

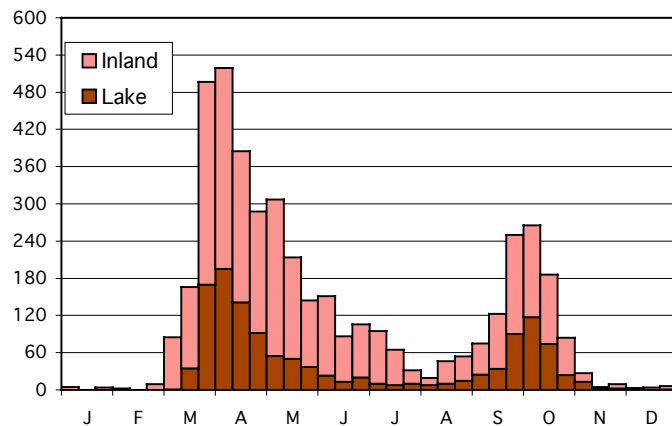
Eastern Phoebe

Sayornis phoebe

Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1898) reported a bird at Brookville on 1 March 1881, which constitutes the earliest published record.

Butler (1898) failed to provide a general status for the “Bridge Pewee,” but did note that, “It is rarely common before mid-April.” Keller et al. (1979) described this unusually robust flycatcher as a common summer resident, which is casual to very rare (north) in winter. Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed it an uncommon to common migrant and local summer resident.



Current Status

The Eastern Phoebe is Common (4) to Fairly Common (5) in migration and an Uncommon (6) summer resident. Winter birds are Rare (7) in the two southern tiers.

Occurrence

The Phoebe is Indiana’s earliest arriving flycatcher with average arrival dates in March. It is more common in spring than fall and has been recorded in every county. Over the past 20 years an average of 180 Phoebes has been reported annually. The presence of this flycatcher throughout the year rendered it difficult to generate migration envelopes for each tier; consequently, only envelopes for the entire state were constructed.

Winter Records

This is Indiana’s only flycatcher that regularly occurs in winter. Records include nineteen December reports, twelve January records, and sixteen February reports. Most winter birds appear in the southern tier; exceptions include singletons at Shades State Park 27 December 1999 (Keller and Keller 2000), in Clay County 1 December 2001 (IN-BIRD), Willow Slough FWA 1 January 1999 (notes to *North American Birds*), Hamilton County 27 January 2003 (Keller and Keller 2003), Marion County 27 February 1938 (Mumford files), Hamilton County 26 February

Status

Physical Evidence: Some 13 specimens, plus several eggs, are known to be stored in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Carnegie Museum of Natural History				1
Chicago Academy of Sciences				1
Chicago Field Museum				4
National Museum of Natural History				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				5
Univ. of Michigan Museum				5*
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	10	4	6	5
Central Tier	7	5	7	6
Southern Tier	7	4	6	5
Entire State	7	4	6	5

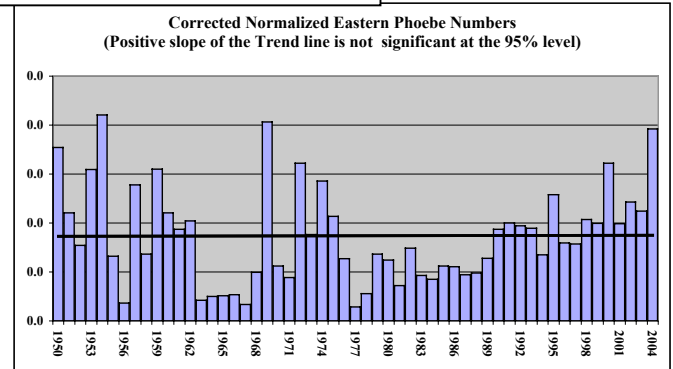
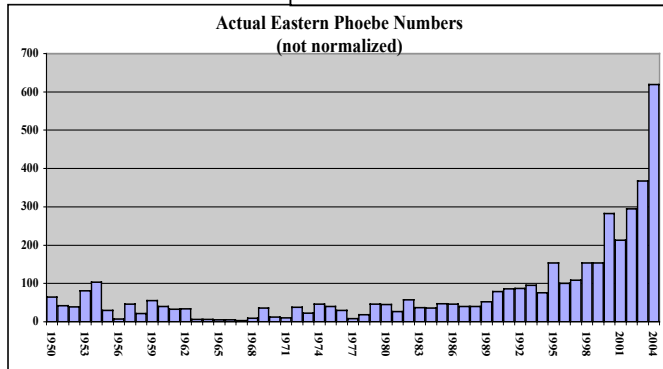
2000 (IN-BIRD), and Boone County 18 December 2005 (IN-BIRD). Only one of these (Willow Slough FWA) was located in the northern tier.

Population Trend

Though slightly positive in slope, the 50-year trend line is virtually flat, suggesting a relative stable Eastern Phoebe population.

Eastern Phoebe Population Trend

Positive slope of the trend line is not significant at the 95% level



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in 57 percent of the Indiana Atlas priority blocks. Nests have been reported from 29 March through 20 August, with eggs observed during the interval 7 April through 23 July.

Eastern Phoebe Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/Summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
32	30-Jun-2004	Multiple Sites*	B.K. Jackson	BKJ
25	05-Apr-1959	Baileytown	V. Reuter-skiold	VRS
22	20-Mar-2004	Lakefront	B.J. Grube	KJB
*Dearborn(12), Ohio(4), Ripley(7), and Switzerland(9) Counties				
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
30	8-Oct-2005	Lakefront	K.J. Brock	KJB
10	23-Sep-1997	Pigeon River FWA	J.A. Haw	Haw
9	08-Oct-2002	Boot L. Preserve	J.K. Cassady	INB

Migration Envelopes

Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	Win. Vis.	19-Mar	8-Apr	4-May	Sum. Res.	1180
Fall	Sum. Res.	1-Sep	1-Oct	25-Oct	Win. Vis.	821

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.

IN-BIRD, a Listserv dealing with Indiana birds developed and maintained by P.W. Kelly. The records are archived at: <http://listserv.indiana.edu/archives/in-bird-l.html>

Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller (1979) *Indiana Birds and Their Haunts*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 214 pp.

Keller, Pamela and T.C. Keller (2000) Field Notes Winter 1999-2000, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 78:141-153.

Keller, Pamela and T.C. Keller (2003) Field Notes Winter 2002-2003, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 81:211-225.

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.