

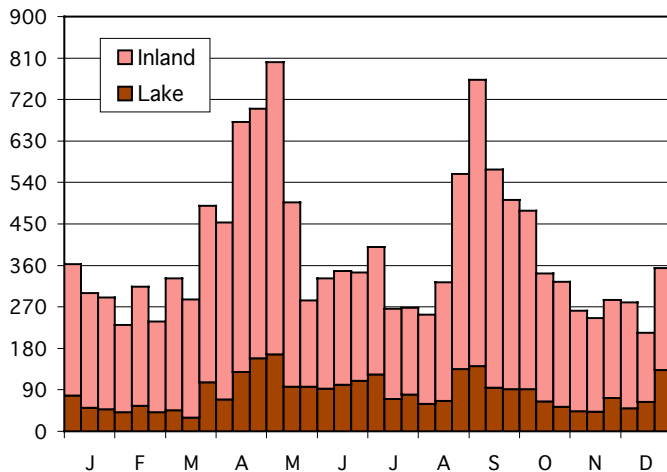
Downy Woodpecker

Picoides pubescens

Historical Information

First Published Record: The earliest report of this species in Indiana involved a male collected in Wabash County by A. B. Ulrey 7 May 1890 (Mumford files).

Butler (1890) referred to the "Little Spotted Woodpecker" as a common resident, which was more common in the southern counties. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it an abundant resident and Mumford and Keller (1984) considered it a common permanent resident.



Status

Physical Evidence: At least 44 specimens, plus eggs, are preserved in museums, including 18 in the National Museum of Natural History (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum	No.			
Chicago Academy of Sciences	3			
Chicago Field Museum	7			
National Museum of Natural History	18			
Milwaukee Public Museum	2			
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory	10			
Univ. of Michigan Museum	6*			
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	5	4	4	4
Central Tier	4	4	5	4
Southern Tier	6	5	5	5
Entire State	4	4	4	4

Current Status

The Downy Woodpecker is a Common (4) permanent resident in Indiana.

Occurrence

This species, the most abundant and widespread woodpecker in Indiana, has been recorded in every county in the state.

Migration

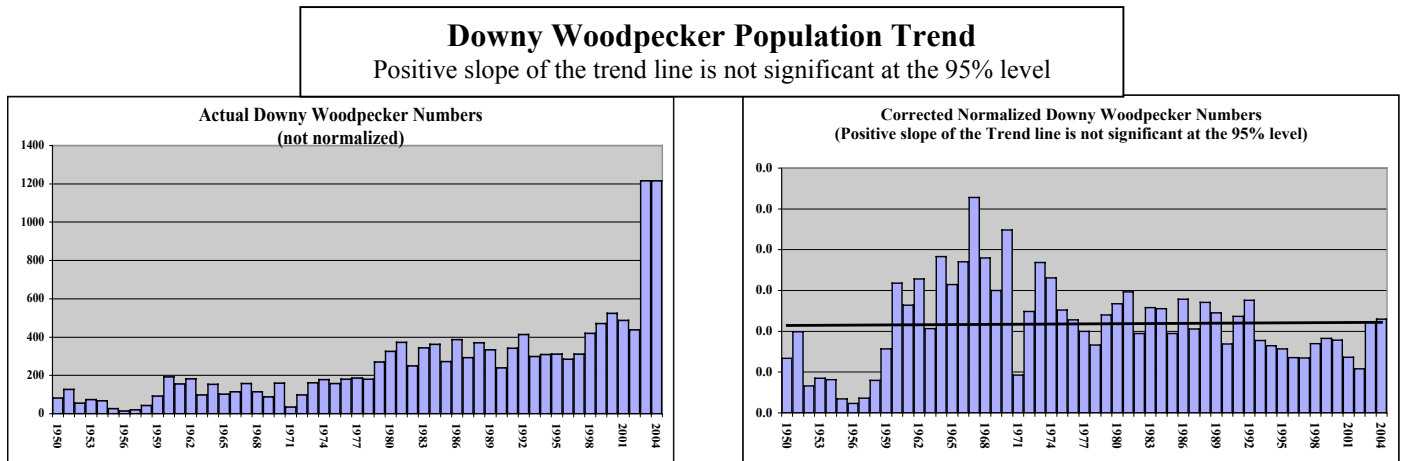
Although the migration histogram suggests flights in both spring and fall, actual migration is difficult to confirm. One useful tool in detecting migration is the presence of individuals in the lakefront traps; however, Downy Woodpeckers nest at these sites.

Extreme Record

The largest count listed in the maximum count table was made by H.L. Stoddard during a Dunes outing at Mineral Springs, an area located in the present day vicinity of Cowles Bog. On that day Stoddard reported, among other things, a Northern Saw-whet Owl, two Ruffed Grouse, and "about 60" Downy Woodpeckers (Stoddard notes).

Population Trend

The minuscule positive slope on the trend line suggests that Downy Woodpecker numbers have remained virtually flat over the past 50 years.



Breeding

Nesting records range from 12 April through 23 June, with most reports in May. Mumford and Keller 1984 report the earliest date for eggs as 23 April.

Downy Woodpecker Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
60	24-Mar-1917	Cowles Bog area	H.L. Stoddard	HLS
57	30-Jun-2004	S.E. Indiana	B.K. Jackson	BKJ
23	02-Apr-1960	Fayette Co	H.C. West	HCW
22	01-Feb-1959	Rush Co	H.C. West	HCW
21	2-Jul-1999	Fox Island Park	J.A. Haw	Haw
20	22-Jun-2001	Indiana Dunes	S.G. Mlodinow	KJB
20*	15-Feb-1988	Fayette Co	H.C. West	HCW
*20 were reported on three additional occasions				

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	Win. Res.	15-Mar	25-Apr	28-May	Sum. Res.	1886
Fall	Sum. Res.	31-Jul	19-Sep	12-Nov	Win. Res.	2069

References Cited

Butler, A. W. (1890) The Birds of Indiana, Appendix to *Transactions of the Indiana Horticultural Society for 1890* (available on the web).

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.

Stoddard notes, A listing of observations transcribed directly from H.L. Stoddard's original field notes by Dr. R.E. Mumford about 1951.