

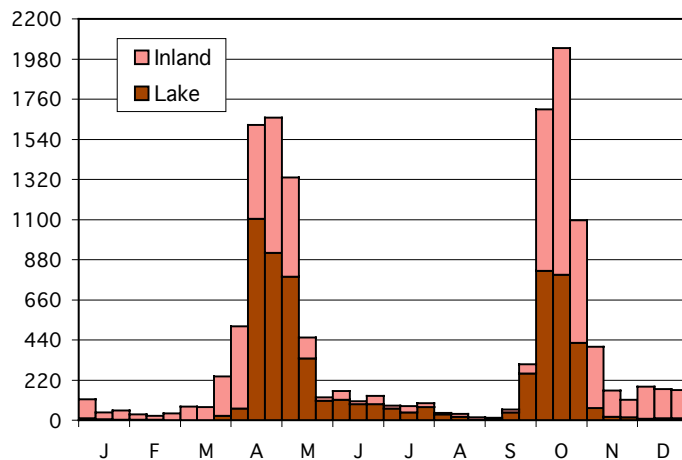
Swamp Sparrow

Melospiza georgiana

Historical Information

First Published Record: Indiana's earliest formal report consists of a Swamp Sparrow collected in Franklin County 19 April 1881 (Mumford files).

Butler (1898) considered this sparrow a common migrant and locally abundant summer resident. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a common migrant and rare (central) to uncommon (north) summer resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) characterized the Swamp Sparrow as a common migrant that breeds across the northern part of the state.



Status

Physical Evidence: At least 22 specimens are known to be housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Carnegie Museum of Natural History				4*
Chicago Academy of Sciences				1
Chicago Field Museum				6
National Museum of Natural History				7
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				3
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2
*Includes a clutch of eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	6	4	6	4
Central Tier	6	5	8	4
Southern Tier	5	5	9	4
Entire State	5	4	6	4

Current Status

The Swamp Sparrow is a Common (4) migrant, a Fairly Common (5) winter resident, and an Uncommon (6) summer resident.

Occurrence

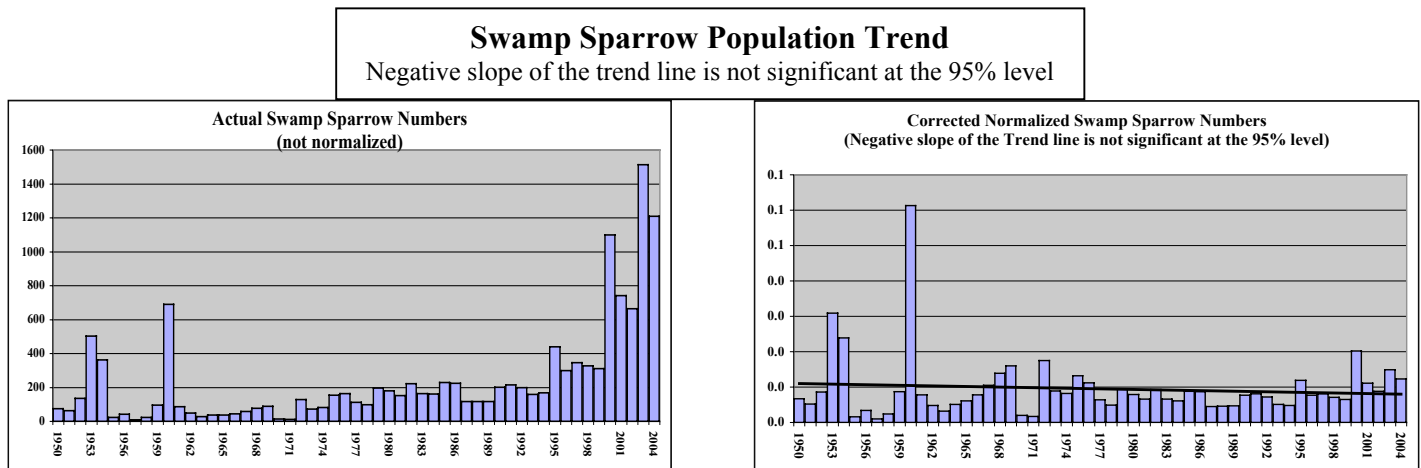
This widespread sparrow has been recorded in at least 77 Indiana counties. It is Indiana's tenth most abundant sparrow based on ranking (see Sparrow Overview). In summer it is considerably more common in the northern tier, where it breeds. Conversely, winter birds are more often encountered in the southern tier. The Swamp Sparrow is of approximately equal abundance in both spring and fall migrations.

Bird Kill

By far Indiana's largest single count (see maximum count table) involved 633 dead birds found along Lake Michigan beaches following a 16 April 1960 storm over the lake (Segal 1960). Among 57 species involved in this avian disaster the Swamp Sparrow was the second most common species, behind Dark-eyed Junco.

Population Trend

The slightly negative slope of the trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) found breeding evidence in seven percent of the state's 647 priority blocks; virtually all of these reports came from the northern tier. Based on five nests breeding activity has been reported from 25 May through 4 August.

Swamp Sparrow Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
633*	16-Apr-1960	Lakefront	Simon Segal	IQA
146	21-Apr-2003	Lakefront traps	J.J. McCoy	INB
125	23-Apr-2005	Clay St. wetland	J.K. Cassady	KJB
*Storm kill on Lake Michigan				
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
200	08-Oct-1954	Willow Slough FWA	R.E. Mumford	REM
150	02-Oct-1953	Willow Slough FWA	R.E. Mumford	REM
95	16-Oct-2000	Monroe Co	C.L. Wood	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	10-Apr	29-Apr	20-May	Sum. Res.	903
Central	Win. Res.	27-Mar	25-Apr	10-May	Sum. Res.	336
South	Win. Res.	10-Mar	18-Apr	9-May	Sum. Res.	142
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	7-Sep	10-Oct	29-Oct	Win. Res.	756
Central	Sum. Res.	6-Oct	20-Oct	8-Nov	Win. Res.	237
South	Sum. Res.	1-Oct	18-Oct	15-Nov	Win. Res.	185

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.

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.

Segal, S. (1960) Bird Tragedy in the Dunes, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 38:23-25.

Last update: 23 April 2005