

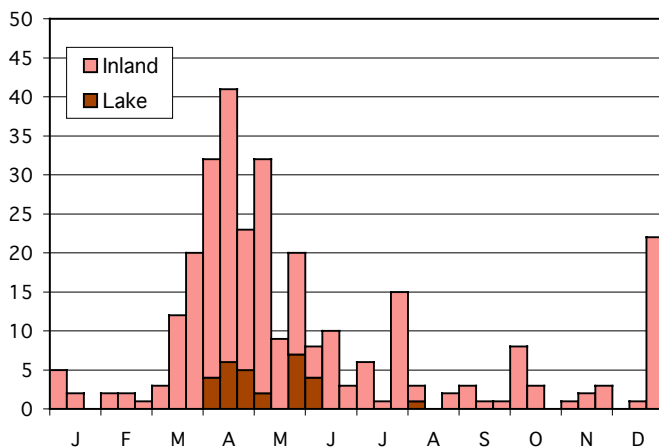
Bewick's Wren

Thryomanes bewickii

Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1898) reported that in 1869 R. Haymond had “seen but a few specimens,” suggesting that it was quite rare in the mid-nineteenth century. Bewick's Wren appeared in Franklin County in 1877 and became common in 1881 (Butler 1898). The state's first fully dated record involved a specimen taken in Franklin County 14 May 1881 (Mumford files).

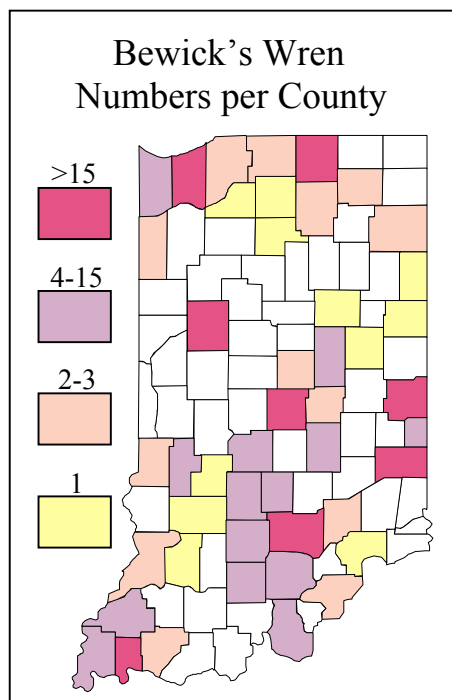
Butler (1898) deemed the “Long-tailed House Wren” a common summer resident throughout most of southern Indiana. Keller et al. (1979) considered it a very rare summer resident, which was casual in winter across the southern two-thirds of Indiana. Mumford and Keller (1984) discussed population variations, but provided no status assessment other than the statement, “The species has rarely been reported from anywhere in Indiana during the past ten years.”



Status

Physical Evidence: Some eight specimens are known to exist in the nation's museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				4
Milwaukee Public Museum				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2
Denver Museum of Natural History				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	10	n	n
Central Tier	n	9	n	n
Southern Tier	10	10	9	10
Entire State	10	9	9	10



Current Status

Based on records over the past 20 years the Bewick's Wren is Occasional (9). Indiana's most recent Bewick's Wren record occurred in Brown County where J. & S. Hengeveld reported one 23 June 1996 (notes sent to *North American Birds*).

