

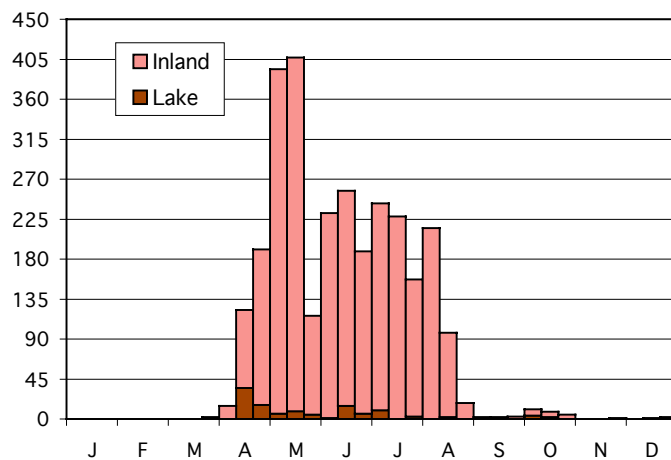
Henslow's Sparrow

Ammodramus henslowii

Historical Information

First Published Record: Butler (1898) mentioned that a Henslow's Sparrow was shot in Lake County in 1869, but a male collected by H.K. Coale near Tolleston, Lake County 10 May 1877 constitutes the state's earliest fully dated record.

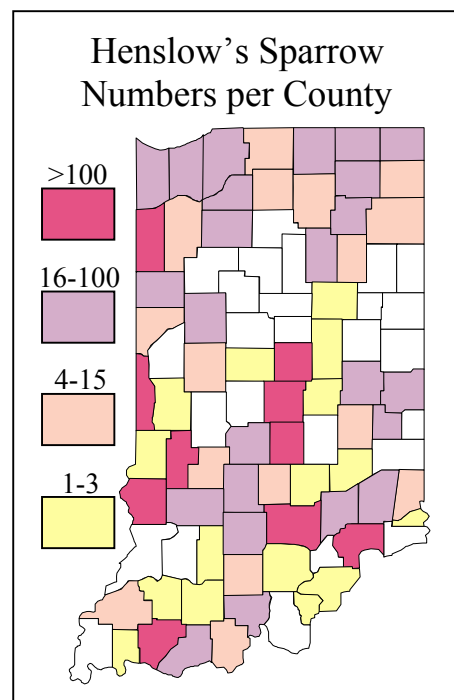
Butler (1898) deemed this small sparrow a summer resident in the north, but reported no southern Indiana records. Keller et al. (1979) described it as a locally uncommon summer resident, casual in winter. Mumford and Keller (1984) considered Henslow's Sparrow an uncommon summer resident and migrant, which was locally common.



Status

Physical Evidence: At least 14 skins are known to be housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				2
Chicago Field Museum				4
National Museum of Natural History				7
Univ. of Michigan Museum				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	6	6	7
Central Tier	n	5	4	5
Southern Tier	n	5	4	6
Entire State	n	5	4	5



Current Status

The Henslow's Sparrow is a Fairly Common (5) migrant and Common (4), but local, summer resident. There are no recent (last 20 years) winter records.

Occurrence

Though extremely local as a breeding species, Henslow's Sparrows have been reported in almost 70 counties. The largest concentrations occur along a broad diagonal from Jefferson County in the southeast to Newton County in the northwest. The recent availability of reclaimed strip mines in southwestern Indiana has greatly benefited this sparrow.

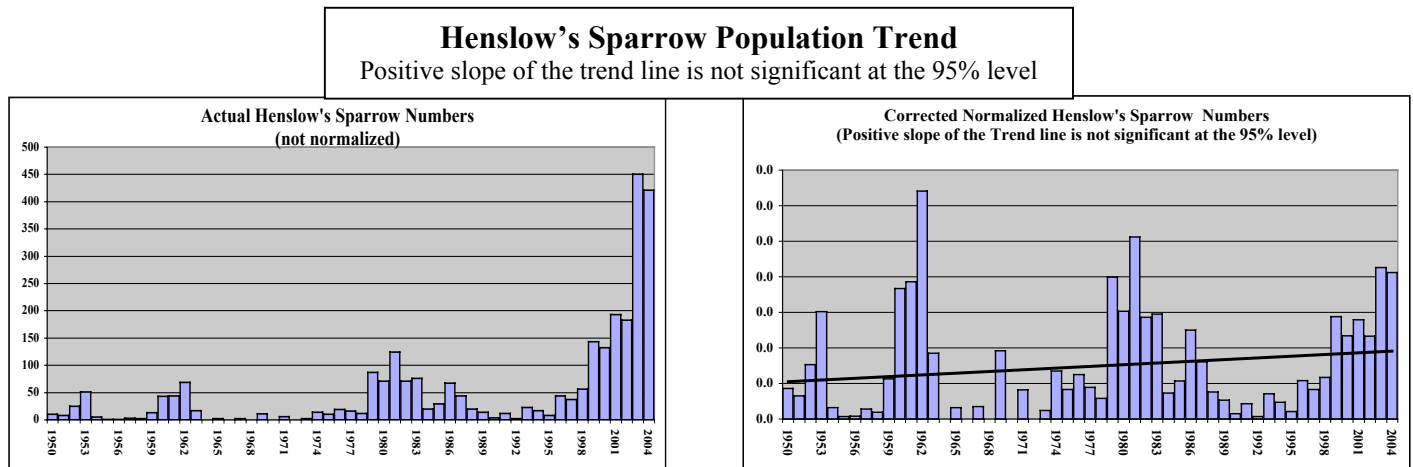
Migration

The relatively large number of early summer reports masks the spring flight. Sparse data from the lakefront traps

suggest that most spring birds pass through between mid-April and mid-May. A feeble fall migration occurs in October (see migration histogram).

Population Trend

Although Breeding Bird Survey data show a statistically non-significant annual decline of 6 percent annually in the interval 1966 – 2004, the 50-year data suggest a slight increase over the past half-century; however, positive slope of the trend line is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported nesting evidence in six percent of the state's 647 priority blocks. Interestingly, very few of the reports came from the central tier which is dominated by cultivated fields. Nests have been reported from 20 May through 22 June.



Migrant Henslow's Sparrow at the Hammond Lakefront Sanctuary 21 April 2003. Photo by J.J. McCoy.

Henslow's Sparrow Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
100	09-May-1981	Muscatatuck NWR	G.E. Hill	M&K
60	14-May-1983	Atterbury FWA	Boyd Gill	DNR
49	12-May-2004	W. central Ind.	Mike Clark	INB
Late Summer/Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
68	03-Aug-2003	Multiple Sites*	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
45	08-Jul-2004	W. central Ind.	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
33	16-Jul-2003	W. central Ind.	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB
*Universal Mine (46), Chinook Mine (14), Hawthorn Mine (8)				

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	28-Mar-2004	19-Apr	11-May	3-Jun	Sum. Res.	409
Fall	Sum. Res.	3-Sep	8-Oct	21-Oct	22-Nov-1999	31

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.