

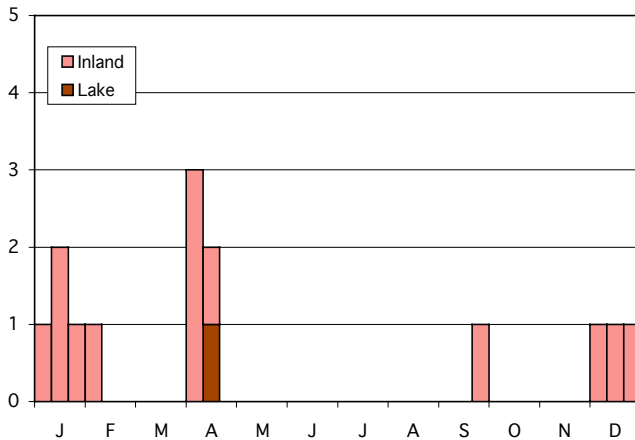
## Black-billed Magpie

## *Pica hudsonia*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: A bird reported at feed lots near Bicknell, Knox County, on 24 December 1907, remained through 10 February 1908 (Chansler 1910).

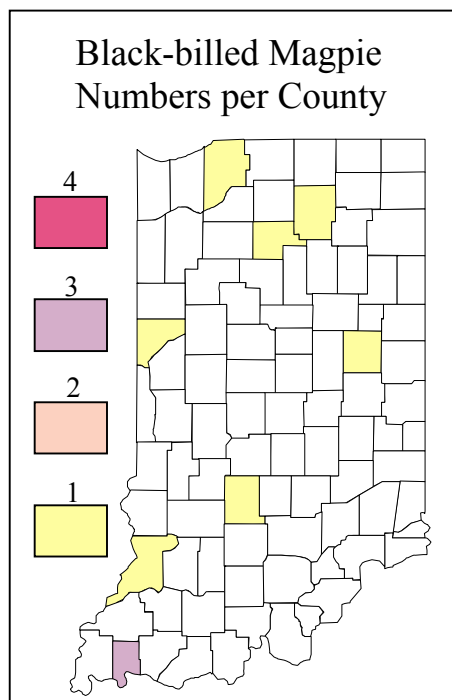
Butler (1898) listed this western species as hypothetical. Both Keller et al. (1979) and Mumford and Keller (1984) considered it accidental.



### Status

Physical Evidence: There are no known specimens or photographs.

| STATUS TABLE                      |     |     |     |      |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Specimens                         |     |     |     |      |
| Museum                            |     |     |     | No.  |
| No known specimens or photographs |     |     |     | 0    |
| 20-Year Abundance Table           |     |     |     |      |
|                                   | Win | Spr | Sum | Fall |
| Northern Tier                     | n   | n   | n   | n    |
| Central Tier                      | n   | n   | n   | n    |
| Southern Tier                     | n   | n   | n   | 10   |
| Entire State                      | n   | n   | n   | n    |



### Current Status

Only one Black-billed Magpie record has been accepted in the past 20 years; consequently, it remains Accidental (10).

### Occurrence

Indiana has some eight reports of this western species, several of which have not been reviewed by the Indiana Bird Records Committee. Magpie records are invariably fraught with questions of origin. Indeed, an Indianapolis bird initially accepted by the Indiana Bird Records Committee was subsequently rejected after the committee learned of an escape from the local zoo. The only real cluster of records occurs in April; the winter records shown on the migration histogram primarily represent the lingering Knox County bird.

### Unusual Reports

Interestingly, the Kosciusko County bird, which was observed three miles north of Warsaw, was eating House

Sparrows (Steffen 1975). The state's only report of multiple birds occurred a few miles north of Evansville where Dale and Marian Zimmerman observed three in flight overhead on 2 April 1956 (Mumford files).

| Black-billed Magpie Records  |                            |                |                            |      |
|--|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|------|
| All Accepted Records   |                            |                |                            |      |
| Number   | Date                       | Location       | Observer                   | Ref. |
| 1  | 24-Dec-1907 - 10-Feb-1908* | Knox Co        | E.J. Chansler              | M&K  |
| 1  | 14-Apr-1951                | Fulton Co      | R. Obenchain, Jr.          | REM  |
| 3  | 02-Apr-1956                | Vanderburgh Co | D. & M. Zimmerman          | REM  |
| 1  | 15-Dec-1959                | Delaware Co    | R. Cooper                  | REM  |
| 1  | 12-Jan-1975                | Kosciusko Co   | Paul Steffen               | IQA  |
| 1  | 19-Apr-1980                | Mount Baldy    | K.J. Brock                 | KJB  |
| 1  | 04-Dec-1983                | Warren Co      | Bill Ringer                | BRC  |
| 1  | Late September 2005        | Monroe Co      | Shalom M. Gerhard-Drummond | BRC  |
| *Although Chansler reported this bird, he apparently did not observe it. |                            |                |                            |      |

### References Cited

Butler, A. W. (1898) The Birds of Indiana, Indiana Department of Geology and Natural Resources Annual Report, 22:575-1187.

Chansler, E.J. (1910) Magpie in Knox County, Indiana, *Auk*, 27:210.

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.

Steffen, P. (1975) Black-billed Magpie in Kosciusko County, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 53:17.