

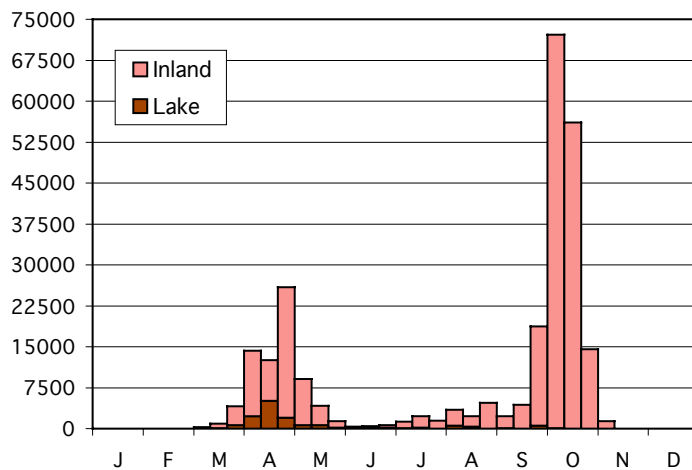
Tree Swallow

Tachycineta bicolor

Historical Information

First Published Record: Indiana's earliest Tree Swallow record involved a specimen collected in Franklin County on 16 May 1884 (Mumford files).

Butler (1898) described the "White-bellied Swallow" as a "migrant southward," without specifying status. Keller et al. (1979) considered it a common migrant, which was more common in the north during summer. Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed this swallow a common migrant.



Status

Physical Evidence: At least 13 skins, plus eggs, are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).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 Academy of Sciences				4*
Chicago Field Museum				6
National Museum of Natural History				2
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				2
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	10	2	3	2
Central Tier	n	2	3	2
Southern Tier	7	2	4	1
Entire State	7	2	3	1

Current Status

In the southern tier the Tree Swallow is Very Abundant (1) in autumn.

Occurrence

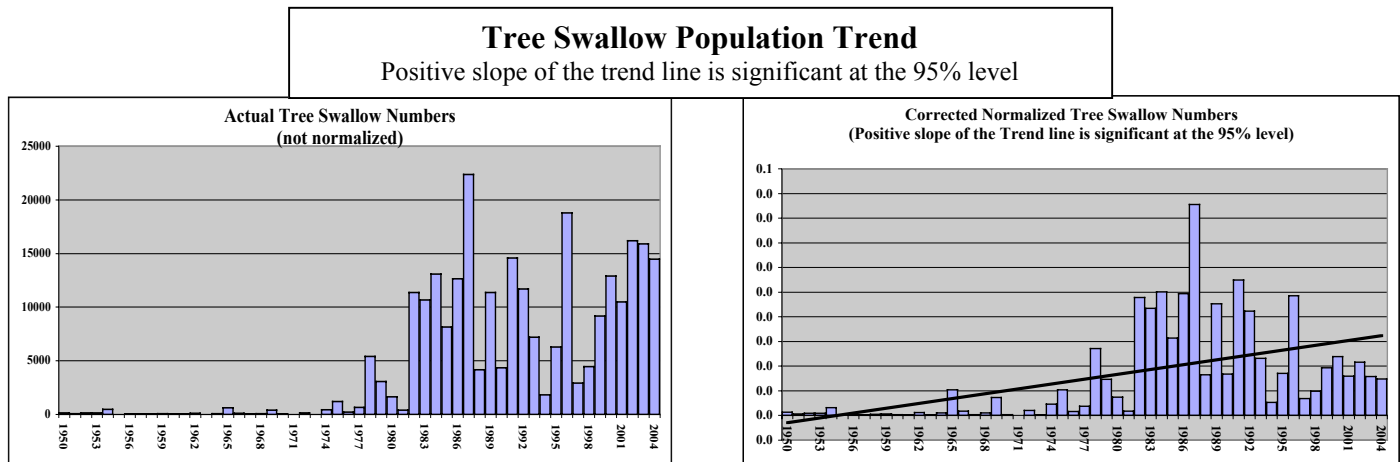
This handsome swallow has been reported in at least 85 counties. In autumn it is most frequently encountered away from Lake Michigan; indeed it is quite scarce along the lake in fall. All of the largest daily counts have been recorded at inland sites (see maximum count table) and all were logged along the western boundary of the state. Tree Swallows are the first swallows to arrive in spring with average arrival dates in mid to late March and the last to depart in fall.

Winter Records

There are more than a dozen winter records, primarily in the southern tier. These include five in December, one in January, and nine in February. No doubt many of the February reports represent early migrants. Only two winter records come from the northern tier; J.A. Haw found one at Mississinewa Reservoir 3 December 1991 (Brown 1993) and B.J. Grube observed a singleton at Michigan City Harbor 5 December 2004 (IN-BIRD).

Population Trend

The 50-year population data suggest that the Tree Swallow is faring 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 32 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks, with the lowest concentration of birds in the central tier. Mumford and Keller (1984) report egg dates from 9 May through 3 June and young in the nest on 15 July.

Tree Swallow Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
8000	23-Apr-2005	Willow Slough	A.W. Bruner	IAQ
5000	01-May-1996	Lake Waveland	A.W. Bruner	IAQ
5000	21-Apr-2000	Lake Waveland	A.W. Bruner	IAQ
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
10000	04-Oct-1987	Lake Gibson	Denny Jones	NIQ
10000	14-Oct-1987	Tippecanoe Co	R.E. Mumford	REM
10000	07-Oct-1989	Dugger FWA	D.R. Whitehead	IAQ

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	22-Feb-1894	27-Mar	18-Apr	17-May	Sum. Res.	1022
Central	4-Mar-1951	26-Mar	18-Apr	23-May	Sum. Res.	237
South	Win. Vis.	16-Mar	7-Apr	9-May	Sum. Res.	295
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	17-Jul	15-Sep	12-Oct	3-Dec-91	355
Central	Sum. Res.	23-Jul	7-Oct	26-Oct	17-Nov-84	121
South	Sum. Res.	22-Sep	10-Oct	31-Oct	Win. Vis.	195

References Cited

Brown, M.R. (1993) Field Notes Winter 1991-92, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 71:35-42.

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.

IN-BIRD, a Listserv dealing with Indiana birds developed and maintained by P.W. Kelly. The records are archived at: <http://listserv.indiana.edu/archives/in-bird-l.html>

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.

Last update: 6 December 2004