

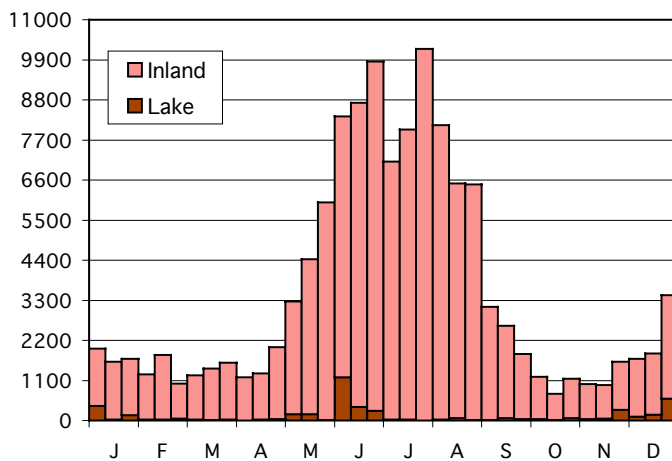
House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1898) mentioned that House Sparrows were first reported in New Albany in 1867. The earliest fully dated record occurred in Boone County 1 February 1877 (Mumford files).

Butler (1898) simply referred to the “English Sparrow” as a resident throughout the state, noting that “In 1871 and 1872 several hundred were brought to Indianapolis from New York City.” Keller et al. (1979) deemed it an abundant resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) provided no status assessment, but clearly implied that the House Sparrow was an abundant permanent resident.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some 28 specimens, plus eggs, are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards 1987).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				17
Univ. of Michigan Museum				8*
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	3	3	3	3
Central Tier	3	3	3	3
Southern Tier	3	3	3	3
Entire State	3	3	3	3

Current Status

The House Sparrow is a Very Common (3) permanent resident.

Occurrence

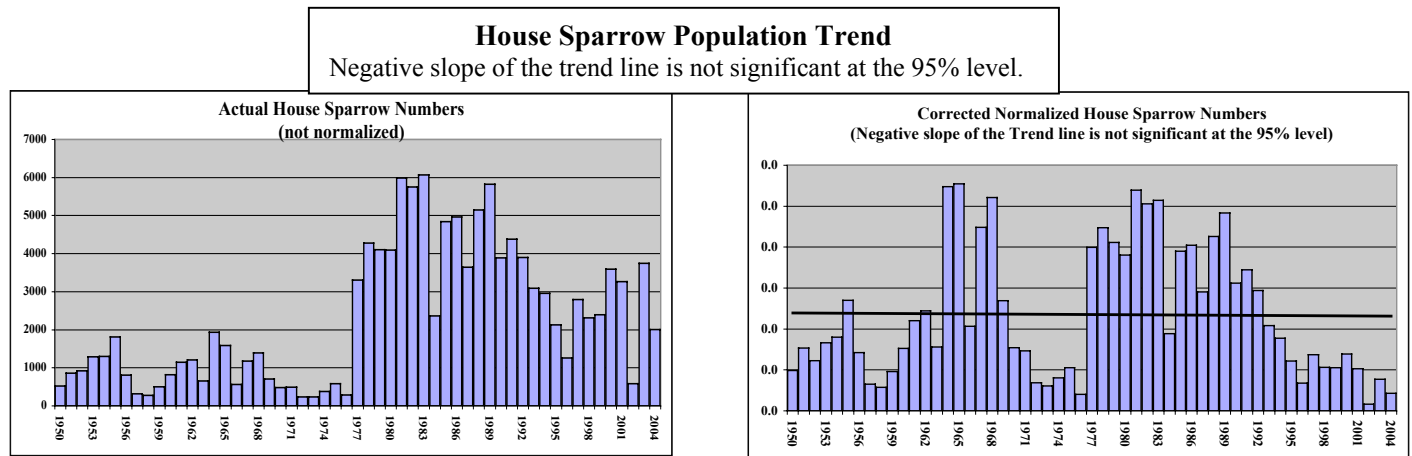
This familiar and common bird has been recorded in every Indiana county. It prefers urban and suburban habitats and frequents backyard feeding stations. The large numbers shown in June through August on the migration histogram, result from an enormous number of banding records supplied by the U.S. Banding Laboratory.

Extreme Record

Most birders consider House Sparrows a nuisance and many simply ignore them in the field; consequently, there are very few large counts. The major exception is the state's maximum tally of 1500, which was logged by W.H. Buskirk 21 July 1964. The count was composed of a post-breeding aggregate of young and adults near Liberty in Wayne County (Buskirk 2003).

Population Trend

Although there is recent evidence that numbers have declined, the slightly negative slope shown on the Population Trend graph is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in more than 99 percent of the states 647 priority blocks, with evidence obtained in every county. Mumford and Keller (1984) list egg dates from 20 February through 8 August.

House Sparrow Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
1500	21-Jul-1964	Wayne Co	W.H. Buskirk	WWV
500	13-Feb-1955	Marion Co	C.E. Keller	REM
427	17-Dec-1955	Marion Co	C.E. Keller	REM
361	10-Jun-1984	Multiple Sites	Sebastian Patti	BBC
350	26-Dec-1980	Willow Slough FWA	K.J. Brock	KJB
350	21-Jun-1992	LaGrange Co	J.A. Haw	Haw

References Cited

Buskirk, W.H. (2003) Birds of the Whitewater Valley, unpublished manuscript.

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.

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.