

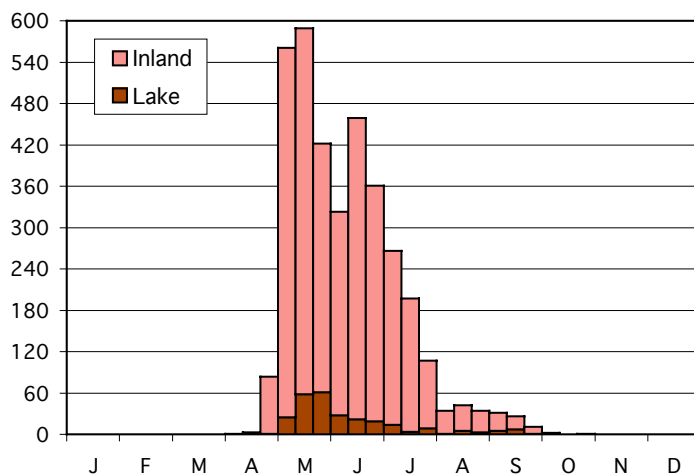
Yellow-breasted Chat

Icteria virens

Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1898) reported collecting a Chat on 1 December 1881 (probably in Franklin County), which appears to constitute the state's earliest published date.

Butler (1898) deemed the Chat a common summer resident in the southern half of Indiana and local farther north. As a summer resident Keller et al. (1979) considered it uncommon in the north, fairly common in central Indiana, and common in the south. Mumford and Keller (1984) basically agreed with Butler's assessment, adding that local breeding areas occur in northern Indiana.



Current Status

The Yellow-breasted Chat is a Common (4) summer resident in the southern tier. As a migrant it is Fairly Common (5) in spring and Rare (7) in fall.

Occurrence

This large warbler has been recorded in at least 90 Indiana counties (only Howard and White Counties lack reports); however, it is most commonly encountered in the southern half of the state. As a migrant the Chat ranks 23rd in spring and 32nd in fall.

Extreme Records

Two December Chats have been reported. A.W. Butler shot the first one on 1 December 1881 (probably in Franklin County) as it fed on pokeberries (Butler 1898). The Mumford files contain an entry indicating a Chat was reported in Vanderburgh County on the 28 December 1955 Christmas Bird Count. However, the current CBC computer database does not include this record; consequently, it must be considered unreliable. Without providing reference Mumford and Keller (1984) report an exceptionally early record in northwestern Indiana on 6 April 1928; this report was excluded from this study.

Status

Physical Evidence: Some eight specimens, plus eggs and nests, are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

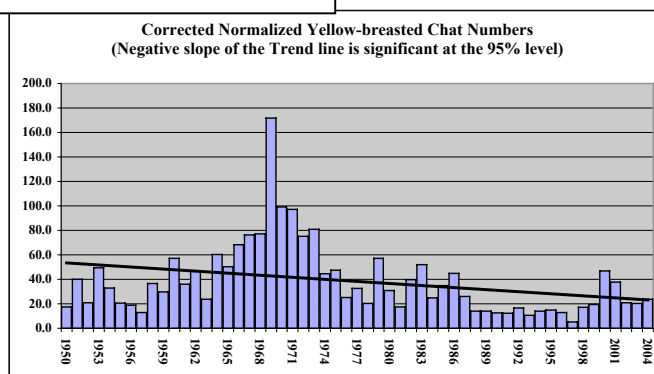
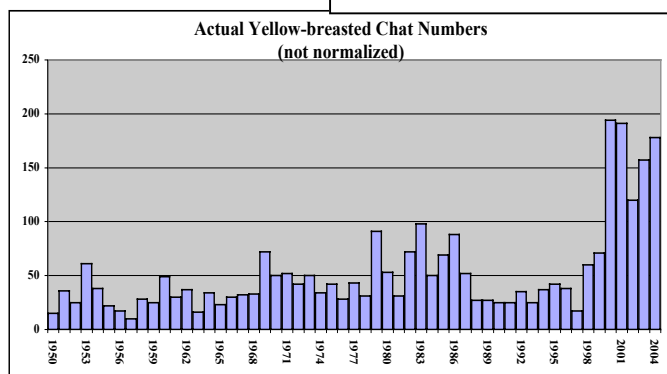
STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				3*
Chicago Field Museum				1
National Museum of Natural History				5**
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				2
Univ. of Michigan Museum				3*
*Includes eggs **Includes nests				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern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

Population Trend

Rank order abundance data (see Warbler Overview) ranks the Chat 19th based on all-time numbers and 24th over the past 20 years, suggesting a population decline. Breeding Bird Survey reports a statistically non-significant decline of 0.5 percent annually since 1966, which agrees with the rank order data. In addition the 50-year population trend has a negative slope that is statistically significant at the 95 percent level. Clearly, the Yellow-breasted Chat may be in trouble.

Yellow-breasted Chat Population Trend

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



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in 58 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks. Mumford and Keller (1984) list egg dates from 12 May through 24 July.

Yellow-breasted Chat Data

Maximum Single Party Counts

Spring/early Summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
56	19-Jun-2001	Big Oaks NWR	Refuge Personnel	BON
45	19-Jun-2001	Big Oaks NWR	J.P. Lewis	BON
43	22-Jun-2000	Big Oaks NWR	Refuge Personnel	BON
All three of the above tallies were recorded on bird censuses				
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
5	03-Sep-1960	Geist Reservoir	H.C. West	HCW
4	02-Aug-1983	Atterbury FWA	Boyd Gill	IAQ
4	11-Aug-1983	Atterbury FWA	Boyd Gill	IAQ

Migration Envelopes

Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	26-Apr-2001	7-May	18-May	4-Jun	Sum. Res.	401
Central	11-Apr-1995	3-May	14-May	1-Jun	Sum. Res.	302
South	17-Apr-1994	1-May	16-May	8-Jun	Sum. Res.	353

Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	3-Aug	30-Aug	20-Sep	2-Oct-2003	30
Central	Sum. Res.	9-Aug	21-Aug	21-Sep	26-Oct-1983	61
South	Sum. Res.	10-Aug	23-Aug	16-Sep	1-Dec-1881	61

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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