Occurrence

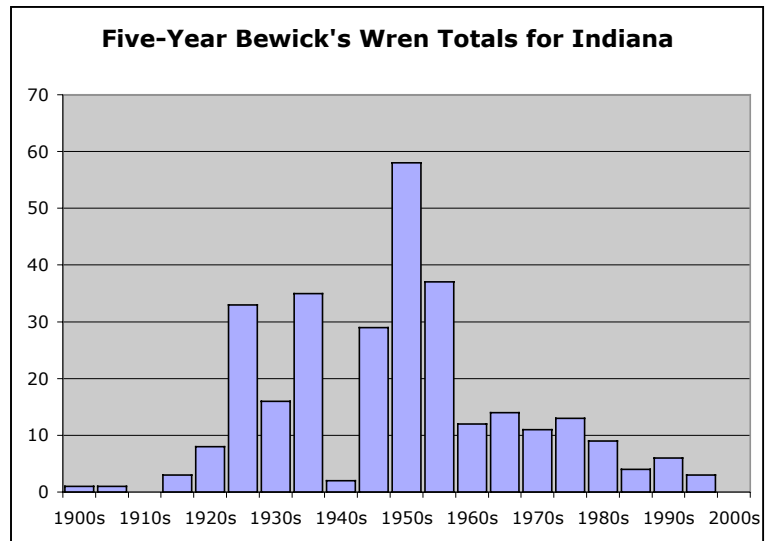
Bewick's Wren provides a classic example of a species that did not make it in Indiana. In Butler's day this species was expanding northward, and according to Mumford and Keller, reached the northern border by 1921. It was common and widespread from the 1920s through the 1950s and then began a slow persistent decline. This pattern is graphed in

the chart on the right, which might aptly be captioned “Rise and fall of the Bewick’s Wren in Indiana.” Note that all records listed in the maximum count table were logged before 1940. Castrale et al. (1998) suggested that the decline resulted from competition with the House Wren or from severe winter weather.

Population Trend

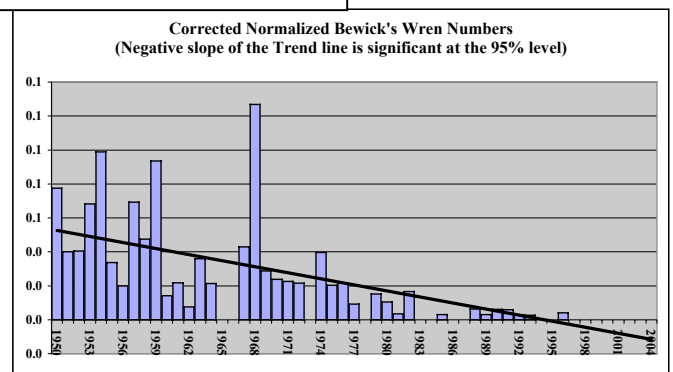
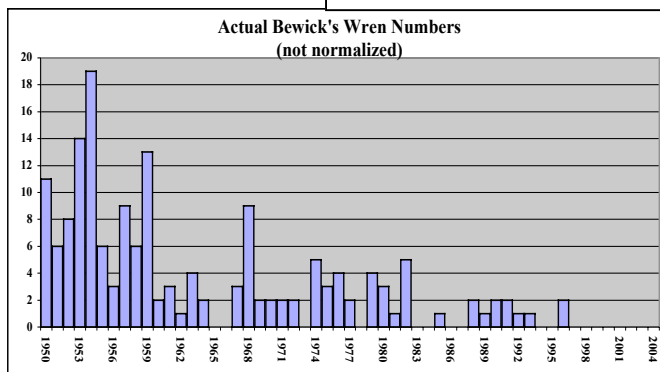
In light of the previous discussion it is not surprising that the 50-year population trend for the Bewick’s Wren shows a precipitous decline.

Indeed, negative slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Bewick's Wren Population Trend

Negative slope of the trend line is significant at the 95% level



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) found no evidence of this endangered wren throughout the Indiana Atlas project. Whitaker et al. (1988) listed nesting records for 23 counties across the state, but only three after 1960.

Bewick's Wren Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
9	13-May-1929	Hovey Lake	S.E. Perkins	M&K
7*	29-May-1927	Indiana Dunes	E.R. Ford	ERF
7	31-Jul-1932	Elkhart Co	R.J. Fleetwood	REM
7*	03-May-1939	Shelby Co	Adelaide Johnson	REM
4*	30-Mar-1935	Monroe Co	???	REM
4	26-May-1935	Marion Co	H.F. Wright	REM
*Egg count in nest				

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.

Whitaker, J.O., Jr., V.M. Lentz, and R.E. Mumford (1988) *Endangered and threatened vertebrate animals of Indiana; their distribution and abundance*. Indiana Acad. Sci. Monogr. No. 5.