

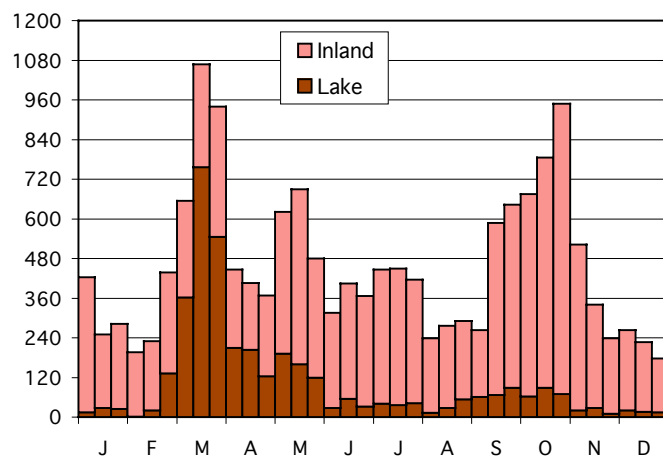
Eastern Bluebird

Sialia sialis

Historical Information

First Published Record: Although the earliest published Eastern Bluebird record occurred 10 February 1882, a date A.W. Butler observed a pair in Franklin County (Butler 1898), this species was certainly present long before 1882.

Butler (1898) considered the “Bluebird” a common summer resident and a permanent resident, especially in the south. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a common migrant and summer resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted the Eastern Bluebird’s sensitivity to cold winters and characterized its abundance as fairly common in both migration and summer.



Status

Physical Evidence: At least 19 specimens, plus numerous eggs, are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards 1987).

Current Status

The Eastern Bluebird is a permanent resident, which is Very Common (3) during migration.

Occurrence

This popular bird has been reported in every county except Tipton, and it has no doubt also occurred there. The sizeable inland numbers in May and summer (see migration histogram) are primarily the result of large numbers of birds banded during these periods.

Migration

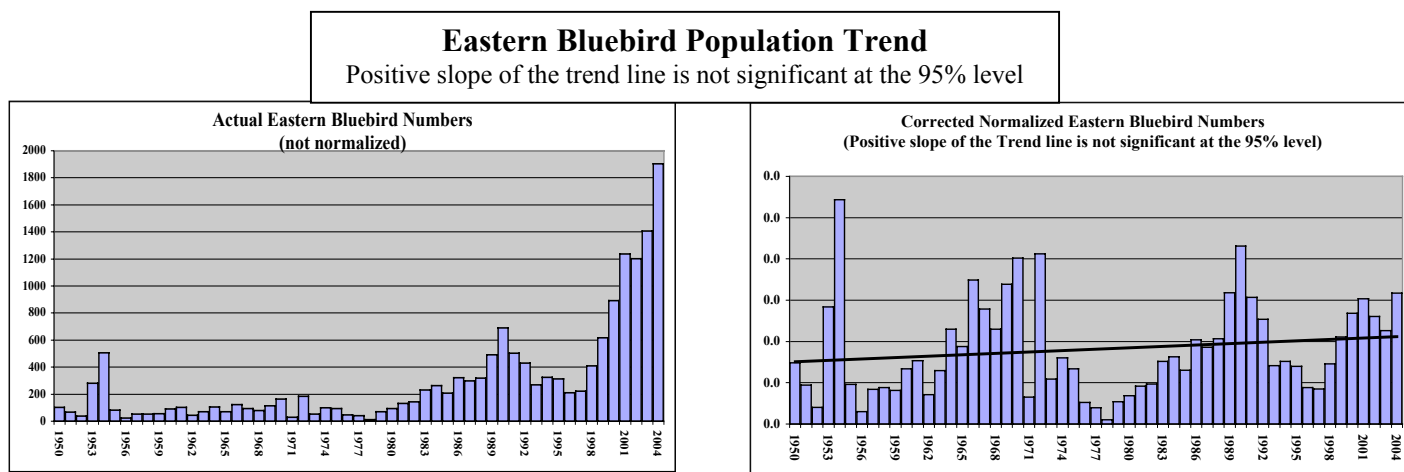
The conspicuous March numbers shown on the migration histogram reflect longshore flight tallies. Although the heaviest spring movements on the lakefront occur in March, stragglers are detected well into May. The fall flight, which is barely detectable on the lakefront, is quite prevalent at inland sites.

Population Trend

The Eastern Bluebird is susceptible to long periods of cold. Indiana’s population was severely depleted by the bitter winters of the late 1970s. A more modest decline also occurred in the mid-

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

1990s. Both of these declines are visible on the corrected normalized plot. The overall trend has a slightly positive slope, but is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) collected breeding evidence in 82 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks; reports were fairly uniformly distributed except for scarcity in a band extending from central to northwest Indiana. According to Mumford and Keller (1984) eggs have been reported from 13 April through 10 August.

Eastern Bluebird Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/Summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
239*	14-Mar-2002	Mount Baldy	K.J. Brock	KJB
100	20-Mar-1946	Lake Co	D.H. Boyd	REM
83*	05-Mar-1983	Mount Baldy	K.J. Brock	KJB
*Longshore flights				
Fall/Early Winter				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
240	22-Oct-2001	Lake Lemon	J. & S. Hengeveld	INB
102	02-Dec-1954	S.W. Indiana*	R.E. Mumford	REM
100	12-Nov-1990	Franklin Co	Paul Wharton	NKE
*71 in Perry Co., 16 in Orange Co., and 15 in Crawford Co.				

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	Win. Res.	19-Feb	20-Mar	14-Apr	Sum. Res.	885
Fall	Sum. Res.	18-Sep	15-Oct	14-Nov	Win. Res.	1281

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.

Richards, R.L. (1987) The Vertebrate Collection of the Indiana State Museum: "Old" Specimens and Records, *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science* 97:547-570.