

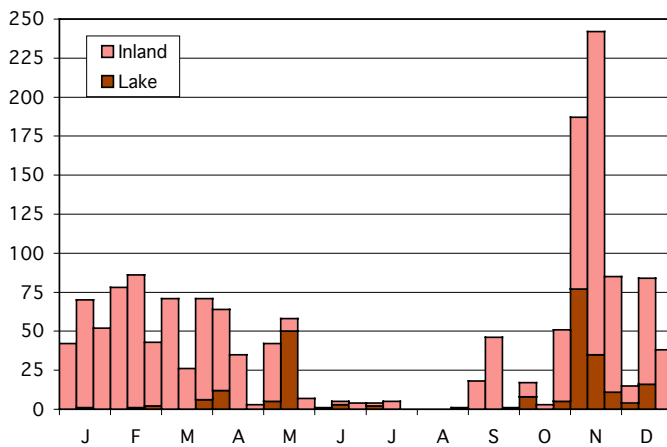
Red Crossbill

Loxia curvirostra

Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1898) noted that this species was included in an 1869 list of birds from Franklin County, but two birds collected by J.W. Byrkit at Michigan City 28 March 1893 (Butler 1929), appear to constitute the state's earliest formal record.

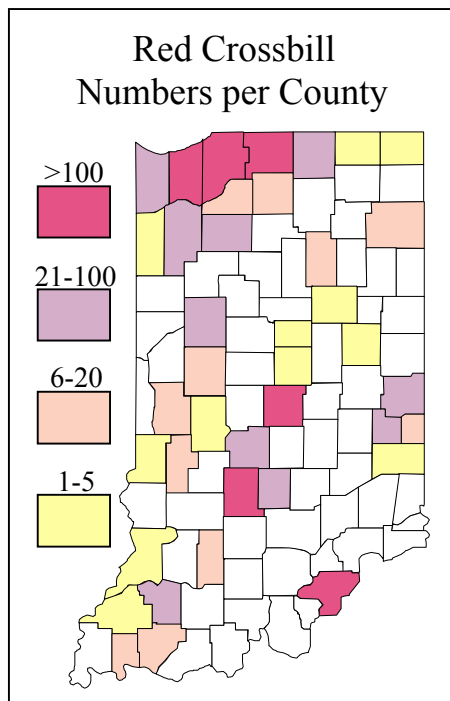
Butler (1898) described the "American Crossbill" as very erratic, generally noted as a winter visitor or in migrant flocks. Keller et al. (1979) and Mumford and Keller (1984) considered the Red Crossbill a rare to irregular migrant and winter visitor.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some 14 specimens are archived in museums. (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				1
National Museum of Natural History				4
Indiana State Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				7
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	7	8	10	7
Central Tier	10	10	n	8
Southern Tier	7	7	n	8
Entire State	7	7	10	7



Current Status

The Red Crossbill is a Rare (7) migrant and winter visitor.

Occurrence

This erratic "winter finch" has been recorded in at least 39 Indiana counties. Though, it occurs most frequently in the northern tier, records are scattered across the state (see distribution map) and Indiana's largest daily count comes from Clark County in southern Indiana.

Migration

The migration histogram shows a distinct autumn flight, which peaks in mid-November, but no corresponding spring migration is evident.

Summer Records

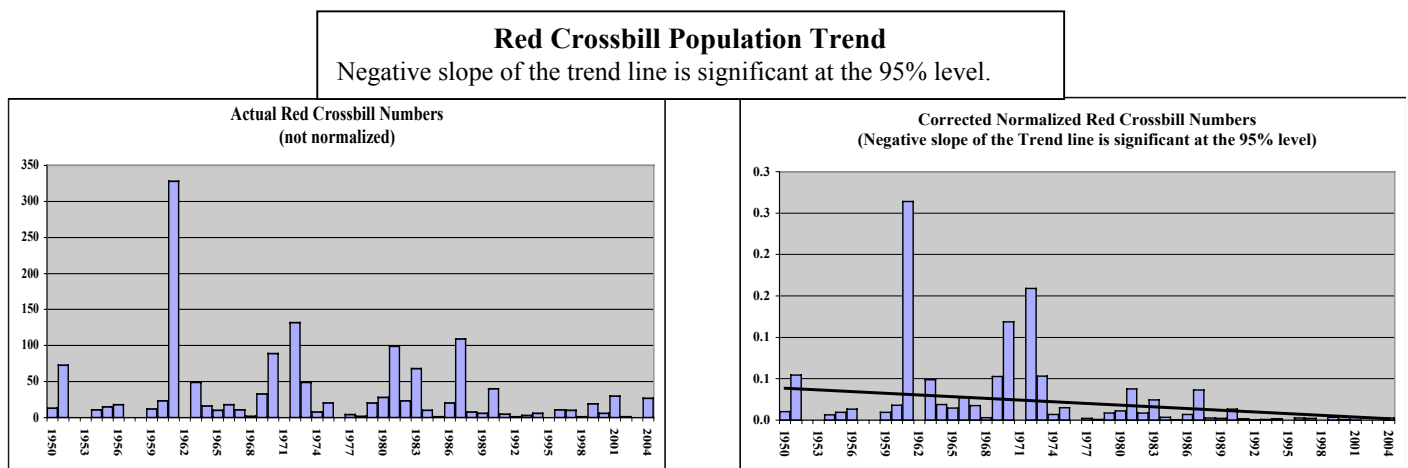
Surprisingly, a dozen summer records have been recorded in the state; these include seven in June and five in July. S.F. Jackson recorded the maximum summer count of four birds on 11 June 1980 in eastern Dunes State Park (Buck 1982).

Subspecies

A female from Crown Point collected 2 April 1961 was determined to belong to *L.c. sitkensis* by H.B. Tordoff (Mumford files).

Population Trend

As is the case with most winter finches Red Crossbill numbers in the state have declined in recent years. Negative slope of the trend line (see below) is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

According to Butler (1898) in 1885 this species nested in both Bloomington and West Lafayette. Additionally, a nest containing one egg (later abandoned), was reported by J.B. Cope in Wayne County during the Spring of 1973 (Mumford and Keller 1984). Castrale et al. (1998) recorded no Red Crossbills during the Indiana Atlas project.



Adult male Red Crossbill at Marquette Park, Miller Beach 6 November 2004. Photo by J.J. McCoy.

Red Crossbill Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/Late Winter				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
50	15-May-1961	Cowles Bog	Robt. Pringle	REM
40	05-Feb-1961	St Joseph Co	K.P. Able	REM
30*	30-Mar-1951	St Joseph Co	S. Bend Aud. Soc.	REM
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
75	11-Nov-1981	Deam L. Clark Co	Brainard Palmer-Ball	REM
40	15-Nov-1972	St Joseph Co	S. Bend Aud. Soc.	REM
30*	31-Oct-1983	Wayne Co	J.B. Cope	IAQ
*30 were reported on four additional occasions.				

Migration Envelopes						
Winter						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
State	22-Aug-1966	16-Oct	Win. Vis.	7-May	31-May-1973	200

References Cited

Buck, D., (1982) Field Notes Summer 1980, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 60:14-25.

Butler, A. W. (1898) The Birds of Indiana, Indiana Department of Geology and Natural Resources Annual Report, 22:575-1187.

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Castrale, J.S., E.M. Hopkins, and C.E. Keller (1998) *Atlas of breeding Birds of Indiana*. Indiana Dept. of Nat. Resour. 388 pp.

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.

Richards, R.L. (1987) The Vertebrate Collection of the Indiana State Museum: "Old" Specimens and Records, *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science* 97:547-570.