

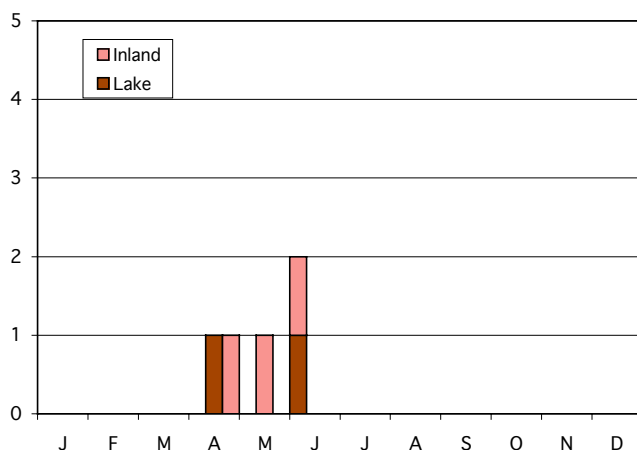
## Lark Bunting

## *Calamospiza melanocorys*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: A male reported near Indianapolis by Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Hadley on 30 April 1950 (Keller et al. 1979, Mumford and Keller 1984) constitutes Indiana's first record.

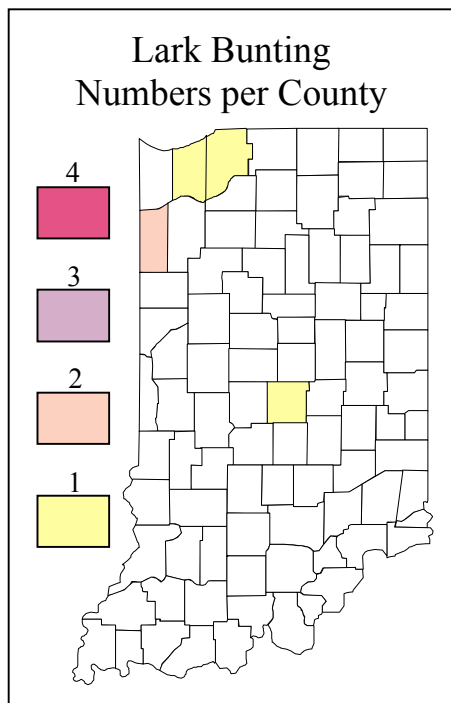
Butler (1898) failed to mention this western species. Both Keller et al. (1979) and Mumford and Keller (1984) considered it accidental.



### Status

Physical Evidence: There are no known Indiana specimens. (S.F. Jackson unpublished list). A photograph taken by J.A. Haw occupies the front cover of the 1979 *Indiana Audubon Quarterly* Vol. 57, No. 3.

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
No known specimens				0
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	10	n	n
Central Tier	n	n	n	n
Southern Tier	n	n	n	n
Entire State	n	n	n	n



### Current Status

The Lark Bunting is currently Accidental (10).

### Occurrence

There exist five acceptable records for Indiana. Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Hadley reported the state's first Lark Bunting north of Indianapolis on 30 April 1950. It fed on the ground and, "while on the ground sang a song resembling that of Vesper Sparrow, but louder and more melodious" (Mumford files). A second bird was identified by J.E. Landing as it perched on a fence at the Michigan City Zoo on 18 April 1956 (Brock 1997). K.J. Brock discovered the third, and first confirmed, Lark Bunting on the road along the western margin of the Prairie Chicken Refuge in Newton County. This alternate plumed male was first discovered 7 June 1978 as it sang and displayed. It was subsequently seen and photographed by a dozen observers and was last reported 9 June 1978 (Brock

1979). California Birder Jeff Smith discovered an alternate male in the Dunes State Park blowouts on 2 June 1985 (Peterjohn 1985), which was subsequently seen by two Chicago

birders. The most recent report occurred 16 May 2005 when J.J. McCoy discovered a basic plumed male in Unit L of the Nature Conservancy Kankakee Sands property in Newton County (IN-BIRD).

#### Excluded Records

Mumford and Keller included a Shelby County record seen 10 May 1950; however, only a single inexperienced observer saw this bird and no documentation was provided (Mumford files). Virginia Reuter-skiold reported another bird at her Baileytown feeder 8 January 1952. She initially believed the bird was a Purple Finch, but subsequently noted white wing patches (Brock 1997). The possibility of a partial albino Purple Finch was not eliminated.

<b>Lark Bunting Records</b>					
<b>All Accepted Records</b>					
<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observer</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Ref.</b>
1	30-Apr-1950	Indianapolis	J.W. Hadley	male	REM
1	18-Apr-1956	Michigan City	J.E. Landing		REM
1	7 to 9-Jun-1978	Prairie Chicken Ref.	K.J. Brock	male	IQA
1	2-Jun-1985	Dunes S.P.	Jeff Smith	male	NAB
1	16-May-2005	Newton Co	J.J. McCoy	male	INB

#### **References Cited**

Brock, K.J. (1979) Lark Bunting: A Summer Record, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 57:186.

Brock, K.J. (1997) *Birds of the Indiana Dunes*, revised edition, Shirley Heinze Environmental Fund, 251 pp.

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

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.

Peterjohn, B.G. (1985) Field Notes Summer 1985, *American Birds* 39:917-920.

Last update: 17 May 2005