

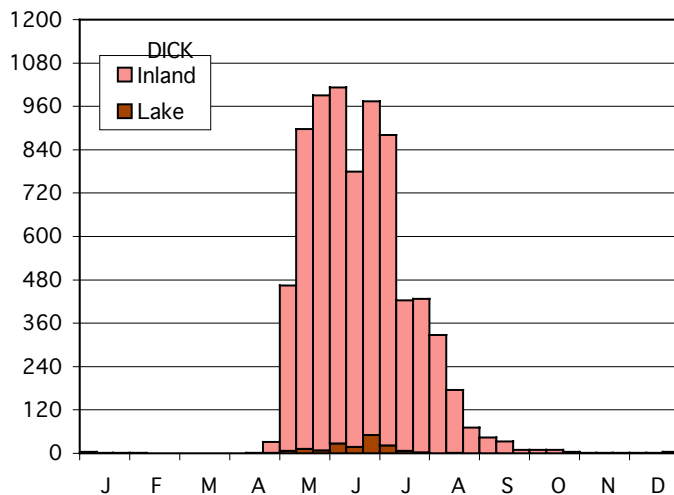
Dickcissel

Spiza americana

Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1898) noted that Dickcissels appeared in Franklin County between 1869 and 1879; however, the earliest fully dated record involved a specimen from Monroe County collected 5 May 1886 (Richards 1987).

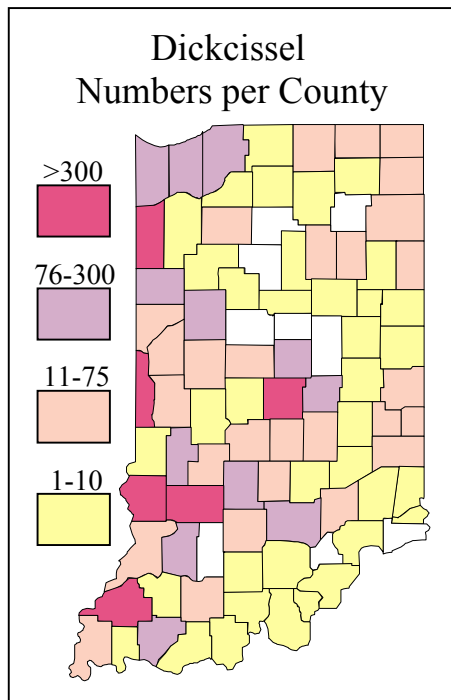
Butler (1898) stated, "In most localities the Dickcissel is an abundant summer resident." Keller et al. (1979) considered it an irregular uncommon to common summer resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) concurred with the Keller et al. assessment.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some ten specimens, plus eggs, are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards 1987).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Carnegie Museum of Natural History				1
Chicago Academy of Sciences				1
Chicago Field Museum				3
National Museum of Natural History				2
Indiana State Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				1
Univ. of Michigan Museum				5*
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	6	4	6
Central Tier	10	5	4	5
Southern Tier	10	4	4	5
Entire State	10	4	4	5



Current Status

The Dickcissel is a Common (4) summer resident.

Occurrence

Although Dickcissels have been recorded in at least 83 counties, the greatest concentration occurs along the western margin of the state. In the southwest it has greatly benefited from habitat provided by reclaimed strip mines.

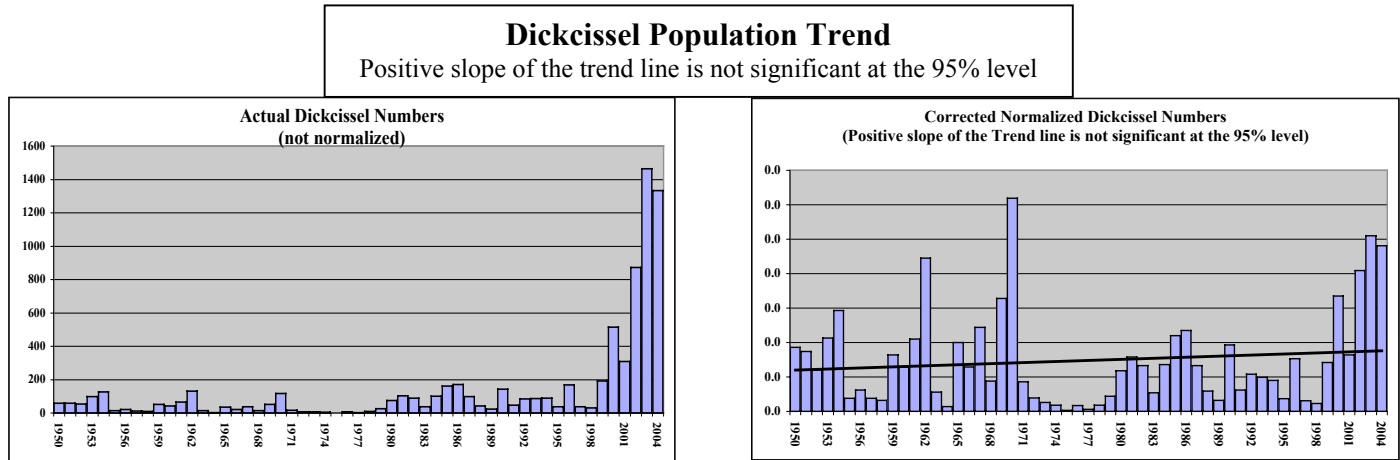
Winter Records

Some eleven winter records exist (two in the last 20 years): six in December, four in January, and one in February.

Winter birds often appear at feeding stations or in House Sparrow flocks.

Population Trend

The 50-year population data suggest a slight increase in the Dickcissel population; however, positive slope of the trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

The Indiana Atlas project reported breeding evidence in 51 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks (Castrale et al. 1998). Mumford and Keller (1984) listed egg dates from 18 May through 10 July and young still in the nest 11 August.

Dickcissel Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
193	04-Jul-2004	Southwestern Ind.*	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
155	03-Aug-2003	Southwestern Ind.	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
120	29-Jun-2002	Sullivan Co	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
112	02-Jun-2002	Southwestern Ind.	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
100	30-Jun-1990	Newton Co	Dave Powell	NIQ
100	13-Jun-2000	Greene Co	D.R Whitehead	INB
* Hawthorn Mine (74), Goose Pond (59), Greene Co (30), Sullivan Co (13), Dugger FWA (11), & Beehunter Marsh (6)				

Migration Envelopes						
Summer						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	22-Apr-1980	10-May	Sum. Res.	29-Sep	21-Nov-1998	258
Central	12-Apr-1998	4-May	Sum. Res.	15-Sep	17-Nov-1989	246
South	25-Apr-1989	5-May	Sum. Res.	26-Aug	22-Oct-1995	247

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, 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.