

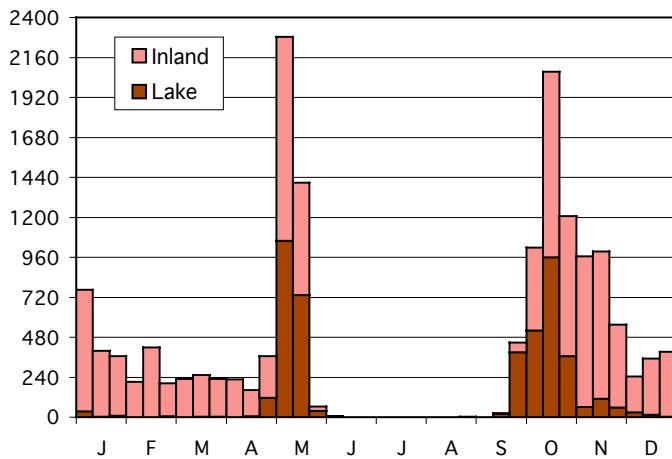
White-crowned Sparrow

Zonotrichia leucophrys

Historical Information

First Published Record: A specimen collected in Carroll County on 3 May 1878 (Mumford files), appears to constitute Indiana's first formal White-crowned Sparrow report.

Butler (1898) noted that the White-crowned Sparrow was a "Common migrant; occasional winter resident southward." Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a fairly common migrant and rare (north) to fairly common in winter. Mumford and Keller (1984) considered this handsome sparrow a fairly common to locally common migrant and winter resident.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some 14 specimens are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).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				2
National Museum of Natural History				6
Philadelphia Academy of Sciences				2
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	5	4	n	4
Central Tier	5	4	10	4
Southern Tier	4	5	n	4
Entire State	4	4	10	4

Current Status

The White-crowned Sparrow is a Common (4) migrant and winter resident.

Occurrence

This attractive sparrow has been recorded in at least 84 counties; it is plentiful along the lakefront in fall and large winter flocks often accumulate in the reclaimed strip mines along the southwestern margin of the state (e.g., Sullivan and Greene Counties). The White-crowned Sparrow ranks among Indiana's ten most abundant sparrows (see Sparrow Overview).

Summer Records

A half-dozen tardy spring migrants have occurred in early to mid-June. Three additional summer records exist, two of which occurred in 1990. Virginia Reuter-skiold identified a White-crowned Sparrow in LaPorte County 17 July 1967 (Mumford and Keller 1984). According to Jackson (1991) Pearl Eslinger documented an adult at her Terre Haute birdbath 30 June 1990 and again on 7 July 1990. The U.S. Banding Lab reported that a White-crowned Sparrow was banded in Delaware County during the first five days of June 1990.

Subspecies

Z. l. leucophrys is the dominant Indiana White-crowned Sparrow subspecies; however, at least eleven records of “Gambel’s” White-crowned (*Z. l. gambelii*) exist. These records include individuals banded by H.C. West and J.B. Cope.

White-crowned Sparrow Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
500	15-Nov-1984	Atterbury FWA	Denny Jones	IAQ
381	03-Jan-1987	Sullivan Co	C.E. Keller	IAQ
300	06-Nov-1984	Sullivan Co	Eugene Muench	IAQ
175	14-Nov-1982	Sullivan Co	???	IAQ
153	01-Nov-2003	Greene Co	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
150	13-Jan-1985	Atterbury FWA	Lene Rauth	LRa

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	10-Apr	9-May	17-May	6-Jun-1975	692
Central	Win. Res.	21-Feb	6-May	15-May	5-Jun-1990	533
South	Win. Res.	10-Mar	16-Apr	11-May	23-May-1954	255
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	17-Jul-1967	29-Sep	13-Oct	5-Nov	Win. Res.	665
Central	30-Aug-1964	10-Oct	25-Oct	20-Nov	Win. Res.	392
South	25-Sep-1995	9-Oct	26-Oct	21-Nov	Win. Res.	148

References Cited

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

Jackson, S.F. (1991) Field Notes Summer 1990, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 69:95-111.

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.