

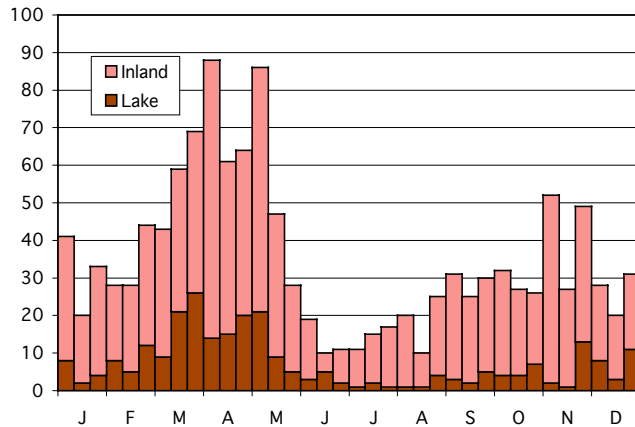
Great Horned Owl

Bubo virginianus

Historical Information

First Published Record: A bird taken in Franklin County 9 December 1880 (Mumford files) appears to constitute the state's earliest published record.

Butler (1898) deemed the Great Horned Owl a common resident. Keller et al. (1979) considered it a fairly common resident; Mumford and Keller (1984) concurred.



Current Status

The Great Horned Owl is Uncommon (6) in all seasons except summer, when it is Rare (7)

Occurrence

This large owl is widespread, but is encountered somewhat more frequently in the southern tier. It has been reported in more than 83 counties. The broad increase in reports during spring (see migration histogram) is likely associated with increased vocalization during breeding activities.

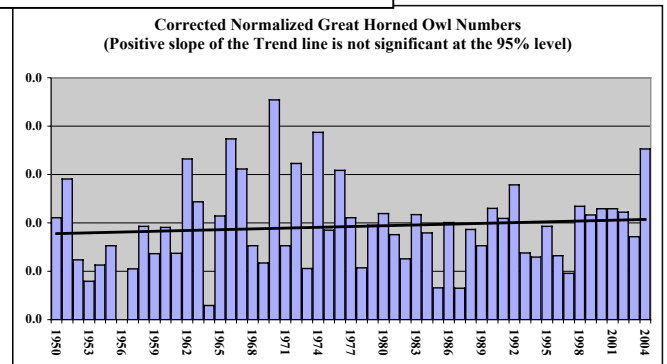
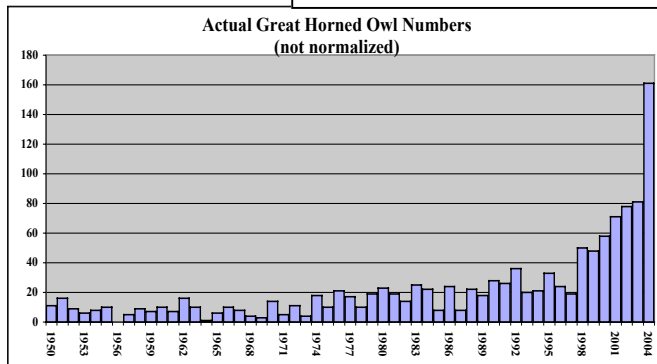
Status

Physical Evidence: At least 32 specimens, plus numerous eggs, are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson, unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				5
Chicago Field Museum				7
National Museum of Natural History				7*
Indiana State Museum				3
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				18
Univ. of Michigan Museum				3*
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	7	6	7	7
Central Tier	7	6	7	7
Southern Tier	6	6	7	6
Entire State	6	6	7	6

Great Horned Owl Population Trend

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



Population Trend

Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported confirmed breeding in 35 counties: eight in the northern, ten in the central, and 17 in the southern tier. A mean of 38.8 birds per annum has been reported over the past 20 years. Eggs have been reported from 13 February to 2 April and young have been observed into May.

Great Horned Owl Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
15	13-Aug-2004	Greene & Sullivan Cos	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
14	24-Nov-1999	Lake Monroe	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
14	3-Nov-2003	Monroe & Jackson Cos	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
14	05-Aug-2004	Sullivan Co	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
12	05-Nov-2001	Monroe Co	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
Six were recorded on three occasions.				

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

Richards, R.L. (1987) The Vertebrate Collection of the Indiana State Museum: "Old" Specimens and Records, *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science* 97:547-570.