

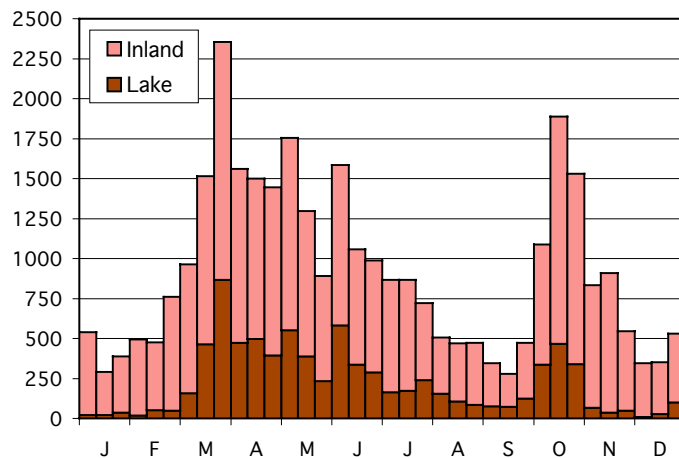
Song Sparrow

Melospiza melodia

Historical Information

First Published Record: A specimen collected in Franklin County on 23 February 1881 (Mumford files), appears to be the state's earliest formal record.

Butler (1898) considered the Song Sparrow a resident, but rare in southwestern Indiana. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it an abundant resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) described the Song Sparrow as a common and locally abundant permanent resident, least numerous in extreme southwestern Indiana.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some 39 specimens, plus eggs, are known to be preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).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 Academy of Sciences				2
Chicago Field Museum				11
National Museum of Natural History				15
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				7
Univ. of Michigan Museum				9*
*Includes eggs				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	5	3	3	3
Central Tier	4	3	4	3
Southern Tier	4	4	4	3
Entire State	4	3	3	3

Current Status

The Song Sparrow is a Very Common (3) migrant and summer resident, and a Common (4) winter resident in the southern two-thirds of the state.

Occurrence

This widespread and common sparrow has been recorded in all 92 Indiana counties and ranks sixth in abundance among the state's sparrows.

Winter Records

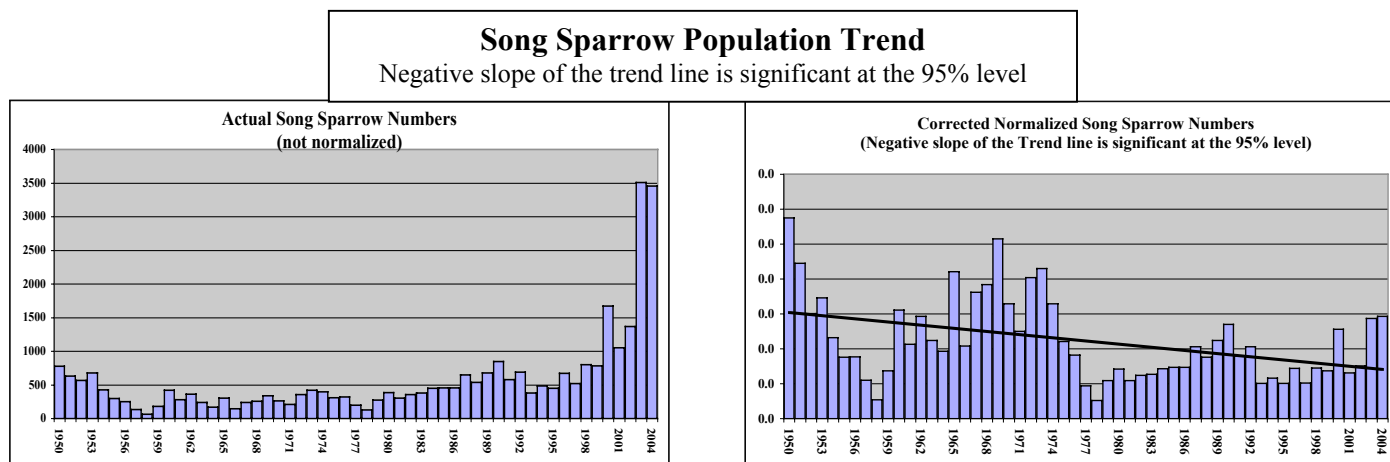
Though numbers are reduced in winter, Song Sparrows are Common (4) winter residents in the southern two-thirds of the state and are Fairly Common (5) in the north. Over the past 20 years an average of 89.1 birds has been reported annually during the winter period.

Extreme Record

The state's largest count, by a wide margin, consists of the 401 Song Sparrows counted by Steve Pelikan at Muscatatuck NWR on 18 November 1990 (Keller web page).

Population Trend

Breeding Bird Survey data show a statistically non-significant decline of 0.2 percent annually from 1966 through 2004. This is consistent with the 50-year population data, which yield a negative trend line slope that is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in more than 99 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks. Mumford and Keller (1984) listed full clutches of eggs from 24 April through 27 July.

Song Sparrow Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/early Summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
182	27-Mar-2004	Multiple Sites	S.R. Bagby	KJB
158	20-Mar-2004	Multiple Sites	J.K. Cassady	KJB
118	9-Jun-2004	S.E. Indiana	B.K. Jackson	BKJ
Late Summer/Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
401	18-Nov-1990	Muscatatuck NWR	Steve Pelikan	NKE
116	08-Jul-1989	DeKalb Co	J.A. Haw	Haw
96	01-Nov-2003	Multiple Sites	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Spring	Win. Res.	4-Mar	10-Apr	11-May	Sum. Res.	2765
Fall	Sum. Res.	27-Jul	5-Oct	11-Nov	Win. Res.	2855

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.

Keller, Ned web page, Birding in Cincinnati, found at:
<http://cincinnatibirds.com/database/index.php>

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.