

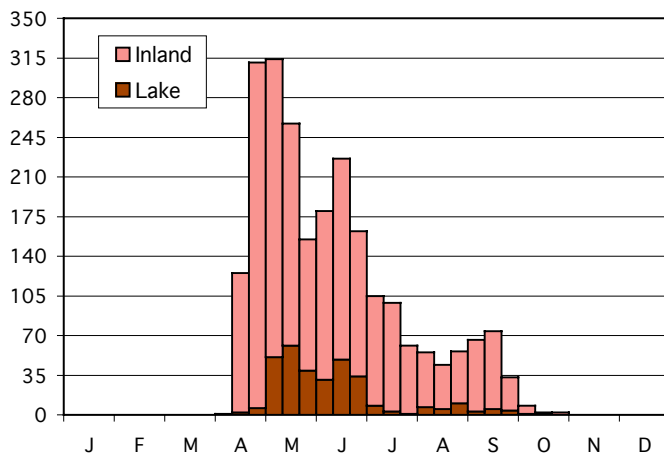
Prairie Warbler

Dendroica discolor

Historical Information

First Published Record: According to Butler (1898) Robert Ridgway found the Prairie Warbler in Knox County 15 April 1881. This appears to constitute the state's earliest published record.

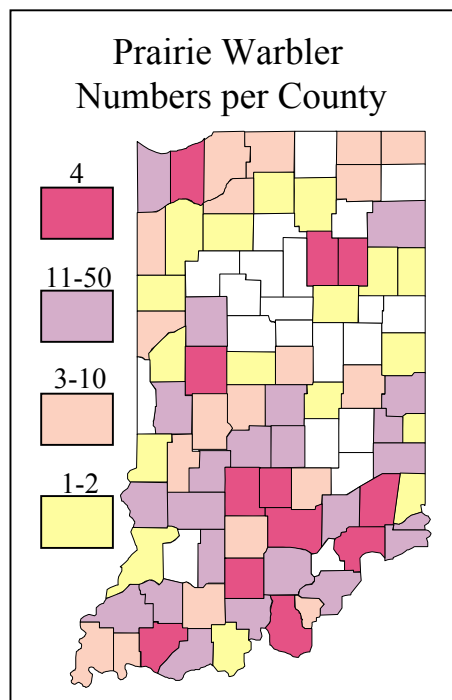
Butler (1898) considered this warbler a rare migrant and summer resident. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it an uncommon to rare migrant and fairly common to rare summer resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted only that this species had nested in at least 60 counties.



Status

Physical Evidence: At least four specimens, plus eggs, are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				1*
National Museum of Natural History				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				2
Univ. of Michigan Museum				1
*Includes a clutch of eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	6	6	7
Central Tier	n	6	7	7
Southern Tier	n	4	4	6
Entire State	n	4	4	6



Current Status

In the southern tier the Prairie Warbler is a Common (4) spring migrant and summer resident; it is Uncommon (6) in fall.

Occurrence

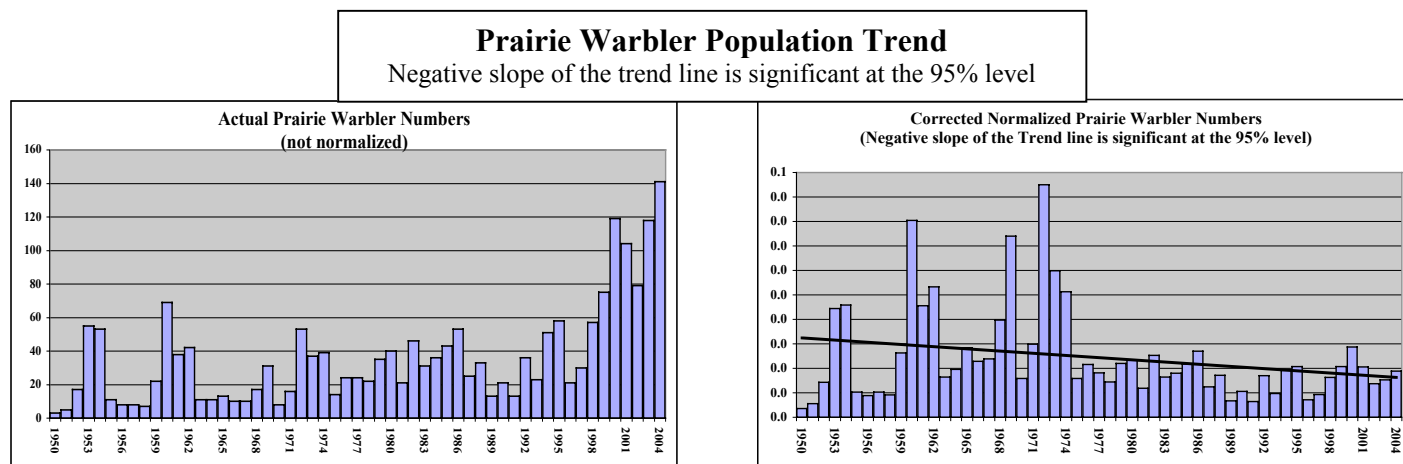
This warbler has been reported in at least 71 counties. It is most common in the southern tier and least frequently encountered in central Indiana (see distribution map). The modest June peak on the migration histogram reflects reports of breeding surveys and banding records.

Migration

The Prairie Warbler is another of those breeding species that simply seems to vanish by late summer or early fall (see migration histogram). Migrants are rarely seen in the lakefront traps.

Population Trend

The 50-year population data suggest that Indiana's Prairie Warbler population is declining. Indeed, negative slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level. This result is in agreement with Breeding Bird Survey data, which reports a statistically non-significant -3.7 percent annual decrease between 1966 and 2004 (North American Breeding Bird Survey web page).



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) found breeding evidence in 24 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks; these records were heavily concentrated in the southern tier. A small outlying population exists in the Indiana Dunes.

Prairie Warbler Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/Summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
34	19-Jun-2001	Bigs Oaks NWR	J.P. Lewis	BON
31	30-Apr-2003	Franklin Co	W.H. Buskirk	INB
28	27-Apr-1999	Jefferson Prov. G.	J.P. Lewis	INB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
22	13-Sep-2000	Lake Monroe	C.L. Wood	INB
8	05-Aug-1973	Lake Monroe	K.J. Brock	KJB
7	12-Aug-1986	Warrick Co	J.H. Campbell	NIQ

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	11-Apr-2003	1-May	14-May	3-Jun	Sum. Res.	206
Central	14-Apr-1992	22-Apr	8-May	1-Jun	Sum. Res.	113
South	10-Apr-2001	19-Apr	8-May	5-Jun	Sum. Res.	364
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Fall	Sum. Res.	16-Jul	21-Aug	21-Sep	21-Oct-1973	294



Male Prairie Warbler in Indiana Dunes State Park on 10 June 2006. Photo by J.K. Cassady.

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

Last update: 12 Oct 2005