

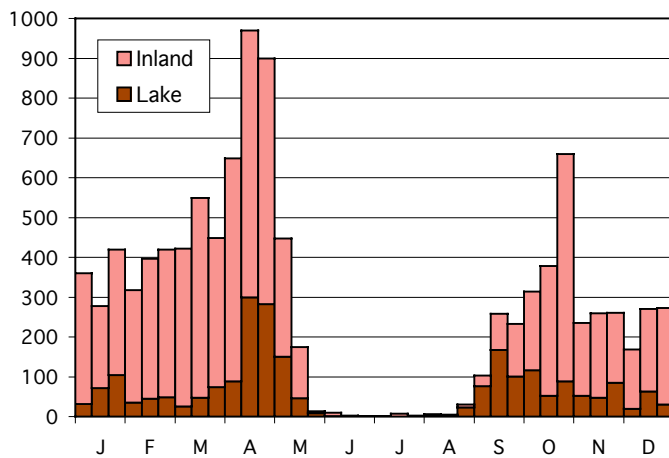
Purple Finch

Carpodacus purpureus

Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1898) reported this finch in Carroll County from 12 to 19 October 1878; this appears to constitute Indiana's earliest formal record.

Butler (1898) described the Purple Finch as a regular migrant and irregular winter resident. Keller et al. (1979) considered it an irregular uncommon to common migrant and winter visitant. Mumford and Keller (1984) termed the Purple Finch an uncommon to common, somewhat irregular migrant and winter resident.



Current Status

The Purple Finch is a Common (4) winter resident and spring migrant, though numbers have waned over the past decade.

Occurrence

This handsome finch has been recorded in at least 75 Indiana counties. In migration it is more prevalent in spring than in fall (see migration histogram). Along with other "winter finches," its numbers in the state appear to have declined over the past two decades; five of the six tallies listed in the maximum count table occurred prior to 1986.

Summer Records

More than a dozen summer records exist for Indiana, primarily from the northern tier. Several of these occurred in early June and likely represent tardy spring migrants, but there are also two late June and six July records, including a female identified by J.A. Haw in New Haven, Allen County, on 6 July 1984 (Brock 1985). The most remarkable summer report involved a male that visited a Lafayette feeder on 14 June 1980, where it was observed feeding an immature bird (Mumford and Keller 1984).

Extreme Record

The state's largest count, 100 observed in northwest Indiana 11 April 1931, by D.H. Boyd (Mumford files), has not been exceeded, or even duplicated, in more than 75 years.

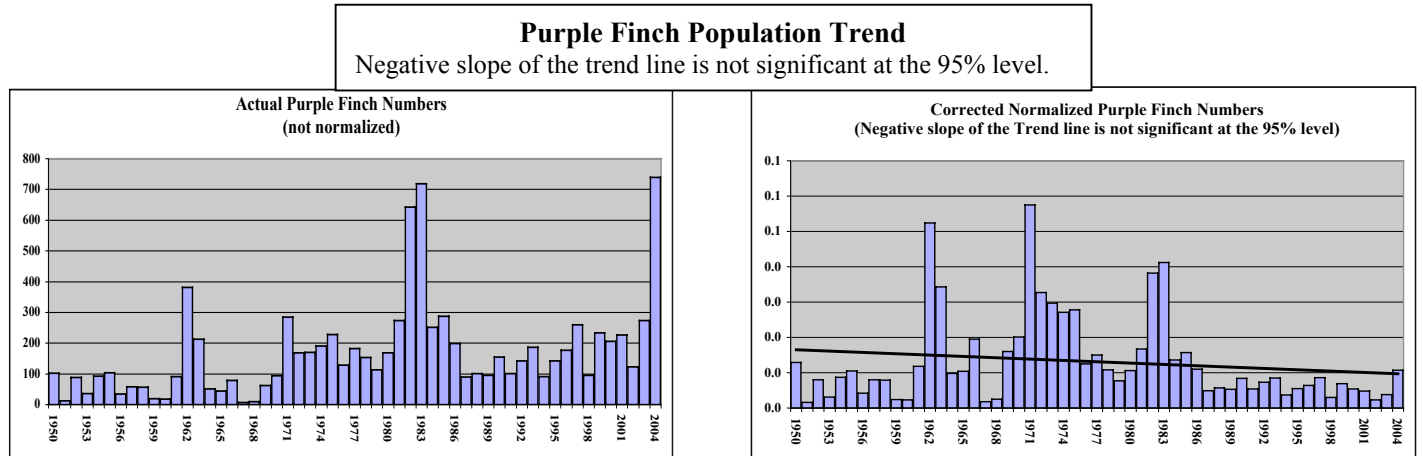
Status

Physical Evidence: Some 18 specimens are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Field Museum				3
National Museum of Natural History				5
Indiana State Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				5
Univ. of Michigan Museum				4
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	5	4	9	5
Central Tier	6	5	8	5
Southern Tier	4	4	9	5
Entire State	4	4	9	5

Population Trend

Note that the population trend line slope is negative (see plot below), but not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Purple Finch Data

Maximum Single Party Counts

Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
100	11-Apr-1931	NW Indiana	D.H. Boyd	REM
60	28-Apr-1946	Tippecanoe Co	I.W. Burr	IAQ
60	06-Apr-1981	Montgomery Co	A.W. Bruner	IAQ
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
50	16-Sep-1980	Beverly Shores	K.J. Brock	KJB
40	07-Oct-1999	Beverly Shores	B.J. Grube	BrG
30	18-Nov-1972	Pigeon River FWA	J.A. Haw	Haw

Migration Envelopes

Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	16-Mar	19-Apr	10-May	9-Jun-1986	500
Central	Win. Res.	10-Mar	15-Apr	7-May	5-Jun-1999	322
South	Win. Res.	6-Mar	5-Apr	30-Apr	10-Jun-2001	229
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	28-Jul-1982	11-Sep	14-Oct	16-Nov	Win. Res.	564
Central	15-Jul-1995	26-Sep	25-Oct	19-Nov	Win. Res.	188
South	11-Sep-2004	18-Oct	7-Nov	27-Nov	Win. Res.	103

References Cited

Brock, K.J. (1985) Field Notes; Summer 1984, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 63:88-91.

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 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.