

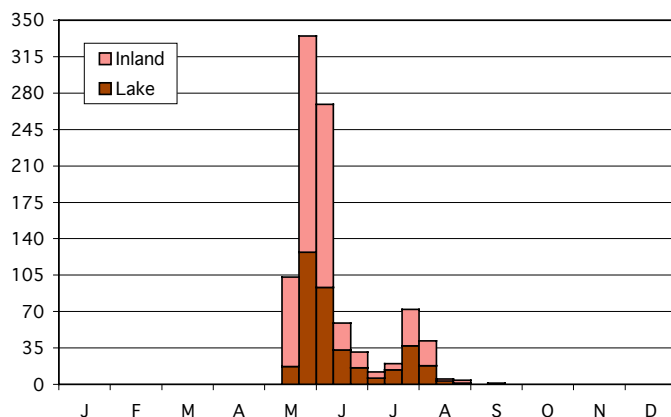
Alder Flycatcher

Empidonax alnorum

Historical Information

First Published Record: Without providing specific records Butler (1898) mentioned the Alder Flycatcher, as a subspecies of Traill's Flycatcher, so it was surely present in the nineteenth century. However, the earliest fully dated record involved a singing bird heard by Val Nolan in Owen County 17 May 1951 (Mumford files). Alder Flycatcher was awarded full species status in the early 1970s.

Butler (1898) expressed concern that this subspecies could not be safely identified in the field. Keller et al. (1979) considered the Alder Flycatcher a casual migrant in central and southern Indiana, but an uncommon migrant and possible summer resident in the north. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted that it was widespread in migration and present in summer over the northern half of the state.



Status

Physical Evidence: There are no known specimens present in museums.

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
No known specimens				0
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	6	6	7
Central Tier	n	7	7	8
Southern Tier	n	7	9	8
Entire State	n	6	6	7

Current Status

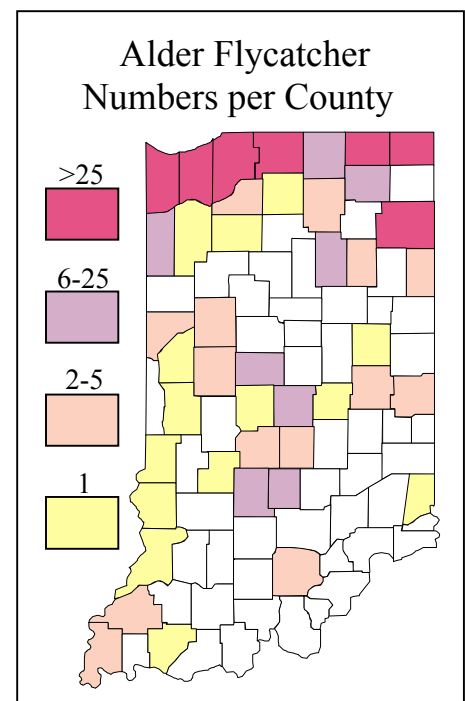
The Alder Flycatcher is Uncommon (6) in spring and summer.

Occurrence

This nondescript empid has been recorded in 42 Indiana counties, but is most prevalent in the northern counties (see distribution map). As most records occurred after the early 1970s, a 50-year trend plot was omitted.

Migration

The presence of singing birds assists in defining the spring migration, which peaks in late May and is quite distinctive on the migration histogram. Interestingly, increased vocal activity in late July is believed to coincide with the fall flight (Brock 2000); however, the number of fall birds identified is less than one-eighth of those reported in spring.



Extreme Record

The state's latest fall record, 20 September 2004 at Tannanbaum Lake in Parke County, was identified by A.W. Bruner based on the "bic" call note (Murphy 2005).



Comparison photos of Alder (left) and Willow (right) Flycatchers. The photos were taken in the great Beverly Shores marsh on 10 June 2006. Both individuals were singing standard songs, which provided the basis for their identifications. Photos by J.K. Cassady.

Breeding

For almost two decades numerous summer Alder Flycatchers were observed in northern Indiana without the discovery of a nest. The first confirmed nesting occurred 8 June 2001 when two nests were found (both under construction) at Pigeon River FWA (Gorney and Casebere 2002). A third nest at Pigeon River FWA was located 8 June 2002 (Casebere 2002). In the Indiana Atlas project breeding evidence was obtained in only one percent of the 647 priority blocks and all counties with breeding evidence were along the northern border of the state (Castrale et al. 1998).

Alder Flycatcher Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/Summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
19	04-Jun-1992	LaPorte Co	R.S. Plank	IAQ
16	05-Jun-1991	LaPorte Co	R.S. Plank	IAQ
16	22-May-2004	Lakefront	J.K. Cassady	KJB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
7	03-Aug-2002	Pigeon River FWA	J.A. Haw	INB
4	02-Aug-1995	Potato Cr. SP	Dan Stoltzfus	IAQ
3	04-Aug-2000	Pigeon River FWA	J.A. Haw	Haw
3	05-Aug-2003	Pigeon River FWA	J.A. Haw	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	11-May-2004	19-May	28-May	6-Jun	10-Jun-1998	258
Central	11-May-2000	14-May	24-May	3-Jun	5-Jun-2002	38
South	9-May-2005	---	20-May	---	4-Jun-1988	24
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	18-Jul-2003	21-Jul	30-Jul	9-Aug	26-Aug-2000	70
Central	27-Jul-1988	---	---	---	20-Sep-2004	5
South	25-Aug-1990	---	---	---	12-Sep-2002	2
State	18-Jul-2003	21-Jul	30-Jul	12-Aug	20-Sep-2004	77

References Cited

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Castrale, J.S., E.M. Hopkins, and C.E. Keller (1998) Atlas of breeding Birds of Indiana, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 388 pp.

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Mumford files: An extensive accumulation of Indiana bird data on 5x7 file cards compiled by Professor R.E. Mumford of Purdue University, West Lafayette.

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Murphy, Bill (2005) Field Notes Fall 2004, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 83:140-178.