

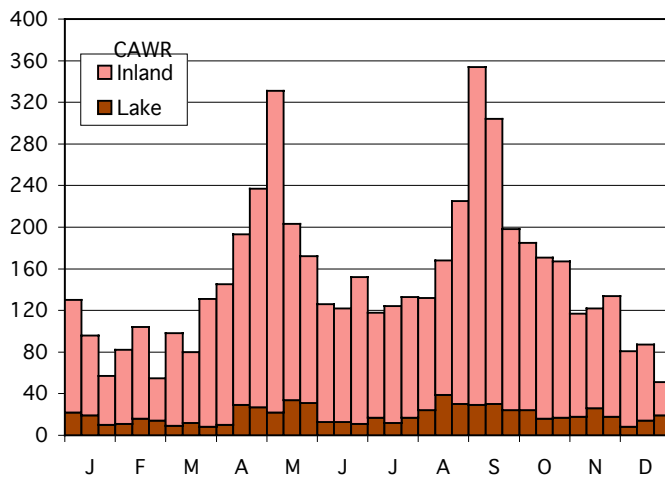
Carolina Wren

Thryothorus ludovicianus

Historical Information

First Published Record: A specimen taken 10 February 1881 in Franklin County (Mumford files) appears to constitute the state's earliest formal record.

Butler (1898) considered it abundant in southern Indiana, less prevalent in the central tier, and "almost entirely wanting," in the north. Keller et al. (1979) deemed the Carolina Wren a very rare resident in the north and a rare resident elsewhere. Mumford and Keller (1984) provided no status assessment.



Current Status

Today the Carolina Wren is a permanent resident, which is Common (4) to Fairly Common (5) throughout much of the year.

Occurrence

Having been recorded in every Indiana county, this wren is quite widespread, but is still generally more frequently encountered in the southern half of the state. Over the past 20 years an average of 219 birds per year has been reported statewide. An extremely low annual total of only 14 was reported in 1985.

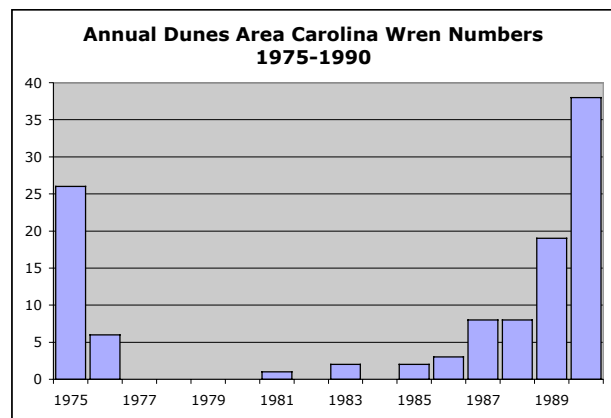
Winter Kills

The Carolina Wren population is quite vulnerable to hard winters, especially in the northern half of the state. Counts in the lakefront area (see graph on the right) show the

Status

Physical Evidence: At least 18 specimens, plus eggs, are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).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				2
Chicago Field Museum				1
National Museum of Natural History				6*
Milwaukee Public Museum				2
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				9*
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	6	5	6	4
Central Tier	6	5	6	4
Southern Tier	6	5	5	5
Entire State	6	5	5	4



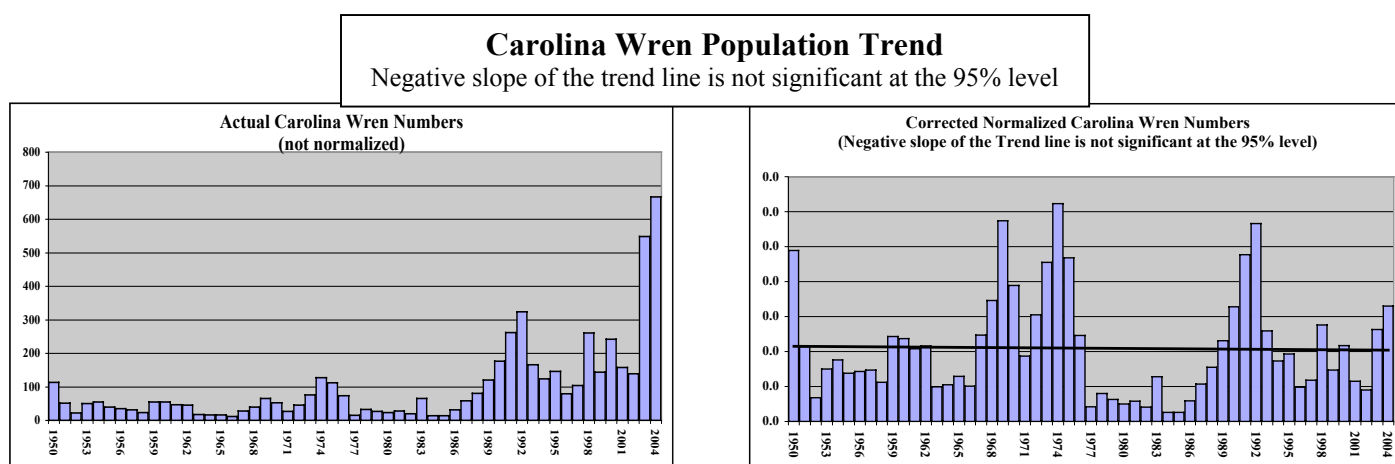
devastating effects of the brutal winter of 1976-1977 on the local population; more than a decade was required for the population to rebound.

Migration

The apparent peaks visible on the migration histogram may well reflect sampling bias, rather than migration. Consequently, migration envelopes were not calculated for the Carolina Wren.

Population Trend

The 50-year trend line is virtually flat, but the population clearly varied over that period. Note the low reports from the mid-1970s to the late 1980s. The slightly negative slope of the trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

The Indiana Atlas project recorded breeding evidence in 63 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks (Castrale et al. 1998). Reports were considerably more concentrated in the southern half of the state; this distribution was attributed to more extensive forests and less frequent killing winters in the south. Mumford and Keller (1984) reported nest building from 13 March through 31 August.

Carolina Wren Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
120	30-Jun-2004	Multiple sites*	B.K. Jackson	BKJ
31	05-Jan-2002	Franklin Co	W.H. Buskirk	INB
18	13-May-1995	Warrick Co	J.H. Campbell	IAQ
17	22-Jun-2004	S.W. Indiana	J.I. Downs	INB
15	17-Apr-1950	Clay Co	R.E. Mumford	REM
15	01-Mar-1998	Muscatatuck NWR	Neill Cade	NKE
*Dearborn (41), Ohio (26), Ripley (27), and Switzerland (26) Counties.				

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.

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