

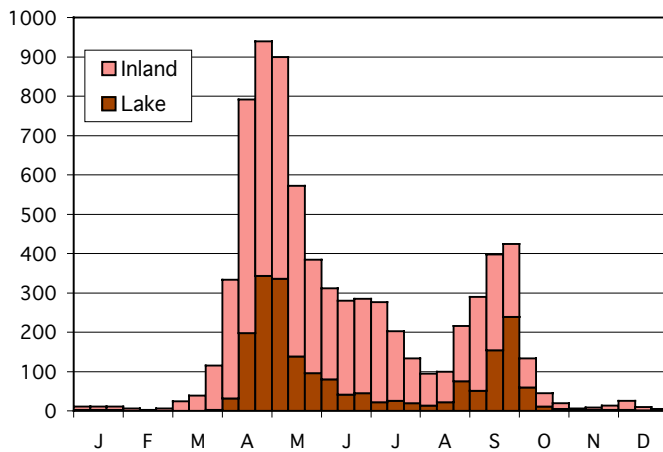
Brown Thrasher

Toxostoma rufum

Historical Information

First Published Record: The earliest fully dated Brown Thrasher was recorded in Brookville 18 April 1881 (Butler 1898).

Butler (1898) considered the Brown Thrasher a common summer resident. Keller et al. (1979) also deemed it a common summer resident, noting that it was rare to casual in winter. Mumford and Keller (1984) described the Brown Thrasher as a common migrant and summer resident, but more common in winter than in former years.



Current Status

The Brown Thrasher is a permanent resident, which is Common (4) in spring.

Occurrence

This widespread mimid has been recorded in all 92 Indiana counties. It is reported most often in spring when it actively sings, often from an exposed perch; indeed, about 2.3 spring thrashers are reported for every fall bird.

Winter Records

Brown Thrashers are Rare (7) winter residents in Indiana. It has been reported in 14 of the last 20 winters with a mean count of 2.1 birds per year. Most winter reports consist of singletons, but two individuals were recorded on four different occasions.

Population Trend

The Brown Thrasher population appears to have declined, especially since the mid-1970s. Note that the most recent date in the maximum count table occurred in 1961, suggesting a decrease in numbers. Negative slope of the 50-year population trend is statistically significant at the 95 percent level. In contrast, a study based on Indiana Breeding Bird Surveys suggested a rather stable abundance pattern across the state (Castrale and Donaldson 1986).

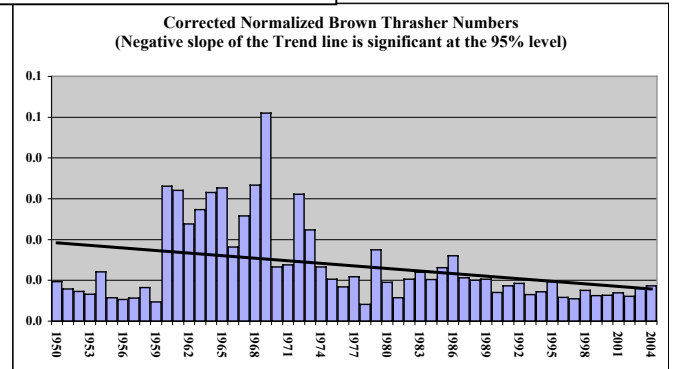
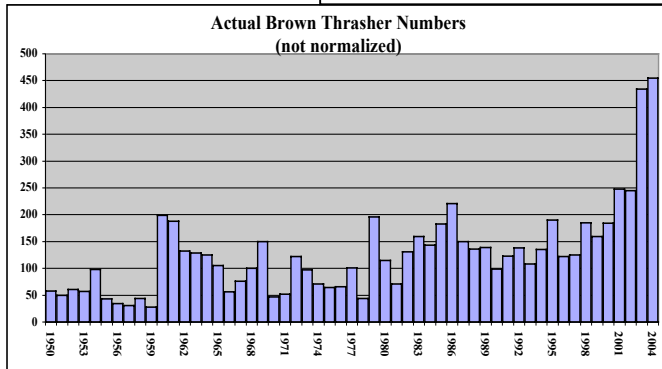
Status

Physical Evidence: At least 14 specimens, plus eggs, are archived in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				4
National Museum of Natural History				4*
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				7
Univ. of Michigan Museum				7*
*Includes eggs.				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	8	4	6	5
Central Tier	7	5	6	6
Southern Tier	7	4	5	6
Entire State	7	4	5	5

Brown Thrasher Population Trend

Negative slope of the trend line is significant at the 95% level



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in 97 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks, with evidence collected in every Indiana county. Mumford and Keller (1984) reported eggs as early as 14 April and young still in the nest 21 July.

Brown Thrasher Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
31*	16-Apr-1960	Lakefront	Simon Segal	IQA
24	23-Apr-1961	Marion Co	H.C. West	HCW
22**	23-Apr-1950	Indy Sewage Ponds	H.C. West	HCW
*Dead on beach following storm kill				
**22 were reported on four additional occasions				
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
20	23-Sep-1954	N. Lake Co	Ted Chandik	VRS
20	25-Aug-1961	Baileytown	V. Reuter-skiold	VRS
13	07-Sep-1952	Marion Co	H.C. West	HCW

Migration Envelopes

Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	Win. Vis.	9-Apr	30-Apr	30-May	Sum. Res.	2133
Fall	Sum. Res.	25-Jul	12-Sep	5-Oct	Win. Vis.	1223

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. and L. Donaldson (1986) Summer distribution and population trends of Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, and Northern Mockingbird in Indiana. *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science*, 95:195-201.

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