

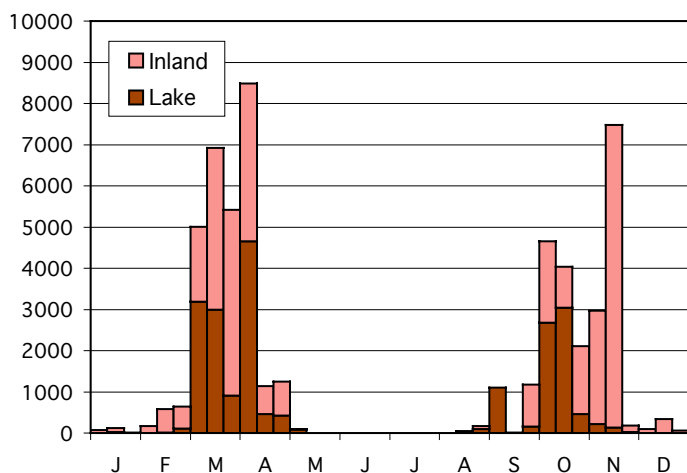
Rusty Blackbird

Euphagus carolinus

Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1898) reported this species in southern Indiana on 21 March 1883. This appears to constitute the state's earliest formal record.

Butler (1898) described the Rusty Blackbird as common, but frequently overlooked. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a fairly common migrant and a rare to casual winter visitor. Mumford and Keller (1984) considered the Rusty Blackbird a fairly common migrant and rare winter resident.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some 29 Indiana specimens are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Carnegie Museum of Natural History				1
Chicago Field Museum				3
National Museum of Natural History				12
Milwaukee Public Museum				2
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				6
Univ. of Michigan Museum				5
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	6	4	n	4
Central Tier	7	5	n	5
Southern Tier	6	5	n	5
Entire State	6	4	n	4

Current Status

The Rusty Blackbird is a Common (4) migrant and Uncommon (6) winter resident.

Occurrence

This "swamp loving" blackbird, which is easily overlooked in the large blackbird flocks, has been recorded in at least 66 of Indiana's 92 counties. The largest counts have come from northwestern Indiana (see maximum count table).

Extreme Records

The state's latest spring record was banded in Allen County 30 May 1971 (U.S. Banding Lab). Early fall migrants include a half-dozen August records; the earliest of these involved ten birds observed by Virginia Reuter-skiold at Baileytown on 13 August 1948 (Reuter-skiold notes).

Rusty Blackbird Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
3000	05-Apr-1963	Gary	John Louis	JLo
3000	06-Mar-2000	Beverly Shores	Ralph Grundel	KJB
1000	22-Mar-1945	NW Indiana	D.H. Boyd	DBO

Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
5000	15-Nov-2002	Willow Slough FWA	Jed Hertz	INB
1200	17-Nov-2005	Fawn River Fish Hatchery	J.A. Haw	INB
1000	14-Oct-1949	N. Porter Co.	D.H. Boyd	DBo

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	13-Mar	30-Mar	22-Apr	30-May-1971	322
Central	Win. Res.	9-Mar	24-Mar	21-Apr	14-May-1932	82
South	Win. Res.	4-Mar	24-Mar	22-Apr	13-May-1991	88
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	13-Aug-1948	1-Oct	24-Oct	12-Nov	Win. Res.	289
Central	19-Sep-1965	11-Oct	31-Oct	20-Nov	Win. Res.	74
South	25-Sep-1983	11-Oct	2-Nov	17-Nov	Win. Res.	77

References Cited

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

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.

Reuter-skiold notes, the personal field observations of Dr. V. Reuter-skiold, which are now archived at Indiana University Northwest in Gary.