

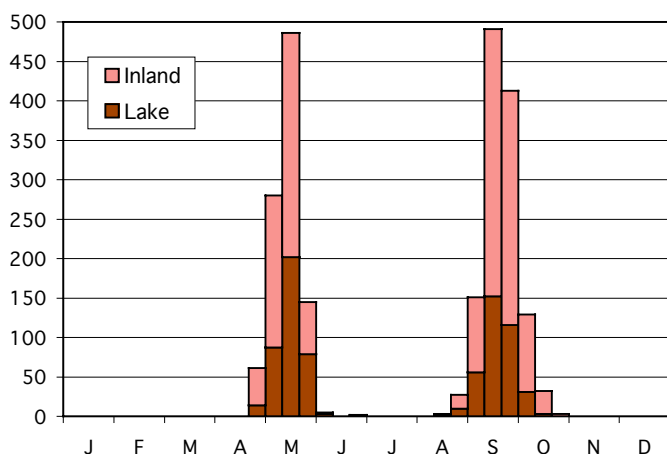
Gray-cheeked Thrush

Catharus minimus

Historical Information

First Published Record: According to Butler (1898) Robert Ridgway noted this thrush in Knox County in April 1881, but the first fully dated record occurred at Bloomington, on 1 May 1886.

Regarding this species Butler (1898) noted, “Some places it is very rare and others it at times is common.” Keller et al. (1979) described it as a fairly common migrant. Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed this thrush a common to uncommon migrant.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some 23 specimens are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson, unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Carnegie Museum of Natural History				3
Chicago Academy of Sciences				2
Chicago Field Museum				1
National Museum of Natural History				12
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				3
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	6	9	6
Central Tier	n	6	n	5
Southern Tier	n	6	9	6
Entire State	n	6	9	6

Current Status

The Gray-cheeked Thrush is an Uncommon (6) migrant.

Occurrence

This migrant thrush has been reported in more than 65 counties and has likely occurred in all 92 Indiana counties. It is seen considerably less frequently than the similar Swainson's Thrush; indeed across the state some 9.8 Swainson's Thrushes have been reported for every Gray-cheeked.

Extreme Counts

Interestingly, the state's largest count, 50 birds recorded by D.H. Boyd in Whiting Park (Boyd notes), has stood for more than 75 years (see maximum count table). The maximum fall tally, 28 thrushes recorded by C.L. Wood in Monroe County, involved a nocturnal flight count (IN-BIRD).

Summer Records

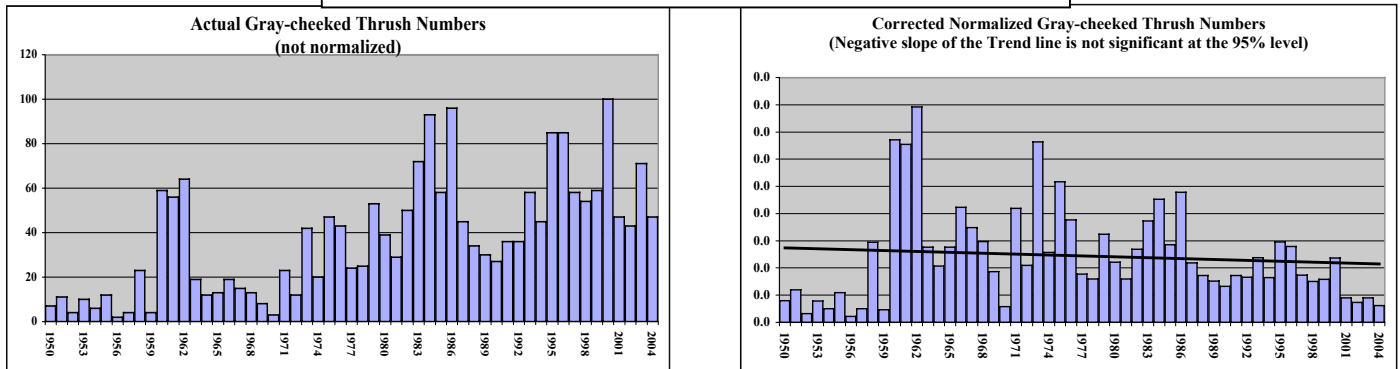
Indiana has a half-dozen June records. Five of these occurred during the first five days of the month and involved tardy migrants. The most remarkable summer record was documented by J.A. Haw who reported a singing bird at the Mengerson Preserve, Allen County on 22 June 1990 (Jackson 1991).

Population Trend

Interestingly, the 50-year population trend suggests that Indiana's Gray-cheeked Thrush population has declined; however, the negative slope of the trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.

Gray-cheeked Thrush Population Trend

Negative slope of the trend line is not significant at the 95% level



Gray-cheeked Thrush Data

Maximum Single Party Counts

Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
50	13-May-1929	Whiting Park	D.H. Boyd	DBo
20	17-May-1945	Tippecanoe Co	I.W. Burr	IAQ
20	16-May-1948	Tippecanoe Co	I.W. Burr	IAQ
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
28	13-Sep-2000	Lake Monroe	C.L. Wood	INB
10	17-Sep-1919	Lakefront	H.L. Stoddard	HLS
8	11-Sep-1999	Lakefront	K.J. Brock	KJB

Migration Envelopes

Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	21-Apr-1994	3-May	13-May	23-May	22-Jun-1990	345
Central	24-Apr-1937	1-May	14-May	25-May	5-Jun-1971	179
South	25-Apr-1996	2-May	9-May	16-May	27-May-1993	69
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	11-Aug-1960	7-Sep	20-Sep	3-Oct	24-Oct-95	416
Central	26-Aug-1987	10-Sep	23-Sep	6-Oct	24-Oct-89	322
South	30-Aug-1961	10-Sep	22-Sep	5-Oct	30-Oct-84	79

References Cited

Boyd notes. A compilation of field notes by D.H. Boyd, which is currently housed in the Indiana University Northwest Archives.

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

IN-BIRD, a Listserve 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>

Jackson, S.F. (1991) Field Notes Summer 1990, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 69:95-111.

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.