

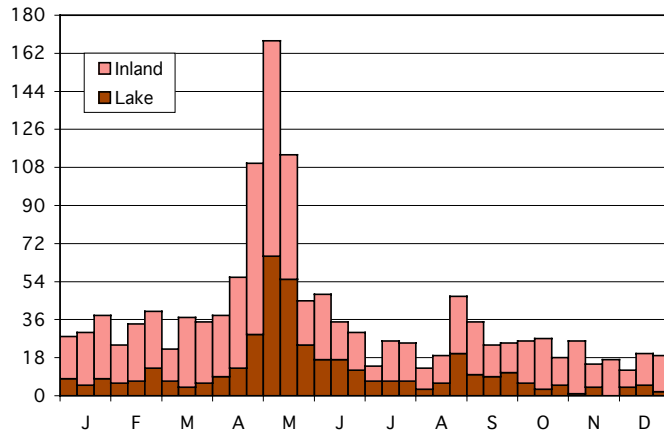
## Barred Owl

## *Strix varia*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: A specimen, collected by Robert Ridgway in Knox County 14 October 1882 (Mumford files), provided the state's earliest Barred Owl report.

Butler (1898) considered the Barred Owl a common resident. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a fairly common resident; Mumford and Keller (1984) included no formal status assessment.



### Current Status

The Barred Owl is an Uncommon (6) permanent resident.

### Occurrence

Slightly more than 40 Barred Owls per year have been recorded in the state over the past 20 years. The smallest annual total occurred in 1994 when only twelve were reported; more than 100 were tallied in 2004. Reports from more than 86 counties indicate that Barred Owls are quite widespread. They are prevalent in all but the central tier till plain counties and even there they occasionally appear along wooded waterways and in woodlots.

### Migration

There is little evidence of Barred Owl migration in the state. The distinct spring peak on the migration histogram is likely related to increased vocal activity during the breeding season. The possible weak August-September peak (see migration histogram) lacks a convincing explanation.

### Large Counts

The two largest tallies listed in the maximum count table were logged on formal owl surveys conducted by the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore staff in the National Lakeshore.

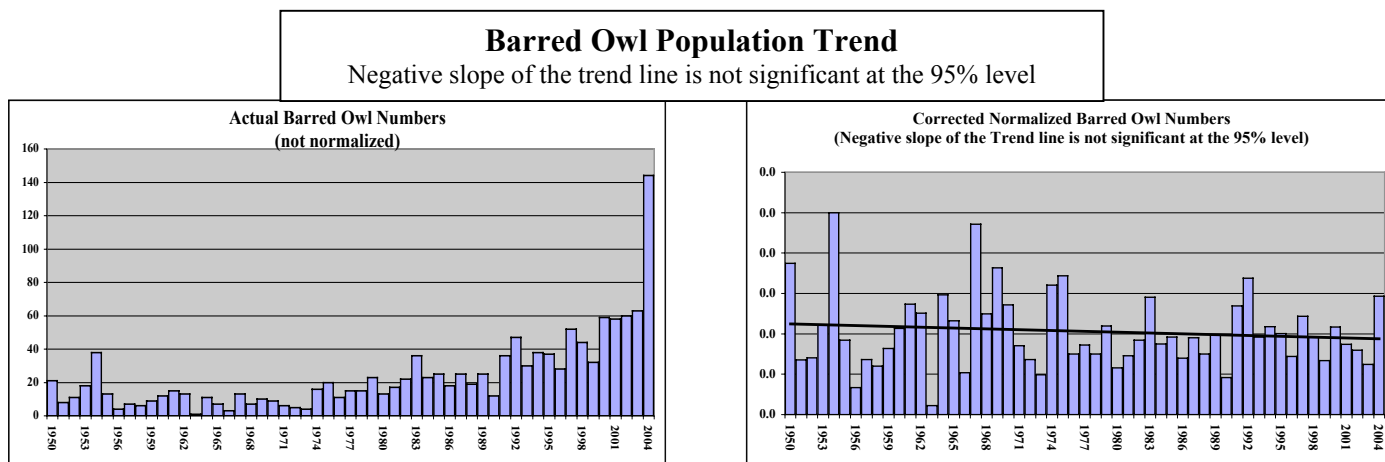
### Status

Physical Evidence: At least 25 skins and assorted eggs are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				3
National Museum of Natural History				10*
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				12
Univ. of Michigan Museum				5*
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	7	6	7	7
Central Tier	7	6	7	7
Southern Tier	6	6	6	6
Entire State	6	6	6	6

## Population Trend

The weak negative slope of the 50-year trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



## Breeding

The Indiana Atlas reported confirmed breeding in 25 counties: three in the northern, nine in the central, and 13 in the southern tier (Castrale et al. 1998). There are no reported observations of eggs, but young in the nest have been reported from 22 April through 3 July. Most nests are reported in May.

Barred Owl Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
15	08-May-1997	Indiana Dunes	N. Lakeshore Staff	BBC
13	04-May-1994	Indiana Dunes	N. Lakeshore Staff	BBC
9	05-Nov-2001	Monroe Co	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
8	20-Jun-2005	Greene & Sullivan Cos	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
7	21-Apr-1979	Brown Co	S.F. Jackson	IAQ
Seven were recorded on two additional occasions.				

## 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.