

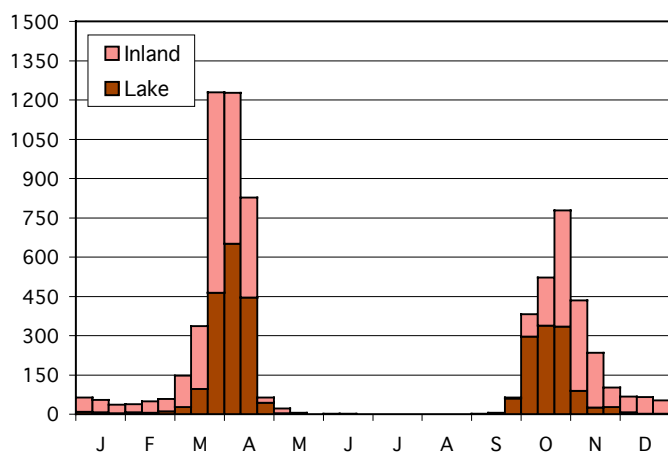
## Fox Sparrow

## *Passerella iliaca*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: A Fox Sparrow taken in Carroll County 6 November 1873 (Mumford files) appears to constitute Indiana's earliest record.

Butler (1898) referred to this "aristocratic sparrow" as a common migrant and winter resident in the south. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a fairly common migrant and rare (south) to very rare in winter. Mumford and Keller (1984) considered this dapper sparrow a fairly common migrant and rare winter resident, more abundant from Bloomington southward.



### Status

Physical Evidence: Some 27 skins are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list, J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list, and Richards 1987).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               |     |     |     | 4    |
| National Museum of Natural History |     |     |     | 9    |
| Milwaukee Public Museum            |     |     |     | 2    |
| Indiana State Museum               |     |     |     | 1    |
| Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory   |     |     |     | 8    |
| Univ. of Michigan Museum           |     |     |     | 1    |
| Denver Museum of Natural History   |     |     |     | 1    |
| 20-Year Abundance Table            |     |     |     |      |
|                                    | Win | Spr | Sum | Fall |
| Northern Tier                      | 7   | 4   | 10  | 4    |
| Central Tier                       | 6   | 6   | n   | 5    |
| Southern Tier                      | 5   | 5   | n   | 5    |
| Entire State                       | 5   | 4   | 10  | 4    |

### Current Status

The Fox Sparrow is a Common (4) migrant and Fairly Common (5) winter resident in the southern tier.

### Occurrence

This large sparrow has been recorded in at least 81 Indiana counties. A majority of the largest counts come from the lakefront traps when significant accumulations are occasionally observed.

### Summer Records

Two early June records exist. Vic Riemenschneider reported the first in Elkhart County on 6 June 1993 (Jackson 1994). An injured bird was observed in Whiting Park 7 and 13 June 1998 (Brock 1998).

### Fox Sparrow Data

| Maximum Single Party Counts |             |                 |              |      |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|------|
| Spring                      |             |                 |              |      |
| Number                      | Date        | Location        | Observer     | Ref. |
| 66                          | 06-Apr-2004 | Lakefront traps | J.J. McCoy   | KJB  |
| 60                          | 28-Mar-1997 | Lakefront traps | J.J. McCoy   | KJB  |
| 54                          | 16-Apr-1960 | Lakefront       | R.E. Mumford | REM  |

| Fall   |             |                   |              |      |
|--------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|------|
| Number | Date        | Location          | Observer     | Ref. |
| 42     | 23-Oct-1986 | Hammond Sanctuary | John Kendall | ABU  |
| 37     | 04-Nov-1986 | Atterbury FWA     | Boyd Gill    | NIQ  |
| 34     | 05-Oct-1985 | Lake Co traps     | K.J. Brock   | KJB  |

| Migration Envelopes |             |        |        |        |             |         |
|---------------------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|---------|
| Spring              |             |        |        |        |             |         |
|                     | Earliest    | Arrive | Peak   | Depart | Latest      | Records |
| North               | Win. Res.   | 20-Mar | 3-Apr  | 17-Apr | 6-Jun-1993  | 703     |
| Central             | Win. Res.   | 11-Mar | 1-Apr  | 17-Apr | 14-May-1983 | 195     |
| South               | Win. Res.   | 5-Mar  | 20-Mar | 6-Apr  | 12-May-1990 | 124     |
| Fall                |             |        |        |        |             |         |
|                     | Earliest    | Arrive | Peak   | Depart | Latest      | Records |
| North               | 2-Sep-2003  | 3-Oct  | 21-Oct | 11-Nov | Win. Res.   | 588     |
| Central             | 25-Sep-1971 | 14-Oct | 30-Oct | 19-Nov | Win. Res.   | 217     |
| South               | 2-Oct-2003  | 16-Oct | 6-Nov  | 22-Nov | Win. Res.   | 105     |

## References Cited

Brock, K.J. (1998) Middlewestern Prairie Region, Breeding Season 1998, *Nat. Audubon Soc. Field Notes* 52:461-464.

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

Jackson, S.F. (1994) Field Notes Summer 1993, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 72:77-91.

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.

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.