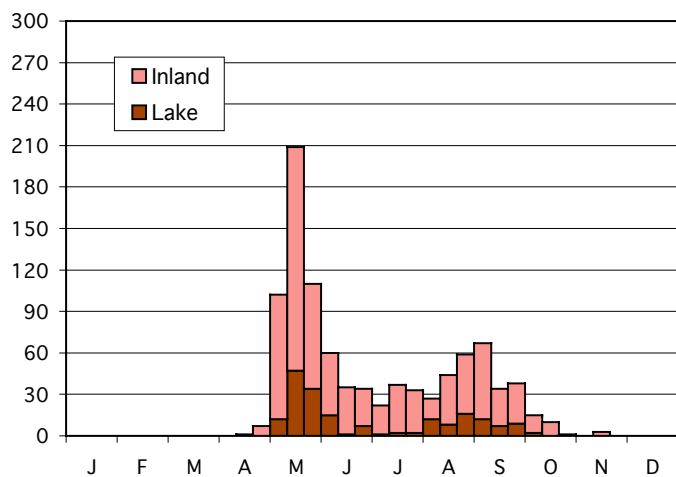


Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*

Historical Information

First Published Record: A specimen collected 18 June 1885, in Franklin County (Mumford files) constitutes Indiana's earliest fully dated record.

Butler (1898) deemed this cuckoo a common migrant and summer resident (more common in the north). Keller et al. (1979) considered it fairly common during summer in the north and rare in central Indiana. Mumford and Keller (1984) described the Black-billed Cuckoo as a locally common to uncommon summer resident in the north and even less common in the south.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some five specimens, plus eggs, exist in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).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				2
National Museum of Natural History				2*
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				4*
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	6	7	6
Central Tier	n	6	7	7
Southern Tier	n	7	7	7
Entire State	n	6	7	6

Current Status

From a statewide perspective the Black-billed Cuckoo is an Uncommon (6) migrant and a Rare (7) summer resident.

Occurrence

Black-billed Cuckoo numbers vary considerably from year to year. The average annual number reported over the last 20 years is about 24 birds; however, 52 were reported in 1979 and 57 were logged in 2003. Though less frequently encountered than the Yellow-billed (one Black-billed is reported for every 3.6 Yellow-billeds), this cuckoo is widespread, having been reported in at least 74 counties.

Extreme Records

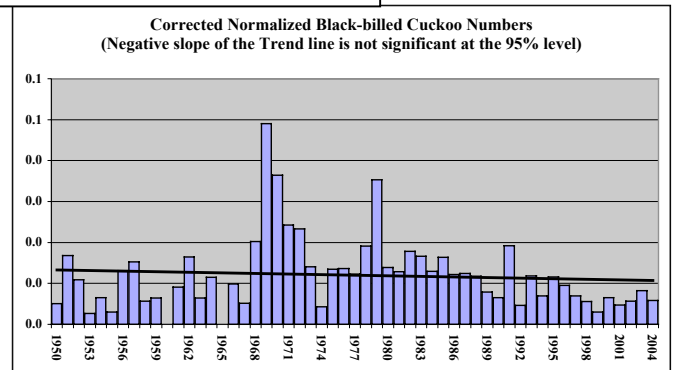
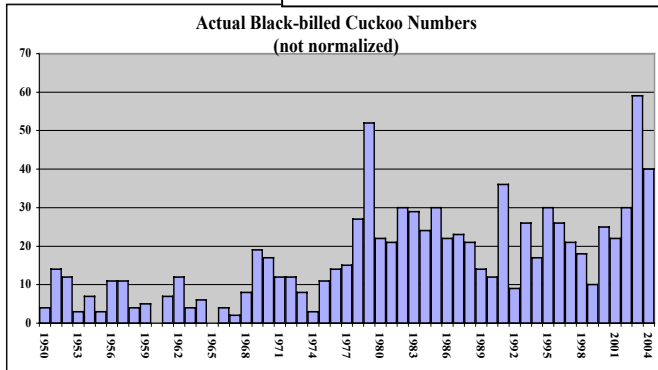
The mid-November records shown on the migration histogram involved three reports. R.E. Mumford observed the first of these in Jackson County 11 November 1952 (Mumford files). Another was seen in Morgan County by M. Gregory 11 November 1969 (Oswalt and Wilson 1970), and the third appeared in Knox County where Gary and Lisa Bowman observed it 16 November 1997 (Buskirk 1999). The state's earliest spring date of 5 April 1906 was reported at Moores Hill in Dearborn County by K.M. Roads (Roads 1912).

Population Trend

Observational data suggest a slight decline in Black-billed Cuckoo numbers over the past 50 years; however, the gentle negative slope of the trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.

Black-billed Cuckoo Population Trend

Negative slope of the trend line is not significant at the 95% level



Breeding

Mumford and Keller (1984) reported egg dates as ranging from 21 May through 25 August. The Indiana Atlas project yielded evidence of breeding in 22 percent of the 647 priority blocks. These results were distributed across five counties in the north, two in central Indiana, and two in the south (Castrale et al. 1998).

Black-billed Cuckoo Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
20	10-May-1979	Lake Waveland	Dan Mosher	M&K
8	22-May-1982	Tippecanoe Co	D.Z. Arvin	IAQ
7	12-May-1956	Tippecanoe Co	I.W. Burr	IAQ
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
7	21-Aug-1985	Lawrence Co	J.S. Castrale	IAQ
4	7-Sep-1975	Jasper-Pulaski FWA	K.J. Brock	KJB
3*	17-Aug-1952	Willow Slough	R.E. Mumford	REM
*Three were reported on two additional occasions				

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	27-Apr-1990	9-May	18-May	4-Jun	Sum. Res.	220
Central	17-Apr-1968	8-May	15-May	4-Jun	Sum. Res.	109
South	5-Apr-1906	1-May	14-May	31-May	Sum. Res.	72
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	28-Jul	27-Aug	27-Sep	17-Oct-84	175
Central	Sum. Res.	23-Jul	26-Aug	30-Sep	11-Nov-69	85
South	Sum. Res.	2-Aug	9-Sep	12-Oct	16-Nov-97	42

References Cited

- Buskirk, R.F. (1999) Field Notes Fall 1997 *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 77:1-20.
- 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.
- Oswalt, R. and L.A. Wilson (1970) Field Notes Autumn 1969, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 48:63-71.
- Roads, K.M. (1912) Notes from Moores Hill, Indiana, *Wilson Bulletin*, 24:157-159.