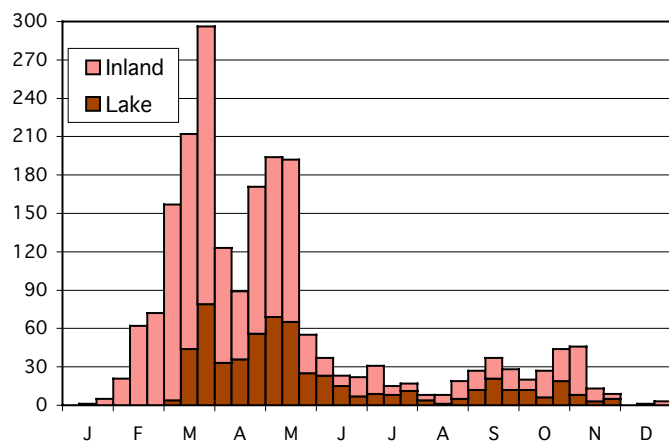


American Woodcock *Scolopax minor*

Historical Information

First Published Record: A nest with eggs was reported 16 April 1881 (Butler 1898), which appears to constitute the earliest published date.

Butler (1898) considered the woodcock a common summer resident, but Keller (1958) described it as a rare summer resident. Keller et al. (1979) characterized the woodcock as a fairly common migrant and uncommon summer resident; casual in winter. Mumford and Keller (1984) generally concurred with the latter assessment.



Current Status

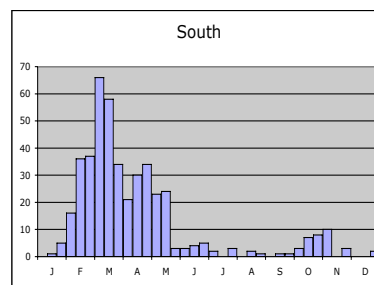
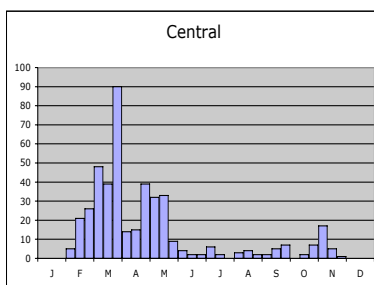
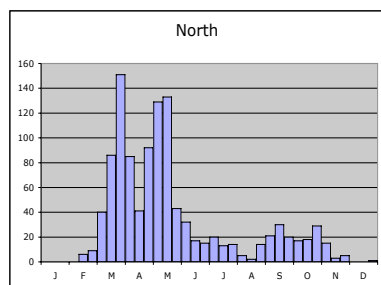
Today the Woodcock is a Fairly Common (5) to Uncommon (6) migrant, which is Rare (7) in summer and winter.

Occurrence

This widespread breeding species has been reported in seventy-five counties and likely occurs in every county. It is most often encountered in spring (see migration histogram) when males actively display.

Migration

The double peak shown in the spring portion of the migration histogram is remarkable and unexpected. As illustrated in the regional histograms shown below, this interesting pattern appears in all three tiers.



Status

Physical Evidence: At least 15 Woodcock specimens/eggs are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).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	3*			
Chicago Field Museum	3			
National Museum of Natural History	2*			
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory	4			
Univ. of Michigan Museum	2*			
* Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	8	5	7	6
Central Tier	7	6	8	7
Southern Tier	7	6	10	9
Entire State	7	5	7	6

Keppie and Whiting (1994) noted that transient males display during their northward migration, suggesting the possibility of separate display periods for transients and local birds. Other possible explanations include: sampling bias, a mid-April quiescent period, and second breeding efforts; however, the data are insufficient to confirm or refute any of these hypotheses. The author is indebted to Dr. J.S. Castrale, Dr. J.D. Hengeveld, and Dr. L.W. Sterrenburg for helpful comments related to this phenomenon.

