

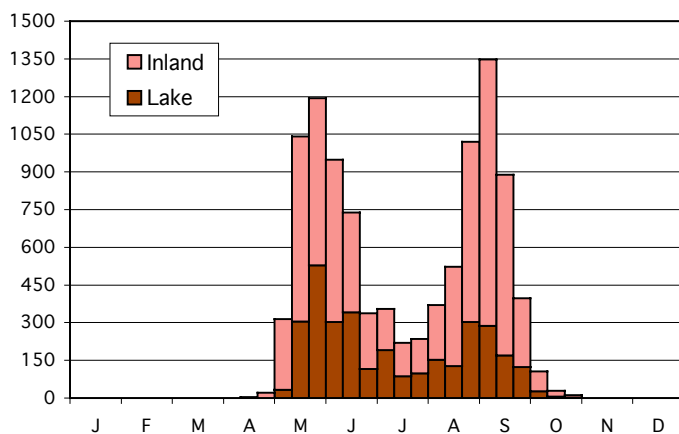
Eastern Wood-Pewee

Contopus virens

Historical Information

First Published Record: Without providing a location Butler (1898) noted, “The unusual cold of 20 May 1883, killed many of them.” The same year a specimen was taken in Franklin County on 30 August (Mumford files).

Butler (1898) deemed the “Wood Pewee” a common summer resident and commented that it was Indiana’s most abundant flycatcher. Keller et al. (1979) also described it as a common summer resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) considered the Eastern Wood-Pewee a common to uncommon migrant and local summer resident.



Eastern Wood-Pewee State Line Woods, Hammond, May 2003.
Photo by J.K. Cassady.

Status

Physical Evidence: At least 13 specimens, plus several eggs, are archived in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).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				3
National Museum of Natural History				2
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				3
Univ. of Michigan Museum				6*
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	4	4	4
Central Tier	n	5	6	4
Southern Tier	n	5	5	4
Entire State	n	4	4	4

Current Status

The Eastern Wood-Pewee is a Common (4) Summer resident and migrant.

Occurrence

This widespread flycatcher has been recorded in every Indiana county. As illustrated in the migration histogram, numbers are roughly equal in both spring and fall migrations. The largest single party counts are recorded in spring when the birds are quite vocal.

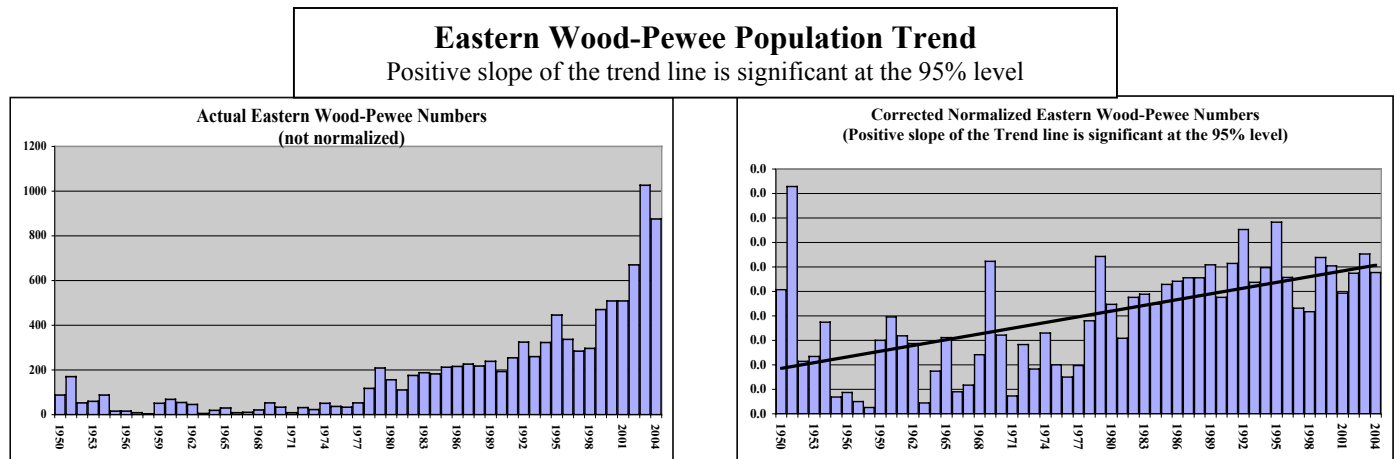
Extreme Records

Mumford and Keller (1984) listed an extraordinarily early date of 22 March. Although they did not cite a reference, this surely refers to the report of nine in Monroe County on 22 March 1952 (Mumford files), which is almost

certainly an error. The only November record (also cited in Mumford and Keller) came from the *Yearbook of the Indiana Audubon Society* (1949:51).

Population Trend

The 50-year population trend reveals a strongly positive trend; the positive slope is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

During the Indiana Atlas project the Eastern Wood-Pewee was recorded in every county and breeding evidence was gathered in 93 percent of the 647 priority blocks (Castrale et al. 1998). Nests have been reported from 12 May through 17 September. The Mumford files contain the report of adults feeding young in Monroe County on the remarkably late date of 29 September 1961.

Eastern Wood-Pewee Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/Summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
69	30-Jun-2004	Multiple sites*	B.K. Jackson	BKJ
51	02-Jun-1995	Kankakee FWA	R.S. Plank	IAQ
51	28-May-2005	Kankakee FWA & Willow Slough	J.K. Cassady	KJB
*Dearborn (16), Ohio(11), Ripley(25), and Switzerland(17) Counties				
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
24	03-Sep-1988	Lake Waveland	A.W. Bruner	IQM
23	30-Aug-1988	Fox Island Park	J.A. Haw	Haw
23	12-Aug-2004	Nobel Co	J.A. Haw	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	26-Apr-1984	12-May	23-May	6-Jun	Sum. Res.	792
Central	15-Apr-1946	9-May	19-May	1-Jun	Sum. Res.	247
South	13-Apr-1996	4-May	20-May	8-Jun	Sum. Res.	160

Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	3-Aug	3-Sep	25-Sep	24-Oct-1951	1183
Central	Sum. Res.	6-Aug	6-Sep	29-Sep	7-Nov-1948	263
South	Sum. Res.	18-Aug	12-Sep	29-Sep	31-Oct-2002	202

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.