

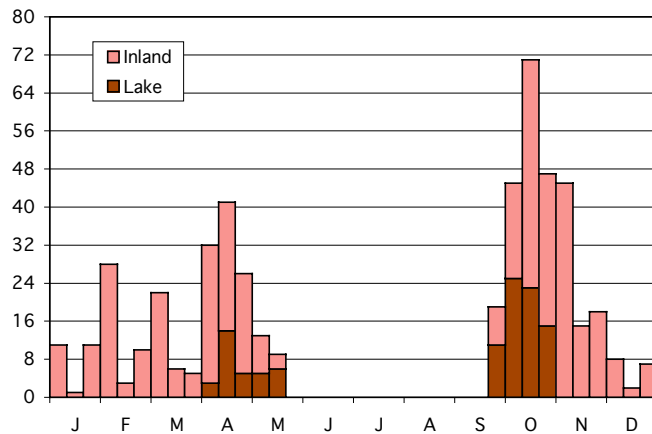
Le Conte's Sparrow

Ammodramus leconteii

Historical Information

First Published Record: Indiana's first published Le Conte's Sparrow report consisted of a specimen collected by A.W. Butler near Brookville (Franklin County) on 12 March 1884 (Butler 1898).

Butler (1898) described Le Conte's Sparrow as a rare migrant. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a very rare migrant, casual in winter (south). Mumford and Keller (1984) considered the Le Conte's Sparrow a rare to very rare migrant, locally casual in winter.



Status

Physical Evidence: Four skins are archived in the National Museum (S.F. Jackson unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				4
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	7	n	7
Central Tier	9	8	n	7
Southern Tier	6	7	n	6
Entire State	6	7	n	6

Current Status

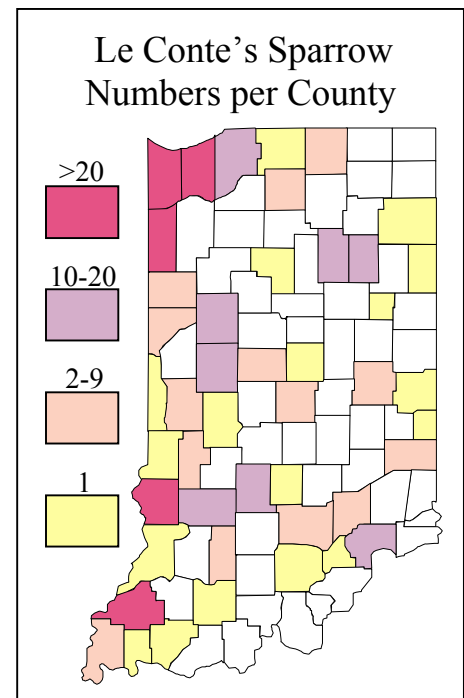
The Le Conte's Sparrow is an Uncommon (6) fall migrant and winter resident; it is a Rare (7) spring migrant.

Occurrence

Though generally secretive and difficult to find, this beautiful little sparrow has been reported in almost half of Indiana's 92 counties. It is most often encountered during the fall flight; the ratio of fall to spring birds is 1.7. Lakefront observers have noted that migrants display a preference for habitat containing stands of little bluestem.

Winter

Indiana's first winter record involved a specimen obtained by R.E. Mumford at Hovey Lake on 1 January 1955. Subsequently, it has been learned that Le Conte's Sparrows are local winter residents in the southern tier. Winter records include ten in December, nine in January, and twelve in February. The state's largest count, recorded near Lake Gibson 2 February 2001, occurred during the winter season (see maximum count table).





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

Le Conte's Sparrow Data

Maximum Single Party Counts

Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
23	02-Feb-2001	Lake Gibson	J.J. McCoy	INB
22	01-Mar-1980	Lake Gibson	Denny Jones	M&K
19	17-Oct-1982	Sullivan Co	Denny Jones	IAQ
13	09-Nov-1980	Lake Gibson	Denny Jones	REM
12	05-Apr-1981	Lake Monroe	G.E. Hill	REM
10*	16-Apr-1960	Lakefront	Simon Segal	IQA

*10 were reported on two additional occasions

Migration Envelopes

Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	Win. Res.	23-Mar	17-Apr	11-May	16-May-2002	75
Fall	23-Sep-1978	1-Oct	17-Oct	10-Nov	Win. Res.	136

References Cited

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, R.E. and C.E. Keller (1984) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 376 pp.

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