

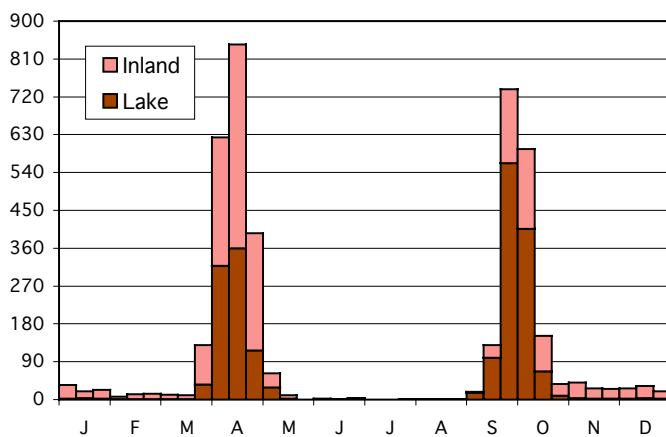
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Sphyrapicus varius

Historical Information

First Published Record: Indiana's earliest fully dated record involved a specimen collected by A.W. Butler in Franklin County 24 February 1881 (Mumford files).

Butler (1898) considered the Sapsucker a common migrant, a winter resident in the south, and a rare summer resident in the north. Keller et al. (1979) characterized it as a common migrant; casual in the north during both winter and summer and uncommon in the south during winter. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted a population decrease over the past 75 years, but the species was still locally common during migration.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some 47 specimens from Indiana exist in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Carnegie Museum of Natural History				5
Chicago Academy of Sciences				5
Chicago Field Museum				7
National Museum of Natural History				16
Milwaukee Public Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				9
Univ. of Michigan Museum				4
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	7	4	10	4
Central Tier	7	6	n	6
Southern Tier	6	6	10	6
Entire State	6	4	10	4

Current Status

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is Common (4) during migration, Uncommon (6) in winter, and Accidental (10) in summer.

Occurrence

The Sapsucker is primarily a migrant through Indiana (see migration histogram). It has been recorded in at least 75 counties. Over the past 20 years averages of 61.0 in spring and 60.2 in fall have been recorded annually.

Summer Records

A handful of summer records exist, but only two occurred within the past 20 years. One Sapsucker was reported at Cowles Bog by Leon Konz (National Lakeshore Staff) on 29 June 1986 (Jackson 1987). The most recent report involved a bird banded in Orange County on 10 June 2000 (U.S. Banding Lab data files).

Breeding

The breeding status of this species has changed significantly over the past 100 years. Butler (1898) reported breeding in Carroll, DeKalb, LaPorte, Porter, and Starke Counties. Mumford and Keller (1984) listed breeding in Elkhart County in 1973 and Marshall County in 1982.

However, Castrale et al. (1998) noted that Atlas workers failed to detect any sapsuckers during the survey period.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
141*	16-Apr-1960	Lakefront	S. Segal	IQA
41	21-Apr-1946	Tippecanoe Co	R.E. Mumford	REM
40	09-Apr-2002	Fox Island Park	J.A. Haw	INB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
44	05-Oct-2002	Lakefront	J.K. Cassady	KJB
35	24-Sep-1988	Lakefront	K.J. Brock	KJB
25	02-Oct-1993	Lakefront	K.J. Brock	KJB
*These were dead birds killed by a Lake Michigan storm (Segal 1960)				

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	2-Apr	14-Apr	27-Apr	03-Jun-1888	582
Central	Win. Res.	29-Mar	15-Apr	27-Apr	20-May-1975	184
South	Win. Res.	26-Mar	10-Apr	22-Apr	10-May-1975	96
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	27-Jul-1975	20-Sep	30-Sep	13-Oct	Win. Res.	572
Central	4-Sep-1986	23-Sep	6-Oct	7-Nov	Win. Res.	141
South	4-Sep-1994	27-Sep	10-Oct	17-Nov	Win. Res.	113

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.

Jackson, S.F. (1987) Field Notes Summer 1986, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 65:61-68.

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.

Segal, S. (1960) Bird Tragedy in the Dunes, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 38:23-25.