

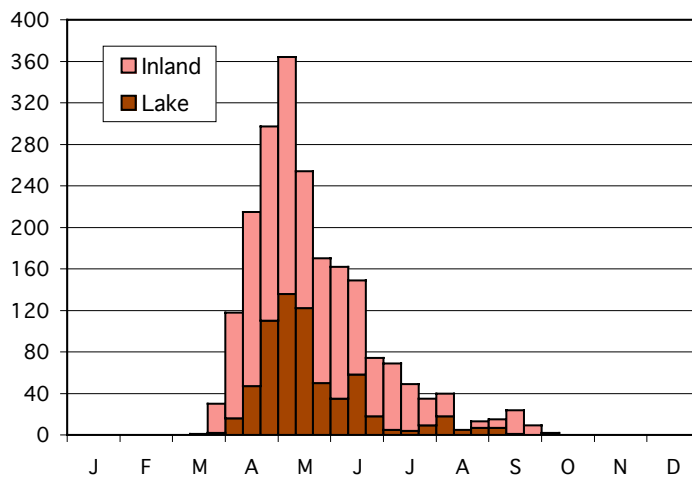
Louisiana Waterthrush

Seiurus motacilla

Historical Information

First Published Record: A Louisiana Waterthrush collected by C.W.G. Eifrig on 6 May 1876 in southern Porter County (Mumford files), appears to represent the state's earliest formal report.

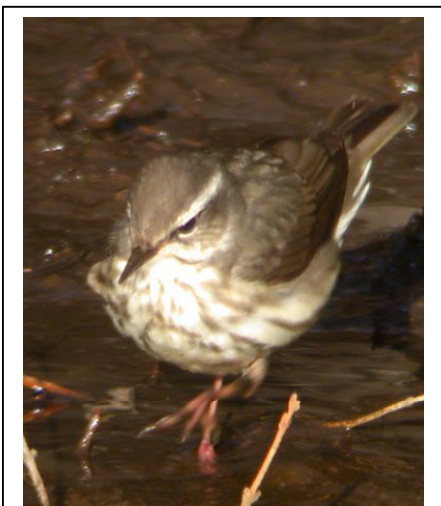
Butler (1898) described the "Large-billed Water Thrush" as a common summer resident, which was encountered less frequently northward. Keller et al. (1979) considered it an uncommon summer resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed the Louisiana Waterthrush a fairly common migrant and summer resident.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some nine specimens, plus eggs, are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).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 Field Museum				1
National Museum of Natural History				7*
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				3*
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	5	6	7
Central Tier	n	6	6	7
Southern Tier	n	5	5	7
Entire State	n	5	5	7



An early Louisiana Waterthrush at Kingsbury FWA on 22 March 2004. Photo by J.K. Cassady.

Current Status

The Louisiana Waterthrush is a Fairly Common (5) spring migrant and summer resident, but Rare (7) in fall.

Occurrence

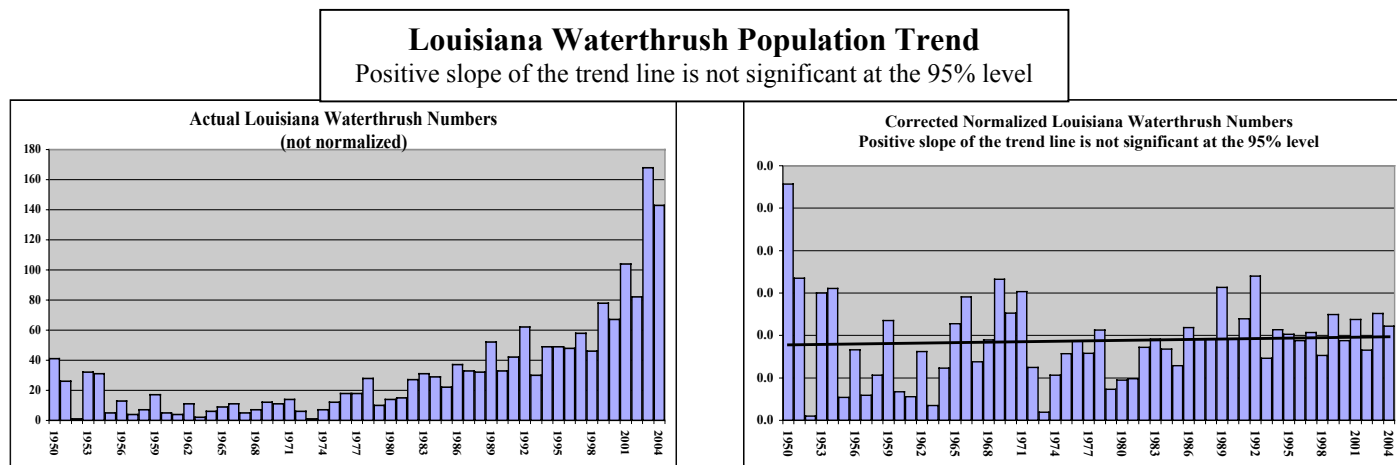
The two waterthrushes are quite difficult to separate visually. This is in part attributed to their physical similarities and in part due to their furtive habits. As a result many non-singing birds may well have been misidentified. These identification difficulties obscure the data of both species. The Louisiana Waterthrush has been reported in at least 77 Indiana counties. Among the regularly occurring migrants this waterthrush ranks 24th in spring and 35th in fall.

Extreme Records

A 5 November 1953 Elkhart County record (Nolan 1954) was excluded from the current work, as no details about this astonishingly late observation are known. H.C. West recorded this species in Marion County 4 October 1954 and at Geist Reservoir 3 October 1959; these reports constitute the state's only October records.

Population Trend

The nearly flat trend line has a slightly positive slope; however, this slope is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

In the Indiana Atlas Project Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in 22 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks. These reports were concentrated in the southern tier. Mumford and Keller (1984) report active nests between 2 May and 20 June.

Louisiana Waterthrush Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/Early Summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
21	30-Apr-2003	Franklin Co	W.H. Buskirk	INB
20	12-May-1934	Marion Co	H.F. Wright	REM
14	30-Jun-2005	S.E. Indiana	B.K. Jackson	BKJ
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
10	20-Sep-1954	Lawrence Co	R.E. Mumford	REM
4	07-Aug-1987	Shades S.P.	A.W. Bruner	NIQ
3*	01-Aug-1991	Beverly Shores	Clyde Fields	KJB
*3 were recorded on four additional occasions				

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	22-Mar-2004	15-Apr	7-May	28-May	Sum. Res.	496
Central	21-Mar-1954	10-Apr	3-May	27-May	Sum. Res.	269
South	20-Mar-1948	6-Apr	22-Apr	2-Jun	Sum. Res.	226

Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	2-Aug	15-Aug	10-Sep	29-Sep-1908	39
Central	Sum. Res.	---	7-Sep	---	4-Oct-1954	27
South	Sum. Res.	---	14-Sep	---	29-Sep-1953	10

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.

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.

Nolan, V. Jr. (1954) Field Notes fall 1953, *American Birds*, 8:21-23.

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