

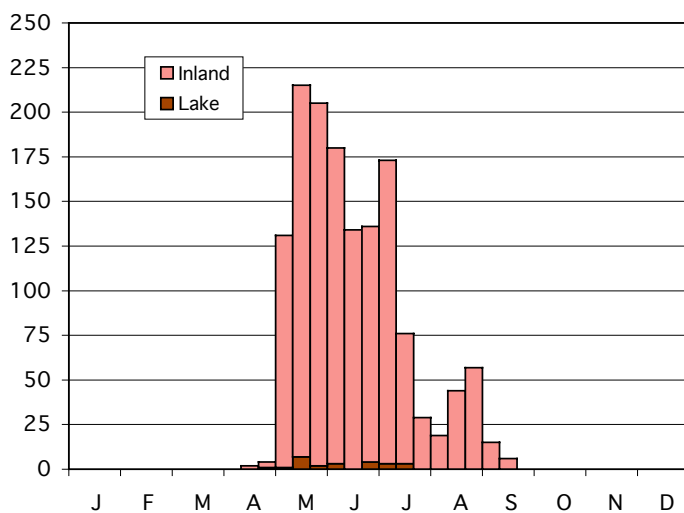
Bell's Vireo

Vireo bellii

Historical Information

First Published Record: D.H. Boyd reported the state's first Bell's Vireo on 7 May 1922 in Springville Township of LaPorte County (Mumford and Keller 1984).

Based on the occurrence of Bell's Vireo in Illinois, Butler (1898) deemed this species hypothetical in Indiana. Mumford (1952) summarized the state's records and concluded that this vireo was "well established in a number of areas over the state." Keller et al. (1979) considered it a very rare summer resident in the north and uncommon farther south. Mumford and Keller (1984) described it as an uncommon migrant, which was locally common.



Status

Physical Evidence: Two Indiana specimens are housed in the National Museum of Natural History (S.F. Jackson, unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	7	7	8
Central Tier	n	6	6	7
Southern Tier	n	5	5	6
Entire State	n	5	5	6

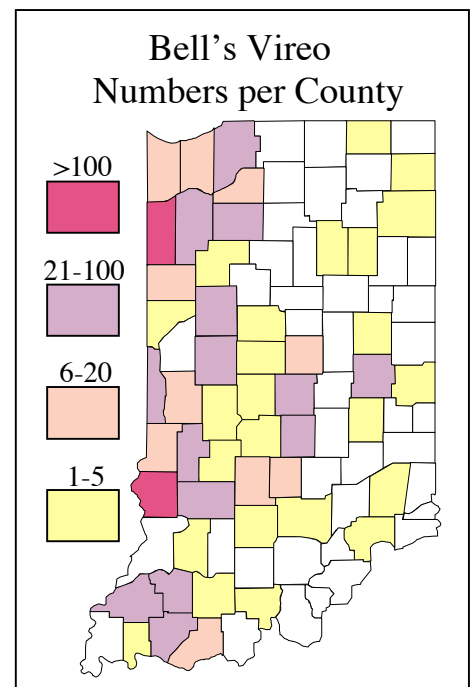
Current Status

Bell's Vireo is a locally Fairly Common (5) to Uncommon (6) migrant and Fairly Common (5) summer resident in the western half of Indiana.

Occurrence

This vireo is quite inconspicuous and, unless heard singing, might well have been present but overlooked before Boyd's discovery in 1922. *Vireo bellii* is Indiana's least common and most geographically restricted vireo.

The Indiana range of Bell's Vireo has expanded considerably since its discovery in 1922; it has now been reported in 50 counties, primarily in the western half of the state. However, it has hop-scotched eastward across the state reaching DeKalb and LaGrange Counties in northeast Indiana. This species has also developed a powerful



stronghold in the reclaimed strip mines of southwestern Indiana, where it seems to have found optimum habitat.

