

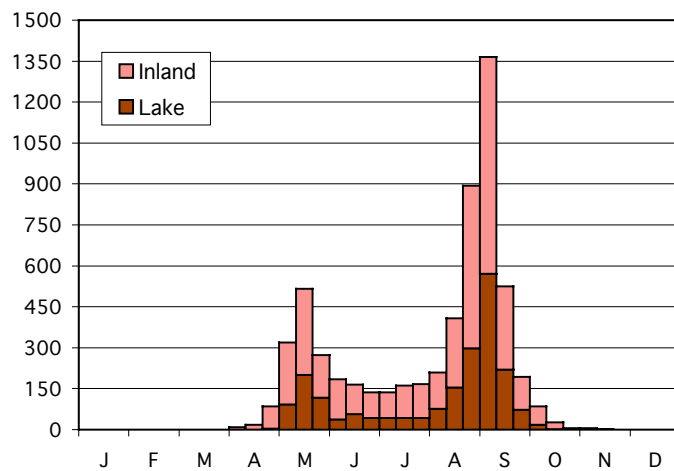
Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Archilochus colubris

Historical Information

First Published Record: On 12 May 1882 Butler (1898) reported finding a completed nest; this constitutes the state's earliest published record.

Both Butler (1898) and Keller et al. (1979) considered this species a common summer resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) suggested that Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were less common than in Butler's day.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some 24 specimens, plus eggs, are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).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				6*
National Museum of Natural History				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				17
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2*
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	5	5	4
Central Tier	n	6	6	4
Southern Tier	n	5	5	4
Entire State	n	5	5	4

Current Status

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird is Common (4) during the fall migration and Fairly Common (5) in spring and summer.

Occurrence

This widespread species has been recorded in every Indiana county. Over the past two decades an average of 257 birds has been recorded each year. This species is far more easily observed in fall; indeed, the ratio of fall to spring birds is nearly three to one. Despite its small size the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is clearly a strong flyer, as autumn lakewatchers at Miller Beach frequently see southbound birds fly in off Lake Michigan.

Fall Migration

Migration data suggest that adult males depart more than two weeks earlier than females and possibly immatures (see migration envelopes).

Extreme Records

The report of 100 birds on the lakefront 10 September 1919, comes from H.L. Stoddard. His actual report was, "literally thousands of hummingbirds in the swamps and surrounding territory (Stoddard notes)." As "thousands" was clearly an estimate and is unprecedented for the state, this number was arbitrarily reduced to 100. Additionally, Mumford and Keller (1984) reported that,

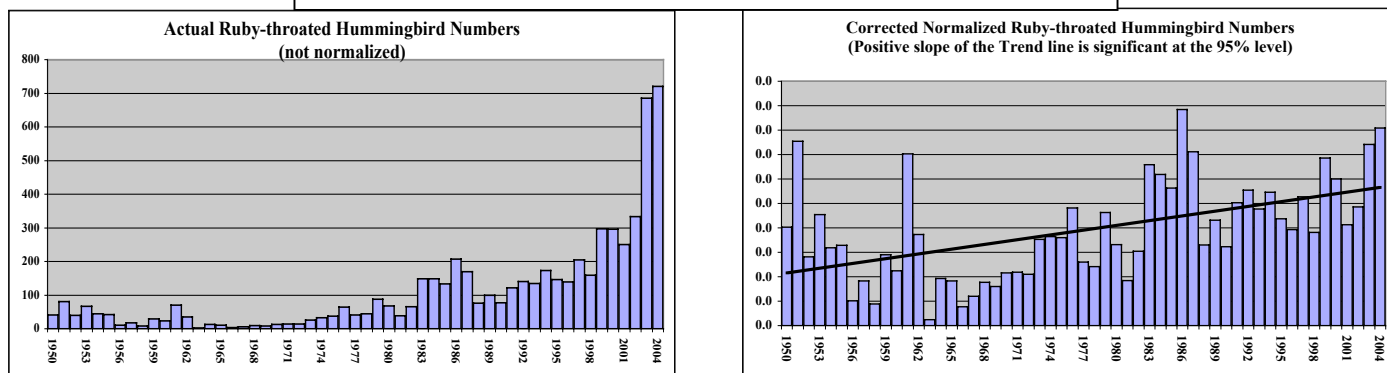
“It is not unusual to see forty to fifty birds at a large patch of jewelweed in bloom in early fall;” however, very few reports of this magnitude have been published.

Population Trend

The increased popularity of feeding hummingbirds, which concentrates birds rendering them more easily counted, may well account for the apparent population increase. At any rate positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird Population Trend

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



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in 63 percent of the state’s 647 priority blocks. Confirmed breeding areas were widely distributed, but less dense or lacking in farmland and urban areas (Castrale et al. 1998). Mumford and Keller (1984) list egg dates from 13 May to 8 August and report young in the nest through 1 September.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
15	11-May-1985	Shades S.P.	A.W. Bruner	IQM
15	12-May-1997	Lake Lemon	J.&S. Hengeveld	NNB
13	12-May-1984	Atterbury FWA	Boyd Gill	IAQ
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
100	10-Sep-1919	Lakefront	H.L. Stoddard	HLS
40	16-Aug-1986	West-cent. Ind.	M.R. Brown	NIQ
40*	15-Jul-2000	Lake Lemon	J.&S. Hengeveld	NNB

*40 were reported on one additional occasion.

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	10-Apr-2004	07-May	18-May	3-Jun	Sum. Res.	572
Central	5-Apr-2004	26-Apr	12-May	3-Jun	Sum. Res.	209
South	2-Apr-2004	20-Apr	9-May	2-Jun	Sum. Res.	154
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	8-Aug	2-Sep	18-Sep	21-Oct-2001	1174
Central	Sum. Res.	6-Aug	4-Sep	30-Sep	5-Nov-2004	254
South	Sum. Res.	11-Aug	6-Sep	4-Oct	21-Nov-2005	276
By Gender: Fall flight						
Male	18-Jul-1996	6-Aug	25-Aug	2-Oct	21-Nov-2005	54
Female	20-Jul-1991	5-Aug	9-Sep	10-Oct	2-Nov-01	85
Note: birds considered immature males or females were included with females						

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, R.E. and C.E. Keller (1984) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 376 pp.

Stoddard notes, A listing of observations transcribed directly from H.L. Stoddard's original field notes by Dr. R.E. Mumford about 1951.

Last update: 17 April 16, 2005