

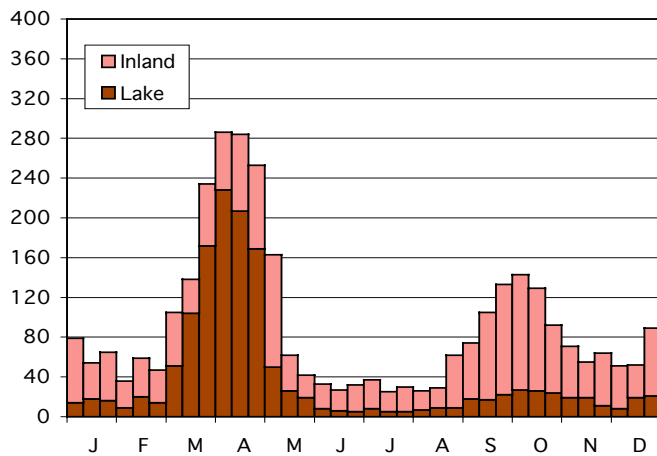
Cooper's Hawk

Accipiter cooperii

Historical Information

First Published record: Then widely known as "the Blue-tailed Hawk," the earliest report of this aggressive raptor occurred in Carroll County on 5 March 1879 (DNR files).

Butler (1890) characterized the "Chicken Hawk" as a generally common resident, most numerous in summer. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it an uncommon migrant and very rare in summer and winter. Mumford and Keller (1984) referred to this accipiter as an uncommon migrant and very rare permanent resident.



Current Status

Today the Cooper's Hawk remains a permanent resident and a Common (4) to Fairly Common (5) migrant.

Occurrence

Numbers of this accipiter have increased in recent years; it has now been reported in some 83 Indiana counties. Cooper's Hawk is Indiana's most common accipiter in both winter and summer. This is the most common winter accipiter in the northern tier where it preys on passerines at backyard feeding stations. It is also frequently observed during spring hawk watches in the Dunes, where about one Cooper's is noted for every five Sharp-shinned.

Migration

Migration envelope data are obscured by the presence of local non-migrants, but the strong spring lakefront migration, and more modest inland fall movement, are both evident. During the fall migration Cooper's Hawks are observed far more often at inland sites than on the lakefront.

Status

Physical Evidence: The nation's museums contain some twenty specimens and eight eggs (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).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				1*
National Museum of Natural History				11*
Univ. of Michigan Museum				7*
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				8
*Includes at least one egg				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	6	4	7	6
Central Tier	7	7	7	6
Southern Tier	7	7	7	6
Entire State	6	4	6	5

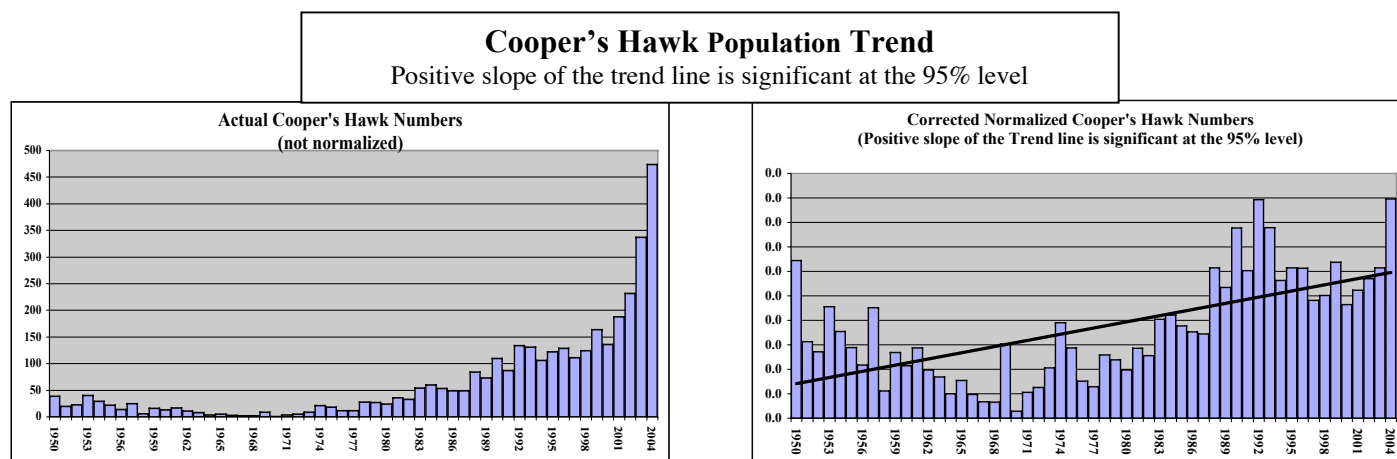


Adult Cooper's Hawk Argos, Indiana, November 1996. Photo J.K. Cassady

About 39% of the aged birds were identified as adults.

Population Trend

The Cooper's Hawk population appears to have been increasing since the early 1970s. Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

Butler (1898) indicated that this species nests throughout the state. Mumford and Keller (1984) concurred with Butler's breeding assessment, adding that most nesting records come from the northern two-thirds of the state. The Indiana Atlas reported confirmed breeding evidence in 15 counties: five in the northern tier, four in the central tier, and six in the southern tier (Castrale et al. 1998). This raptor has adapted well to human intrusion. One occupied nest was observed in a residential development; the nest tree was in the easement between two houses fewer than 10 meters apart (Brown 1993). Nesting evidence exists for at least 22 counties.

Cooper's Hawk Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
26	10-Apr-2002	Johnson Beach	K.J. Brock	KJB
22	26-Apr-1984	Johnson Beach	K.J. Brock	KJB
20	19-Apr-2003	Dunes St Park	J.J. McCoy	INB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
8	14-Oct-2001	Lake Lemon	J. & S. Hengeveld	INB
6	25-Oct-2004	Lake Lemon	J. & S. Hengeveld	INB
5	06-Oct-2002	Lake Lemon	J. & S. Hengeveld	INB
5	04-Oct-2003	Lake Lemon	J. & S. Hengeveld	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	15-Mar	13-Apr	11-May	Sum. Res.	728
Central	Win. Res.	8-Mar	22-Apr	13-May	Sum. Res.	138
South	Win. Res.	10-Mar	13-Apr	14-May	Sum. Res.	99
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	18-Aug	3-Oct	17-Nov	Win. Res.	475
Central	Sum. Res.	24-Aug	4-Oct	24-Nov	Win. Res.	128
South	Sum. Res.	23-Aug	5-Oct	14-Nov	Win. Res.	222

References Cited

Brown, M.R. (1993) Field Notes Spring 1992, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 71:77-89.

Butler, A. W. (1890) The Birds of Indiana, Appendix to *Transactions of the Indiana Horticultural Society for 1890* (available on the web).

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.

DNR files, A collection of data compiled on computer disks for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources by C.E. Keller.

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.