

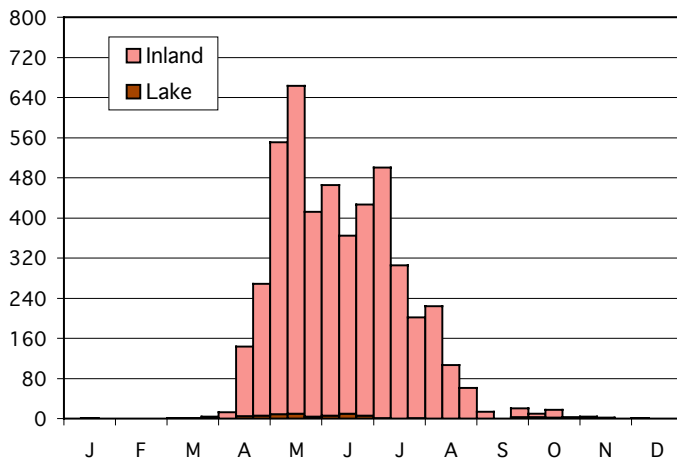
Grasshopper Sparrow

Ammodramus savannarum

Historical Information

First Published Record: A report from Bloomington on 26 July 1869 (Mumford files) appears to constitute Indiana's earliest report.

Butler (1898) considered the Grasshopper Sparrow a common summer resident. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a fairly common summer resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) described the Grasshopper Sparrow as a fairly common migrant and summer resident throughout the state.



Current Status

The Grasshopper Sparrow is a Common (4) spring migrant and summer resident, which is Fairly Common (5) in fall.

Occurrence

This diminutive sparrow has been recorded in all 92 Indiana counties. It is, however, most frequently encountered along the western margin of the state where it prefers tall grass fields. The migration histogram reveals no distinct migrations; instead, numbers build though April, then slowly dwindle through August; only a dribble of reports occur later than 31 August. Data from the lakefront traps, where breeding does not occur, suggest primary migration periods in late April and May and late September through 20 October.

Winter Records

Indiana has two winter Grasshopper Sparrow records. The first involved a specimen obtained in Marion County on 4 December 1927 (Mumford files). The second, and most remarkable, was found dead in J.B. Dunning's driveway (southern Tippecanoe County) on 20 January 1997 (Jackson 1998).

Status

Physical Evidence: Some 23 specimens, plus eggs, are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

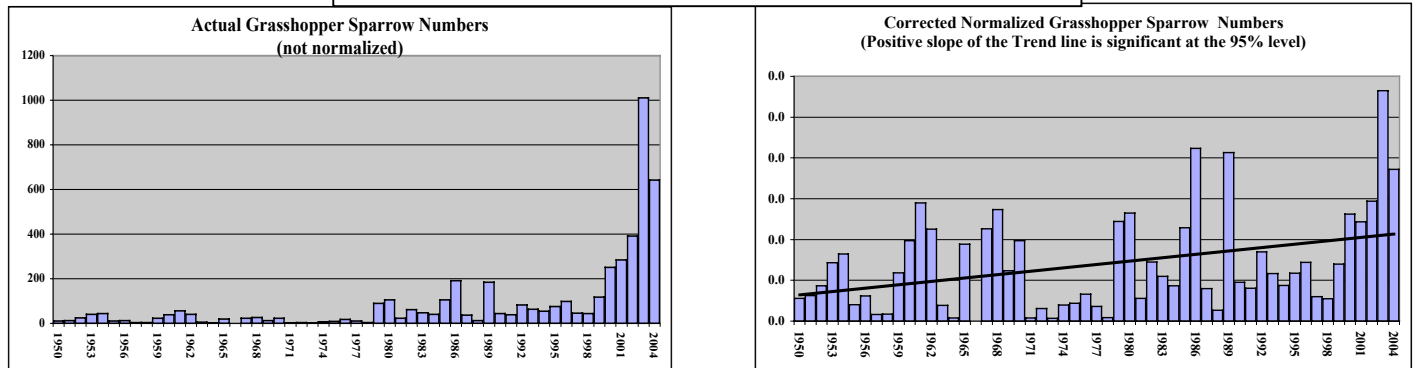
STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Carnegie Museum of Natural History				2
Chicago Field Museum				1
National Museum of Natural History				16*
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				5*
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	5	5	7
Central Tier	9	4	4	5
Southern Tier	n	4	4	6
Entire State	9	4	4	5

Population Trend

In recent decades considerable concern has been expressed throughout the Midwest about declining Grasshopper Sparrow populations. Indeed, Indiana Breeding Bird Survey data yield a -7.9 percent annual decline between 1966 and 2004 (North American Breeding Bird Survey web page). However, 50-year population data suggest a population increase for Indiana. Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.

Grasshopper Sparrow Population Trend

Positive slope of the trend line is significant at the 95% level



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in 63 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks. Mumford and Keller (1984) report that only three nests have been found; these span the dates 6 June through 10 July.

Grasshopper Sparrow Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
67	14-May-2003	W. central Ind.	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
60	18-Apr-1980	Atterbury FWA	Boyd Gill	REM
60	12-May-2004	W. central Ind.	Mike Clark	INB
Late Summer/Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
127	03-Aug-2003	Multiple Sites*	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
125	07-Jul-1989	Jay Co	W.H. Buskirk	IAQ
84	16-Jul-2003	W. central Ind	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
*Universal Mine (103), Hawthorn Mine (13), and Chinook Mine (11).				

Migration Envelopes

Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	7-Mar-1993	22-Apr	12-May	4-Jun	Sum. Res.	530
Fall	Sum. Res.	23-Sep	11-Oct	7-Nov	4-Dec-1927	46

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.

Jackson, S.F. (1998) Field Notes Winter 1996-97, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 76:93-108.

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.