

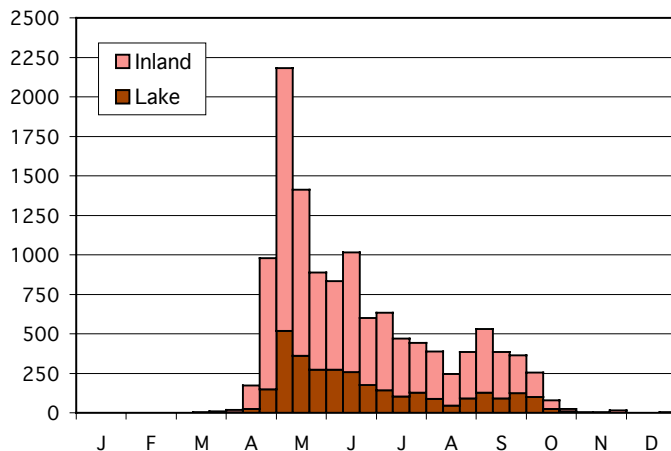
House Wren

Troglodytes aedon

Historical Information

First Published Record: Indiana's earliest fully dated House Wren record occurred at Brookville on 11 March 1887 (Butler 1898).

Butler (1898) related that the House Wren did not breed in southern Indiana, noting that north of an approximate line from Sullivan County to Wayne County it was a common summer resident. Both Keller et al. (1979) and Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed it a common to fairly common migrant and breeder throughout Indiana.



Current Status

The House Wren is both a Common (4) migrant and Common (4) summer resident.

Occurrence

Castrale et al. (1998) proclaimed the House Wren Indiana's most common wren during the breeding season. It has been reported in all 92 of Indiana's counties, albeit not all records in summer. Quite clearly the summer distribution of this wren has changed significantly since Butler's time (see Historical section). As a breeding species this wren has expanded southward to the Ohio River; oddly, however, summer birds still remain scarce in south-central Indiana (see the "Gap" below).

The House Wren "Gap"

Breeding data from the Indiana Atlas project (Castrale et al. 1998) were uniformly distributed across the state except for the central portion of the southern tier, where nesting evidence decreased significantly. Indeed, the only county with no breeding evidence was Harrison County, which is the approximate focal point of the vacated region. This dearth of summer House Wrens was previously reported by Jackson (1994), who coined the term "gap" to describe the House Wren's scarcity in south-central Indiana.

Status

Physical Evidence: At least a dozen specimens, plus eggs, are archived in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				1*
Chicago Field Museum				2
National Museum of Natural History				9
Milwaukee Public Museum				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				6*
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	4	4	4
Central Tier	10	4	5	5
Southern Tier	10	5	6	6
Entire State	10	4	4	4

Winter Records

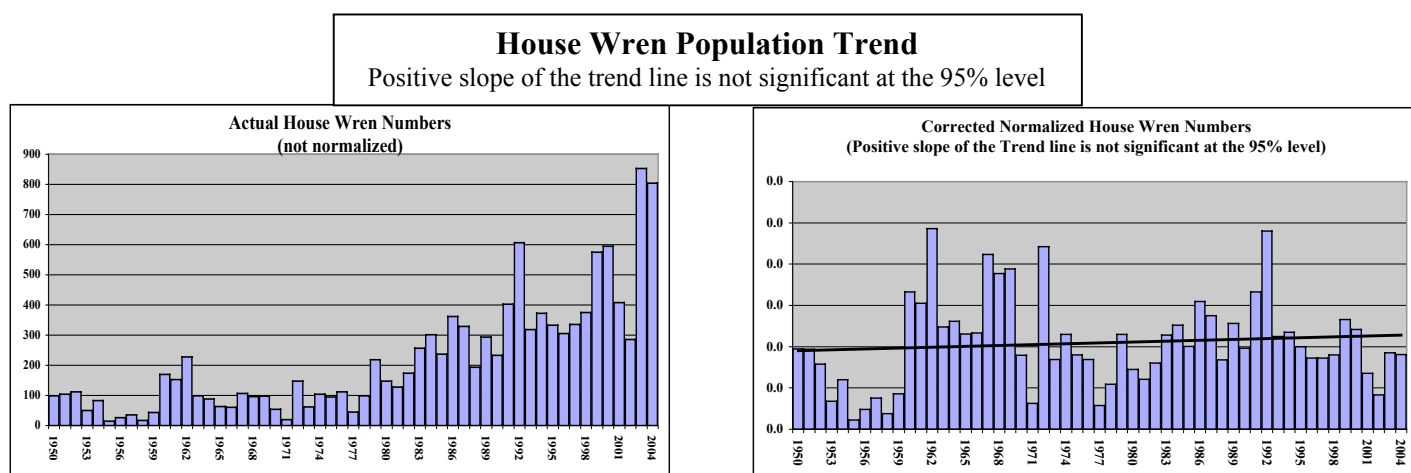
Although at least four winter-period House Wren records exist, only two have been reported over the past 20 years. The winter records include two in December and two in January, all of which were in the central or southern tier.

Extreme Records

All three of the maximum spring/summer counts (see maximum count table) were recorded along the famous Ten Mile drive at the Kankakee FWA.

Population Trend

The almost flat trend line suggests a rather stable House Wren population over the past half-century. The slightly positive slope of the trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) found breeding evidence in 89 percent of the state's 647 priority Atlas blocks. Mumford and Keller (1984) report nest building by 25 April and fledging as late as 8 September.

House Wren Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/Summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
106	19-Jun-1999	Kankakee FWA	S.R. Bagby	KJB
104	10-May-1992	Kankakee FWA	R.S. Plank	IAQ
103	30-Jun-2004	S.E. Indiana	B.K. Jackson	BKJ
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
25	05-Aug-1992	Fox Island Park	J.A. Haw	Haw
18	01-Aug-1990	Fox Island Park	J.A. Haw	Haw
15	27-Nov-1969	Eagle Creek Park	Bud Starling	IQA

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	11-Mar-1887	24-Apr	10-May	3-Jun	Sum. Res.	1804
Fall	Sum. Res.	24-Jul	4-Sep	5-Oct	27-Nov-69	1619

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, B.K. (1994) The House Wren in southern Indiana: a partial vacuum, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 72:115-118.

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.