Migration

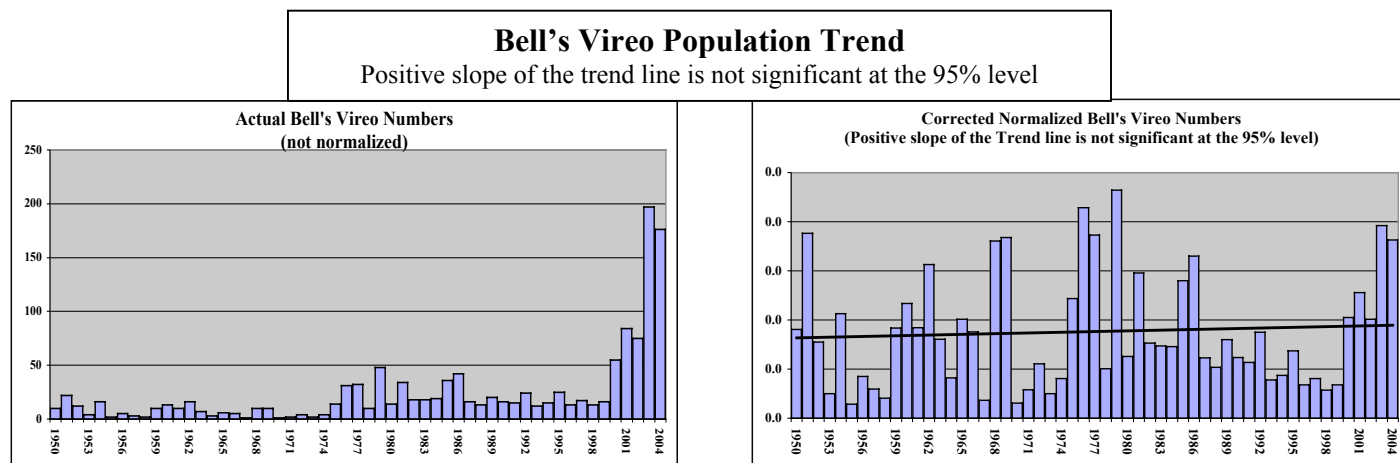
The spring flight, when birds tend to be quite vocal, is quite distinct on the migration histogram with a strong peak near the third week of May. A much smaller, but well-defined fall peak is also evident. A.W. Bruner reported the latest singing bird at Willow Slough FWA on 16 September 2005 (pers. comm.).

Unreliable Records

Three October birds have been reported. The first was seen in Highland on 9 October 1950 (Mumford 1952). Two were also reportedly banded in Jackson County about 15 and 20 October 1963 (U.S. Banding Lab). As the next latest record is in mid-September and non-singing birds are quite difficult to identify, these records are considered unreliable.

Population Trend

The very slightly positive slope of the 50-year trend line is not statistically distinct at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

Castrale, et al. (1998) report nesting evidence from 21 counties with breeding in some four percent of the priority blocks. Mumford and Keller (1984) reported eggs from 16 May through 10 July. Most breeding activity occurs from late May through early July. The earliest reported nest was found by R.E. Mumford in Clay County 13 May 1951 (Mumford files). The latest nest date was discovered by B. Gill at Atterbury FWA 26 July 1981 (Mumford files); however, A.W. Bruner observed a family group of three birds at Lake Waveland 24 August 1981 (Mumford files).

Bell's Vireo Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/Summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
52	17-May-2003	*see below	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
42	04-Jul-2004	Sullivan Co	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
21	06-Jul-2003	Sullivan Co	Dan Leach	INB
*49 at Hawthorn Mine (Sullivan Co) plus 3 at Universal Mine (Vermillion Co)				
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
16	24-Aug-2002	Hawthorn Mine	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
12	15-Aug-2001	Hawthorn Mine	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
10	29-Aug-2004	Hawthorn Mine	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	30-Apr-1962	11-May	27-May	5-Jun	Sum. Res.	105
Central	17-Apr-1948	7-May	20-May	6-Jun	Sum. Res.	97
South	1-May-1993	4-May	17-May	6-Jun	Sum. Res.	90
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	1-Aug-1981	---	17-Aug	---	16-Sep-2005	14
Central	Sum. Res.	3-Aug	23-Aug	4-Sep	14-Sep-1995	38
South	Sum. Res.	---	24-Aug	---	17-Sep-2004	20

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. (1952) Bell's Vireo in Indiana, *Wilson Bulletin*, 64:226-233.

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