

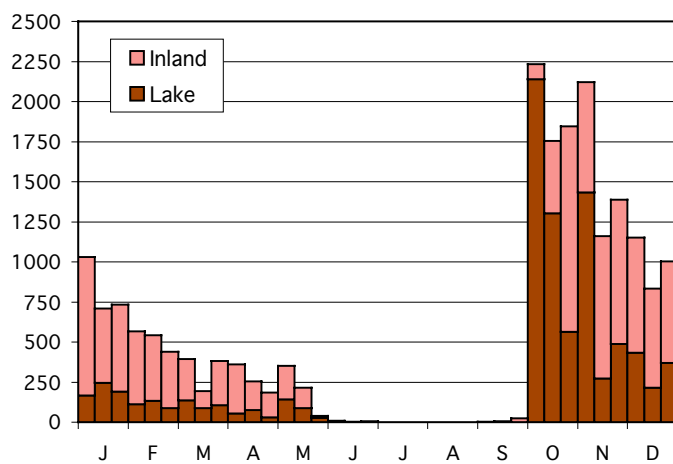
Pine Siskin

Carduelis pinus

Historical Information

First Published Record: On 17 November 1882 A.W. Butler stated, "I found them everywhere along the Whitewater River bottoms in countless numbers" (Butler 1898). This appears to constitute Indiana's first formal record.

Butler (1898) described the "Pine Finch" as a "More or less regular winter migrant, and rare winter resident." Keller et al. (1979) deemed it an irregular rare to abundant migrant and winter visitant; accidental in summer. Mumford and Keller (1984) termed the Pine Siskin an irregular migrant and winter resident, but most numerous in the northern two-thirds of Indiana.



Status

Physical Evidence: At least 23 skins are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				15
National Museum of Natural History				6
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	4	5	9	4
Central Tier	4	5	7	4
Southern Tier	4	5	8	4
Entire State	4	5	7	4

Current Status

The Pine Siskin is an irregular, but generally Common (4), fall migrant and winter resident.

Occurrence

This small winter finch has been reported in at least 70 Indiana counties, but most appear in northern reaches of the state (see map).

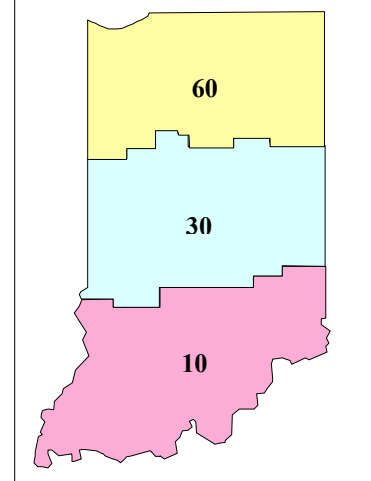
Migration

A distinct flight is noted, especially along the lakefront, during autumn, but the spring migration is poorly defined (see migration histogram).

Extreme Record

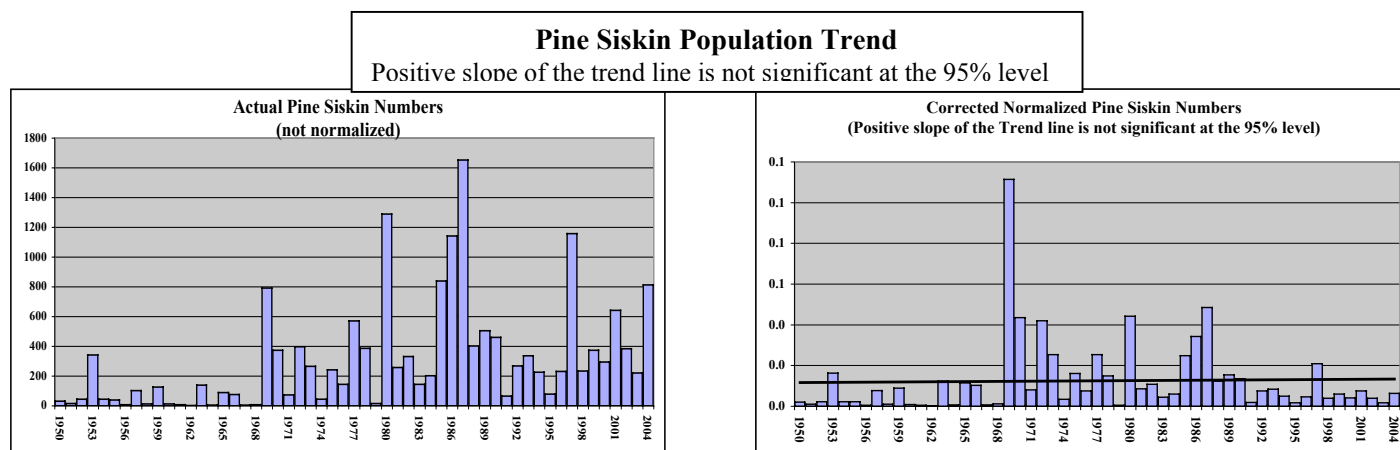
The state's highest count (see maximum count table) was described by H.L. Stoddard as follows, "The big sight of the day however was a great flight of Pine Siskins and Goldfinches.....many thousands of these little birds milling around a great patch of wild sunflowers and other weeds." "This flock was composed of about 25% goldfinches and 75% siskins" (Stoddard notes). Based on this description Stoddard's record was arbitrarily set at 2000 Pine Siskins.

Percentages of Pine Siskins Across Three Tiers



Population Trend

The trend line (see plot below) is almost horizontal, suggesting little overall change in the Indiana numbers.



Breeding

Weeks and Mumford (1981) summarized the state's breeding history of Pine Siskins. Indiana's first nest was observed in Anderson, Madison County, in late March 1978, though it was subsequently destroyed (Goodman, and Goodman 1978). At least nine other nestings, several of which successfully fledged young, were recorded in the spring of 1978 (Weeks and Mumford 1981). Mumford and Keller (1984) noted the discovery of eight nests, all in residential conifers, and at least five subsequent nestings have been reported. Eggs dates range from 27 April through 12 May. Castrale et al. (1998) found breeding evidence in only Randolph and Wayne Counties.

Pine Siskin Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
2000	09-Oct-1919	Cowles Bog	H.L. Stoddard	HLS
1000	01-Nov-1980	Port of Indiana	T.T. Cable	IAQ
500	12-Oct-1919	Cowles Bog	C.W.G. Eifrig	CEi
300	01-Jan-1987	Willow Slough FWA	K.J. Brock	KJB
250	18-Oct-1987	Port of Indiana	K.J. Brock	KJB
200	25-Oct-1969	Jasper-Pulaski FWA	C.E. Keller	REM

Migration Envelopes						
Winter						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	20-Aug-1992	16-Oct	Win. Res.	9-May	1-Jun-1994	910
Central	4-Sep-1987	20-Oct	Win. Res.	6-May	31-May-1981	762
South	3-Aug-1999	21-Oct	Win. Res.	7-May	26-May-2001	267

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.

Goodman, J. and J. Goodman (1978) Pine Siskins nest in Indiana, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 56:179-180.

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.

Stoddard notes, A listing of observations transcribed directly from H.L. Stoddard's original field notes by Dr. R.E. Mumford about 1951.

Weeks, H.P., Jr. and R.E. Mumford (1981) First Recorded Breeding of Pine Siskins in Indiana, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 59:5-9.