

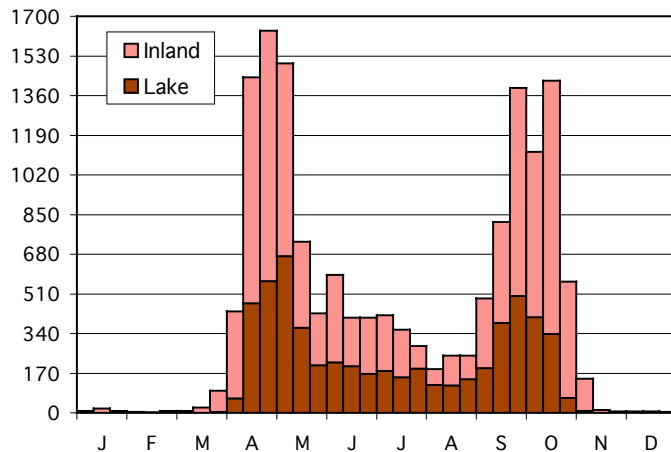
## Chipping Sparrow

## *Spizella passerina*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: A Chipping Sparrow collected in Franklin County on 1 November 1880 (Mumford files) appears to constitute the state's earliest formal record.

Without providing a status assessment Butler (1898) noted the general familiarity of Hoosiers with the "Chippy." Both Keller et al. (1979) and Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed the Chipping Sparrow a common migrant and summer resident.



### Status

Physical Evidence: At least 16 specimens are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

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

### Current Status

The Chipping Sparrow is a Very Common (3) migrant, and Common (4) summer resident.

### Occurrence

Showing a penchant for residential yards and shrubs, the Chipping Sparrow is indeed a widespread and common Indiana bird during the warmer months. It has been recorded in all 92 Indiana counties. Over the past 20 years an average of more than 649 birds has been reported annually in the state.

### Winter Records

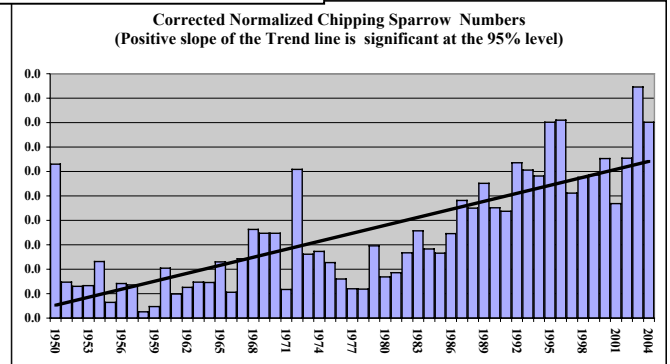
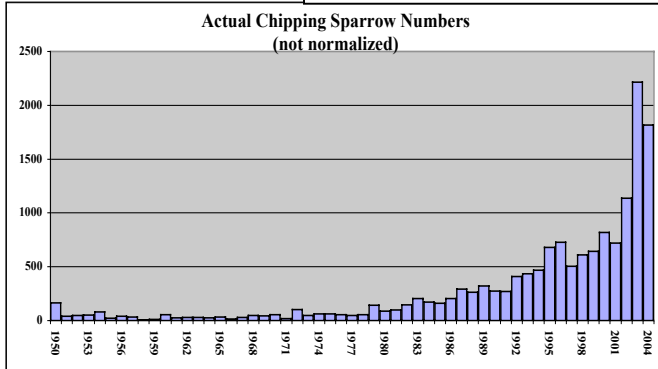
Chipping Sparrows have been reported in 14 of the last 20 winters with a mean annual total of 2.3 birds. Somewhat surprisingly, winter records are distributed evenly among the three tiers. Virtually all winter reports consist of singletons; however, R.E. Mumford counted ten in Posey County on 19 January 1950 (Mumford files). The latter report constitutes (by a wide margin) the state's largest winter tally.

### Population Trend

In contrast to the Field Sparrow, Chipping Sparrows appear to be faring quite well. Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.

### Chipping Sparrow Population Trend

Positive slope of the trend line is significant at the 95% level



### Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in 96 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks, clearly attesting to its summer abundance. Mumford and Keller (1984) reported eggs as early as 25 April and young still in the nest 4 September.

### Chipping Sparrow Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/early Summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
110	23-Apr-1950	Monroe Co	P.D. Skaar	REM
83	9-Jun-2004	S.E. Indiana	B.K. Jackson	BKJ
53	30-Apr-2003	Franklin Co	W.H. Buskirk	INB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
150	13-Oct-2002	Fort Harrison S.P.	Don Gorney	INB
120	30-Sep-2003	Pigeon River FWA	J.A. Haw	INB
100	17-Oct-2003	Eagle Creek Park	G.L. Chastain	IAQ

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	7-Mar-2004	13-Apr	2-May	31-May	Sum. Res.	967
Central	29-Feb-1980	10-Apr	1-May	26-May	Sum. Res.	529
South	3-Mar-2001	2-Apr	23-Apr	14-May	Sum. Res.	332
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	3-Sep	1-Oct	22-Oct	18-Nov-1993	621
Central	Sum. Res.	26-Aug	5-Oct	28-Oct	30-Nov-1999	245
South	Sum. Res.	7-Sep	11-Oct	4-Nov	21-Nov-1974	141

## 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.