

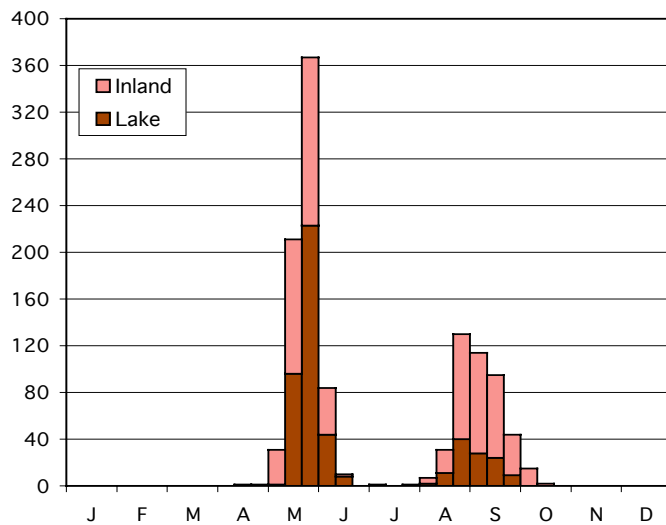
## Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

## *Empidonax flaviventris*

### Historical Information

**First Published Record:** Butler (1898) included the following comment from E.W. Nelson, “The first of July, 1873, I found them quite common in a dense swampy thicket in Northern Indiana, where they had probably nested.” Perhaps this optimistic statement about breeding Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in the state stimulated Butler (1890) to render the following assessment of this colorful Empid: “Breeds in the northern part of the State occasionally, DeKalb County.”

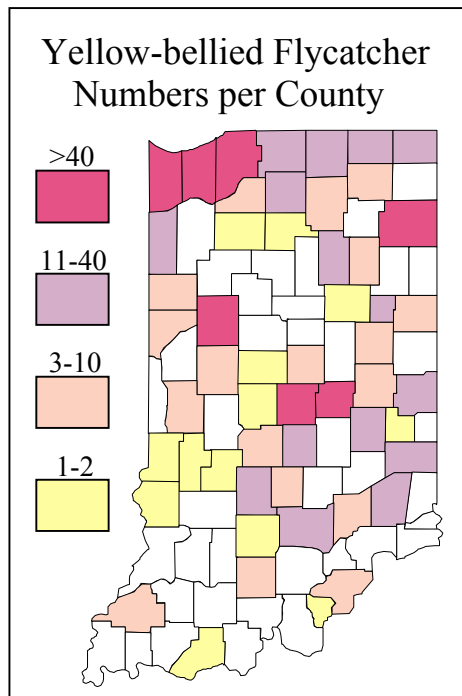
Butler (1898) deemed this dapper “Empid” a rare migrant and occasional summer resident. Keller et al. (1979) considered it an uncommon to rare migrant (rarest in the south). Mumford and Keller (1984) noted the complete absence of nesting records and referred to this flycatcher as an uncommon to rare spring and fall migrant.



### Status

**Physical Evidence:** Some five specimens are housed in North American museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and R.L. Hedge pers. comm.).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				2
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				1
J. Moore Museum, Earlham College				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	6	7	6
Central Tier	n	6	7	6
Southern Tier	n	7	7	7
Entire State	n	6	7	6



### Current Status

The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is an Uncommon (6) migrant.

### Occurrence

The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher has been reported in at least 53 counties; however, more than half of all birds reported have occurred in only three northern Indiana counties: Lake, Porter, and Allen.

### Summer Records

No doubt the late migration of this species, with an average departure date of 1 June, led early observers to conclude



Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in George Lake woodlot, Lake County 20 May 2003. Photo by J.K. Cassady.

that breeding occurred in the state. Some 35 records, involving 42 birds, have been reported in June. The latest of these, 20 June 1998, was recorded by J.K. Cassady in rural Porter County along the eastern boundary of the Heron Rookery unit of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (Brock 1998). Interestingly, in the same year R.F. Buskirk identified this species at Kingsbury FWA area on 2 July (Notes sent to *N. Am. Birds*). Philip Wagner reported another July record at Kingsbury FWA 17 July 1976 (Keller et al. 1979) and the Indiana Board of Health banded a bird in Marshall County 30 July 1990 (U.S. Banding Lab).

### Breeding

See historical section.

### Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
14	29-May-1997	Lakefront traps	J.K. Cassady	KJB
13	22-May-2004	Lakefront traps	J.J. McCoy	KJB
12	20-May-2003	Lakefront traps	K.J. Brock	KJB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
4	25-Aug-1989	Fox Island Park	J.A. Haw	Haw
3	06-Sep-1993	St Joseph Co	Dan Stoltzfus	NNB
3	13-Sep-2000	Lake Monroe	C.L. Wood	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	8-May-1983	17-May	24-May	3-Jun	20-Jun-1998	354
Central	30-Apr-1972	10-May	22-May	1-Jun	11-Jun-1954	109
South	20-Apr-1989	---	21-May	---	10-Jun-1997	29
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	17-Jul-1976	20-Aug	3-Sep	20-Sep	8-Oct-1960	188
Central	5-Aug-1973	25-Aug	10-Sep	30-Sep	20-Oct-1988	162

South	5-Aug-1993	22-Aug	11-Sep	26-Sep	6-Oct-1991	50
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### References Cited

Brock, K.J. (1998) Middlewestern Prairie Region, Breeding Season 1998, *Nat. Audubon Soc. Field Notes* 52:461-464.

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

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, R.E. and C.E. Keller (1984) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 376 pp.