

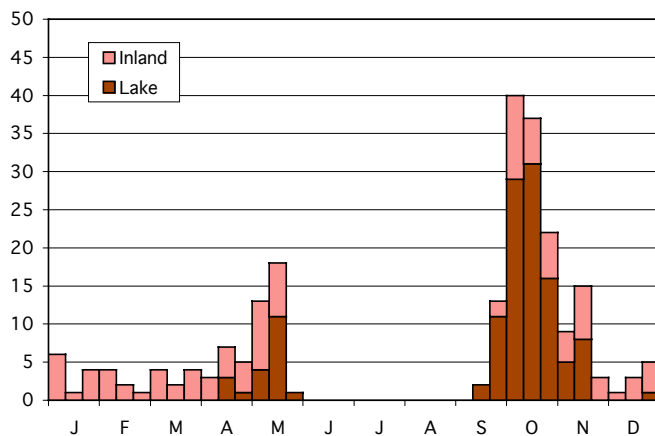
Harris's Sparrow

Zonotrichia querula

Historical Information

First Published Record: Indiana's first report of this large sparrow occurred 4 May 1907 when E.P. Walker collected one in Hamilton County (Mumford and Keller 1984).

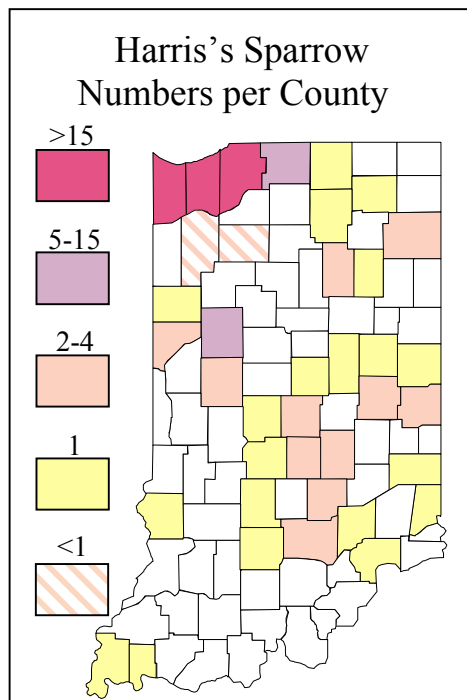
Butler (1898) listed this species as hypothetical. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a very rare to casual (south) migrant; casual in winter. Mumford and Keller (1984) considered Harris's Sparrow a very rare migrant.



Status

Physical Evidence: Seven specimens are known to be archived in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				2
National Museum of Natural History				1
Denver Museum of Natural History				2
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	7	n	7
Central Tier	7	8	n	9
Southern Tier	7	7	n	n
Entire State	7	7	n	7

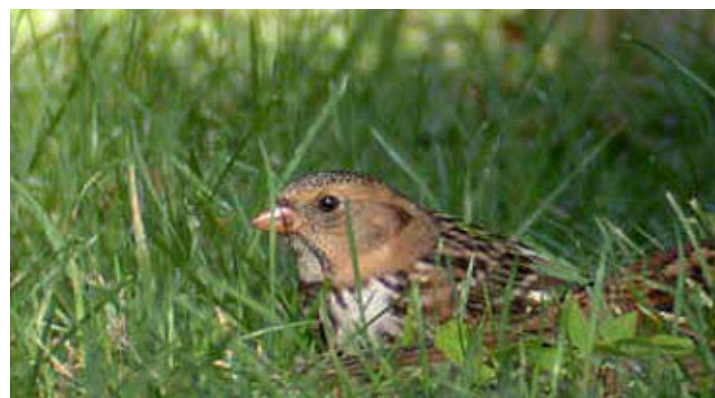


Occurrence

This large western sparrow has been recorded in some 38 counties and has been reported annually in the state since 1983. The largest

Current Status

The Harris's Sparrow is a Rare (7) migrant and winter resident.



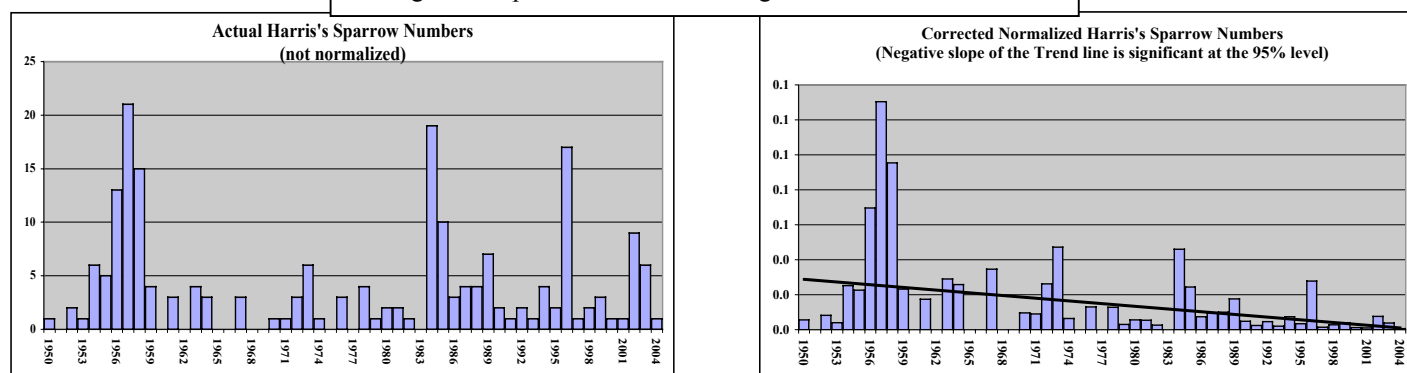
First-winter Harris's Sparrow in Washington Park at Michigan City Harbor 29 September 2003. Photo by J.J. McCoy.

numbers occur in northwestern Indiana (see distribution map). The striped pattern in Jasper and Pulaski Counties signifies a single bird recorded at Jasper-Pulaski FWA. A majority of the birds has been reported in the lakefront counties during the fall migration. Interestingly, many of the highest autumn counts occurred along the lakefront in the 1955s (see maximum count table).

Population Trend

The corrected plot of Harris's Sparrow numbers (see below) shows a large peak in the 1950s followed by a gradual decline. This declining trend is consistent with Christmas Bird Count data published by Niven et al. (2004). Although it has been reported annually over the past two decades, the mean annual tally is only 3.5 birds per year. This mean is elevated considerably by the 17 birds recorded in 1996. Without this anomalously high value the annual mean would fall well below three.

Harris's Sparrow Population Trend
Negative slope of the trend line is significant at the 95% level



Harris's Sparrow Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
3	15-Apr-1954	N. Porter Co.	D.H. Boyd	DBo
3	11-May-1996	W. Bev Shores	L.S. Hinchman	BBC
2*	14-May-1996	Portage	???	KJB
*2 were recorded on one additional occasion.				
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
8	20-Oct-1957	Indiana Dunes	J.E. Landing	M&K
6	20-Oct-1956	Mich. City Harbor	J.E. Landing	IAQ
6	21-Oct-1956	N. Porter Co.	J.E. Landing	JEL
6 were recorded on two additional occasions				

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	Win. Vis.	14-Apr	9-May	15-May	22-May-1990	43
Fall	13-Sep-1988	30-Sep	14-Oct	12-Nov	Win. Vis.	92

References Cited

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

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.

Niven, D.K., J.R. Sauer, G.S. Butcher, and W.A. Link (2004) Christmas Bird Count Provides Insights Into Population Change in Land Birds That Breed in the Boreal Forest, *American Birds*, 58:10-19.