

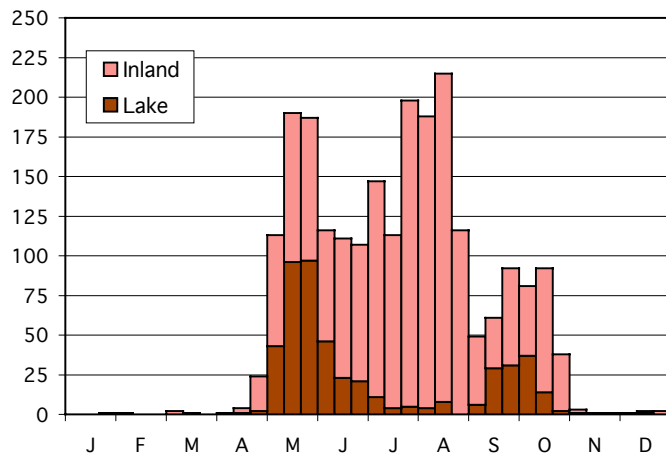
## Sedge Wren

## *Cistothorus platensis*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: A Sedge Wren was reported from Lake County “marshes bordering sloughs” in May 1871, but the earliest fully dated record consisted of two specimens collected in Franklin County 22 and 23 September 1879 (Butler 1898).

Butler (1898) deemed the “Short-billed Marsh Wren” a migrant and local summer resident. Keller et al. (1979) characterized it as a locally common summer resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) considered the Sedge Wren generally uncommon to rare, but locally common.



### Status

Physical Evidence: Some eight specimens, plus eggs, are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				3
National Museum of Natural History				5*
Univ. of Michigan Museum				1
*Includes a clutch of eggs.				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	6	6	6
Central Tier	9	6	6	6
Southern Tier	n	7	6	6
Entire State	9	6	6	6

### Current Status

The Sedge Wren is an Uncommon (6) summer resident and migrant.

### Occurrence

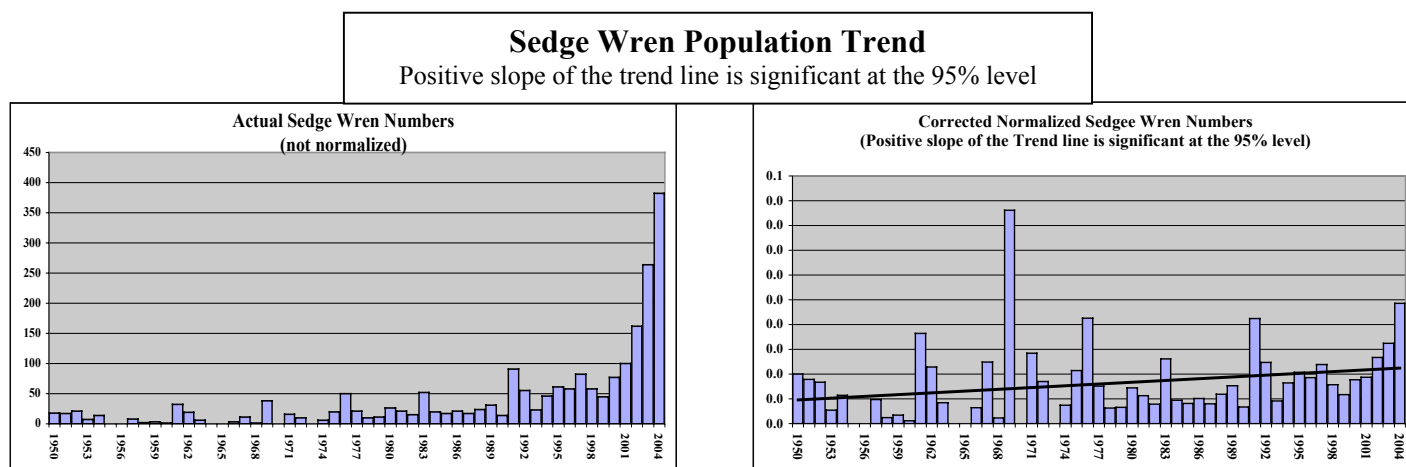
Although quite local as a breeding species, the Sedge Wren has occurred in more than 74 Indiana counties. The large late July and August numbers shown on the migration histogram reflect counts associated with breeding colonies. Data shown for the lakefront more accurately reflect the migration (those data were employed to calculate the fall migration envelope). Dancey (1995) studied this species in the Lake District counties and detected large population fluctuations.

### Winter Records

Six winter records exist for Indiana; these include four in December and one each in January and February. Most of these were observed in the southern tier, but winter reports in the Dunes and Elkhart County have also been made. The only winter count exceeding one bird consisted of two reported at Muscatatuck NWR on 31 December 1977 (DNR files).

## Population Trend

Despite the Sedge Wren's listing on the state's endangered list, it appears to be faring well as the positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



## Breeding

Despite Butler's 1898 suggestion that the summer population was concentrated in northwestern Indiana, Castrale et al. (1998) found breeding evidence in six percent of the state's 647 priority blocks, which was distributed fairly uniformly across Indiana. The southernmost counties included Dubois, Crawford, Gibson, and Pike, where Sedge Wrens likely benefited from the reclamation of strip mines. Mumford and Keller (1984) reported nests containing eggs and or young from 17 June through 17 July, but there is evidence of territorial behavior through August. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has placed this species on the state's endangered list.

## Sedge Wren Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/Summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
50	20-May-1916	Cowles Bog	H.L. Stoddard	HLS
35	03-Jul-1976	Kingsbury FWA	DNR staff	DNR
20	04-Jul-1969	Eagle Creek Park	Al Starling	IQA
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
33	3-Aug-2003	Multiple Sites*	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
31	20-Oct-1991	Muscatatuck NWR	Cincinnati B.C.	NKE
24	26-Aug-2005	S.W. Indiana	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
*Chinook Mine, Clay Co (7), Hawthorn Mine, Sullivan Co (7), Goose Pond, Greene Co (5), Universal Mine, Vermillion Co (14)				

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
<b>Spring</b>	5-Mar-1971	2-May	18-May	4-Jun	Sum. Res.	301
<b>Fall</b>	Sum. Res.	25-Aug	24-Sep	19-Oct	24-Nov-52	283

### 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 Dept. of Nat. Resour. 388 pp

DNR files, A collection of data compiled on computer disks for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources by C.E. Keller.

Dancey, H.E. (1995) Sedge Wren in Northwest Indiana, *IAQ* 73:94-101.

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

Mumford, R.E. and C.E. Keller (1984) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 376 pp.