

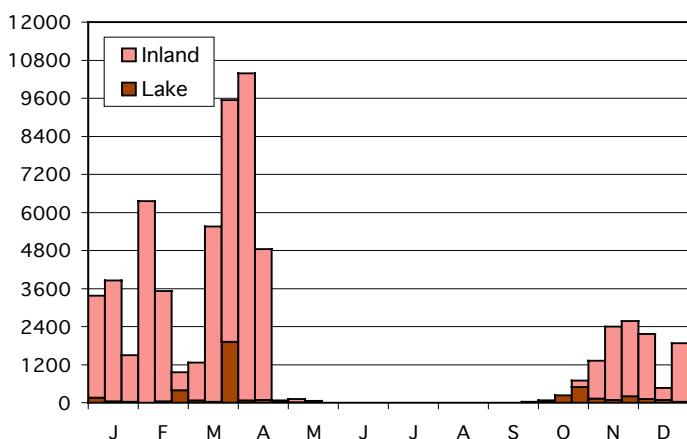
## Lapland Longspur

## *Calcarius lapponicus*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1898) mentioned a pair taken at Fort Wayne in 1880, but two collected at Bloomington on 2 February 1883 (Butler 1898) appear to constitute the state's earliest completely dated Lapland Longspur report.

Butler (1898) noted that Lapland Longspurs ranged further south than Snow Buntings. Keller et al. (1979) considered it an irregular common to uncommon winter visitant and migrant. Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed the Lapland Longspur an irregular and uncommon migrant in the eastern half of the state and most regular and abundant in the northwest quarter of Indiana.

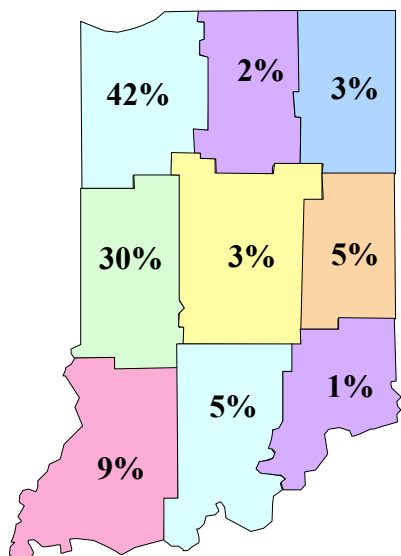


### Status

Physical Evidence: At least 18 specimens are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards 1987).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 Academy of Sciences				1
Chicago Field Museum				2
National Museum of Natural History				9
Milwaukee Public Museum				4
Indiana State Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	3	3	n	4
Central Tier	3	3	n	4
Southern Tier	3	4	n	4
Entire State	3	3	n	4

### Percentages of Total Lapland Longspur Numbers in Nine Indiana Regions



### Current Status

The Lapland Longspur is a Very Common (3) winter resident and spring migrant. It is Common (4) in fall.

### Occurrence

Longspurs are quite habitat specific, occurring primarily in open fields that have little ground cover. They have been recorded in some 67 counties, but tend to be concentrated in the agricultural areas and flood plains along the western edge of the state (see map). Although Lapland Longspurs often occur in large flocks, they tend to be quite local; that is, one might not see any during several hours of searching, but then encounter a flock of 100.

### Migration

The migration histogram suggests flights in both spring and fall. The peaks of these movements are near 1 April in spring and 20 November in fall.

### Extreme Record

The state's largest count consists of 4000 birds that occurred in fields near Hollandsburg, Park County; A.W. Bruner estimated that some 16,600 longspurs passed these fields during an enormous flight on 6 and 7 April 1982 (Brock 1983). On the latter date Indiana's maximum Smith's Longspur tally was also recorded.



Lapland Longspur flock, TNC Kankakee Sands on 10 December 2005.  
Photo by J.J. McCoy.

### **Lapland Longspur Data**

#### **Maximum Single Party Counts**

Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
4000	06-Apr-1982	Parke Co	A.W. Bruner	IAQ
2800	12-Mar-1999	Parke Co	A.W. Bruner	IAQ
2300	06-Feb-2000	Monroe Co	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
1779	21-Mar-1997	Johnson B. hawk site	J.J. McCoy	KJB
1200	01-Jan-1999	Willow Slough FWA	K.J. Brock	KJB

There exist more than a dozen counts of 1000

#### **Migration Envelopes**

Winter						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	8-Sep-2005	7-Oct	Win. Res.	19-Apr	16-May-2005	461
Central	1-Oct-1981	7-Nov	Win. Res.	6-Apr	7-May-2001	220
South	21-Oct-2001	6-Nov	Win. Res.	14-Mar	4-Apr-1982	102

### **References Cited**

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

Brock, K.J. (1983) Field Notes; Spring Migration, 1982, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 61:17-35.

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.

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.

Last update: 9 Jan 2006