

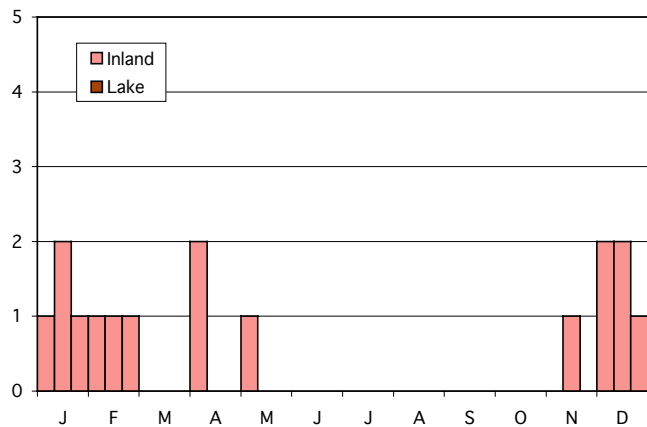
Spotted Towhee

Pipilo maculatus

Historical Information

First Published Record: A specimen collected in St. Joseph County on 15 January 1968 (Mumford files) appears to constitute Indiana's first report of this western towhee.

Based on two specimens from Wisconsin, Butler (1898) included the "Arctic Towhee" in his hypothetical list. Neither Keller et al. (1979) nor Mumford and Keller (1984) mentioned the Spotted Towhee, which was not designated as a species until 1995.



Current Status

Based on local records the Spotted Towhee is Accidental (10); however, statewide it is Occasional (9).

Occurrence

This recently christened species is currently quite rare in the state, but occurs annually in Illinois; consequently, Indiana reports should quickly increase. It has not been reported on the lakefront. The six accepted records suggest that the Spotted Towhee is primarily a winter visitor (see migration histogram).

Discredited Records

Data supplied by the U.S. Banding Laboratory included some 32 Spotted Towhee records, which were banded during the interval 1963-1968. These data included four birds banded within the first ten days of March 1968. The same worker banded all of these and all were reported from the same location. As these records constitute more than five times the number of records known for the entire state, the permit owner was contacted regarding these reports. Owner of the banding permit indicated that he had never "handled" a Spotted Towhee; consequently, these reports appear to represent administrative errors.

Status

Physical Evidence: One specimen from Indiana was sent to the National Museum of Natural History where it was identified as *Pipilo erythrophthalmus articus* and was returned to Dr. Mumford (Mumford files). The current location of this specimen is unknown. A photograph of the adult female observed in Shades State Park 16 November 1988 is in the Indiana Bird Records Committee files (Bruner 1997).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
See note above				?
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	10	n	n
Central Tier	n	10	n	10
Southern Tier	10	n	n	n
Entire State	10	9	n	10

Spotted Towhee Data

Spotted Towhee Records					
All Accepted Records					
No.	Date	Location	Observer	Notes	Ref.
1	15-Jan-1968	St Joseph Co	Scott Rea	specimen	REM
1	05-Dec-1972	Geist Res.	H.C. West	banded	USB
1	16-Nov-1988	Shades S.P.	A.W. Bruner	photo	IAQ
1	10-Apr to 1-May-1992	Wayne Co	W.H. Buskirk		IAQ
1	05-Apr-1998	s. Porter Co	John O'Brien	male	NAB
1	01-Dec-1999 to 28-Feb-2000	Brown Co	Wm. Zimmerman	female	NNB

References Cited

Bruner, A. W. (1997) Report of the Indiana Bird Records Committee—1996, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 75:136-148.

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

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.