wabash) were in the northern tier. Most nesting reports are in April and May.

## Pileated Woodpecker Data

| Maximum Single Party Counts |             |                 |                  |      |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|------|
| Entire Year                 |             |                 |                  |      |
| Number                      | Date        | Location        | Observer         | Ref. |
| 26                          | 23-Dec-1999 | Wabash Co       | Steve Doud       | SDo  |
| 20                          | 07-Jun-2004 | Hoosier N.F.    | L.W. Sterrenburg | NNB  |
| 12                          | 05-Jan-2002 | Franklin Co     | W.H. Buskirk     | INB  |
| 9                           | 09-Apr-1999 | Muscatatuck NWR | John Favinger    | INB  |
| 9                           | 02-Jan-2004 | Brookville Res. | W.H. Buskirk     | INB  |
| 9                           | 30-Jun-2004 | S.E. Indiana    | B.K. Jackson     | BKJ  |

| Migration Envelopes |           |        |        |        |           |         |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|
| Entire State        |           |        |        |        |           |         |
|                     | Earliest  | Arrive | Peak   | Depart | Latest    | Records |
| Spring              | Win. Res. | 20-Mar | 27-Apr | 28-May | Sum. Res. | 690     |
| Fall                | Sum. Res. | 10-Aug | 24-Sep | 17-Nov | Win. Res. | 410     |

## 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.

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.

Richards, R.L. (1987) The Vertebrate Collection of the Indiana State Museum: "Old" Specimens and Records, *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science* 97:547-570.