

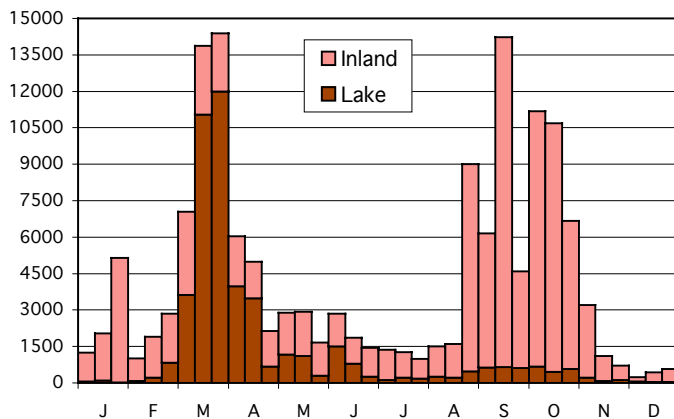
## American Robin

## *Turdus migratorius*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: Though no doubt present long before, Indiana's earliest fully dated American Robin report involved a specimen collected in Franklin County 11 February 1881 (Mumford files).

Butler (1898) considered this species an abundant migrant and common summer resident. Both Keller et al. (1979) and Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed the Robin an abundant migrant and summer resident, with variable numbers of wintering birds.



### Current Status

The American Robin is a permanent resident, which is Abundant (2) during migration.

### Occurrence

The American Robin, which has been reported in every Indiana county, is surely one of the state's best-known birds. The largest spring tallies (see maximum count table) occurred along the lakefront where this species joins the throng of longshore migrants on mornings following heavy nocturnal flights. Due to these movements the lakefront yields the largest spring numbers, whereas, inland sites provide the greater autumn numbers.

### Extreme Records

C.E. Keller tallied the state's largest count of some 10,000 birds, which occupied a roost north of Beech Grove, Marion County, on 13 September 1961 (Keller 1962).

### Winter Records

During the winter months an average of almost 550 birds per year has been recorded annually over the past two decades. The maximum winter count was 1300 tallied by W.H. Buskirk at Brookville Reservoir 25 January 2004 (IN-BIRD).

### Status

Physical Evidence: Some 32 specimens, plus eggs, are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

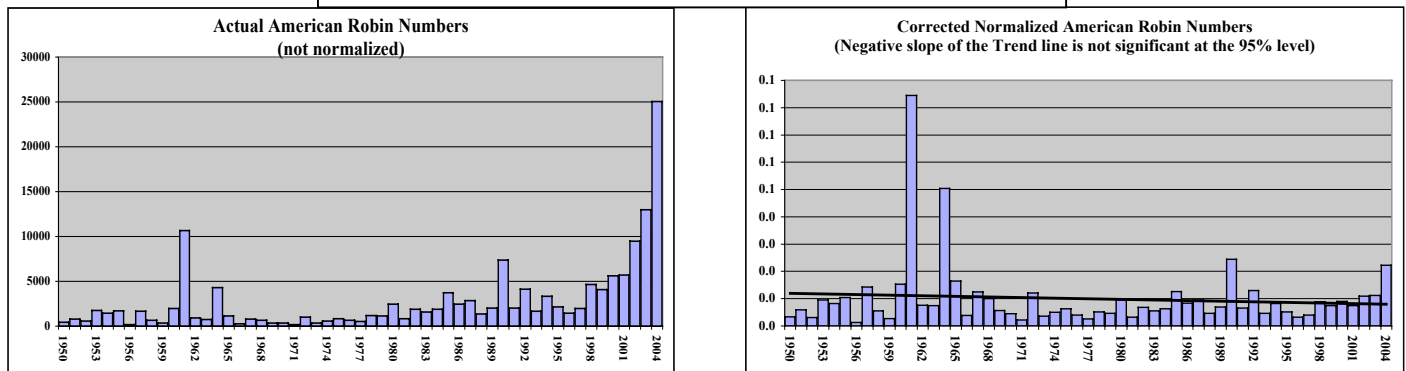
| STATUS TABLE                       |     |     |     |      |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Specimens                          |     |     |     |      |
| Museum                             |     |     |     | No.  |
| Chicago Academy of Sciences        |     |     |     | 5    |
| Chicago Field Museum               |     |     |     | 2    |
| National Museum of Natural History |     |     |     | 15*  |
| Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory   |     |     |     | 15   |
| Univ. of Michigan Museum           |     |     |     | 9*   |
| *Includes eggs                     |     |     |     |      |
| 20-Year Abundance Table            |     |     |     |      |
|                                    | Win | Spr | Sum | Fall |
| Northern Tier                      | 3   | 2   | 3   | 2    |
| Central Tier                       | 3   | 3   | 3   | 2    |
| Southern Tier                      | 2   | 3   | 4   | 3    |
| Entire State                       | 3   | 2   | 3   | 2    |

## Population Trend

It is somewhat startling that the abundant American Robin might be in decline; however, the negative slope of the trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level. It is also worth noting that if C.E. Keller's 10,000 birds, observed in 1961, are removed the trend line becomes slightly positive (but still not statistically significant).

### American Robin Population Trend

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



## Breeding

The Indiana Atlas project detected the American Robin in 100 percent of the 647 priority blocks and collected confirmed breeding evidence in all 92 Indiana counties (Castrale et al. 1998). Mumford and Keller (1984) reported nests containing eggs from 29 March through 18 August.

### American Robin Data

#### Maximum Single Party Counts

| Spring  |             |              |              |      |
|---|-------------|--------------|--------------|------|
| Number  | Date        | Location     | Observer     | Ref. |
| 5000  | 12-Mar-1990 | Mount Baldy  | K.J. Brock   | KJB  |
| 4500  | 25-Mar-2004 | West Beach   | J.J. McCoy   | INB  |
| 2500  | 20-Mar-2004 | Miller Beach | Michael Topp | INB  |
| All three of the above involved longshore flight counts |             |              |              |      |
| Fall  |             |              |              |      |
| Number  | Date        | Location     | Observer     | Ref. |
| 10000   | 13-Sep-1961 | Marion Co    | C.E. Keller  | IAQ  |
| 5000  | 27-Aug-2002 | Wayne Co     | W.H. Buskirk | INB  |
| 3800  | 17-Oct-1964 | Wayne Co     | W.H. Buskirk | IAQ  |

#### Migration Envelopes

| Entire State |           |        |        |        |           |         |
|--------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|
|              | Earliest  | Arrive | Peak   | Depart | Latest    | Records |
| Spring       | Win. Res. | 19-Feb | 24-Mar | 15-Apr | Sum. Res. | 1170    |
| Fall         | Sum. Res. | 26-Aug | 26-Sep | 27-Oct | Win. Res. | 1676    |

## 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. (1962) Field Notes Central Indiana Fall 1961, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 40:38-42.

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.