

## Passenger Pigeon

## *Ectopistes migratorius*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: Wm. Corbett described a roost at French Lick, Orange County on 5 June 1817 (Mumford and Keller 1984). This appears to constitute Indiana's earliest published record.

Butler (1898) reported that 1877 was the last year in which this species was "very abundant" near Brookville. By the time his book was published Passenger Pigeons were rare. Keller et al. (1979) and Mumford and Keller (1984) both deemed this species extinct.

### Status

Physical Evidence: At least nine specimens are housed in the nation's museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and Richards 1987).

### Current Status

Extinct.

| STATUS TABLE                       |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Specimens                          |     |
| Museum                             | No. |
| Carnegie Museum of Natural History | 2   |
| Chicago Field Museum               | 5   |
| Indiana State Museum               | 1   |
| Univ. of Michigan Museum           | 1   |

### Occurrence

According to Butler (1898) his father recalled enormous numbers of Passenger Pigeons near Vernon in 1831-1832, recounting that, "They moved in flocks so large the sky could not be seen in any direction as far as the eye could reach." There are numerous other accounts of these great flocks. According to Mumford and Keller (1984) Indiana's last verified Passenger Pigeon record involved a specimen taken in Franklin County 3 April 1902, but there are sight records through 1910 (Mumford files).

### Breeding

Nests and eggs are mentioned in Mumford and Keller (1984).

### References Cited

Butler, A. W. (1898) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana Department of Geology and Natural Resources Annual Report, 22:575-1187.

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.

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.