

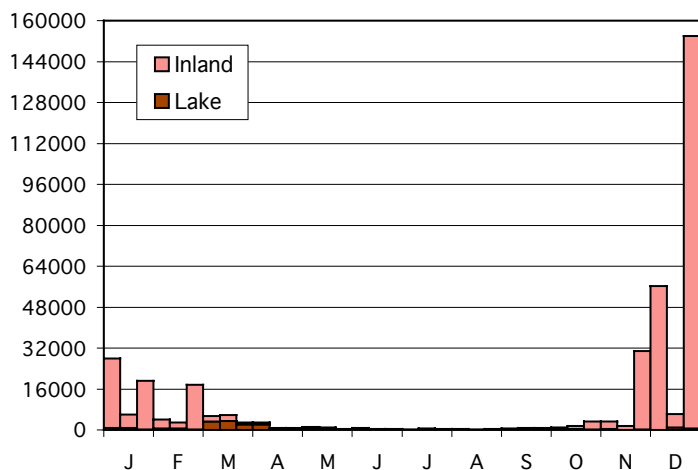
## American Crow

## *Corvus brachyrhynchos*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: The earliest completely dated report involved a specimen collected in Franklin County 11 April 1881 (Mumford files).

Butler (1898) deemed the “Common Crow,” as it was then known, a very common resident throughout the state. Keller et al. (1979) considered it a common summer resident, which was locally abundant in winter. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted a decline in the crow population subsequent to Butler’s day, but still considered it common.



### Status

Physical Evidence: At least 16 specimens, plus eggs, exist in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				2
Chicago Field Museum				2
National Museum of Natural History				5*
Indiana State Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				7
Univ. of Michigan Museum				10*
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	3	3	4	3
Central Tier	1	3	4	1
Southern Tier	1	4	4	3
Entire State	1	3	4	1

### Current Status

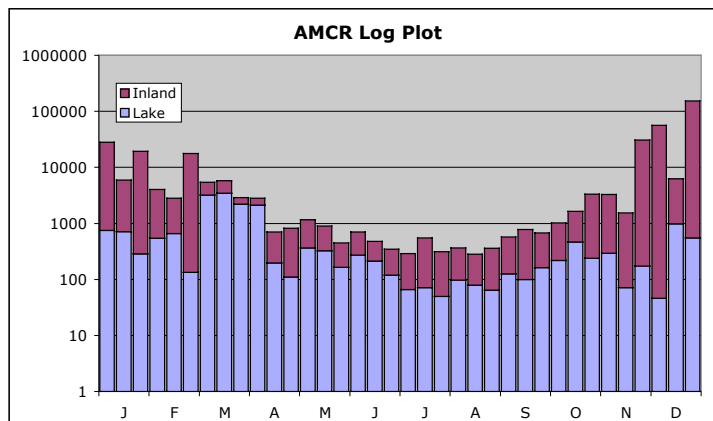
The American Crow is a permanent resident, which is Very Abundant (1) in fall and winter.

### Occurrence

This well-known bird has been recorded in all 92 of Indiana’s counties. The enormous number of winter birds confounds the determination of migration envelope parameters, but a distinct movement appears along the lakefront in March. A log plot (on the right) provides a more complete picture of crow numbers throughout the year.

### Large Counts

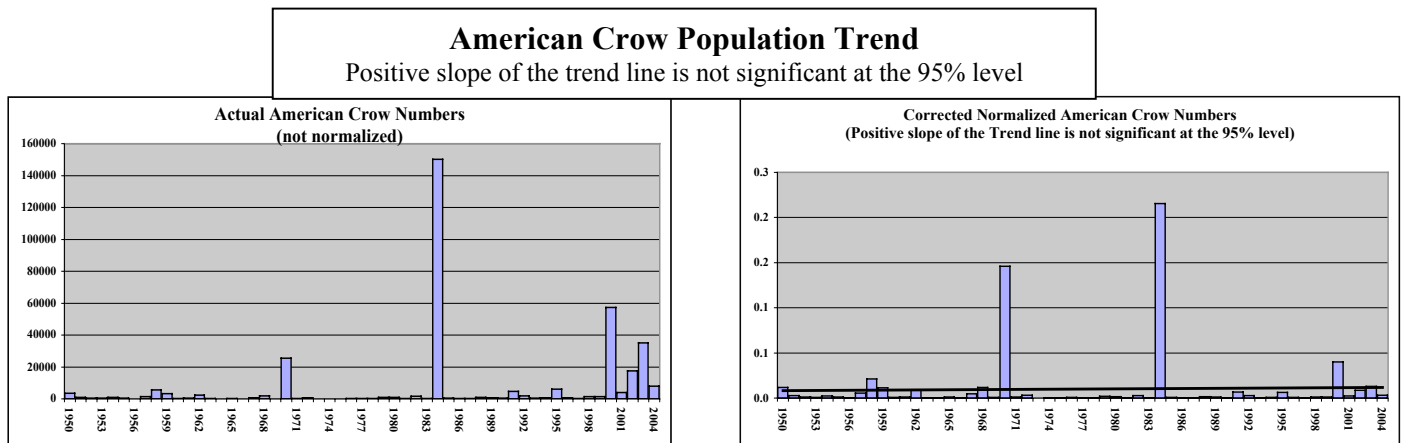
The enormous Hovey Lake record of 150,000 crows (see maximum count table) almost triples the state’s next highest tally. This count was made at a roost, which according to J. Lodato was some 400-600



by 150 yards in dimensions. It was situated in trees over the water and may well have contained twice the estimated number of birds (Brock 1986).

### Population Trend

The very slightly positive slope of the trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



### **Breeding**

During the Indiana Atlas project breeding evidence was obtained in some 97 percent of the 647 priority blocks (Castrale et al. 1998). Eggs have been reported in late March and April and young, still in the nest, as late as 24 June (Mumford and Keller 1984).

<b>American Crow Data</b>				
<b>Maximum Single Party Counts</b>				
<b>Entire Year</b>				
<b>Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observer</b>	<b>Ref.</b>
150000	22-Dec-1984	Hovey Lake	J. Lodato	IAQ
56000	04-Dec-2000	Vigo Co	P.E. Scott	INB
30000	30-Nov-2003	Vigo Co	P.E. Scott	NNB
25000	06-Jan-1970	Warrick Co	N. Stocks	IAQ
15000	25-Jan-1903	Wayne Co	???	REM
15000	23-Feb-2002	Madison Co	S.A. Pancol	INB

### **References Cited**

- Brock, K.J. (1986) Field Notes; Winter, 1984-85, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 64:33-37.
- 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.

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.