

Raptor Overview

Disregarding the vultures, 21 diurnal raptors have been recorded in Indiana. Among these some eleven are breeding species. The relative abundances of the hawks are outlined in the Raptor Abundance Table.

The four most abundant diurnal raptors in the state are, in order of abundance, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Northern Harrier. Together these four comprise about 69 percent of all reported hawks.

One measure of population stabilities is provided by comparing the rank order of all-time total numbers with numbers collected in the last 20 years (see Rank column in raptor abundance table). For the diurnal raptors these two rankings are fairly similar except for the American Kestrel. This small falcon ranks tenth using all-time numbers, but fifth based on counts over two recent decades. This indicates some change in either the Kestrel population or data collection methods.

RAPTOR ABUNDANCE TABLE							
Arranged in AOU Order							
	Abundance Index	20-year mean	Rank		Abundance Index	20-year mean	Rank
Osprey	3263.4	82.4	9/10	Swainson's Hawk	18.8	0.5	17/16
Swallow-tailed Kite	28.2	0.3	16/17	Red-tailed Hawk	29982.3	803.1	1/1
White-tailed Kite	2.7	0.1	20/20	Ferruginous Hawk	9.4	0.1	18/18
Mississippi Kite	346.2	12.4	14/13	Rough-legged Hawk	5315.1	133.5	7/9
Bald Eagle	6023.6	195.6	5/6	Golden Eagle	429.4	10.2	13/14
Northern Harrier	10862.3	290.6	4/3	American Kestrel	2124.1	220.2	10/5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	12463.1	378.2	3/2	Merlin	813.2	22.9	12/12
Cooper's Hawk	5108.4	144	8/7	Gyr Falcon	2.7	0.1	21/18
Northern Goshawk	312.7	4.3	15/15	Peregrine Falcon	1616.9	50.8	11/11
Red-shouldered Hawk	5541.8	142.9	6/8	Prairie Falcon	8.1	0.1	19/18
Broad-winged Hawk	15727.8	254.4	2/4				
Arranged by All-time Abundance							
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Abundance Index: = (100,000xnumber of individuals)÷Total of all individuals (i.e., 1000 times percentage)							
20-year mean: = total number observed (1985-2004) ÷20							
Rank: = Rank order based on: all-time total numbers/20-year means (1985-2004)							