

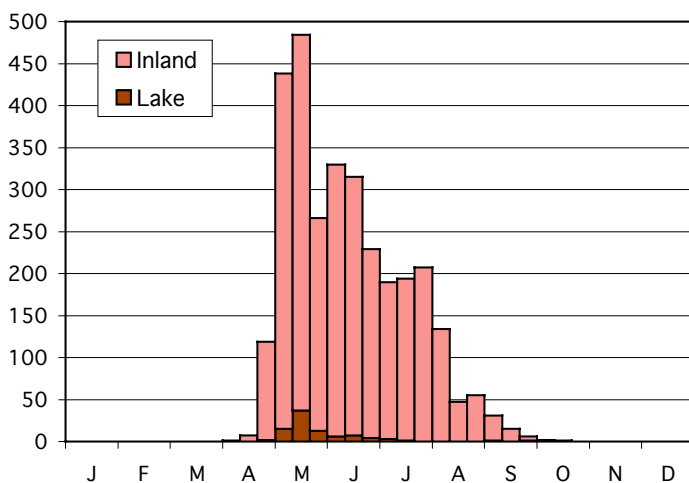
## Kentucky Warbler

## *Oporornis formosus*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: Although Brayton (1879) reported that two specimens were taken southwest of Indianapolis in May 1878, the state's earliest fully dated record involved a Kentucky Warbler collected in Franklin County 6 May 1881 (Mumford files).

Butler (1898) deemed the Kentucky Warbler a summer resident over the southern two-thirds of the state. As a summer resident Keller et al. (1979) considered it locally rare in the north and fairly common elsewhere. Mumford and Keller (1984) described the Kentucky Warbler as a common migrant and summer resident in the southern two-thirds of the state.



### Current Status

The Kentucky Warbler is a Common (4) spring migrant and summer resident. It is Fairly Common (5) in autumn.

### Occurrence

Although the largest breeding populations are primarily in the southern two-thirds of the state, Kentucky Warblers have been reported in at least 83 counties. As illustrated in the migration histogram the greatest numbers occur in May, with declining tallies thereafter, until all have inconspicuously slipped away. As a migrant the Kentucky Warbler ranks 27<sup>th</sup> in spring and 33<sup>rd</sup> during the fall flight.

### Extreme Dates

Butler (1898) reported that J.E. Beasley found six in Boone County on 11 October 1894. The occurrence of six Kentucky Warblers on this late date is incomprehensible (the state has only three other October records); consequently, this report has been disregarded. Among the three acceptable October records, all involve single birds. Two of these occurred on 3 October. L.A. Casebere and C.L. Hedge found the state's latest record 17 October 2000 on the state capitol grounds in downtown Indianapolis (pers. comm.).

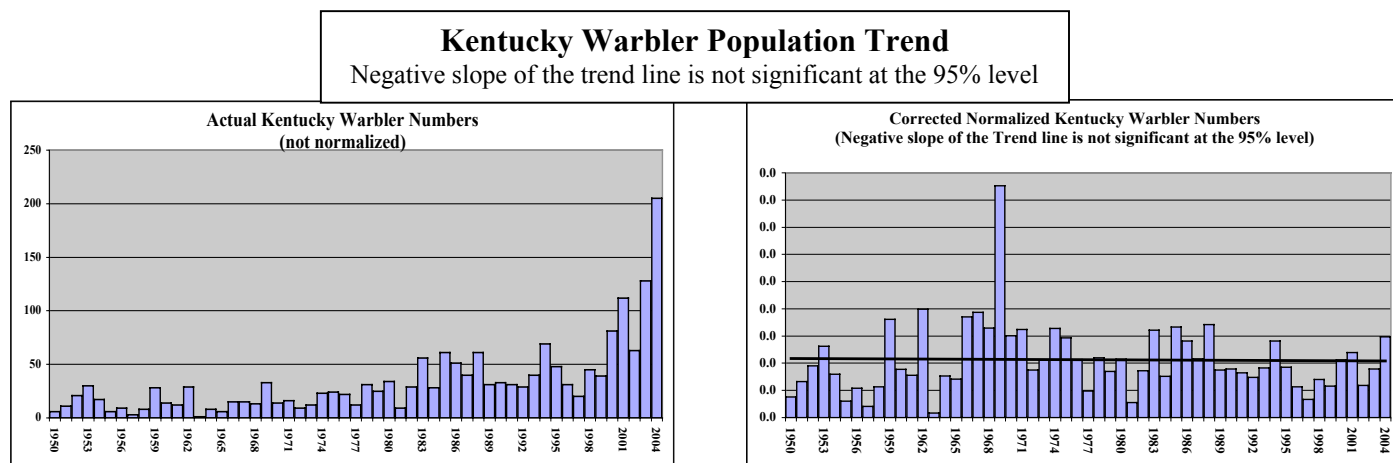
### Status

Physical Evidence: At least 15 specimens, plus eggs, are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

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

## Population Trend

The trend line for the 50-year population data is virtually flat, suggesting a fairly stable Kentucky Warbler population.



## Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in 35 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks; most of these data came from the southern half of the state. Mumford and Keller (1984) listed egg dates from 25 May through 16 June, plus a nest containing four young on 16 June.

### Kentucky Warbler Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/early Summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
37	19-Jun-2001	Big Oaks NWR	J.P. Lewis	BON
33	11-Jun-2002	Big Oaks NWR	J.P. Lewis	BON
26	14-May-1983	East central Ind.	W.H. Buskirk	REM
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
3	17-Aug-2000	Lake Monroe	C.L. Wood	INB
2	7-Sep-1952	Brown Co	Val Nolan	REM
2*	27-Aug-1959	Tippecanoe Co	R.E. Mumford	REM
*2 were recorded on eight additional occasions				

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	20-Apr-1994	5-May	16-May	31-May	Sum. Res.	269
Central	7-Apr-1954	2-May	11-May	30-May	Sum. Res.	241
South	16-Apr-1954	25-Apr	8-May	29-May	9-Jun-1990	176
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
State	Sum. Res.	14-Aug	31-Aug	18-Sep	17-Oct-2000	103

## References Cited

Brayton, A.W. (1879) A Catalogue of the Birds of Indiana. Trans. Ind. Hort. Soc. pp. 144-146.

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.

Last modified: 12 Oct 2005