

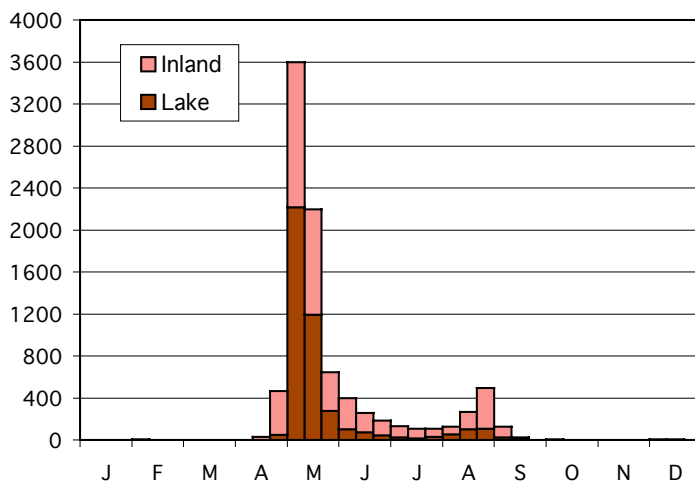
Baltimore Oriole

Icterus galbula

Historical Information

First Published Record: A.W. Butler reported one in Franklin County 25 April 1881 (Butler 1898), which appears to constitute Indiana's earliest formal record.

Butler (1898) simply referred to this brilliantly adorned oriole as a summer resident. Keller et al. (1979) deemed the "Northern Oriole" a common summer resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) stated, "In Indiana it has been a common migrant and summer resident for the past hundred years, casual in winter."



Current Status

The Baltimore Oriole is Very Common (3) in spring and Fairly Common (5) in summer and fall.

Occurrence

This familiar oriole has been reported in all 92 of Indiana's counties. In spring it often arrives in relatively large numbers, adding bright color to the somber early May landscape. The largest spring tallies occur during longshore flights when scores join other migrants moving along the Lake Michigan shoreline (see maximum count table). These flights augment spring numbers accounting for its Very Common (3) abundance in the northern tier. Orioles are considerably more difficult to find during the autumn migration and are quite rare after Labor Day.

Winter Records

A surprising number of Baltimore Orioles have been reported in winter. Although most winter reports occur in December (eight records), one January and four February records also exist. Most remarkable among these was an adult male that frequented a Monroe County feeding station from 20 December 2002 through 5 February 2003, where it dined on oranges and suet (Brock 2003).

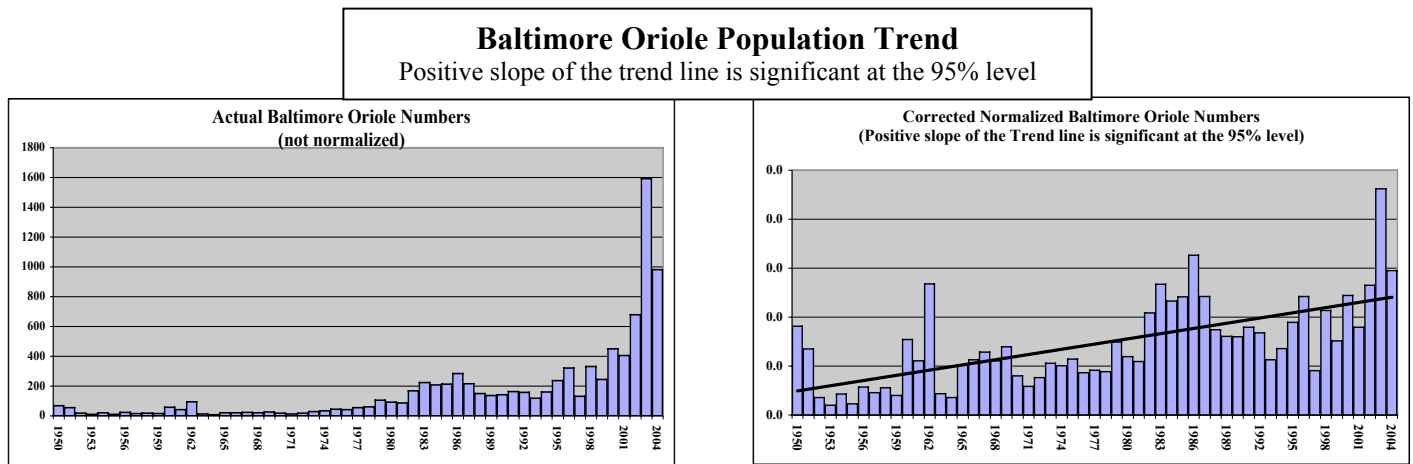
Status

Physical Evidence: Some 15 specimens, plus eggs and a nest, are archived in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Carnegie Museum of Natural History				1
Chicago Field Museum				3
National Museum of Natural History				5*
Indiana State Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				8
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2*
*Includes eggs or eggs and nest				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	3	5	5
Central Tier	8	4	6	6
Southern Tier	8	4	6	6
Entire State	8	3	5	5

Population Trend

Baltimore Orioles appear to be faring quite well in Indiana. Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in 92 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks and in all 92 Indiana counties. These reports were uniformly distributed across the state. Mumford and Keller (1984) listed only one egg date: 1 June.

Baltimore Oriole Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
464	10-May-2003	Dunes St Park	K.J. Brock	KJB
257	06-May-2003	Dunes St Park	J.K. Cassady	KJB
182	13-May-1998	Dunes St Park	J.J. McCoy	KJB
All of the above are longshore flight counts				
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
24	21-Aug-2002	Union Co	W.H. Buskirk	IAQ
14	23-Aug-2001	Pigeon River FWA	J.A. Haw	INB
13	26-Aug-1982	Fox Is. Park	J.A. Haw	Haw

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	16-Apr-1909	3-May	12-May	31-May	Sum. Res.	1072
Central	10-Apr-1977	28-Apr	9-May	26-May	Sum. Res.	387
South	24-Mar-2000	22-Apr	2-May	17-May	Sum. Res.	222
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	30-Jul	22-Aug	4-Sep	19-Nov-1976	416
Central	Sum. Res.	21-Jul	19-Aug	5-Sep	2-Oct-1981	179
South	Sum. Res.	20-Jul	26-Aug	17-Sep	28-Nov-1980	46

References Cited

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Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller (1979) *Indiana Birds and Their Haunts*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 214 pp.

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Richards, R.L. (1987) The Vertebrate Collection of the Indiana State Museum: "Old" Specimens and Records, *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science* 97:547-570.

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