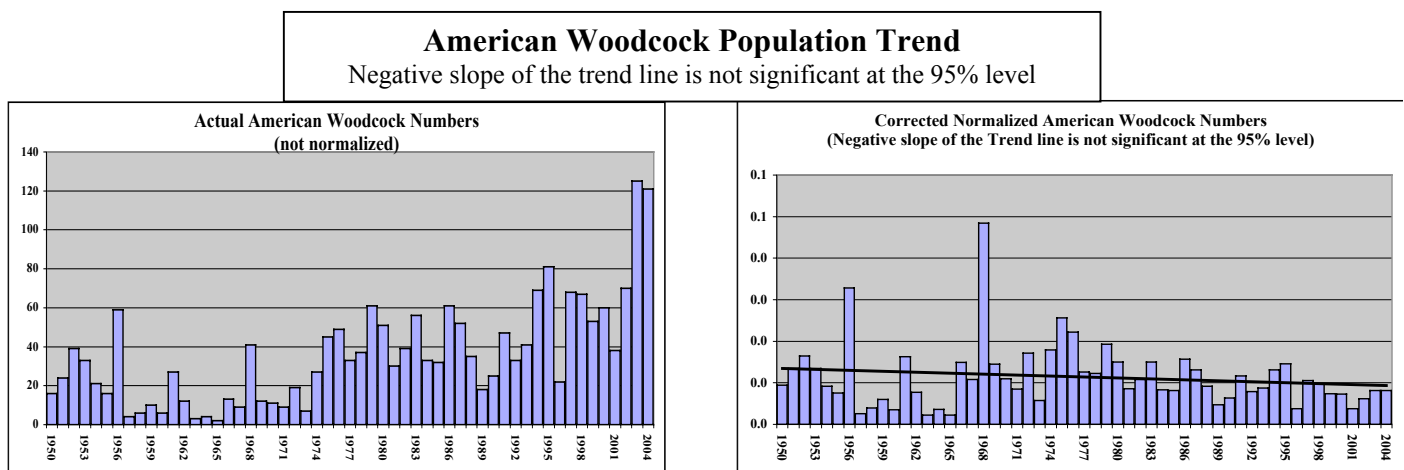
In view of the bimodal spring flight, migration envelopes for spring were not determined for each of the three tiers. Instead two flights, separated at the arbitrarily chosen date of 10 April, were calculated for the entire state.

Winter Records

The vast majority of winter period records involve early migrants that arrive in February. Indeed almost ninety February records exist. Additionally, there are four reports in both December and January. Winter period birds have been recorded in sixteen of the past twenty years.

Population Trend

The gentle negative slope of the trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

Butler (1898) reported observing eggs within the interval 24 March to 16 April. Keller (1958) mapped nesting records in twenty counties throughout the state. Castrale et al., (1998) reported breeding evidence in 23 percent of the 647 priority blocks in 19 counties. Most breeding activity occurs in March through May; most reports of eggs fall in the period 13 April to 11 May. However, late nests have been reported in Tippecanoe County 4 June 1979 (Mumford files), in Greene County 8 July 1915 (Keller 1958), and one containing four eggs was found in Lake County 14 July 1981 (Michael Topp pers. comm.).

American Woodcock Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
29	17-Mar-2003	Franklin Co	W.H Buskirk	INB
25	22-Apr-1997	Tippecanoe Co	J.B. Dunning	NNB
22	9-May-1987	Atterbury FWA	J. Wyatt	IQM
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
5	28-Nov-2000	Purdue NC	S.R. Bagby	SBa
5	15-Oct-1977	Orange Co	Lene Rauth	LRa
4	01-Nov-1983	Lawrence Co	J.S. Castrale	NIQ

Migration Envelopes						
Spring-Entire state						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Early Peak	Win. Vis.	22-Feb	15-Mar	3-Apr	---	760
Late Peak	---	16-Apr	9-May	3-Jun	Sum. Res.	729
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	2-Aug	24-Sep	1-Nov	Win. Vis.	161
Central	Sum. Res.	17-Aug	24-Oct	15-Nov	Win. Vis.	54
South	Sum. Vis.	17-Aug	21-Oct	6-Nov	Win. Vis.	26

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Keller, C.E. (1958) The Shorebird families: Charadriidae, Scolopacidae, Recurvirostridae, and Phalaropidae of Indiana. Part 4. *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 36:2-39.

Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller (1979) *Indiana Birds and Their Haunts*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 214 pp.

Keppie, D.M. and R.M. Whiting Jr. (1994) American Woodcock, The Birds of North America, No. 100.

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.