

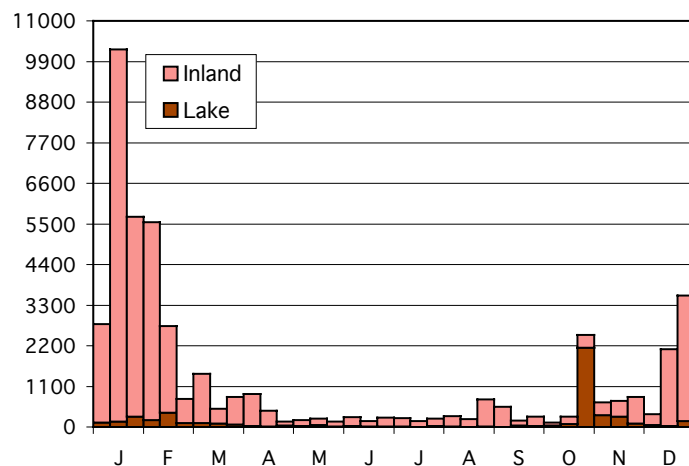
## Horned Lark

## *Eremophila alpestris*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: According to Butler (1898), A.W. Brayton shot a number of “Shore Larks” near Indianapolis on 24 April 1878. This appears to constitute Indiana’s earliest fully dated report.

Butler (1898) considered the Horned Lark a resident, which was common in the north. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it an abundant winter resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) described this species as a common permanent resident, but more abundant in the north.



### Current Status

The Horned Lark is a permanent resident, which is Very Common (3) in winter.

### Occurrence

This open country species no doubt benefited as farms replaced woodlands across Indiana. Today it is frequently encountered in fields and pastures and has been recorded in at least 91 counties. Along the lakefront it occurs only as a migrant, which provides some measure of the migration pattern (see migration envelopes).

### Extreme Record

T.C. Keller’s count of 4600 in Fayette County on 19 January 2003 (Keller and Keller 2003) is more than double the state’s next highest count.

### Subspecies

According to Butler (1898) the “Prairie Horned Lark” *Eremophila alpestris praticola* is the dominant Indiana form, but he mentioned that H.K. Coale collected six specimens of the “Northern Horned Lark” *Eremophila alpestris alpestris* at Tracy Station, LaPorte County on 10 February 1887.

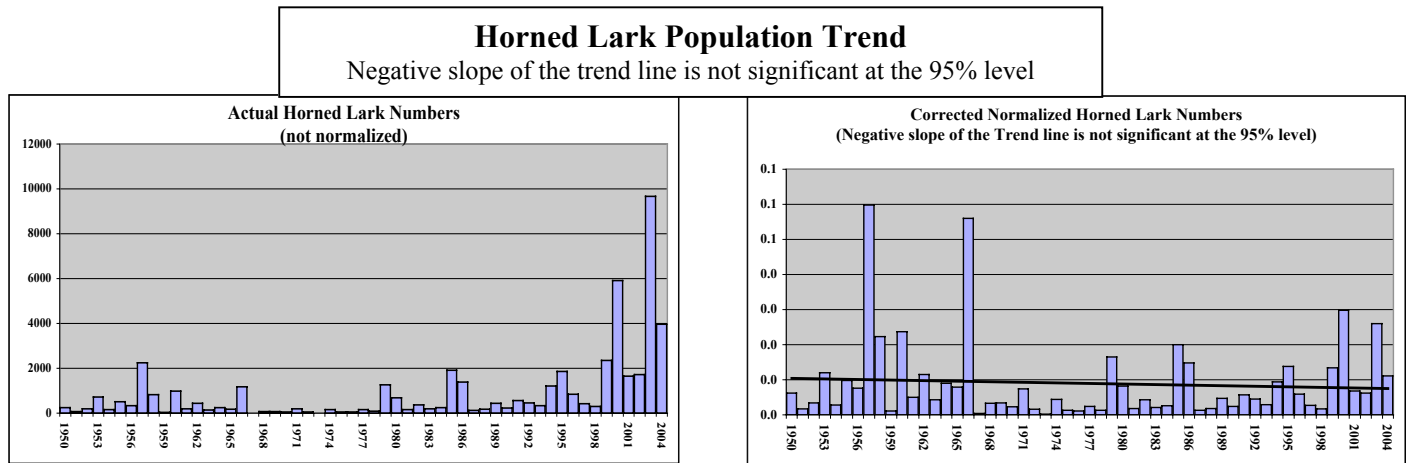
### Status

Physical Evidence: Some 56 specimens, plus eggs, are archived in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Carnegie Museum of Natural History				1
Chicago Field Museum				7
National Museum of Natural History				31
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				16
Univ. of Michigan Museum				3*
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	3	4	6	4
Central Tier	3	5	6	4
Southern Tier	3	5	5	4
Entire State	3	4	5	4

## Population Trend

The slightly negative slope on the 50-year population trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



## Breeding

The breeding season begins quite early for this species. Mumford and Keller (1984) report eggs in mid-February and fledglings in March. Castrale et al. (1998) collected evidence of breeding in 73 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks.

## Horned Lark Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/Winter				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
4600	19-Jan-2003	Fayette Co	T.C. Keller	IAQ
1060	20-Jan-2003	Brookville Res.	W.H. Buskirk	INB
1000	28-Jan-1979	Gt. Miami Oxbow	Dave Styer	REM
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
2000	26-Oct-1957	N. Porter Co	H.C. West	HCW
295	21-Nov-2003	Multiple Sites	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
204	08-Sep-2004	Multiple Sites	Gary Dorman	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Lakefront						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	Win. Res.	14-Jan	19-Feb	27-Mar	Sum. Res.	177
Fall	Sum. Res.	15-Oct	4-Nov	24-Nov	Win. Res.	125

## 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.

Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller (1979) *Indiana Birds and Their Haunts*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 214 pp.

Keller, Pamela and T.C. Keller (2003) Field Notes Winter 2002-2003, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 81:211-225.

Mumford, R.E. and C.E. Keller (1984) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 376 pp.