

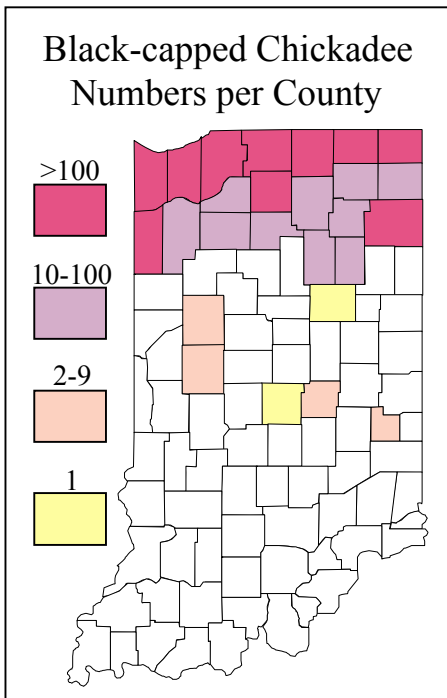
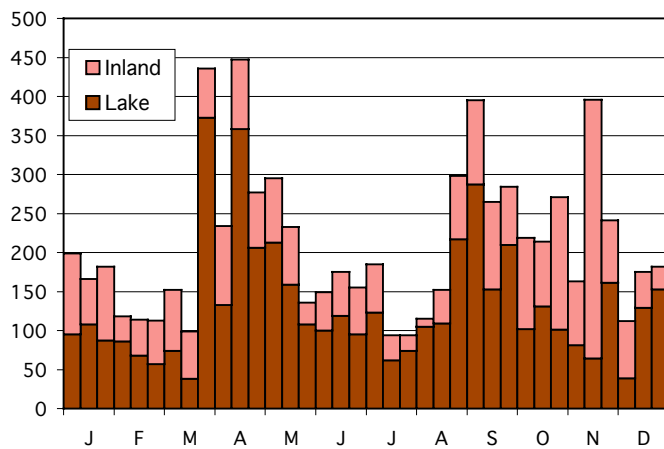
## Black-capped Chickadee

## *Poecile atricapillus*

### Historical Information

**First Published Record:** Although the Black-capped Chickadee was surely present long before this date, the earliest published record involved a specimen, now missing, collected in Marion County 15 May 1886 (Richards 1987).

Butler (1898) described the “Chickadee” as an abundant resident in northern Indiana. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a common resident north of an approximate line from Lafayette to Fort Wayne; it was rare to very rare south of this line. Mumford and Keller (1984) basically concurred with Butler’s 1898 assessment.



### Status

**Physical Evidence:** Some 18 specimens are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson, unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				2
Chicago Field Museum				7
National Museum of Natural History				1*
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				6
Univ. of Michigan Museum				3
*Nest				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	5	4	5	4
Central Tier	8	n	10	10
Southern Tier	n	n	n	n
Entire State	5	4	5	4

### Current Status

The Black-capped Chickadee is a permanent resident in the northernmost counties, where it is Common (4) during migration.

### Occurrence

Unlike the Carolina Chickadee this species is clearly migratory. Evidence is provided in the maximum count tables where spring counts at Mount Baldy (on the lakefront near the LaPorte – Porter County line) represent longshore flights recorded by hawk watchers. Merritt (1981) also reported March Black-capped Chickadee movements in northeastern Indiana. It is, therefore, not surprising that this more mobile species occasionally wanders south of its traditional range.

### Downstate Records

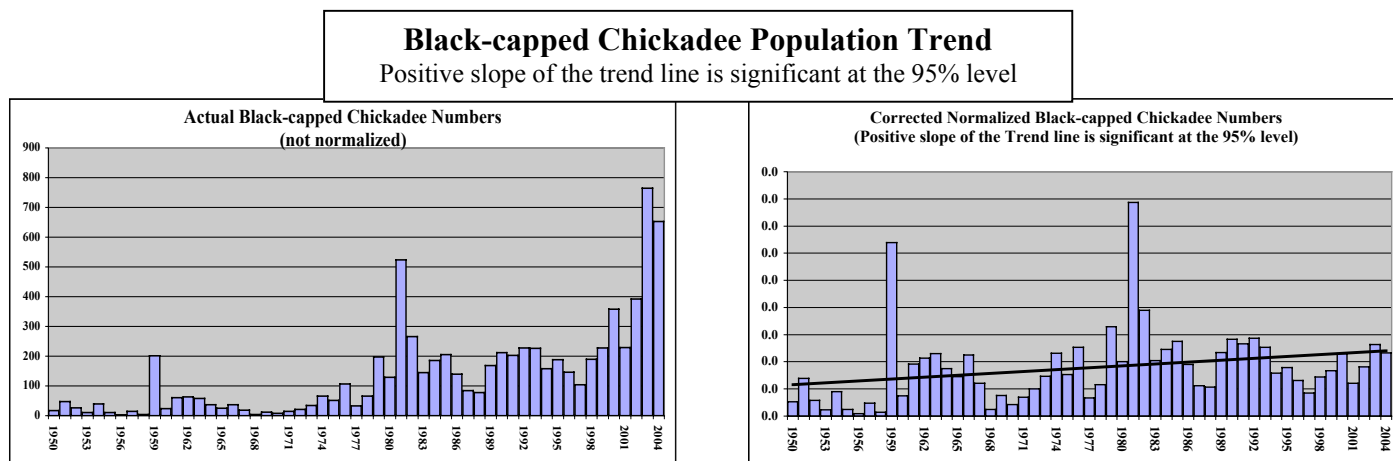
Data from the U.S. Banding Lab contain many reports from central and southern tier counties. However, in view of the significant uncertainties in banding data locations (see the Species Accounts Introduction), these were omitted from this discussion. Disregarding the banding data some eleven records have occurred in the central tier. Seven of these occurred in winter, two were in November, and the state's first report (see Historical section) was in May. The most interesting record involved a specimen from Tippecanoe County, currently in the Purdue University collection, which was obtained on 10 June 2000. This record raises the possibility of breeding in the central tier.

### Migration

Although the spring flight, punctuated by distinct movements along the lakefront, is reasonably well defined; the fall migration is not. Increased lakefront numbers in August and September (see migration histogram) may well represent sampling bias, rather than the presence of more birds. Thus, no fall migration envelope is included. Perhaps the large October and November tallies listed in the maximum count table more accurately mark the fall flight.

### Population Trend

The 50-year population data suggest an increasing Indiana population. Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



### Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence from 17 percent of the priority blocks; all were located in northern tier counties. Nests have been observed from 15 April through 4 July and fledglings have been noted in mid-August.

Black-capped Chickadee Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
230	31-Mar-1981	Mt Baldy	K.J. Brock	KJB
90	15-Apr-1982	Mt Baldy	G.W. Pyle	IAQ
74	13-Apr-1990	Mt Baldy	K.J. Brock	KJB
All of the above involved longshore flights				

Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
200	19-Nov-1959	St Joseph Co	Scott Rea	REM
50	30-Oct-1981	St Joseph Co	Tom Stankus	NIQ
47	11-Nov-1981	St Joseph Co	Tom Stankus	NIQ

Migration Envelope						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	17-Mar	25-Apr	28-May	Sum. Res.	690

### 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.

Merritt, P.G. (1981) Narrowly Disjunct Allopatry between Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees in Northern Indiana, *Wilson Bulletin*, 93:56-66.

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.