

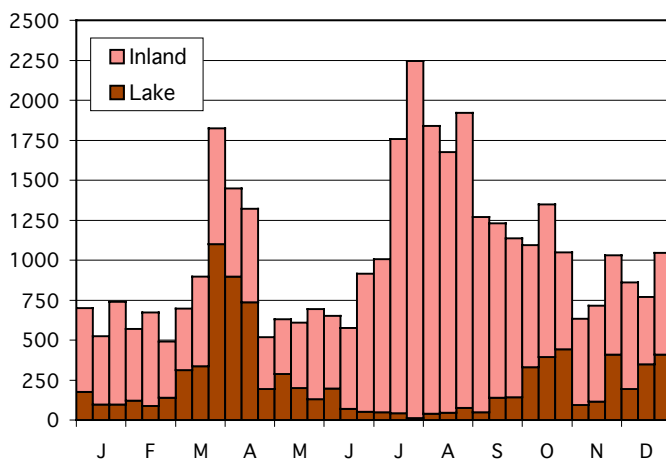
## House Finch

## *Carpodacus mexicanus*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: A 16 November 1958 report from Michigan City is anomalous among Midwestern records; indeed Mumford and Keller (1975) considered the House Finch hypothetical. Indiana's first record consistent with this species' invasive pattern was found by C.E. Keller, S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller at the Indianapolis Art Museum 28 March 1976 (Keller et al. 1976).

Butler (1898) failed to mention this western species. Keller et al. (1979) reported six records, implying that it was casual. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted reports of this invading species from 24 Indiana counties, but provided no status assessment.



### 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 (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).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.
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				6
Univ. of Michigan Museum				10
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	3	3	5	3
Central Tier	3	3	3	3
Southern Tier	4	4	5	5
Entire State	3	3	3	3

### Current Status

Today the House Finch is a Very Common (3) permanent resident.

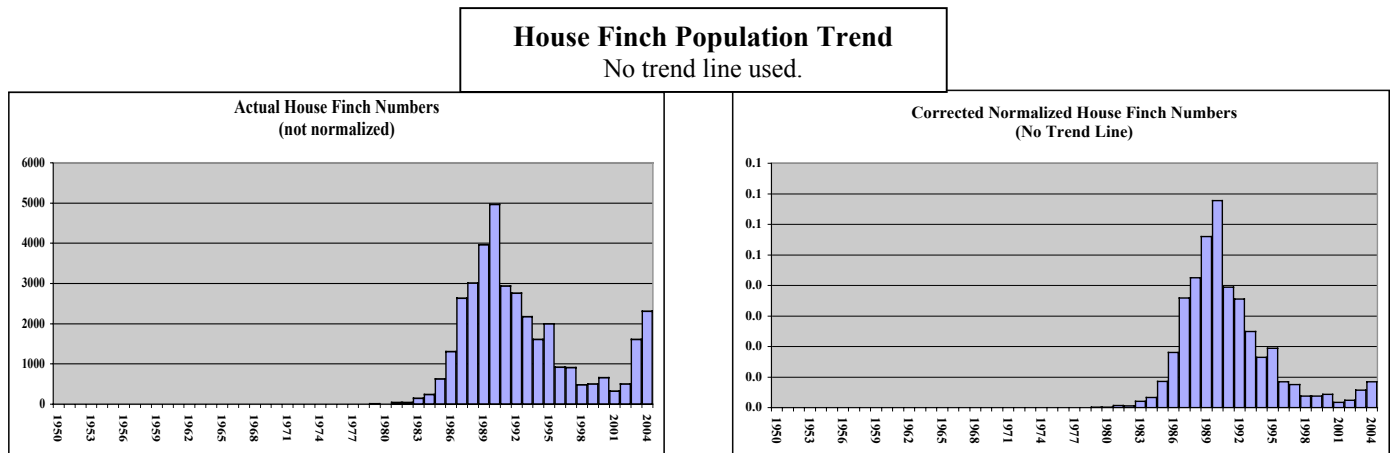
### Occurrence

Though a recent arrival in the state, the House Finch has now been recorded in all 92 Indiana counties. As shown in the Population Trend graphs, numbers began to grow in the mid-1980s and peaked about 1990. The subsequent dramatic decline has been attributed to an infection of mycoplasmal conjunctivitis. Since about 2001 the Indiana population has been recovering (see Population Trend).

The migration histogram shows a distinctive spring migration, especially along the lakefront, but the fall flight is poorly defined. The large numbers shown in July and August resulted from extensive banding records (U.S. Banding Lab).

## Population Trend

As House Finches have been present in the state for only about 20 years, no trend line was added to the corrected population plot.



## Breeding

Nesting in the state was confirmed 9 May 1981 in Decatur, Adams County (Heller and Wise 1982) and expanded rapidly thereafter. By completion of the Indiana Atlas project breeding evidence was found in 92 percent of the 647 priority blocks in 91 counties (Castrale et al. 1998). Nests containing eggs have been reported from 16 March through 25 May.

## House Finch Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
593*	23-Mar-2004	Dunes St Park	J.J. McCoy	KJB
200*	03-Apr-1993	Dunes St Park	K.J. Brock	KJB
140*	16-Apr-2002	Dunes St Park	J.J. McCoy	INB
*Longshore flights				
Fall/early Winter				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
300	21-Nov-1992	Roxana Pond	Joy Bower	KJB
200	22-Dec-1987	Martin Co	H.M. Weeks	REM
150	24-Oct-1992	Hammond Sanct.	K.J. Brock	KJB

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	Win. Res.	10-Mar	3-Apr	25-Apr	Sum. Res.	1019
Fall	Sum. Res.	10-Sep	19-Oct	15-Dec	Win. Res.	1837

## References Cited

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