

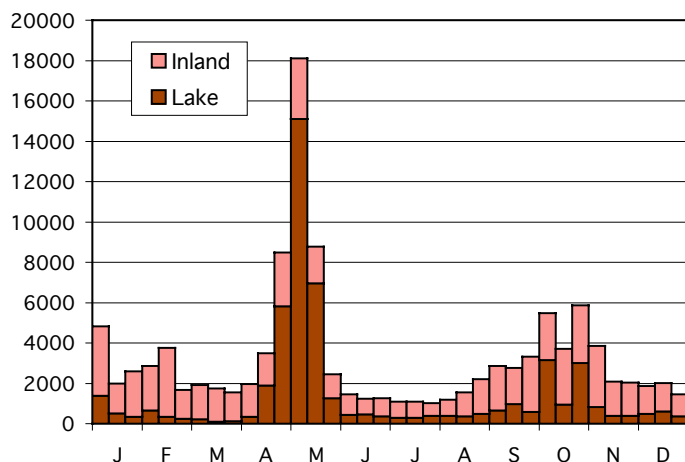
## American Goldfinch

## *Carduelis tristis*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: A specimen collected in Franklin County on 1 April 1879 (Mumford files), appears to constitute the state's earliest formal record.

Butler (1898) considered the "Yellow Bird" a resident, which was rare in the north some winters. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it an abundant summer resident, which was also abundant in winter, except in the northern tier where it was fairly common in winter. Mumford and Keller (1984) basically concurred with the Keller assessment.



### Current Status

The American Goldfinch is a permanent resident that is Abundant (2) along the lakefront during spring longshore flights.

### Occurrence

This well-known and widespread species has been recorded in every Indiana county. The largest numbers occur in spring when flocks execute longshore movements along the Lake Michigan shore (see maximum count table). It often frequents backyard feeding stations where it is among the most common of visiting birds.

### Maximum Inland Record

Large daily counts occur regularly along the lakefront, especially in spring; however, more modest numbers are encountered away from Lake Michigan. The maximum inland tally of 900 was recorded by Don Gorney at Jasper-Pulaski FWA (300) and Kankakee FWA (600) on 16 February 2004 (IN-BIRD).

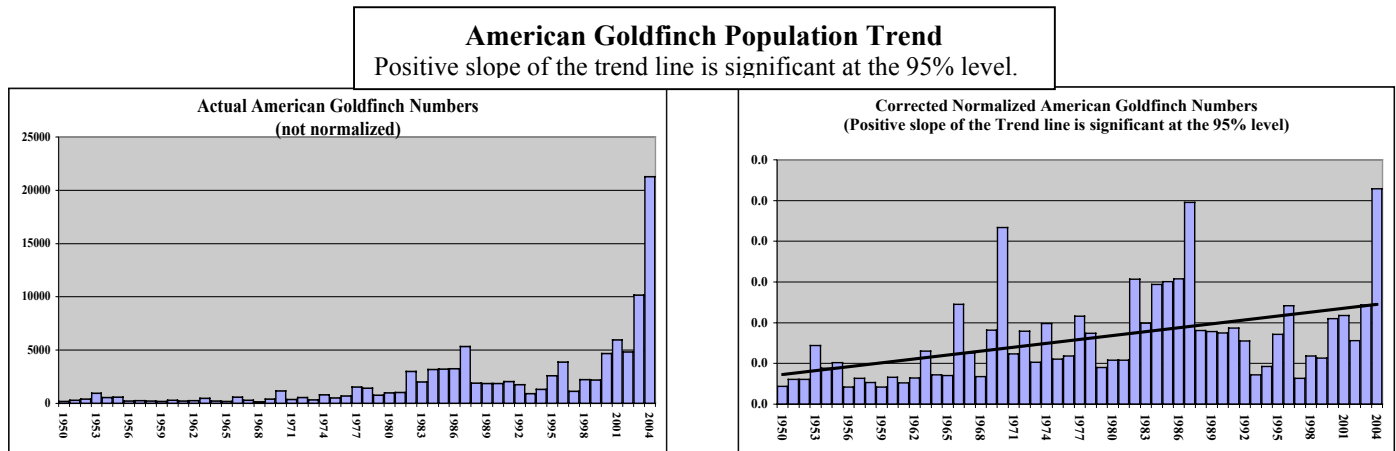
### Status

Physical Evidence: Some 40 specimens, plus eggs, are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).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 Academy of Sciences				1
Chicago Field Museum				15
National Museum of Natural History				3
Milwaukee Public Museum				2
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				14
Univ. of Michigan Museum				7*
Illinois State Museum				1
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	3	2	3	3
Central Tier	3	3	3	3
Southern Tier	3	4	4	3
Entire State	3	2	3	3

## Population Trend

Goldfinches appear to be faring well in the state as the 50-year population trend shows a positive slope, which is significant at the 95 percent level.



## Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in 98 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks, with evidence obtained in all 92 counties. Mumford and Keller (1984) listed egg dates from 4 June through mid-September.

American Goldfinch Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
2720*	08-May-2004	Indiana Dunes	J.J. McCoy	KJB
2205	29-Apr-2004	Dunes St Park	J.J. McCoy	KJB
1715	19-May-1996	Mich. City Harbor	K.J. Brock	KJB
*2690 of these were observed during a longshore flight at Dunes S.P.				
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
1200	27-Oct-1995	Port of Indiana	J.J. McCoy	KJB
1000	09-Oct-1919	Cowles Bog	H.L. Stoddard	HLS
700	09-Oct-2003	Kankakee FWA	Don Gorney	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	Win. Res.	16-Mar	30-Apr	30-May	Sum. Res.	3513
Fall	Sum. Res.	20-Aug	5-Oct	18-Nov	Win. Res.	3887

## 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.

IN-BIRD, a Listserve dealing with Indiana birds developed and maintained by P.W. Kelly. The records are archived at: <http://listserv.indiana.edu/archives/in-bird-l.html>

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.